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SOUTHEAST ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

Saxman, Alaska
February 27, 2006
2:15 o'clock p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- John Littlefield, Chairman
 - Michael Bangs
 - Bertrand Adams
 - Nicholas Davis
 - Michael Douville
 - Dolly Garza
 - Donald Hernandez
 - Harvey Kitka
 - Patricia Phillips
 - Richard Stokes
- Regional Council Coordinator, Robert Schroeder

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Saxman, Alaska - 2/27/2006)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I'd like to call the meeting to order at this time, and ask Mr. Adams to call the roll. Mr. Adams, could you please -- can we turn this up?

REPORTER: Yes.

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Stand by a minute.

(Pause)

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. Mr. Adams, please call the roll.

MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Richard L. Stokes. Are you hear Richard? Roll call. Are you here.

MR. STOKES: Dick Stokes from Wrangell.

MR. ADAMS: Frank Wright, Jr. Patricia Phillips.

MS. PHILLIPS: Present.

MR. ADAMS: Mike Douville.

MR. DOUVILLE: Here.

MR. ADAMS: Harvey Kitka

MR. KITKA: Here.

MR. ADAMS: Bertrand Adams, here. Floyd Kookesh. Donald Hernandez.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Here.

MR. ADAMS: Nicholas Davis.

MR. DAVIS: Here.

MR. ADAMS: Michael Sofoulis. John

1 Littlefield.

2

3

CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Here.

4

5

MR. ADAMS: Michael Bangs.

6

7

MR. BANGS: Here.

8

9

MR. ADAMS: Dolly Garza.

10

11

DR. GARZA: Here.

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14

MR. ADAMS: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, a quorum is present.

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CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. Mr. Wright did give me a call and said he had some other activities that had come up, and he was sorry that he couldn't make it. Hopefully we will be able to see him for a few days. But he did call me.

Mr. Kookesh is attending schooling at the University of Alaska in Juneau, so he will be unable to attend. So the record should show that they're both absent and excused.

We have a quorum. And so the winter meeting is duly constituted. I'd like to -- it's good to see old friends. We had one gentleman here this -- I'm going to ask the Council to introduce themselves first, and we have a gentleman sitting at the table with us that is the emeritus member of the Board, so some of you may -- or Council. Some of you may not know that. So we've asked Mr. Thomas to join us.

First, I'm John Littlefield, and I'm from Sitka. And then we'll turn it over here to Mr. Thomas, if you would introduce yourself first. We'll go through the Council and then we'll go to Federal Staff.

MR. THOMAS: Bill Thomas from Ketchikan, chairman emeritus. I'm representing the Camp 15, Alaska Native Brotherhood.

MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka, Sitka, Alaska.

MR. STOKES: Dick Stokes from Wrangell.

1 MR. BANGS: Michael Bangs from
2 Petersburg.
3
4 MR. HERNANDEZ: Don Hernandez, Point
5 Baker.
6
7 MR. DAVIS: Nick Davis from Kake.
8
9 DR. GARZA: Dolly Garza, Ketchikan.
10
11 MR. DOUVILLE: Mike Douville from
12 Craig.
13
14 MR. ADAMS: Bert Adams, Sr., from
15 Yakutat.
16
17 MS. PHILLIPS: Patty Phillips from
18 Pelican.
19
20 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you. I'd
21 like to note that we have a new Council member also
22 immediately to my left, Mr. Nick Davis from Kake is
23 joining us. This is his first meeting. We'd like to
24 welcome you to the Council meeting. We'll throw you
25 right in the hot seat here, too, soon.
26
27 Okay. At this time I'd like to ask Dr.
28 Schroeder if he would introduce the Federal Staff
29 that's present, starting with himself.
30
31 DR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr.
32 Chairman. I'm Bob Schroeder, the Regional Council
33 coordinator, and anthropologist for the region. And
34 perhaps Federal Staff could start with Dave Johnson and
35 then go around the room.
36
37 MR. JOHNSON: My name is Dave Johnson.
38 I'm the subsistence coordinator for the Tongass, and I
39 live in Craig.
40
41 MR. MYERS: Good morning. Or good
42 afternoon now. Marty Myers. I'm the law enforcement
43 coordinator for the Forest Service in Juneau, Alaska.
44
45 MR. KOLUND: I'm Lynn Kolund, I'm the
46 district ranger here for the Ketchikan and Misty Fjords
47 Ranger District. And I'd like to welcome you all to
48 Saxman.
49
50 And I see from your agenda it's a

1 pretty busy agenda. We have several -- we have a
2 couple of things on, topics that I am sure that you may
3 be discussing here. One, of course, on this island is
4 rural redetermination. Clearly that is brought home by
5 this meeting here in Saxman.

6
7 And secondly, the lack of returns up on
8 the Unuk River of eulachon, which we've had to close
9 the season. And I've left some information, and
10 hopefully there will be time on the agenda for some of
11 my Staff to come later in the meeting to discuss that
12 with you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. Thank
15 you. We will certainly be looking at this eulachon
16 closure. Thank you for your welcome.

17
18 MR. SHREFFLER: Yes, good afternoon.
19 I'm Rich Shreffler, and I'm the patrol captain on the
20 Tongass. I think I've spoke to a large number of you
21 at one time or another over the last four years. So
22 welcome to Ketchikan.

23
24 DR. SCHROEDER: Larry, could we --
25 would you introduce yourself, please.

26
27 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you. Good
28 afternoon. My name is Larry Buklis. I'm with the
29 Office of Subsistence Management.

30
31 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chairman and Council.
32 I'm Steve Kessler with the InterAgency Staff Committee
33 representing the Forest Service. And I'm out of
34 Anchorage.

35
36 MR. BERG: Good afternoon, members of
37 the Council. My name is Jerry Berg. I'm a fisheries
38 biologist with the Fish and Wildlife Service out of
39 Anchorage.

40
41 MS. PETRIVELLI: Good afternoon. My
42 name is Pat Petrivelli, and I'm an anthropologist with
43 the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the Subsistence Branch.

44
45 MR. EASTLAND: Good afternoon. My name
46 is Warren Eastland. I'm the wildlife biologist with
47 the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I'm also a member of the
48 InterAgency Staff Committee.

49
50 MR. PARSON: Hello. My name is Chuck

1 Parson. I'm a biologist for the Forest Service in
2 Hoonah.

3
4 MR. CASIPIT: I'm Cal Casipit,
5 subsistence staff fish biologist for the Forest
6 Service, Alaska Region.

7
8 MR. CHESTER: Good afternoon. I'm
9 Dennis Chester, wildlife biologist for the Forest
10 Service, based out of Juneau.

11
12 MR. PEARSON: Ken Pearson with the
13 Forest Service Enforcement. I work all over the
14 Tongass, but stationed here in Ketchikan.

15
16 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Tina, can you
17 hear that if they just were to stand up, would it come
18 over the mic?

19
20 REPORTER: Hold on a minute, and I'll
21 get an external microphone.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Cal, maybe you
24 could stand up in place and see if this mic will pick
25 you up and Tina will see what she can do.

26
27 REPORTER: Okay.

28
29 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, thank you,
30 Tina. You can just stand in place and introduce
31 yourself, unless you want the exercise and come on up.
32 Go ahead, Mr. Casipit.

33
34 MR. CASIPIT: Cal Casipit, subsistence
35 staff fish biologist for the Forest Service.

36
37 MS. HERNANDEZ: Melinda Hernandez,
38 subsistence staff, Juneau, Forest Service.

39
40 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. I believe
41 that's all the Federal Staff that's here. We do have
42 Mr. Turek from the State, and if you could introduce
43 yourself as well as any other State representatives.

44
45 MR. TUREK: Good afternoon. Mike Turek
46 with Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Subsistence
47 Division, in Juneau. And Matthew Brock who is also
48 with the Subsistence Division in Juneau. And Matt will
49 be here through tomorrow, and I'll be here probably
50 until Wednesday afternoon. And Marianne See will be

1 arriving probably tomorrow morning on that first flight
2 from Juneau.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. At this
5 time are there any tribal representatives? The
6 procedure we're going through here is the same as we do
7 for proposals, so if there's any tribes, we'd like them
8 to introduce themselves. Ms. Hawkins.

9

10 MS. HAWKINS: Merle Hawkins, Ketchikan
11 Indian Community Tribal Council.

12

13 MR. JAMES: Good afternoon. My name is
14 Franklin James. I belong to Camp 14, and vice
15 president of the Cape Fox Area Foundation, plus Cape
16 Fox Corporation in Saxman.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are there any
19 other tribal representatives. Dr. Garza.

20

21 DR. GARZA: I did notice that Lee
22 Wallace was here, and I think he's out probably getting
23 something ready, and so Saxman was here and will be
24 back.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you.
27 We'll give him the floor as soon as he comes in.

28

29 Okay. Any other tribal
30 representatives.

31

32 Okay. Other members of the public, if
33 you'd like to come give us your name. We'll start
34 right here, please. Just stand up, introduce yourself.

35

36 MR. STANLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
37 My name is James Stanley and I represent Alaska Native
38 Brotherhood Camp 14 as the treasurer. Our president is
39 out of town in Washington, D.C., and the other officers
40 are either working or also on travel status. We will
41 be hosting a lunch on Wednesday. I'll be here if you
42 need any sergeant at arms type of work for the
43 remainder of the meeting.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you very
48 much.

49

50 MS. YAR: Okay. My name is Kathleen

1 Yar. I'm the project coordinator for KIC Subsistence
2 Survey.

3
4 MS. TANNER: I'm Charlotte Tanner. I
5 was one of the surveyors on the subsistence survey.

6
7 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. I see we
8 have some people in the back there.

9
10 MR. ANDERSON: Lee Anderson. I'm just
11 a Saxman resident here to observe.

12
13 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you.
14 Anybody else. Okay. Thank you. We'll turn this mic
15 off here.

16
17 MR. JAMES: My name is Charles James.
18 My Tlingit name Koo-Ghaith "Thunder-Under-Water" I come
19 from the Dog Salmon.

20
21 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: All right.
22 Thank you. Let's see, and our recorder, Tina. We've
23 gone through 1, 2, 3. Review and adoption of the
24 agenda, Item 4. A motion to approve the agenda as a
25 guide is in order. Mr. Adams.

26
27 MR. ADAMS: I move that we approve the
28 agenda as a guide.

29
30 MS. PHILLIPS: Second.

31
32 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: It's been moved
33 and seconded to approve the agenda as a guide. Any
34 discussion, changes, any additions. Dr. Garza.

35
36 DR. GARZA: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Under
37 agency reports, I think that KIC was intending to
38 update us on the survey. However, the director of that
39 project needs to leave, so she was hoping to testify
40 today.

41
42 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, Dr.
43 Garza. If there's no objection from the Council, I
44 would like to put them under C of the next agenda item,
45 Item 5, if we could add them at C. Is there any
46 objection to that.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. We'll put

1 KIC under Item C.

2

3 Any other changes or additions. Dr.
4 Garza.

5

6 DR. GARZA: Mr. Chairman, thank you.
7 I'm not sure where to put it; however there is a chance
8 that we could get somebody on the Pacific Salmon
9 Commission subcommittees. This is an opportune time
10 and I think we should forward some names. So I don't
11 know if that would be under new business or old
12 business, but I don't want to forget it.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Is it too late
15 if we put it under other business?

16

17 DR. GARZA: No.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. We'll put
20 Pacific Salmon Treaty under C under other business.

21

22 Any other changes or additions. Mr.
23 Bangs.

24

25 MR. BANGS: Yes, thank you, Mr.
26 Chairman. Yes, I'm not sure where it would fit in, but
27 I'd like to speak on the north Kuyiu timber sale that's
28 coming up, and they're looking for subsistence hearings
29 that are happening this next month. And I think the
30 Council might be interested in some of that
31 information.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are you prepared
34 to do that under 7, the Council members reports? Would
35 that be adequate or do you want to have some special
36 time for the Council on that.

37

38 MR. BANGS: I'd like to -- I think
39 there's some Staff that are going to help try to get
40 some representatives from the Forest Service to give us
41 a little more information. I have some maps and the
42 EIS study.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. We'll
45 just add that later. Of course, the motion is to adopt
46 the agenda as a guide, so we're just -- we can add that
47 at any time later. Any other changes or additions you
48 want right now.

49

50 DR. GARZA: So where were we going to

1 stick Unuk River. Unuk River.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Kolund,
4 would you like to be early today, or would you --
5 you're going to make a presentation on the hooligans,
6 is that correct?

7

8 MR. KOLUND: That's correct.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. The
11 chances are we're going to be in proposals all day
12 tomorrow and maybe part of the next day. So if you're
13 willing to wait until we go, you know, to these later
14 items, maybe number 14, agency reports, is that
15 acceptable to you.

16

17 MR. KOLUND: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. We'll put
20 you under the U.S.D.A. Forest Service tab. And you at
21 B.3. Item 14.B.3. That would be update on hooligans.

22

23 Any other changes or additions.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are you ready
28 for the question.

29

30 DR. GARZA: Question.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. The
33 question before the Council is to adopt the agenda as a
34 guide. All those in favor please signify by saying
35 aye.

36

37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Those opposed
40 same sign.

41

42 (No opposing votes)

43

44 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: We've adopted
45 the agenda as a guide. And we don't have any special
46 orders, so we'll just try to follow it as much as we
47 can.

48

49 The next item on the agenda is Item 5,
50 review and adopt the minutes. Excuse me. A motion is

1 in order to adopt the Wrangell SERAC October 11th to
2 13th, 2005 minutes. Ms. Phillips.

3

4 MS. PHILLIPS: Chairman Littlefield, I
5 move to adopt the minutes of October 11th through 13th,
6 2005 meeting minutes.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Is there a
9 second.

10

11 MR. DOUVILLE: Second.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. It's been
14 moved and second to adopt the Wrangell SERAC October
15 11th to 13th meeting. If you'll look in Page 5 in your
16 Board book, it should be the minutes. Are there any
17 changes or additions or corrections to those. Ready
18 for the question.

19

20 MR. DOUVILLE: Question.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. The
23 motion before the Council is to adopt the minutes of
24 Wrangell SERAC October 11th through 13th, 2005 meeting.
25 All in favor please signify by saying aye.

26

27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Those opposed
30 same sign.

31

32 (No opposing votes)

33

34 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: The motion's
35 carried. A motion is in order to adopt the
36 teleconference minutes of December 1st, 2005. Ms.
37 Phillips.

38

39 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
40 Littlefield. Move to adopt the minutes of the December
41 1st, 2005 teleconference meeting.

42

43 MR. ADAMS: second.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. It's been
46 moved and seconded to adopt the minutes of the
47 teleconference meeting, December 1st, 2005. If you
48 look in the book, it's on page 20.

49

50 I did have one -- I think a couple

1 corrections on the spellings of names. But any others.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. On Page
6 25, under the Sitka Tribe of Alaska, they have a
7 gentleman there named Michael Ban. That could be
8 Bangs, but it's actually Bains. So I just want to make
9 sure the records clear that that was Mike Bains, and
10 not Michael Bangs that was there at the Sitka Tribe.

11

12 And there was one other misspelling.
13 Les Ketchurud. It's not it's a U on the end, it's a D
14 as in Delta.

15

16 Are there any other changes or
17 corrections to the minutes.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: You're ready for
22 the motion?

23

24 MS. PHILLIPS: Question.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. The
27 motion before the Council is to adopt the minutes of
28 the teleconference meeting, December 1st, 2005. All
29 those in favor please signify by saying aye.

30

31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: All those
34 opposed same sign.

35

36 (No opposing votes)

37

38 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: The minutes are
39 adopted.

40

41 Okay. We're on Item C, which we just
42 made a change to. It would be the KIC. At this time
43 we have -- well, maybe we should talk about these blue
44 forms first. Just one second, Kathleen. WE'll talk
45 about these blue forms. We'll have Kathleen Yar
46 immediately after that. If you could explain what
47 these are for.

48

49 DR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr.
50 Chairman. The Regional Council hears public testimony

1 at various times during its meeting. The first general
2 time for public testimony will be this afternoon
3 following Council members reports. Those of you who
4 have agendas, that's Item 8. We also hear public
5 testimony during the proposal process. If you have an
6 agenda, if you refer to Page 2, public testimony is
7 part of the process of the Council, hearing information
8 on the proposal.

9
10 What we would like you to do is fill
11 out a blue public testimony form, and give that to
12 Melinda Hernandez, who's at the entrance table. And
13 then we'll put you down for public testimony on
14 whatever issue is of concern to you. If you need to
15 testify on something that may be coming up later in the
16 agenda, the council encourages you to do that, and
17 we'll keep track of your testimony if you have
18 something to say, for example, in advance of an issue
19 or a proposal that's coming to the Council.

20
21 So these forms are on the back table.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. Thank
24 you, Dr. Schroeder.

25
26 At this time, Ms. Yar, if you would
27 like to testify. And for the members of the public, if
28 you have something you have to do tomorrow, or
29 something, and there's a proposal that you want to talk
30 about tomorrow, just let us know that you can't do it
31 tomorrow. We will certainly make every effort we can
32 to get you into our program.

33
34 Ms. Yar.

35
36 MS. YAR: Thank you for accommodating
37 the small amount of time that I had to speak.

38
39 KIC applied for funding to conduct a
40 Federal survey from the BIA to provide The Subsistence
41 Management Board with more information about wild
42 resource usage in Ketchikan, excluding Saxman which is
43 already rural. We had assistance from a cultural
44 anthropologist Pat Petrivelli who has already -- or
45 subsistence anthropologist Pat Petrivelli who has
46 already introduced herself, and Dr. Dolly Garza on your
47 board, and also Merle Hawkins, the tribal council
48 subsistence committee chair.

49
50 We relied heavily on the ADF&G Saxman

1 survey, but we tweaked it to suit the Ketchikan
2 Borough, excluding Saxman. Our methodology was to
3 gather 1600 residential units from the Borough and from
4 the live-aboard list from the harbor master so that we
5 had this pool residential units of about 5,500
6 households. From that we randomized with a computer
7 and the help of our chief of technology officer at KIC,
8 Rick Grahams, who randomized the list. And then we
9 went out and did the surveys in this random -- from the
10 random numbers and completed 250 surveys between
11 January 13th and February 13th.

12
13 We had six surveyors doing this job,
14 and we mailed them to Kawerak for compilation on
15 February 9th. We should have a preliminary report from
16 Kawerak by March 20th.

17
18 We are now gathering letters of
19 support, which will be submitted to your board on
20 Wednesday.

21
22 If you have any questions, either I or
23 Pat Petrivelli would be happy to answer them.

24
25 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Are there any
26 questions. Dr. Garza.

27
28 DR. GARZA: I guess not so much a
29 question, but a couple of comments. I really want to
30 thank BIA for stepping forward with the funding in
31 order to do this project, and to thank KIC for serving
32 as a vehicle in order to conduct it.

33
34 The main issue that Ketchikan faces in
35 this 10-year review of perhaps going from urban to
36 rural is that we have absolutely no data that
37 demonstrates how much resources we use. And if you
38 look at the old subsistence data where Ketchikan's use
39 was estimated at around 31 pounds per person, that was
40 from I think 1980, and so that data is fairly old.

41
42 This type of project would easily take
43 six months to a year. The Division of Subsistence,
44 Mike Turek, is involved in this type of project, and we
45 weren't able to access him because of timing, and
46 fortunately we had Kathleen step forward with the
47 energy, and we had the six surveyors who basically
48 worked nonstop from day one to the last day to get in
49 all the surveys that they did. It is something that
50 should have taken much longer. It should have taken a

1 lot more money, and they really, really stepped up to
2 bat in order to do this, so my hats are off to them for
3 the work that they did.

4
5 Hopefully it will be used to make a
6 quality decision. It was a systematic survey. It was
7 done in an unbiased manner so that the data that is
8 brought forward to us will give us an idea of how much
9 Ketchikan people use these resources, and hopefully the
10 Federal Subsistence Board will use that data wisely.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you. Any
15 other Council. Ms. Phillips.

16
17 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
18 Littlefield.

19
20 Of this 250 surveys you did, do you
21 have a percentage that was tribal participation?

22
23 MS. YAR: Yes, it was estimated
24 according to the U.S. census of 2000 that there would
25 be -- there was eight percent native population in
26 Ketchikan, so we would need to have 37 native
27 households, but in fact we had 49 native households
28 participating, or as James figured it, 166 percent
29 higher rate than what we anticipated. But KIC has
30 always sort of disagreed with the estimated native
31 population in the area. KIC believes that it's roughly
32 21 to 25 percent.

33
34 MS. PHILLIPS: Also, thank you for that
35 information. Did you have a lot of cooperation from
36 the participants who completed the surveys with your
37 surveyors? Did you good participation, cooperation?

38
39 MS. YAR: Yeah, I think it was pretty
40 good. I mean, you know, there were refusals. There
41 were refusals. But overall I think we did pretty well.
42 And as Dr. Garza said, we were very aggressive. I
43 mean, we worked a lot of overtime trying to cover that
44 many households to get 250 from the 600 randomized and
45 selected. We made at least three contacts per
46 residential unit.

47
48 I do have one question myself. We're
49 now gathering letters of support that we will submit
50 Wednesday. We have about 100. But I'm wondering how

1 much longer do we have to get these letters in? I
2 mean, surely this isn't the cut-off for letters of
3 support. Is there another date, you know, further in
4 the future?

5
6 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: We have Mr.
7 Buklis here. If you could give us the pertinent dates,
8 Mr. Buklis. Yeah, he's from the Office of Subsistence
9 Management. And just go ahead and stay there at the
10 table with him. He'll give us the dates, and we'll
11 take more questions and comments for you.

12
13 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
14 Larry Buklis, Office of Subsistence Management.

15
16 Currently in the rural review process,
17 we're conducting analyses as assigned to us by the
18 Federal Subsistence Board back in December of 2005.
19 And we're working towards a Board work session in June
20 at which time they will develop a proposed rule on any
21 potential changes in rural or non-rural status in
22 Alaska. And that proposed rule would then go out for
23 comment. And so the next planned comment period would
24 be on the proposed rule sometime after June of this
25 summer, and it would coincide with your Council meeting
26 window this fall. And then the process would culminate
27 with a Board public meeting in Anchorage in December of
28 this year to determine the final rule on the rural/non-
29 rural status. So currently we're not in a public
30 comment period, but letter can always be written and
31 received by the program. This isn't a current call for
32 comment.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. Maybe you
37 can just stick with us for a minute. Dr. Garza.

38
39 DR. GARZA: Okay. So I'll try this
40 from a different angle. If we would like the Federal
41 Subsistence Board to have the opportunity to review
42 these letters either of support or nonsupport, whatever
43 it is, do they need to be into the OSM office at a
44 certain time in order to be included in the June
45 packet, or would they be included in the June packet if
46 they make it by a certain date?

47
48 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. There is no
49 plan for a packet of public comment going into the June
50 meeting. The June meeting is to develop the proposed

1 rule, which would be the vehicle for comment. The next
2 planned comment period would be post June of this
3 summer and going on into the Council meeting window of
4 the fall. Letters received now would go into our
5 administrative record, but they wouldn't be a part of a
6 planned process of comment period and summarization.

7
8 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Is the proposed
9 rule going to be open long enough for the Councils to
10 make timely comments?

11
12 MR. BUKLIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The
13 proposed rule would be released sometime after their
14 June meeting and the comment period on that would start
15 whenever that proposed rule was published and go on
16 through the fall Council meeting window. So your next
17 set of meetings in Southeast and elsewhere in the
18 State, the next set of meetings this fall is the next
19 planned Council comment period.

20
21 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza.

22
23 DR. GARZA: Okay. So to clarify, then
24 at the June meeting at which a draft proposed rule will
25 be made, will there be an opportunity for public
26 comment at that time?

27
28 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. That
29 meeting is intended to be a work session. That is a
30 public meeting. It's not a close meeting, but work
31 sessions typically don't have public comment testimony
32 opportunities. The Chair can allow public comment to
33 be heard, but we typically don't have a
34 transcriptionist. They're not a large public meeting
35 like you're familiar with with the regulatory cycle, or
36 the rural review cycle at decision points like the
37 final rule will be. The proposed rule work session in
38 June is meant to develop the proposed rule for comment.

39
40
41 The Board public meeting in December
42 would -- the Board at that time would receive all the
43 comment on the proposed rule during the comment period
44 we've been talking about. And that meeting itself
45 would also be a time for testimony, in-person
46 testimony.

47
48 DR. GARZA: I guess I have concern with
49 that process, and maybe just because I'm jaded, but
50 from my experience, once it hits the Federal Register,

1 things rarely change. And so what I see is a need to
2 allow some type of public input prior to that June
3 meeting at which, although it's called a draft
4 decision, will be fairly close to a final decision for
5 input to be made. And I'm not sure if we need to
6 discuss this as a Council and try to figure out how to
7 bring something forward, because in my experience, and
8 not, you know, through the OSM process or Federal
9 Subsistence Board, but just working through natural
10 resource issues over the last 25 years, if you don't
11 get your say before the draft Federal Register,
12 generally you're not going to get what you want. And
13 so I think we need to discuss this process.

14

Thank you.

15

16
17 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Any other
18 Council -- Mr. Thomas.

19

20 MR. THOMAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21

22 I missed the anticipated makeup of that
23 meeting with the proposed rule discussions. Could you
24 run that by me once again.

25

26 MR. BUKLIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

27

28 In June of this summer the Board is
29 scheduled to meet in a work session, and the work
30 session is intended to develop a proposed rule on
31 rural/non-rural, and then that proposed rule would be
32 sent out for comment. And that comment period would
33 continue on through into fall and include the Council
34 meeting window of the fall. So this coming fall when
35 this Council meets, you would have a proposed rule to
36 comment on.

37

38 MR. THOMAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

39

40 I've seen these proposed rules occur in
41 the past, and it seemed to get bogged down whenever it
42 reached the level of the RACs and the public. And in
43 order to possibly avoid that, I think a proposed rule
44 would probably be more appropriate, and the protocol
45 would be improved if the concerns that Dr. Garza had
46 expressed in her comments. So I think that would be
47 worthy of exploring to see if that can be done.

48

49 And thank you, Mr. Buklis, for going
50 through that again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, I'm
2 concerned about this too. Mr. Buklis, this Council has
3 gone on record probably several times I believe, as
4 well as at the Federal Board meetings, as requesting
5 meetings so that the -- in Ketchikan and Saxman so that
6 the members of the public could hear what these 100
7 letters of support have to say. Is there any plans for
8 having a meeting that you know of in the community
9 prior to the June meeting.

10
11 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. We are
12 aware of the interest in what people have called public
13 hearings in a number of communities. And my
14 understanding is the Board is aware of that, and would
15 address that interest in developing the proposed rule,
16 that hearings would be after the proposed rule as a
17 part of the comment process. They haven't decided that
18 they will or won't have hearings, but if they do, they
19 would likely be during that proposed rule period and
20 that's typically the time to have public hearings when
21 you have a proposed rule to conduct the hearings about.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: What I would
24 suggest then, Ms. Yar, is that we've got four days at
25 this meeting, and I would say that you either attach
26 them or read them in to us. We're going to try aside
27 one night this week for the residents of Ketchikan to
28 address the community on rural determinations, and the
29 residents of Saxman. I don't know if we've set a
30 meeting place or anything. It's kind of up in the air
31 right now maybe. Dr. Schroeder.

32
33 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, we're
34 scheduled to meet Wednesday evening, 6:30 to
35 approximately 8:30. And it's been announced to members
36 on radio this morning, and it will be in the Ketchikan
37 Daily News for residents of Saxman and Ketchikan to
38 address the Council on any issue that's before the
39 Council, or any concern. And that would be in this
40 room.

41
42 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. Thank
43 you, Dr. Schroeder.

44
45 I would say that it would probably be
46 wise, because we are -- everything here is on the
47 record, and rather than sending in your letters of
48 support and any other information that you want, which
49 will just disappear into the billions of other pieces
50 of paperwork that will be present when they go through

1 this, that you be prepared to -- or that the city, KIC,
2 as well as ANB and others that want to talk be prepared
3 Wednesday evening to go ahead and enter that into our
4 record, and it becomes available to the Federal Board.
5 We'll have a meeting in May I guess it is sometime, and
6 this will be before the June meeting. So that's probably
7 your only chance to get it in there as I see it.

8

9 Does the Council have any objections to
10 that?

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I'd like to give
15 Ketchikan and Saxman all the time they need to address
16 this. We've come out in support of Ketchikan as well
17 as Saxman, and we support what you're doing, and I
18 think we'll sit here and listen to those if we have to
19 to get them on the record so that -- that would be my
20 recommendation.

21

22 Okay. Ms. Yar, we'll do that. And
23 thank you, Mr. Buklis, for your information.

24

25 MS. YAR: Thank you very much.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. Again,
28 Wednesday evening at 6:30, right here, we'll be taking
29 testimony on rural determination. And this would be in
30 behalf of Saxman and Ketchikan. We'll restrict the
31 meeting to those two subjects.

32

33 Okay. Where are we? Chair's report.
34 I don't have anything. Actually if you look on page 1,
35 there's quite a few of them.

36

37 The Federal Subsistence Board meetings,
38 I attended of them, one on rural determination which we
39 went through. We lobbied to get Saxman off of the
40 list, Ketchikan onto the list, and Sitka off of the
41 list for further review. We were able to convince the
42 Board to not put Sitka on that list by a three to three
43 vote. It was very close. We were -- I was not
44 successful in convincing the Board that Saxman should
45 be taken off the list, and Ketchikan was added. So we
46 got two out of three kind of, but we need to remember,
47 we supported very strongly Saxman remaining a rural
48 community for the purposes of subsistence, and we have
49 in the past several times supported Ketchikan.

50

1 I also attended the fisheries meeting.
2 That's going to be the .805(c) letter that you see
3 below you. I attended a Board of Fish meeting which
4 we'll talk about next. And I've been doing a lot of
5 meetings. Fifteen days last month. I've been doing a
6 lot of traveling.

7
8 So Item B is the Board of Fish meeting.
9 It says to see Item 12. Perhaps Dr. Schroeder or Mr.
10 Casipit might want to make a statement. I don't know
11 if it's -- I believe it's in the record here of what
12 they did, so maybe if you'd like to make a short
13 comment on that Board of Fish meeting.

14
15 DR. SCHROEDER: Cal, are you prepared
16 to say a little bit about Board of Fish meetings?

17
18 MR. CASIPIT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 Cal Casipit, subsistence fisheries biologist with the
20 Forest Service in Alaska Region, stationed in Juneau.

21
22 I attended much of the State Board of
23 Fish meeting here in Ketchikan the last week in
24 January, as well as Terry Suminski, Ben VanAlen and Bob
25 Larson. There were several proposals before the State
26 Board of Fish that I'm sure the Council was aware of.
27 In fact, the Board of Fish proposals were the major
28 subject of the December 1 teleconference.

29
30 For the most part we had good
31 representation there. We were in all the committee
32 meetings. I think there is a summary of those actions
33 in the book.

34
35 But just right off the top of my head,
36 the Proposal 118 to establish -- was it 118? There
37 were three subsistence proposals. One was to establish
38 amounts necessary for subsistence in Southeast. That
39 was passed by the Board of Fisheries as suggested by
40 Mr. -- as was suggested in the Staff report from the
41 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

42
43 The proposal to create a State
44 subsistence fishery on the Stikine was not acted upon
45 at the request of this Council.

46
47 The final subsistence one to allow bow
48 and arrow gear for subsistence fishing was not
49 supported by the State Board of Fish. That was
50 basically the same position that this Council took at

1 the December 1 meeting.

2

3 Other notable actions. Proposal 169
4 that was before the State Board of Fish was to create a
5 task force to look at Chatham area, northern Chatham
6 Straits sockeye interceptions. That proposal was not
7 passed by the Board.

8

9 I think that's all I had that I can --
10 on, there was one more. The reporting of steelhead
11 under basically emergency authority under the -- that
12 would be reserved by the Commissioner of Fish and Game,
13 and that was passed. So the Commission of Fish and
14 Game will now have under the emergency order authority
15 of the Department of Fish and Game to require various
16 fisheries to keep track of the steelhead they catch.
17 It was amended to include chinooks as well. But the
18 issue that the Council was interested in was steelhead
19 and that did pass.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, thank you.
24 We're going to have this later on the agenda if there's
25 any questions. At that time, when it appears later on
26 the agenda, I'd like to talk about Proposal 169. I
27 was hoping Mr. Wright could make this meeting, but he's
28 not. But we now have two commercial seiners, Mr.
29 Davis, the newest member, and perhaps they could give
30 us some guidance there. And again Mr. Kookesh who I
31 was hoping he could get his local advisory committee
32 there to lead us, he's also absent. So we might
33 discuss that and see if the Council would like to take
34 some further action on the sockeye interception on the
35 inside, because we clearly see there's something going
36 on there that we need to look at. So hopefully later
37 under Item 13 we'll look into this a little further.

38

39 Basically the Board of Fish was a
40 little frustrating to us. We did not get very much
41 deference. And the next time I think it says the Chair
42 or his designee, I'm going to designate somebody to go
43 to one of these. They're kind of old for us anyway.

44

45 Anyway, at this time let's take a --
46 we're going to come back to .805(c) letter. This was
47 just distributed. See, I didn't say passed out. This
48 was just distributed. It's on the table. This is the
49 805(c) report. We're going to take a short break and
50 come back in about 10 minutes. So that's it.

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Please take your
6 seats. We'll come back to order. Okay. I'd like to
7 call the meeting back to order.

8

9 Okay. We're back at Item 6.C., the
10 .805(c) letter. That's on the table. It was just
11 distributed. This is a report from the Federal
12 Subsistence Board on their actions on our proposals at
13 the last meeting. I don't want to read all of these.
14 I don't know if there's anything -- if anybody has any
15 questions.

16

17 They did follow most of our stuff.
18 They did not do the bait, unfortunately, Ms. Phillips.
19 But if anybody has any questions on that, I'll try to
20 answer them, but they're pretty self-explanatory I
21 think.

22

23 Dr. Garza.

24

25 DR. GARZA: Mr. Chair. Which did you
26 say they debated? Which one did you say they debated
27 or wasn't in line?

28

29 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. Let's
30 see. It's the one on -- did you find it?

31

32 DR. GARZA: They start on 22.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. We
35 recommend -- let's just go through them here. 14 is
36 Gustavus. I don't have a functioning thumb right now,
37 so I can't turn the pages. Where's the bait one, what
38 page?

39

40 Okay. It was Proposal FP06-30 on the
41 bottom of Page 5. The Council supported the use of
42 pink salmon as bait in the fisheries. And this was Ms.
43 Phillips had submitted this one, the Council did.

44

45 DR. GARZA: Which document are you
46 using?

47

48 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Which document
49 am I using? There was an 805(c) letter that was just
50 put on the table in front of every -- does everybody

1 have a copy of that? It's this one here that says
2 Federal Subsistence Board, dated February 14th. Does
3 everybody have a copy of that? Everybody got a copy,
4 right, Melinda?

5
6 MS. HERNANDEZ: All the Council members
7 did. I don't have copies for the entire audience.

8
9 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Has everybody
10 got a copy of that one we're looking at? It's the.....

11
12 DR. GARZA: I think so. We just got so
13 many things at once it got buried.

14
15 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I can't hear
16 you.

17
18 DR. GARZA: We just got handed out so
19 many things at once it got buried.

20
21 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. And
22 that's -- like I said, this was the Federal Subsistence
23 Board's response, and it was based upon the actions
24 that they took at the December meeting. And of them
25 was pink salmon with bait.

26
27 They did go along with the Gustavus
28 proposal, and we're going to hold that back. And they
29 did rather strongly question me on our intent there,
30 and we told them that we are going to submit a
31 proposal, so we'll probably have an update on that. We
32 are going to have a proposal on Gustavus for the next
33 meeting.

34
35 I think it's pretty important that we
36 got bait, the bait proposal did get support, which I
37 was pleasantly surprised that that went through the
38 Council.

39
40 Any questions on these proposals?

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. The
45 .805(c). If there's anybody that has a question later
46 of what they did, we can clarify that.

47
48 MR. KESSLER: John, you might want to
49 talk about the definitions, the fin clip.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. The fin
2 clipping proposal, let's see, my thumb isn't very good,
3 it's in there. It was proposal -- what page? Okay.
4 It's on the top of Page 4, it's FP06-26. The Council
5 had supported no -- we didn't want any fins cut off.
6 Subsequent to that meeting that we had in Wrangell, we
7 had a meeting on December 1st. The Council said we
8 could approve the use of the tail fin. So from now on
9 a subsistence fish, Federal subsistence fish in
10 Southeast Alaska needs to have its caudal fin clipped
11 instead of any other fin. Tail fin. Just clip. Am I
12 correct, you have to clip both lobes, just take a
13 little scissor or something like that and cut the ends
14 off of them, which is less intrusive, and hopefully it
15 won't spoil any meat or anything like that. And it
16 won't -- any balance. Any questions on that.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: And I did try to
21 find Mr. Adams. I did. I went to Yakutat looking for
22 him.

23

24 The directions from December 1st were
25 to check with you to find out if they had any
26 objections to the fins. Because we did -- at Wrangell
27 I believe you abstained or something on that. But
28 that's for both of us.

29

30 Anyway, .805(c) letter. It's fairly
31 long, lengthy and typical.

32

33 Okay. We're at Item D, which is
34 Council resolutions, letters. We've had a few of them
35 that went out that were approved last meeting. Page 27
36 it starts.

37

38 Dr. Schroeder, can you lead us through
39 D, E and F I guess.

40

41 DR. SCHROEDER: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
42 Item D on 27 are letters that were sent out after our
43 last meeting. And the first letter, I think we just
44 had two letters that were sent out. One was
45 reaffirming the Council's opposition to mixing zones in
46 fish spawning habitat. And the Council had done that
47 original action in 2004. The plan to proceed with
48 mixing zone regulations by DEC is proceeding, and this
49 was a chance for the Council to express itself once
50 again on that issue in the event that the earlier

1 comment was misplaced. That action took place at the
2 December 1, 2005 teleconference meeting.

3
4 On page 29 is our somewhat lengthy
5 letter concerning rural determinations. And later on
6 the Council may wish to review this and see if there
7 are any additions or changes that come to mind now that
8 we're a little bit further along in the rural
9 determination process.

10
11 The main points raised by the Council
12 had to do with deference that would be due to Regional
13 Council recommendations on this, and then specific
14 recommendations for Ketchikan, Saxman and Sitka.

15
16 This is followed on Page 34 by some
17 information concerning withdrawals in Southeast Alaska
18 for various purposes. As you know, the Federal lands
19 and waters are subject to subsistence jurisdiction and
20 management by the Federal -- subsistence harvest is
21 under the authority of the Federal Subsistence Board,
22 so having a very clear idea of what areas we're talking
23 about is important.

24
25 A number of years ago the Regional
26 Advisory Council submitted a listing of a number of
27 places in Southeast Alaska that looked like they were
28 lands that were withdrawn by the Federal Government and
29 not relinquished to the State of Alaska at the time of
30 statehood or subsequently. Included in that list of
31 places that were arguably Federal public land was
32 Makhnati Island, shown on Page 41. And this was a
33 withdrawal which was made in 1945. I believe basically
34 to facilitate construction of some gun emplacements, or
35 some other things.

36
37 Just recently at the end of the
38 December, the Federal Subsistence Board wrote back to
39 the Council Chair and enclosed the solicitor's opinion
40 on whether this was standing and in force. And the
41 solicitor found that, yes, this particular withdrawal
42 was still an active withdrawal, that this land was did
43 belonged to the Federal Government, because this
44 withdrawal hadn't been changed subsequently. So that's
45 where that stood.

46
47 The next question, and the December
48 28th letter, let's see, okay, that's what's in the
49 December 28th letter.

50

1 The next question, of course, would be
2 well, when would the Federal Government assert its
3 management authority over this land. And we have an
4 update on that and how the Federal Subsistence Program
5 is proceeding with rulemaking concerning Makhnati
6 Island. Mr. Chair, if we could ask Larry Buklis to
7 give us that update. Larry.

8
9 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Mr. Buklis,
10 update on Makhnati Island.

11
12 MR. BUKLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13
14 As Dr. Schroeder described, and as you
15 have the correspondence and map in your Council book,
16 the Federal Subsistence program is moving towards a
17 proposed rule consistent with the map and the
18 correspondence in your Council book to move forward
19 with jurisdiction in the Makhnati Island area as
20 described on the map. And the proposed rule should be
21 published soon. And then the Program could move
22 towards a final rule this summer, which would be in
23 advance of the fall round of proposal reviews on
24 fisheries proposals. So my understanding is that
25 jurisdiction could be established in our program
26 sometime later this summer with the final rule.

27
28 And if the Council had any comments or
29 concerns about the jurisdictional issue, you could
30 comment now, although as I said, the proposed rule is
31 not yet published.

32
33 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: So if the
34 process, if we were going to do fisheries, the call for
35 proposal ends -- Mr. Casipit, what's that date, call
36 for proposals?

37
38 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman, I believe
39 it's March 24th. It's at the end of this Council
40 meeting window period is the end of the call for
41 fisheries proposals. And the Makhnati Island final
42 rule should be concluded later this summer.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. Then it
45 would be appropriate at this meeting, if the Council
46 decided to take action on Makhnati Island, to go ahead
47 and submit that, knowing full well that, you know, they
48 could adopt these prior to next year, right? If it
49 went through the proposed stage, proposed rule?

50

1 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman, I think
2 that's correct. I think that even though the proposals
3 would be coming in before jurisdiction was technically
4 resolved, that jurisdictional issue would be finally
5 resolved before the analyses and Council comments would
6 be conducted this fall. So I think it would be
7 procedurally correct.

8
9 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you.
10 Questions. Dr. Schroeder.

11
12 DR. SCHROEDER: And, Mr. Chairman,
13 Larry and I have reviewed the proposed rulemaking that
14 Bill Knauer is submitting for this, and it doesn't
15 appear to involve any controversial issues. It
16 basically follows very directly what the Solicitor's
17 Office has said, and what the nature of the withdrawal.
18 So we don't think that there is a need for Council
19 action on it or particular scrutiny over that rule.

20
21 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. The only
22 reason I'll say yes to that is because the Council has
23 gone on record since Mr. Thomas was here in Yakutat,
24 that we firmly support these areas.

25
26 My question is, there are eight other
27 areas that also have, in my opinion, substantial areas.
28 I know they said the Makhnati Island was substantial,
29 had substantial submerged lands. I think those other
30 areas deserve another look, too. What's substantial to
31 you or to that lawyer and what's substantial to us
32 might be quite different. Because as long as it
33 establishes the use along the shoreline, I think that
34 the Council might take a different point of view.

35
36 So is there any opportunity for the
37 Council to go on record on asking someone, whoever it
38 is, the solicitor, to continue the review of those
39 other withdrawals? Because I think they are
40 significant.

41
42 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. I think by
43 making that comment here, that comment is received.
44 And I cannot speak for whether they will act in the way
45 you are asking them to, but you are asking how you can
46 get that comment through. I think this is the forum to
47 do that. And they may differ in their opinion from
48 you.

49
50 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. Perhaps

1 we can add this to the agenda at a later time. I think
2 the Council may want to look at that. There were --
3 all of those proposals that are listed in the executive
4 order, and I think it's on one of these pages in here,
5 we'll probably just discuss this later. There was Long
6 Island, Peisar Island, and many other places in Sitka
7 Sound that were also withdrawals. And the Council's
8 original action was to ask for those, and I think we
9 may choose to reaffirm that action.

10

11 So are there any other questions from
12 Mr. Buklis on this Federal withdrawal. Ms. Phillips.

13

14 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
15 Littlefield.

16

17 I'm just curious to know, why did so
18 much time pass? You know, in 2001 is when it was
19 submitted before the SERAC, and we're finally hearing
20 back on the Makhnati Island. Now here it is 2006. So,
21 I mean, why did it take so long? Do you have an idea?

22

23 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. My notes
24 indicate that the Federal Subsistence Board requested
25 the review from the Department of the Interior
26 Solicitor's Office in April of '05. Now, what happened
27 between 2001 and 2005, I can't speak to, but the
28 outcome that we're talking about from the solicitor's
29 view was in response to a request from the Board for a
30 review in April of 2005. So it's been a little bit
31 less than a year since the Board specifically asked the
32 solicitors to do this review.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you. Ms.
35 Phillips, I did ask the Federal Subsistence Board to
36 give an answer to us one way or another, because we'd
37 been waiting so long. And apparently through an
38 oversight it fell through the cracks. I guess at that
39 time we lost Mr. Clark, Fred Clark, as well as some
40 other things that didn't work out right. But they did
41 come through with it at -- was it Wrangell? That they
42 came down and discussed it, and we're pushing on it
43 now. And we're going to continue to push on it until
44 we get some action on this. Unfortunately it came
45 after the Federal Government gave away all the Tongass,
46 which was one of our -- which is what we had asked for
47 as well as this. So unfortunately it was too late to
48 affect that.

49

50 Any other questions for Mr. Buklis.

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: We're done with
4 Makhnati Island, and thank you, Mr. Buklis. Or, wait a
5 minute. Mr. Bangs.

6

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

8

9 Are there maps already printed of these
10 other areas that may or may not be significant?

11

12 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman, you're
13 indicating that there. I'm trying to recall the
14 meeting in Wrangell. Were some of those posted there,
15 or just Makhnati Island? Are they here too?

16

17 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: My recollection
18 is, I have a copy of those, and they were submitted by
19 the Sitka Tribe of Alaska who submitted this. And I
20 can't remember the proposal. It was a Yakutat
21 proposal. Those records are a part of the Federal
22 Government. I believe Mr. Casipit may have a copy of
23 those. So it's important that we probably show the
24 Long Island and the Baranof Point and all the other
25 Peisar proposals, if we can have those available for
26 the Council to look at as soon as possible.

27

28 Mr. Bangs.

29

30 MR. BANGS: Yes, if it will help or is
31 necessary, I brought a charting program with a portable
32 GPS so we could plug in coordinates. And I think we
33 could probably show them on the projector if any of
34 this Council is interested.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: I believe those
37 coordinates are shown in the book under the executive
38 order around Page 34, 35. Actually, if you look on
39 Page 38, you can do them exactly there. Like on
40 Makhnati, which is number 1, it starts off, beginning
41 at the southern point of Fruit Island, blah, blah, you
42 know, so it goes you right through. You can look at
43 all of these.

44

45 If you look at number 2, that's the
46 Long Island area. And, again, look at the acreage
47 here. We get out to Shoals Point, and we're -- a lot
48 of that is land, but it's like 4,000 acres and stuff.
49 So the meander along that beach line might be quite
50 important to this Council, I mean, because those

1 species that live in those tidal areas and intertidal
2 areas are very important to us.

3

4 So if, Mr. Casipit or maybe Dave, if you guys
5 could make sure that the Council has a copy of this
6 prior to our discussion of Makhnati of all of the map
7 that go with this. And maybe it's in here, and I might
8 have missed it, but I know the description is in here.
9 If we could have a map that goes with each one of these
10 areas. We have the one on Makhnati Island. It's on
11 Page 41 in your book, as well as we have a new color
12 handout that was distributed I think by mail. So later
13 on when we discuss this, we want to made sure we have
14 all the information.

15

16 Any other questions for Mr. Buklis.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, thank you
21 for your help here. And you'll be called back up I'm
22 sure on this when we get into discussion of it though.

23

24

25 Okay. We're at Item 7, Council members
26 reports. And what we do here, we are a rural Council
27 that represents the whole region, so each of us, even
28 though I'm from Sitka, represent what happens in Craig
29 and Klawock and Hydaburg and all the other rural
30 communities, as well as Mr. Douville from Craig that
31 represents what we do in Sitka. We're a Regional
32 Council, but Mr. Douville is from Craig and has a much
33 better pulse on what is happening in that area. Mr.
34 Adams from Yakutat knows much more than any others do.
35 So in that vein, we would ask you to make a report on
36 things that may be burning in your area, some things
37 that you'd like to bring up.

38

39 And I guess we'll go over here and put
40 Ms. Phillips on who's on the end, has been going to
41 school, so I expect about a half hour speech. But
42 anyway, if you would like to go through your Council
43 members reports.

44

45 And anything's fair game here. We've
46 asked for these to be printed verbatim in our minutes.
47 I know we've got some grief over that, but, you know,
48 this is one time to make your statement, and it becomes
49 part of the public record, so anything you want to say
50 at this time is -- not anything, but pretty much.

1 Ms. Phillips.

2

3 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
4 Littlefield.

5

6 For the Pelican area, my community
7 concerns and observations are this winter we have had
8 not a lot of snow, but, you know, quite a bit. Not as
9 much as we usually have, so we've had the deer come
10 down to the water's edge, because the snow is driving
11 them down. We've had good harvest rates for the
12 hunters.

13

14 But I want to throw in a concern that I
15 have that I don't believe that the Hoonah area is
16 necessarily getting what they need in terms of deer.
17 I think, because I live bordering a wilderness area, a
18 2 area, that we have good populations of deer. But if
19 you go over towards Hoonah, where there's much more
20 extensive timber harvest, that the amount of deer is
21 diminished or depleted. What we have happening is the
22 ferry comes into Pelican loaded up. It gets loaded up,
23 and people are sending their deer meat, or, you know,
24 and we get hunters in, and they take their deer meat,
25 or we have family members sending deer meat into Juneau
26 to their family members in Juneau, and if the ferry
27 goes into Hoonah, you've got to stand guard over your
28 box of deer meat, otherwise it disappears in Hoonah.
29 And I'm not saying that in a detrimental way. I'm
30 saying that in a way that there are people in Hoonah
31 who need food to eat, and so they're going to great
32 measures to try to get that food to eat. So whereas we
33 might be having our needs met in Pelican, they may not
34 be having their needs met in Hoonah.

35

36 I want to report on what I think is
37 effects of global warning. And we were talking about
38 that this morning as we have cedar die off on the
39 outside ocean coasts. We have a blight happening in
40 our forests where if you look at certain patches of the
41 forest, they'll be all the way orange the beach all the
42 way up to the alpine. It's some sort of a blight on
43 our trees.

44

45 And we're seeing birds, types of birds
46 that come from statewide that you wouldn't normally
47 see. You're just sort of like, what is that? And
48 people who have lived from stateside, they'll tell you
49 what it is. Like starlings, we're seeing starlings.
50 Never seen starling. So we're starting to see those

1 sort of effects.

2

3 And we're seeing, like the seabirds,
4 we're seeing seabirds that are staying year around
5 rather than leaving. You know, usually they would
6 migrate out, but we're seeing more of an over the year
7 sticking around. But it might be because we're having
8 a good showing of herring, of the little fingerling
9 herring, so I think our herring population is starting
10 to regenerate itself after years of being depleted.

11

12 Let's see. So that's all I had for
13 now. Thanks.

14

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

17

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

19

20 I just came back from the SERAC -- not
21 SERAC, SRC meeting last week, and I came back home on
22 Friday. And I really haven't had time to put my
23 thoughts together yet, because Friday night and
24 Saturday we had real exciting basketball games. That
25 took me away from all of the pressure of the meeting
26 from Wrangell-St. Elias. And then had to get on the
27 airplane last night in Yakutat and then come here.
28 There will be a report, you know, forthcoming. I'm
29 going to have Wrangell-St. Elias, you know, send you
30 our letter that I'm going to sign to the Federal
31 Subsistence Board as my report to you.

32

33 One of the things that I found out up
34 there is we talked about, and it's in regards to
35 alternates serving on the Commission. And there will
36 be allowing alternates. One of the things that many of
37 the SRCs, not so much ours, I think we've only had one
38 or two instances where we didn't have a quorum, but
39 there's a concern in some of the areas where they have
40 not met their -- they could not have their meetings,
41 because they weren't able to have a quorum. And so now
42 we are allowed to have alternates. And I'm not sure if
43 that's true at this body or not, but the way that they
44 wanted us to address is that for whoever, you know, is
45 the appointee of the person on that Commission, like
46 for instance here, this body here has appointed me, you
47 know, to serve on the Wrangell-St. Elias, should
48 designate an alternate. So if any one of you are, you
49 know, vying for the alternate position, you know, you
50 make that appointment and then if for some reason or

1 another I can't make it to those meetings, then the
2 alternate will go in my stead. So it's something maybe
3 we need to talk about during the process of this
4 meeting, Mr. Chairman. And I put that on the table for
5 our consideration.

6
7 I'm really pleased with the amount of
8 deer that we have seen in the Yakutat this year. As I
9 mentioned I think last year, the mild winters we've
10 had, you know, has increased the deer population. And
11 this year has been really phenomenal. I don't know how
12 successful the hunting was, but I would say that it was
13 probably pretty good. I didn't get any reports, you
14 know, of how -- we only have a 30-day opening there.

15
16 As some of you may know, the deer was
17 transplanted to the Yakutat area from Sitka. I think
18 it was around 1946 or thereabouts, and the deer
19 population, you know, has just kind of fluctuated, you
20 know, up and down. And it's never really got a real
21 good hold where we could see any real significant, you
22 know, population explosions. But I'd say in the last
23 five or so years, you know, we have seen that happen,
24 and I attribute it, you know, to the mild winters we've
25 been having. We've had a little bit more snow this
26 winter, but I don't think it was enough, you know, to
27 affect the deer.

28
29 There were times when I saw, and others
30 have seen, you know, deer all over the place, you know.
31 They never used to be in like, for instance, the
32 Ahrnklin area, you know, across town. And we go out
33 there and camp in the spring, you know, often, and we
34 see deer and tracks, and, you know, it's really
35 enlightening, you know, to be able to see that thing,
36 that population improve up there.

37
38 We're still concerned about the Hubbard
39 Glacier. They begin to watch it, you know, about this
40 time of the year, February, and if there is any
41 significant advances, you know, that take place between
42 now and the middle of June, then they might have, you
43 know, concerns. As many of you know, you know, there's
44 a possibility that the Hubbard Glacier will close off
45 Russell Fjord. It's a 30-mile long fjord, one and a
46 half to maybe three miles wide. It 600 or so fathoms
47 deep. And the two instances where it did close off,
48 you know, for several months, the Russell Fjord had
49 risen about 12 to 18 inches a day from the run-off from
50 the glaciers and rain and so forth. And the big

1 concern was that if it was going to raise 136 or so
2 feet, that it was going to spill off, you know, on the
3 southern end of it and dip into the Situk River, which
4 would drastically affect the Situk River, because it
5 would balloon it up from anywhere between three to five
6 times the size it is right now. And the concern was,
7 you know, that would no longer be a fresh water -- you
8 know, a lake-fed river, but a glacier river. And so
9 the community, you know, had some concerns over the
10 past couple, three years about that possibility
11 happening, and there's a task force that was form that
12 studied the worse scenario effects that the flooding
13 would have upon the community if it ever did happen.
14 And so, you know, we're watching that right now real
15 closely. It doesn't look like it's making any
16 significant moves at this point, so it's a possibility
17 that we might nave any effect, you know, mid summer or
18 thereabouts. We hope.

19
20 Patty mentioned something about global
21 warming. In the Yakutat area we have seen things like
22 turtles. A turtle was recovered there a couple, three
23 years ago. It was dead, but it washed up on the beach.
24 We've seen tuna. A great white shark. In fact, it
25 was last year, was it, a charter boat fisherman was
26 fishing, and he was pulling in about a 40-pound
27 halibut, and a great white shark, you know, attacked
28 that halibut and it took a good portion of that halibut
29 away from that hook. And so, you know, we're seeing
30 the effects of global warming taking place in our area.

31
32 When I was at a subsistence resource
33 chairs committee meeting earlier -- no, I think it was
34 in December 2005, we had -- there was a scientist from
35 the University of Alaska who came and gave a
36 presentation on global warming. And the thing I
37 remember about that is that he said in the last 100
38 years, the earth has warmed up five degrees, which is
39 pretty significant. My response to him though was that
40 in the Yakutat area in the past thousand years, you
41 know, the glaciers used to be right up into the water
42 there. In a period of 900 or so years, you know, it
43 has retreated, and retreated about 30 miles into the
44 mountains where it is right now. So we've been
45 experiencing in our area anyhow global warming for the
46 last thousand years or so. How to deal with it, you
47 know, is the thing that is in the minds of most
48 scientists and people, you know, that are concerned
49 about that.

50

1 They've seen evidence of vegetation
2 growing in the tundra and even trees, you know, being
3 sprouted up there. So that might be a positive thing
4 on there, because then things begin to grow over there.
5 I don't know.

6
7 The herring issue, in Yakutat, you
8 know, we had a real spawn a few years ago, and we all
9 got excited about it, because we thought we were going
10 to become another Sitka. But then, you know, it kind
11 of leveled off and balanced itself out. And it's
12 improving. We are able to get a little bit of our own,
13 you know herring eggs, you know, harvested every year.

14
15 At this point, Mr. Chairman, I think
16 that's about -- I think I've talked myself out.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. Thank
19 you, Mr. Adams. We don't want you to have another
20 Sitka up there. We've got to keep those herring eggs
21 there.

22
23 Mr. Douville.

24
25 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

26
27
28 We have a few issues in U-2, which
29 we've heard a lot of in the last few years. And just
30 because the subcommittee met and has gone away, I don't
31 think all the issues have been addressed or solved, so
32 we'll probably hear some more down the road.

33
34 There's some people that discussed with
35 me their concern, because there's a loophole in the doe
36 harvest. There's not a designated tag for that
37 harvest. You can use any tag up to any one of four
38 tags. There's some concern there.

39
40 And some want a little more meat than
41 they're getting now. They would like a little higher
42 limit on deer, which a proposal will indicate. And
43 they do not like to have to carry all their paperwork
44 or use all their tags in order.

45
46 Just as Patty mentioned, there's some
47 kind of a blight. We have a spruce mite that is
48 bothering the trees at least around Craig, and it seems
49 to affect them up to maybe a couple hundred feet in
50 elevation. And it mainly seems to attach the spruce

1 trees. So you see them turning color, and very few
2 needles on them. They grow every year, but a lot of
3 the needles fall off, because the mites are killing it.

4

5

6 There's one other thing I'd like to
7 touch on, is that we've spent a lot of money on
8 counting sockeye, and a lot of effort in a lot of
9 different places. And now that we have really good
10 numbers, in most cases we know that numbers are down
11 from historic levels. We need to take all that
12 information and put it to good use through enhancement
13 or other means. I'd like to see some attention given
14 to the proposal that was submitted to the Board of Fish
15 that went nowhere, because I think that the Hidden
16 Falls fishery is having an affect on like Basket Bay
17 sockeyes and, you know, the upper Chatham sockeyes.
18 I'd like to have some discussion on that at some point,
19 and address those issues.

20

21 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, Mr.
24 Douville. Dr. Garza.

25

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

27

28 And when we started the agenda, we did
29 introductions, but we didn't do welcomes, and I think
30 we have two people here who could welcome us, at least
31 on the part of Ketchikan, if I could quickly ask Merle
32 and James to come forward. I know that was their
33 intent, and then they just got into the introductions
34 part.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Please come
37 forward. We always want to be welcomed.

38

39 DR. GARZA: And, Mr. Chairman, also
40 while they're coming forward, I do want to let you know
41 that I have seen Lee again. He's zipping around.

42

43 But also, there has been a death in
44 this community. There is a memorial tonight and a
45 funeral tomorrow, so we are lacking people, because of
46 that. And so we need to keep that in mind.

47

48 So if I could ask Merle as vice chair
49 of KIC and then James as ANB Ketchikan camp.

50

1 MS. HAWKINS: Good afternoon. Yeah,
2 I'd like to welcome the Regional Advisory Council to
3 the Ketchikan/Saxman area. Of course, I'm speaking on
4 behalf of Ketchikan Indian Community. I am just a
5 council member this year, but I know this evening we're
6 planning to host a welcome reception, 6:00 o'clock?
7 Yeah, 6:00 o'clock right here to welcome you folks to
8 town. And we've organized fund-raising lunches at
9 lunch time. Tuesday will be Saxman ANB Camp 15, and I
10 think they're going to have barbecued chicken according
11 to one of the cooks. Wednesday Ketchikan ANB/ANS Camp
12 14, and we're having native food. And Thursday the
13 Haida Dance Group will be hosting a fund-raising lunch
14 here. So if there's anything else the tribe or the
15 community or Camp 14 can do to accommodate your needs,
16 please talk to me or James. I know I will be sitting
17 in on the meetings most of the week.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you. If
22 you could share that with Melinda Hernandez in the
23 back, and we'll make sure that we have plenty of notice
24 when we go to these meetings, because you'll find that
25 the Council usually likes to attend those, especially
26 fund raisers, and we like to eat those native foods.
27 And so we'll certainly support those if we have enough
28 notice on them. So thank you.

29
30 MS. HAWKINS: I'll give her a copy.

31
32 MR. STANLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
33 And at this point, I'd like to introduce myself. I am
34 James Stanley. I am Saanya Kwaan Toikweidi Xootz Kudee
35 Hit. I am a wolf/brown bear from the Killer Whale
36 House.

37
38 I would like to take this time to
39 welcome the Councilmen, yourself, and our distinguished
40 guests to Saanya Kwaan territory. Welcome to my
41 grandfather's land.

42
43 Gunalcheesh.

44
45 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Gunalcheesh. Is
46 that it? Okay. Thank you. And thank you, Dr. Garza,
47 for bringing that to my attention. Dr. Garza.

48
49 DR. GARZA: Okay. Now on to my half
50 hour spiel.

1 So again there is a reception tonight
2 at 6:00 o'clock. So please stay after the meeting. We
3 just want to informally welcome you to be here. This
4 meeting is very important to Ketchikan and to Saxman,
5 and unfortunately Saxman is busy with the death here.
6 So I think they will be showing up in force when they
7 can.

8
9 The issues, of course, you've probably
10 heard them all from me, and you probably could just
11 rattle it off for me, but again Unit 2 deer and
12 Ketchikan's access to it. I did serve on the Unit 2 ad
13 hoc committee, and that will be reported on later. I
14 think that Ketchikan's needs have been fairly well met,
15 and by that I mean everybody walks away a little bit
16 bruised and didn't get everything they want, but they
17 can live with it. So if what we have goes forward in
18 terms of access to the southeast portion of the island,
19 that Ketchikan people will be much happier.

20
21 On the rural/urban position, we did
22 hear from Ketchikan Indian Community, Kathleen Yar.
23 James Stanley was one of the people who were committed
24 to doing the 250 surveys in four weeks flat, which is
25 totally amazing. Merle Hawkins was pretty much in
26 charge of making sure that whole thing went through.
27 And so you just heard from two of the key people in
28 terms of subsistence for Ketchikan. But we are -- we
29 believe that -- we know we use the resource, and
30 hopefully the data will demonstrate that we use far
31 more than 31 pounds per person per year, and that may
32 mean something to the Federal Subsistence Board.

33
34 The other issue, of course, is Unuk
35 River, and we will hear from Lynn Kolund in the next
36 few days. It looks like there will be no fishery this
37 year regardless of whether or not we have a strong
38 return or a weak return, because the last two years
39 have been weak.

40
41 Just to let you know, that Lynn and his
42 biologists did get ahold of me, and Merle Hawkins came
43 in as chair of subsistence. Willy Jackson, who is the
44 new Chair of subsistence for KIC, was invited, but
45 wasn't able to make it. And they spent as much time
46 with us, Dave Johnson was there also, as we needed to
47 make sure we understood what was going on, and make us
48 feel comfortable with the possible decision of the
49 closure. I also know that they did meet with the
50 Waggoners and let them know what likely was going to be

1 happening. But we will be -- likely KIC will be
2 submitting a proposal to do a Unuk River, at least a
3 TEK study, to figure out what are the needs that aren't
4 being met in the Ketchikan, Saxman, and Metlakatla
5 area, because it is -- not having hooligans is really
6 tragic for Ketchikan. I mean, that's when spring
7 begins. It would be like if Sitka didn't have herring
8 eggs, you know, or if Wrangell or Petersburg didn't
9 have shrimp. I mean, it's like -- it's a substantial
10 loss, and it's a void that we have to figure out what
11 we're going to do with, and how to go forward with it.

12
13 I would like to point out a couple
14 other things just in terms of the big picture when
15 Patty mentioned the global warming. I was able to
16 attend the Pisces Conference in Seoul, Korea -- well,
17 in South Korea, this year, and one of the presentations
18 made in terms of global warming is that they expect
19 that sockeye will disappear from the entire Gulf of
20 Alaska due to global warming that appears not to be
21 reversible. And that the only place we will have
22 sockeye is in Bristol Bay. This has substantial
23 impact on subsistence, and we've already seen some
24 potential drops in sockeye, and that may be the reason
25 there's no sockeye, or limited sockeye in Frazer River.
26 But I think that, you know, again, we as a Council have
27 to keep in mind, what are the issues and what can we do
28 in terms of supporting research or whatever else it is,
29 because if we lose sockeye, it's going to be like the
30 Unuk River. We're losing something that's substantial
31 to communities. So that was really disenheartening.

32
33 And the other thing I learned was I
34 went to the Pacific Salmon Commission meeting in
35 Vancouver, and I went as a guest, as a wife. My
36 husband is on the council for the Canadian side. They
37 hosted a First Nations Caucus of the native tribes and
38 peoples who are involved with Pacific Salmon Commission
39 for both sides of the border, just so they could sit
40 down and meet each other and get a feel for what's
41 going on. There were almost 60 native people there.
42 These are biologists, these are tribal TEK people,
43 these are tribal administrators who spend almost all of
44 their time on fishery issues from British Columbia,
45 Washington and Oregon. I was the only Alaskan there,
46 and I was there only as a wife.

47
48 It was really, really disenheartening
49 to see. And as an example, for Pacific Salmon
50 Commission on the Canadian side, one quarter of all of

1 their members in the Commission as well as the
2 committees are First Nation. On the U.S. side, for
3 Alaska, I think we have one, and I'm not sure if he's
4 still appointed. I did get up and plea for them, to
5 ask them to help to support us, because once you're not
6 in the circle, it's kind of hard to get in the circle.
7 And I let them know that we were very interested in
8 being involved however we can.

9
10 I did hear from the Transboundary
11 Panel, the Canadian side, of course, that they would
12 like to have a subsistence person on that Transboundary
13 Panel. This is a time when we can submit a name, and
14 so that's why I have it down as an action item later,
15 whether it's someone from Petersburg, whether it's
16 someone from Yakutat. They, and by they, the Canadians
17 as well as the Washington side of the Commission would
18 welcome names that they could possibly take forward.
19 And so we may have support to get somebody in there
20 through not the Alaska side, but through the other
21 side. And I think if we can do that, Mr. Chair, we
22 need to start submitting names.

23
24 So that's it for me. Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: And as noted, we
27 did put that under towards the other business. And I
28 don't think we're going to run out of time, so we
29 should be able to take care of that.

30
31 Thank you. Mr. Davis.

32
33 MR. DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

34
35 I think the big issue in our village is
36 the dungeness commercial fishery that they pretty much
37 set their gear in Ship Canal. And by ship, it's not
38 necessarily large boats that run up there, but a lot of
39 the small boats, open skiffs that run out there, and
40 come back in the dark, and they can't ever -- you know,
41 it's a matter of life whether they hit a rope that --
42 causing them to go overboard. But it's so bad there
43 that guys can't even set their subsistence pots.

44
45 I have a personal friend there that set
46 one last year. He bought the pot the day before, and
47 someone took the whole pot the next day.

48
49 And there's a lot of pressure from the
50 outside fleet. And it's pretty much where the gear is

1 piling up from.

2

3 I had a guy running my boat two summers
4 ago, and it took him an hour to go about a mile just
5 dodging pots. And my boat is pretty good size. And
6 it's where he's wrapping up on the prop.

7

8 Some of the pressure is coming from sea
9 otters, which is building up to a pretty big abundance
10 there. So if they can -- if we can somehow get that
11 dungeness fishermen to at least honor the ship canal
12 where a guy can to there without worry, because a lot
13 of boats will come back in, you know, after 5:00, maybe
14 after 8:00 p.m. in the summertime, and there's not too
15 people around that could help if something happens.

16

17 And the moose and deer seem to be doing
18 fine with the mild winters. We seem to be getting more
19 moose every year, and deer also.

20

21 And then the sockeye, they're doing,
22 they're doing okay, but a couple years in a row people
23 were talking that they did come in like a week after it
24 was closed, the bigger majority of them anyway.

25

26 Anyway that's pretty much what I have
27 there. Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, Mr.
30 Davis. Mr. Hernandez.

31

32 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr.
33 Chairman.

34

35 I'm going to address my remarks for the
36 people of Point Baker and Port Protection on the north
37 end of Prince of Wales Island. My name card says
38 Petersburg, but I still spend most of my time and do
39 most of my subsistence activities there on Prince of
40 Wales Island. I'm more familiar with what goes on
41 around there.

42

43 For this fall, most of the local
44 hunters reported that they saw a good number of deer
45 and most of them were able to fill their needs for the
46 season. The one concern that I heard from most folks
47 was that they seemed to be seeing a lot more effort by
48 other people coming to the north end of the island,
49 that pressure seems to be increasing there. This is
50 probably kind of an indication of other areas on the

1 island maybe not doing a well on their hunting, so
2 people change their patterns, you know, as to where
3 they hunt from hear to hear, and seem to be moving
4 around a lot, and using the north end of the island
5 more.

6
7 It's kind of interesting hearing some
8 of the other Council members talking about global
9 warming. That was also one of the concerns that I've
10 been hearing. We had a university doctoral student on
11 Prince of Wales Island last summer going around doing
12 lots of interviews of people with lots of years of
13 experience in hunting. And he came to Point Baker and
14 Port Protection and interviewed people. After the
15 interviews were over, I went and talked to the folks
16 that he had interviewed, and we were discussing, you
17 know, what we had talked about with him. And the last
18 question he asked at the end of his survey was what
19 people felt was their greatest concern for long-term
20 situation as far as subsistence hunting on Prince of
21 Wales Islands. And with the four of us in Point Baker
22 talking, we had all given the same answer to that
23 question, and it was the long-term health of the forest
24 and what may happen there due to climate change. And,
25 yes, it was very interesting to hear that's a concern
26 from other council members as well.

27
28 I guess the one message that comes from
29 this is that just as in the Arctic, some of the
30 earliest observations of what was really happening with
31 climate change came from the native people's up there.
32 I think it's pretty important to pay attention to the
33 subsistence users who are so intimate with their
34 surroundings and what happens out there, that if, you
35 know, people from the scientific community start
36 hearing things from those that are out there, who make
37 their way of life from using these resources, I think
38 they should pay attention, and I hope they will.

39
40 Thank you, that's all I have.

41
42 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, Mr.
43 Hernandez. Mr. Bangs.

44
45 MR. BANGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

46
47 Yeah, for the most part, I think we had
48 a real successful hunting season for moose and deer.

49
50 And on the upside of the global

1 warming, I think it accounted for a really bumper crop
2 of cranberries, but I'm sure that it's, you know,
3 having its detrimental effects as well everywhere.

4
5 I did come across some real concerns
6 from different organizations and individuals in our
7 area, and a couple from Petersburg Indian Association.
8 And one of them has to do with the resubmission of a
9 permit application for aerial spraying in the Long
10 Island area. And from what I gather, they changed the
11 makeup of the chemical that they're going to use. And
12 the group was very concerned about it. This is
13 something that they felt we didn't want to start,
14 regardless of what kind of chemical. This is a
15 subsistence used by people that live close by there.
16 And actually myself, I did some hunting on Long Island
17 this fall, and there are a lot of deer and a lot of
18 vegetation that I can see where if they were to do
19 massive spraying down there, it would have some pretty
20 large impacts regardless of what kind of chemical.

21
22 Another concern that PIA conveyed to me
23 was they're really concerned about the wolf population
24 and what their relationship is with deer on the
25 surrounding islands, including Mitkof. They're
26 reporting a lot more wolf sign, and people are actually
27 getting a lot of visual contact with the wolves. And
28 they're chasing dogs and what have you. There's a
29 concern there, and they wanted to have me, you know,
30 convey that to the Council and see if there was some
31 way to do some kind of studies on population and
32 interactions.

33
34 Another concern that came to light was
35 the Kuiu timber sale which is near Kake. And I'm sure
36 that some of the members of Kake will be -- I just
37 found out about it through a letter, because they're
38 already starting subsistence hearings on that timber
39 sale. And it's proposed 42.5 million board feet, and
40 it's right across from Kake, and it's -- I brought maps
41 and what not. They haven't decided on a preferred
42 alternative, but it looks like it's going to just
43 continue on and connect the dots between existing clear
44 cuts that -- from something that was pointed out to me,
45 those clear cuts are reaching stem exclusion, so we may
46 be causing some subsistence problems over there. A lot
47 of it's around real productive steelhead streams and
48 salmon streams. So I think it's something that we
49 should pay attention, and keep your ears open about the
50 subsistence hearings that will be coming to your

1 community if they come there.

2

3 Another big issue that's not only in
4 the subsistence arena, but in the commercial arena, and
5 that's the widespread shellfish farming that's
6 happening where they're granting subsea rights to
7 existing wild populations, standing stock of different
8 kinds of clams, gooey ducks. And as a result, you're
9 restricted from taking those clams off those beaches,
10 or even anchoring your boat in those harbors or bays
11 where they're granting these subsistence -- or these
12 shellfish farms. And I know around Sitka there's quite
13 a few of them. And I've received phone calls from
14 friends that live in Sitka and they're real concerned
15 about it, and they don't know how to stop it. The
16 Administration and the Legislature is going full ahead
17 with this aquaculture project. And that's something I
18 don't know if the Council can make a stand on that, but
19 it's something to -- it's having an affect and it's
20 growing at a rapid rate.

21

22 Another issue that I came up with that
23 I'm not sure what's going to happen, and I talked with
24 Mr. Kessler about it, and that's the borough formation.
25 And we're talking about combining communities around
26 Petersburg to form a super borough or something. And
27 although it may not affect our rural status, I just
28 want to make sure that it doesn't. If our population
29 of the borough goes above the 7,000 threshold because
30 we incorporate other communities, I don't want that to
31 interfere with the rural status that we have now.

32

33 And one other thing is to reiterate
34 what other Council members mentioned about sea otters.
35 Mr. Davis mentioned it. Sea otters are really out of
36 control, and even talking with the Federal biologist
37 about it that studies sea otters, he was real concerned
38 about Southeast in particular. They're stabilized
39 somewhat in Prince William Sound and on the decline in
40 the Chain, but Southeast is under attack literally.
41 They're just moving into more and more inside waters,
42 and I think it's going to have a long-term effect if we
43 can't do anything about it.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, Mr.
48 Bangs. As we go through these, if there's something
49 that you want to put on the agenda, let's bring this
50 up. I think this is one that we need to discuss that

1 he just brought up was the rural determination. At the
2 Federal Board I told them that I think the rural
3 determination rules need to be rewritten. They were a
4 knee-jerk response. I would hope that maybe in this
5 meeting that we have time to look at that and decide --
6 and make recommendations that these old rules need to
7 be looked at, and perhaps they don't fit anymore. So
8 thanks for that up. We'll talk about that.

9

10 Mr. Stokes.

11

12 MR. STOKES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13

14 I haven't got too much to offer. The
15 dungeness situation remains the same. After the
16 commercial season opens, they fish right up in front of
17 town and we're not able to get a crab after two days
18 once the season's opened.

19

20 And then, I've had several of the
21 hunters coming to me and ask if they could get the
22 season extended for deer. It closes every year at the
23 end of November. And they also would like an increase
24 in the bag limit. We're allowed two, and they would
25 like to increase it to four.

26

27 And then we were discussing the
28 subsistence elk season last night. We've never had a
29 subsistence season on elk. And I have mixed emotions
30 on this, because they were introduced to Southeast and
31 they do have an increase in numbers now. And I've
32 never tasted one of these elks and I would like to.

33

34 And then I would like to report that
35 Wrangell being one of the landless communities have
36 been in the process of selecting land and we've
37 selected -- we're allowed 23,040 acres and we selected
38 85,000, just a little bit over. But we prioritized it,
39 and I'm sure we'll get down to where we can work with
40 them on this. So we're in the process now of doing
41 this, and their charts are back in Juneau now. So I
42 don't know what the results will be.

43

44 And then the other concern I have is
45 Pat's Lake right 10 miles out of -- on the highway to
46 Wrangell. Since they've logged it on the hills around
47 it, why we've had landslides and they filled the lake.
48 What once was a real productive lake for humpies and
49 coho, steelhead and cutthroats, not to mention dollies.
50 Now they're just about depleted, and the lake is

1 filling in, and it's growing together with weeds and
2 whatever grows. And our former District Ranger said,
3 well, this is the way bogs are formed. And I don't
4 agree with him, since the logging is what caused it,
5 and caused the landslides.

6
7 I had a friend that was out there
8 fishing when the first landslide occurred, and while
9 they were there, the whole black mud came pouring down,
10 and what once was a deep, deep lake is now just a
11 shallow pond. And I contacted the RAC committee, which
12 is the rural committee between Petersburg and Wrangell,
13 and they said there was nothing they can do about it.
14 They wouldn't do it, so I told them that I was going to
15 contact the Fish and Game and explain it to them.

16
17 My grandfather told me that when he was
18 a young man, this time of the year, he would go out
19 with his big long gaff and go in different places in
20 the lake and they would harvest the coho right now.
21 Even though they were colored, they were still good
22 fish. And around the hill during the wintertime, they
23 would harvest bear and when they needed meat, they
24 would go there. So this used to be just like going to
25 the supermarket. They could get everything in that
26 particular area. Now it's practically nothing. It's
27 dead.

28
29 And we just returned from that sea
30 otter that you were talking about, and I don't know
31 exactly what's going to become of that. Maybe our
32 Chairman can tell us a little bit on that, what the
33 results are of the meeting we had.

34
35 That's all I've got to say now. Thank
36 you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. Thank
39 you. I was not a member of the sea otter conference,
40 although I did attend the meeting, so I'm not privy to
41 that. But I believe we can get that information from
42 the Sitka tribe, and you as a participant should have
43 been able to share in the results of that. I'll make a
44 call for you and see if we can get ahold of that.

45
46 MR. STOKES: Okay. Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you. Mr.
49 Kitka.

50

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

2

3 The concerns of Sitka, there are really
4 -- there are many concerns. One of them is what they
5 talked about here is that mighty predator, the sea
6 otter. It's kind of wiping all our food from the
7 shorelines. It takes everything until it eats itself
8 out of house and home and starves. And it's almost
9 pathetic to watch them starving. They get down to
10 where they're eating just scrap foods out there. But
11 that is just one of our concerns that we've been
12 voicing for quite a long time.

13

14 We've watched the effects of a lot of
15 these things. The mariculture was a big concern of the
16 Sitka Tribe when I was on the Council a few years back,
17 and I know they've fighting that mariculture for a long
18 time. Now it seems like the Governor has found a way
19 around some of the things to make it easier for these
20 people to get permits, and they don't have to go
21 through the same boards and things any more. They
22 don't have to jump through the hoops.

23

24 And one of major concerns is
25 subsistence herring. And I'm glad to hear people talk
26 about it from the different areas, because it is one of
27 our major concerns within the Sitka area. We had an
28 agreement with the State on the -- between the
29 fisheries and Fish and Game and the tribe, and at the
30 last Board of Fish meeting in Ketchikan, they basically
31 told us it wasn't worth the paper it was written on,
32 and it was of really no more use to us. And so we're
33 hoping that we can do something with this land around
34 Makhmati and maybe the tribe will come forward with
35 something here before this meeting is over on some sort
36 of proposal on that part.

37

38 I can go into a long talk on the
39 history of herring and subsistence in Sitka, because it
40 has always been a big subsistence area for all the
41 natives in Southeast Alaska. It has always -- Sitka
42 has always invited anybody that wanted to come and get
43 herring eggs subsistence to come and get it into one of
44 the areas noted for this subsistence. And right now
45 they're fishing to the point where some of the stocks
46 that were common to the bays are now gone. The bays
47 where we used to be able to go up and fish king salmon
48 no matter what time of the year, there's no herring
49 there to bring the king salmon in.

50

1 I know my dad who's been around Sitka
2 for 91 years now, he said when he was a boy, they used
3 to go out and jig for halibut right at Halibut Point
4 where -- why it got its name is they used to fish their
5 halibut right out front and they'd take the halibut
6 right to the point there at Halibut Point, and they'd
7 be cleaning it. And when you would pass by that place,
8 the halibut would be laying with their bellies up all
9 over the place while they were cleaning it. And that's
10 basically why the basically call it Halibut Point. Now
11 you go out there, you can probably fish for hours and
12 not be able to get any. And most of that is because
13 there's not enough herring for them to feed on. It
14 used to bring the halibut into Sitka Sound.

15
16 And the halibut are basically a
17 migratory species of fish. They travel extensively
18 throughout the Gulf and around the Pacific Ocean. And,
19 you know when we run out of the food for them, then
20 they won't come.

21
22 We found the same thing true with fur
23 seal and some of the seals that come in there. And I
24 really believe a large part of the seal population is
25 dying from starvation, because there is not enough
26 herring. And this is one of the big concerns of Sitka.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, Mr.
31 Kitka. Before I go to Mr. Thomas, I'm going to come
32 back here and I'll do myself first. I want to tell you
33 what's going on here. We've got to be back here at
34 6:00 o'clock. So what I'd like to do is when we
35 conclude the council member reports, and I will give
36 Mr. Thomas the last word there, so before we do that,
37 I'd like to as Mr. Schroeder if he could fill us in on
38 anything that we need to have, and then I will give a
39 few comments. I will let Mr. Thomas close us for the
40 evening. We'll come back before we go into public
41 testimony and proposals. There's no sense getting into
42 those, so if there's anything in process, let's bring
43 it up now.

44
45 DR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, I don't
46 think there's anything in particular. I did want to
47 make Council members aware that we had a little snag
48 this time with per diem checks. We've been told that
49 they're Gold Streaked down to us and will probably
50 arrive tomorrow morning some time or another.

1 The only other item I have is Staff
2 sent out some supplementary materials to Council member
3 and we hope that those two packets are useful in
4 deliberations over the next days.

5
6 And that's all I have. We should also
7 set a time for meeting tomorrow morning.

8
9 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Tomorrow
10 morning?

11
12 DR. SCHROEDER: I think 8:30 would be
13 appropriate.

14
15 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. Thank
16 you, Dr. Schroeder. So the meeting will -- we'll meet
17 here again at 8:30. We have a meeting -- tonight we
18 have a reception at 6:00 o'clock, and hopefully the
19 Council will go there. We have transportation. Mr.
20 Kessler will take some of us in his van. I suppose
21 there are others, so we can get down and get checked in
22 at the hotel. Okay.

23
24 And we'll talk about no money later,
25 but if you in need of money, let's lease make sure you
26 get ahold of Dr. Schroeder or myself, and we'll make
27 sure that you can have some cash for the next day or
28 to. We'll get into that later. I don't want to get
29 into that right now.

30
31 Under my comments, what I'd like to say
32 is, first, if the Council, if there's anything that
33 they want to bring in their comments, please make sure
34 that we note them. We'll put them on the list. We
35 have, as Mr. Douville talked about, 169, we would want
36 to talk about that. Perhaps the herring, the
37 shellfish, as well as the rural determination. I've
38 got a bunch of these I've kept track, and Dr. Schroeder
39 has been keeping pretty good notes. And just tell him
40 that you want to do it. These are good discussion
41 items, as well as going in our report.

42
43 Some of the issues in Sitka, or most of
44 them, were mentioned by Mr. Kitka. I just wanted to go
45 over one other is the rural determination. As most of
46 you know, Sitka was taken off the list. But I think
47 it's important to note that Sitka can still be put back
48 on. It's not -- I think it's not really -- it's kind
49 of far out, but we are going through a proposed rule
50 stage. Anything can happen in a proposed rule stage as

1 you're going to find out, and so I think it's important
2 that the Council stay on record here of what we support
3 for the communities of Sitka, Saxman and Ketchikan, and
4 not think that over for Sitka. Just make sure that we
5 include them in our statements.

6
7 And I heard several of the Council talk
8 about global warming. It was 15 degrees at my house
9 this morning. I don't know where the global warming is
10 in Sitka, but anyway I'm looking for it. But, no, it's
11 not a joke. We've had one of the finest berry seasons
12 I've seen in a long time. We have lots of deer.

13
14 So, anyway at this time I think Mr.
15 Kitka covered most of the things that I need to
16 discuss. I'd like to have Mr. Thomas -- I'll turn the
17 chair over to you at this time. You will make your
18 comments and then you'll dismiss for the night and
19 we'll come back at 6:00 o'clock. Mr. Thomas.

20
21 MR. THOMAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22
23 First of all, I'm honored to be sitting
24 with you folks once again, and I want to welcome you on
25 behalf of ANB and ANS Camp 15 in Saxman. There was a
26 lot of anticipation waiting for this meeting, and you
27 can see where workers have been diligently working
28 trying to get this building in shape for a lot reasons.
29 There's a lot of activities, a lot of cultural
30 activities, not just the native cultures, but cultures
31 throughout the community that need a facility like this
32 to do their own customary activities and this kind of
33 thing. And it's also a proud addition to the
34 community.

35
36 I think with just the comments that
37 were made from the Council members is enough material
38 to take up a week's discussion on trying to come up
39 with a position without even touching a proposal. And
40 it's all heavy duty stuff, because when they talk about
41 technical studies, scientific studies, professional
42 studies, I'm not sure where all those distinctions come
43 from, but all those people that are so full of
44 knowledge now come here to get the information from
45 people around this table. And so I think that it would
46 be appropriate for the Council to consider themselves
47 among the very qualified representatives of this part
48 of the country, of this region in Alaska, because
49 everybody essentially either lives on the beach or
50 within a stone's throw away from the beach. And that's

1 what Title VIII is about. I mean, Title VIII didn't
2 take you far above the kelp line.

3
4 And Ketchikan and Saxman's been
5 anticipating hosting this meeting, and they're looking
6 forward to some great discussion, and get to know some
7 of the people, be able to bring some of their concerns
8 forward, and so you're going to have a busy four days
9 here.

10
11 So with that, again welcome to
12 everybody that's here, and for those of you who really
13 can make it, be sure and be here for the reception
14 tonight.

15
16 Thank you very much.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Dr. Garza, a
19 last word?

20
21 DR. GARZA: Just please do come back
22 for the reception as Bill said, but also I think we're
23 not sure about tables, so I think we're going to take
24 this one and the one you guys are using and put it out
25 there for now. So be prepared to move, Mike. But
26 otherwise, please come back.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay. Thank
31 you. And Mr. Adams, and just before we do that, Dr.
32 Schroeder says we can leave our stuff here, so you can
33 just leave your stuff on the desk, or go home and read
34 it tonight. Mr. Adams.

35
36 MR. ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

37
38 I just wanted to make a comment about
39 Mr. Thomas. When he was still on the Council and I
40 came on board, and this body appointed me to be on the
41 Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission
42 meeting. I went to my first meeting, and I came back
43 here and I, you know, kind of was talking with him, and
44 the first thing he asked me was, are you chairman, and
45 I said, no, you know. And I wasn't even seeking it, or
46 did I seek it, you know. But just for the last three
47 years now, Mr. Thomas, I have been serving as the
48 chairman of the SRC, and I'm not even -- you know, I
49 give everybody an opportunity, you know, to vie for
50 that position, but they keep giving it back to me, so I

1 just wanted you to know that.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MR. THOMAS: Good for you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LITTLEFIELD: Okay, 6:00
8 o'clock. Hopefully you'll be back.

9

10 We're in recess.

11

12 (Off record)

13

14 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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STATE OF ALASKA)

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