

1 SOUTHCENTRAL FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME I

7
8 Cooper Landing, Alaska
9 October 14, 2009
10 9:00 o'clock a.m.
11

12
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

14
15 Ralph Lohse, Chairman
16 Doug Blossom
17 Fred Elvsaas - (Telephonic)
18 Greg Encelewski
19 Donald Kompkoff - (Telephonic)
20 James Showalter
21 Tricia Waggoner
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23
24 Regional Council Coordinator, Donald Mike

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

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3 (Cooper Landing, Alaska - 10/14/2009)

4
5 (On record)

6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: With the agreement of
8 the rest of the Council that's here, I'm going to skip
9 the call to order and the roll call and go into welcome
10 and introductions while Donald tries to make contact
11 and teleconference. We have lots of members missing
12 due to either sickness or weather because they weren't
13 able to get in.

14
15 So, with that, I'd like to welcome
16 everybody to this October meeting of the Southcentral
17 Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. I hope
18 you all had a good trip down here and hope you're
19 enjoying the unseasonal weather that we're having or at
20 least it seems unseasonable to me. It seems like it
21 should be winter.

22
23 As I was telling the rest of the
24 Council, because of the weather that we're having in
25 the state we have some members that weren't able to
26 make it due to weather and then because of the flu and
27 stuff that's going around we have some members that
28 haven't been able to make it because of sickness. So
29 we're short of members and Donald is trying to
30 establish a quorum through teleconference and we'll
31 probably take our action item first with the agreement
32 with the rest of the Council and then we will go on to
33 the things that don't take action and don't take a
34 quorum. We'll go into a work session.

35
36 So, with that, I'd like to welcome you
37 all. I'd like to do what we usually do around here,
38 which is go through everybody and introduce ourselves
39 to each other so we know who we're talking to. We'll
40 start with the Council. We'll start with James and
41 we'll go around the room and go row by row until we've
42 got everybody introduced.

43
44 MR. SHOWALTER: Good morning. James
45 Showalter from Sterling.

46
47 MR. BLOSSOM: Good morning. Doug
48 Blossom from Clam Gulch.

49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Good morning. I'm the

1 Chair. I'm from Cordova and the Chitina area, Ralph
2 Lohse.
3
4 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Greetings. My name is
5 Greg Encelewski and I'm from Ninilchik.
6
7 MS. WAGGONER: Good morning. I'm
8 Tricia Waggoner and I'm from Palmer.
9
10 MR. FRIED: Good morning. Steve Fried,
11 fisheries biologist with Office of Subsistence
12 Management.
13
14 MR. PALMER: Doug Palmer, Federal in-
15 season manager for Cook Inlet area.
16
17 MR. ANDERSON: Jeff Anderson, Fish and
18 Wildlife Service, Soldotna Field Office.
19
20 MR. GIBSON: Robert Gibson, hunting and
21 fishing guide here locally and I own and operate the
22 Kenai Lake Lodge.
23
24 MR. SOMERVILLE: Mark Somerville, Fish
25 and Game Sportfish, out of Glennallen.
26
27 MR. PAPPAS: George Pappas, Fish and
28 Game, subsistence liaison team, Anchorage.
29
30 MS. McCORMICK: Molly McCormick,
31 fisheries biologist at Wrangell-St. Elias National
32 Park.
33
34 MS. BROWN: Paula Brown, wildlife
35 biologist with OSM.
36
37 MR. OVIATT: George Oviatt, Bureau of
38 Land Management.
39
40 MS. ARMSTRONG: Helen Armstrong,
41 anthropologist, OSM.
42
43 MR. BRYDEN: Jeff Bryden. I'm the lead
44 law enforcement officer for subsistence for the U.S.
45 Forest Service.
46
47 MR. SAKRAIDA: Chris Sakraida, law
48 enforcement, Tongass.
49
50 MR. CAIN: Bruce Cain, executive

1 director for the Native Village of Eyak, Cordova.
2
3 MR. VANDERBROCK: Keith van der Brock,
4 Native Village of Eyak, Partners Fisheries Monitoring
5 Program biologist.
6
7 MR. BURCHAM: Milo Burcham, wildlife
8 biologist, doing subsistence on the Cordova Ranger
9 District.
10
11 MR. CEBRIAN: Merben Cebrian, wildlife
12 biologist, BLM, Glennallen.
13
14 MR. LAVES: Kevin Laves, Chugach
15 National Forest, Moose Pass.
16
17 MR. WEST: Fred West, Kasilof, owner of
18 a fish and wild game processing plant.
19
20 MR. ZEMKE: Steve Zemke, Chugach
21 National Forest, subsistence coordinator in Anchorage.
22
23 MR. NELSON: Dave Nelson. I'm a
24 fisheries biologist with the National Park Service. I
25 work out of Anchorage.
26
27 MR. KESSLER: Steve Kessler, I'm the
28 acting deputy forest supervisor on the Chugach National
29 Forest out of Anchorage.
30
31 MR. SOWA: I'm Richard Sowa. I'm
32 acting associate deputy chief out of the Washington
33 office for the Forest Service.
34
35 MS. ZIMMERMANN: Anne Zimmermann. I'm
36 director for the Forest Service out of Washington for
37 watershed, fish, wildlife, air and rare plants.
38
39 MR. SCHMIDT: Good morning. I'm Dave
40 Schmidt. I'm the National Fish Program leader with the
41 Forest Service out of Washington, D.C.
42
43 MS. KESSLER: I'm Wini Kessler. I'm a
44 regional director with the Forest Service. I'm in
45 Juneau, Alaska.
46
47 MR. CASIPIT: I'm Cal Casipit. I'm the
48 acting subsistence group leader for the Forest Service
49 in Juneau, Alaska.
50

1 MR. BEGICH: Robert Begich, sportfish
2 area manager biologist for the Department of Fish and
3 Game, Soldotna.

4
5 MR. GIVENS: James Givens, Cooper
6 Landing.

7
8 MR. HARRIS: Jack Harris, Cooper
9 Landing.

10
11 MR. NEIS: Jerry Neis, Cooper Landing.

12
13 MR. SMITH: Yeah, I already spoke to
14 you, but, anyway, I'm impressed by the number of
15 authorities that we have represented here. I certainly
16 hope it bodes well for our future. I'm only 86. I
17 expect to be here another 10, 15 years anyway. So keep
18 coming back. We're glad to have you. You always leave
19 a little money and that's how I make my living.

20
21 (Laughter)

22
23 MS. PETRIVELLI: I'm Pat Petrivelli,
24 Bureau of Indian Affairs, subsistence anthropologist
25 from Anchorage.

26
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The only one we
28 haven't got is our stenographer and Donald Mike. We
29 need both of them to introduce themselves.

30
31 MR. MIKE: My name is Donald Mike. I'm
32 the regional council coordinator for the Southcentral
33 Region.

34
35 REPORTER: My name is Tina. I'm the
36 court reporter. Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you all. Again,
39 I'd like to welcome everybody. I especially welcome
40 those from Cooper Landing that are here. This Council
41 has always made it a policy that we have public
42 testimony, but if there's an issue that comes up that
43 you'd wish to testify on or if there's an issue that
44 comes up that you'd like to put off your testimony
45 until that issue comes up, we more than welcome
46 testimony from the public.

47
48 So at this time I'm going to go back to
49 Donald Mike and I'm going to ask him if he's ready for
50 the call to order and a roll call for the quorum. Have

1 you got our other Council members on the phone, Donald?

2

3 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
4 contacted Mr. Fred Elvsaas and Mr. Donald Kompkoff.
5 They'll be calling in about 9:30. Once they call in
6 we'll have seven members and you can call the meeting
7 to order. Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Donald.
10 Well, with that then what we will do is we will wait
11 until they call in before we have a call to order and a
12 roll call. Again, I'd like to point out this is very
13 unusual for this Council. We've never ever not had a
14 quorum before, but we have weather and sickness dealing
15 at the same time, which is totally out of the ordinary
16 for us.

17

18 So I can't really go on to any action
19 items or any items at all until we have a roll call and
20 establish quorum, but we can talk about things that are
21 not action. If there's anybody that would like to say
22 something in welcome or introduction or make any
23 comments that don't have to be part of a regular
24 meeting, I'd more than welcome anybody that's got
25 something they'd like to put in at this point in time
26 like Red did.

27

28 MR. MIKE: Donald, we're at the Cooper
29 Landing Community Hall. Council members present, we
30 have James Showalter, Doug Blossom, Ralph Lohse, Greg
31 Encelewski, and Tricia Waggoner and yourself. We're
32 waiting on Fred Elvsaas.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'd like to invite our
35 Washington delegation to come up and kind of give us an
36 overview of what they're here for and how they've
37 enjoyed their trip to Alaska so far.

38

39 MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
40 I'll just kick things off a bit. Again, my name is
41 Dave Schmidt. I'm the National Fish Program leader.
42 Although I spent 23 years here in Alaska living in
43 Portage Valley and Cordova as well as Thorn Bay on
44 Prince of Wales, after that I consider myself somewhat
45 of in exile back in Washington, D.C. in the current
46 role I'm in.

47

48 I'll let my bosses here talk about the
49 purpose of our trip. We had a long journey yesterday
50 and landed in Anchorage late yesterday. We're still a

1 little bit jet-lagged, so I'll turn it over to Richard.

2

3 MR. SOWA: Oh, good. I'm Richard Sowa.
4 I'm the acting associate deputy chief for National
5 Forest Systems, which is more explanation than you
6 need, but our whole intent here, contrary to popular
7 belief, while we're making decisions and thinking about
8 programs we'd like to get out on the ground and really
9 understand what's going on and how it fits together and
10 how it works, the whole intent of this trip for us is
11 to get a national perspective, make sure that we
12 understand the subsistence program and can think and
13 have some honest dialogue about what we think our roles
14 and responsibilities are. So it's a great opportunity.

15

16 We got out of the car this morning and
17 I was thinking, let's see, sitting in Washington, D.C.
18 or being here. It was not a very hard decision. This
19 is awesome. We appreciate the opportunity to be here
20 and to attend your meeting.

21

22 MS. ZIMMERMANN: Hello, everyone. My
23 name again is Anne Zimmermann and I'm the national
24 director for the Forest Service for a whole string of
25 things, but what you might be more interested in is the
26 watershed fish and wildlife part of that. As Richard
27 said, we've been doing oversight of the subsistence
28 program for the last five or six years from the
29 national office, but this is the first time that we've
30 had the opportunity to come out and really talk to
31 folks and understand what's going on.

32

33 We've got some budget issues going on
34 back in Washington with our budget and the whole
35 process back there. So what we're doing is we're going
36 to be interviewing quite a few folks and just try to
37 understand from the perspective of the folks who are
38 living with the program what you think, what's working,
39 what's not working and then hopefully going back and
40 seeing what we can do, working with our local folks
41 here in Alaska.

42

43 As Richard said, it's a great
44 opportunity to get to see folks and get to see some of
45 the country and we'll take the opportunity to get out
46 every chance we can. So thank you very much.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Can I ask
49 a couple questions? Are you going to be able to make
50 it to some of the other subsistence council meetings

1 while you're here in Alaska?

2

3 MS. ZIMMERMANN: This is the only one
4 that we were able to. We tried to gear things where
5 folks were already doing some work. We came in
6 yesterday and we're leaving Saturday.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. I was
9 hoping that you'd get to see some of the rest of the
10 state at the same time, get a little idea of how big
11 this issue is all over the state. We're probably
12 living in the area that this is the most controversial
13 issue, but in the rest of the state it's pretty
14 important also. I hope you get that opportunity in the
15 future.

16

17 I wanted to ask the fisheries, since
18 most of us in the room are all really interested in
19 fish, for lack of a better way of putting it, of just
20 what is the duties of a national fish person like
21 yourself.

22

23 MR. SCHMIDT: I'm still trying to
24 figure that out, Ralph. Actually, we have about 350
25 fish biologists across the country, over 150-some
26 national forests. I've worked, since I've been in
27 Washington, D.C. both with our regions, our regional
28 fish program leaders. We've got nine, one in Alaska
29 here. But I spend a lot of time working with national
30 partners, other interagency folks, trying to, from our
31 end, I guess, advance the Forest Services Program,
32 helping other folks understand what kind of
33 responsibilities we have in terms of managing fish and
34 wildlife habitat, especially in Alaska. Here's it's
35 different with subsistence and some of the other roles
36 that we play.

37

38 I've spent quite a bit of time in the
39 last couple of years working with the National Fish
40 Habitat Board. I don't know if any of you folks here
41 are familiar with it, but it's the result of a national
42 action plan that's modeled after the North American
43 Waterfall Plan. What that is is to, one, try and bring
44 more funding, but more emphasis on our fisheries across
45 the country. It's a program based on protection,
46 restoration and enhancement of fish and waters. I work
47 very closely with that. Anne Zimmermann here
48 represents the chief of the Forest Service right now on
49 that board.

50

1 I see my effort as trying to -- or a
2 lot of what I do is trying to help folks out in the
3 regions in Alaska and across the country. I guess
4 that's where my heart was. I spent most of my career,
5 like I said, here in Alaska on the ground as a fish
6 biologist and a district ranger. I think I have a good
7 understanding or a pretty fair understanding of what
8 the issues are and trying to translate those to a lot
9 of the policymakers that make those decisions that
10 really have sometimes unintended consequences but
11 certainly influence what happens on the ground. That's
12 a little piece of it, Ralph.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. That was
15 what I was after. I was just wondering basically
16 though you're working with the Forest Service as part
17 of this and in conjunction then that would be with NMFS
18 and all the rest of them.

19
20 MR. SCHMIDT: Yeah, absolutely. I lead
21 the fish program. One of the pieces of the National
22 Fish Habitat Board I mentioned is called the Federal
23 Caucus and it's set up with -- there's actually 17
24 Federal agencies, believe it or not. There's four or
25 five that really have an emphasis in fish. We meet on
26 a regular basis and those are all the peers that I
27 would have in trying to work so we don't have
28 duplicative type things coming out and such.

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Does any
31 of the Council members have any questions for them.
32 I'm putting you guys on the spot because I'm going to
33 say does anybody in the audience have any questions for
34 you.

35
36 MS. ZIMMERMANN: We'd like to hear your
37 comments. I mean that's one of the reasons that we
38 wanted to attend this meeting, is to understand what
39 you talk about, how you make decisions. As the other
40 folks mentioned, what's our role, but we understand
41 that there's a lot of other Federal agencies and
42 citizens that have a role. If there's any comments or
43 things that you really want to make sure we understand,
44 please do that.

45
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I have one that I'd
47 like to get across. Greg, do you have something you'd
48 like to ask him first? Go ahead.

49
50 MR. ENCELEWSKI: No, I just wanted to

1 make a comment. It's great that you're here, but it's
2 unfortunate we don't have a lot of the proposals that
3 we're actually going to debate and have the public
4 testimony on, because that's when you really get into
5 the in-depth issues. I'm sure there may be some
6 testimony here, but we actually are not reviewing
7 proposals. I think that's a real important aspect of
8 the Council's duties.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: This is what I was
11 going to try to bring across to you. You have to
12 remember that this is an Advisory Council. This
13 Council does not make any decisions. What we try to do
14 is pull in the public, pull in the expertise and
15 everything to get the best information that we can and
16 then from a local level to make advisory
17 recommendations to the Board, which is made up of the
18 heads of all of your departments. Consequently, there
19 are no decisions that we make, but we do look at things
20 and we try to bring in local knowledge, local
21 information and a local way of looking at it.

22

23 There's times that we disagree with the
24 experts and there's times we go along with the experts.
25 Today our only action item is a funding item on some
26 research projects that are ongoing funded through the
27 Forest Service, National Park Service, through the
28 money that comes through us.

29

30 Like he said, I'm sorry that that's the
31 only kind of an action item we have because that's not
32 a real action item. We have four research proposals
33 that meet the criteria that we established that we see
34 as needs and we're just going to decide whether we
35 recommend them to be funded and go forward to the
36 Board.

37

38 We're hoping always for testimony from
39 anybody in the public and we get testimony. I don't
40 know what we'll have today, but we have no burning
41 issues in front of us. I really wish we could have had
42 you here on a couple of the other meetings that we had
43 and then you'd see that everything in this is not cut
44 and dried. We have a lot of varying viewpoints.

45

46 The State of Alaska is made up of a lot
47 of very independent people with, let's say, strong
48 opinions in many different directions. We don't always
49 agree, but we try to come to a consensus. I think
50 we've worked that through. Not to the point where

1 anybody is real happy. I've always said that if
2 everybody is -- if somebody is real happy with our
3 decisions, we've made a mistake because that means
4 somebody else is real unhappy.

5
6 We try to have everybody just a little
7 bit on the edge of being unhappy. They didn't get
8 exactly what they wanted or they weren't able to stop
9 exactly what they wanted, but we try to come to
10 consensus and do the best job that we can here as far
11 as that's concerned. We then take that to the Board
12 and the Board has to make those kind of hard decisions.
13 The Boards represent you guys directly. They're the
14 heads of the Staff.

15
16 With that, if there's any other
17 questions you have for us, then I'll turn it back to
18 the public and see if they have any questions for you.

19
20 MR. SCHMIDT: Just a comment, Ralph --
21 Mr. Chairman, sorry, is that we will be continuing on
22 to Juneau. I think we're trying to meet with a lot of
23 folks. Not just here in Southcentral. We'll be
24 spending a day in Anchorage, but we'll be traveling to
25 Juneau and I think even picking up a video conference
26 with folks from Kasaan and Hydaburg and others. We're
27 hoping to get an overall perspective here as well.

28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: A little broader
30 perspective than just us. Okay. I saw somebody had a
31 question in the back right here.

32
33 MR. GIBSON: Robert Gibson here. I'd
34 like to ask the people from Washington what specific
35 questions you brought with you to this meeting to
36 better understand what the subsistence lifestyle is all
37 about. If you have any specific questions that you
38 hope to get answers to to better understand by coming
39 here, either individually or as a group.

40
41 MS. ZIMMERMANN: I think part of what
42 we wanted to do by coming here was to understand the
43 process. I think, Mr. Chairman, you just outlined a
44 little bit about, you know, what kind of issues come
45 before the group, how do you sort out the varying
46 viewpoints, how do decisions eventually get made. So I
47 think part of it is just understanding that. It is
48 unfortunate you may not have maybe the degree of
49 discussion that you would have because for me,
50 personally, I'm just trying to get a better handle.

1 Cal gave us kind of a history lesson of
2 how the whole subsistence program evolved, where it
3 started, but I'm sure there's a lot to the rest of the
4 story about what do people think about how the program
5 is working. Specifically, the piece that the Forest
6 Service administers. Again, recognizing that it's a
7 statewide involves a lot of other entities besides us.

8
9

10 I don't know if I have a specific
11 question, but I guess it would be helpful to understand
12 from maybe your viewpoint how do you see the Forest
13 Service participation in this program working as far as
14 understanding the needs of folks and our participation
15 in the various processes.

16

17 So if you have any comments on
18 that.....

19

20 MR. GIBSON: I guess my question was
21 what is it that you're trying to better understand
22 about the actual subsistence way of life. Do you have
23 any questions on that?

24

25 MR. SOWA: I think from my perspective,
26 when all the smoke clears at the national level,
27 everything revolves around budget. So it's not so much
28 of a lack of understanding of the subsistence lifestyle
29 but there's money allocated to this program and our
30 obligation is to go look at that and see what the cost
31 centers are, if you will, and see how that all fits
32 together with an over-arching need and interest of the
33 Forest Service and the State of Alaska and the forest
34 in Alaska. So there's a real budget component of that
35 of just looking and making sure that we understand that
36 the money that's being allocated is being spent
37 appropriately and we're working within the legal
38 requirements that we have to redeem.

39

40 MS. ZIMMERMANN: The other piece for us
41 is that this is the only place -- I mean we're from the
42 national office. As Richard said, we look at it from a
43 national perspective. But the State of Alaska is the
44 only place where we have a subsistence program. So
45 understanding how that does fit in the lifestyle, what
46 makes this different, why is there a subsistence
47 program here, and there's a lot of reasons why there is
48 one as opposed to in the Lower 48.

49

50 Again, when it comes time to make

1 policy and budget decisions, I found that there is a
2 lack of understanding of so what is this program. And
3 because it's just Alaska I think it gets sort of
4 pigeon-holed as some almost obsolete, archaic, kind of
5 a strange program.

6
7 So part of what we're trying to do is
8 bring that perspective that this is not just some,
9 again, strange little program off here, that this is
10 very important to the people that live here. Maybe in
11 ways that if you just write a piece of paper it may be
12 a little hard to get that across and then have that
13 information be able to influence the policies that are
14 made and the budget that's assigned to that kind of
15 policy.

16
17 MR. BLOSSOM: As Mr. Chairman said,
18 there's a big controversy in our state. Can anybody
19 update us on where it stands, State versus Feds, on all
20 these issues? It's a huge issue. Any news on that or
21 any efforts moving any particular way?

22
23 MS. ZIMMERMANN: I don't know if I can
24 speak for Alaska, but as part of my national job I can
25 tell you almost every controversial issue I get
26 involved in is that tension between the State rights,
27 Federal rights. Because we have shared
28 responsibilities when it comes to Fish and Wildlife.
29 Some people want to make it a very distinct line that
30 we manage habitat, the State manages the populations,
31 but I think as you all understand it's not -- you can't
32 carve that line right down the middle and it really
33 requires agencies and people to work together. While
34 we would all agree conceptually when it comes down to
35 specific issues, that's where it gets controversial.

36
37 So I don't know if I can address, you
38 know, particularly in the state of Alaska, but, again,
39 every issue that I'm involved with there is an element
40 of what is the State's rights in this versus the
41 Federal rights. We do try and make sure that we can
42 try as much as possible keep it out of litigation
43 because that doesn't ever seem to help things in a lot
44 of cases. There's a lot of resources that go towards
45 it. Sometimes it's necessary, but if we can work
46 things out ahead of time.

47
48 MR. SOWA: One other thing I'd like to
49 add is we just had a significant meeting with the
50 Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, and he outlined

1 four pillars of his interest in what he expected the
2 Department of Agriculture to be able to deliver that
3 were most significant in my mind to what's going on in
4 Alaska and on national forest, if you will, is a whole
5 orientation towards sustainability. As important as
6 sustainability on Federal land, but an expectation that
7 we start looking at that notion of sustainability on
8 all lands.

9
10 What we've done in the past I'm afraid
11 sometimes is we've focused on our stuff and we've let
12 the chips fall where they may on other stuff and I
13 think that his expectation and his urging is for us to
14 start looking more corporately; larger landscapes,
15 bigger pieces of ground, looking at overall cumulative
16 effects kind of things that happen across the land as
17 opposed to just letting in effect an arbitrary boundary
18 constrain what you do.

19
20 One of the other pillars of his agenda
21 is sustainable rural economies. I think his vision is
22 that what we start looking at is a full portfolio
23 available to the Department of Agriculture that
24 includes rural development and a whole bunch of
25 research kind of things and food that we have never
26 considered when we started thinking about how to
27 deliver or administer a program.

28
29 I think part of my interest as I'm
30 sitting here and starting to try to think about how we
31 can engage more corporately the notion of Department of
32 Agriculture and the notion of sustainability or
33 subsistence if you will and how that might generate
34 some revenue. I'm not obviously going to promise
35 anything, but I think there's some really wide open
36 doors here that may have not been open before to look
37 just across the Department of Agriculture and then
38 across some of the other agencies and departments in
39 the Federal government. It's a pretty exciting time.

40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Did you
42 get pretty much an answer to your question?

43
44 MR. GIBSON: Thank you. Yes.

45
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'll make a comment on
47 that. I think that what you were just talking about if
48 I understood it correct, that was the bell-ringer for
49 me as soon as you said the sustainable rural economy,
50 which was basically the idea behind subsistence in the

1 first place in ANILCA, which was the idea that rural
2 Alaskans make use of subsistence to sustain their
3 economy, their culture, their lifestyle, lack of a
4 better way of putting it, you know.

5
6 From that standpoint, when you look at
7 the Forest Service or you look at the State of Alaska
8 in general, you see that we have a preponderance of
9 Federal land. Let's just put it that way. The Forest
10 Service, you've been down in southeastern, you know how
11 important the Forest Service is to people in
12 southeastern because they all live either on or next to
13 Forest Service land. If you're in the Cordova area,
14 you live on or next to Forest Service land. The
15 resources you use come off of Forest Service land.

16
17 The fisheries that take place are
18 surrounded by Forest Service land. So, from that
19 standpoint I know at least in southeastern and parts of
20 southcentral, we have Chugach, Tongass, the Forest
21 Service is extremely important to sustaining rural
22 economies. Your rural economies are basically
23 sportfishing, commercial fishing.

24
25 The meat that goes out of the hunting
26 that goes into the various communities is extremely
27 important to the people in those communities. It's all
28 going to depend on what happens on Forest Service land
29 for the most part. We have some private land, we have
30 some Native land, we have some State land. But, in
31 general, an awful lot of those resources come off of
32 Forest Service land and that's why, in my way of
33 thinking, at least in the area that I come from, Forest
34 Service is extremely important and an understanding of
35 the Forest Service, of it's impact on the local people.
36 Everything from the heat that we put in our house, to
37 the food that we put on our plate, to the money that we
38 make going out taking people catching fish or catching
39 fish ourselves, the Forest Service has an impact on
40 that.

41
42 Anybody else? Red.

43
44 MR. SMITH: Just so you understand my
45 presence and my nosiness, I was interviewed three times
46 by government agencies when they were considering
47 setting up Cooper Landing as a subsistence fisheries
48 area. I want to comment to the fact that I think
49 they've done exceedingly well in the management of the
50 fisheries here. I took a homesite right at the end of

1 the lake ice, which gave me a birds-eye view of the
2 whole system and the function year round.

3
4 I originally had a commercial fishing
5 license that allowed me to put nets in the glacier
6 lakes and then I could market what I caught if I didn't
7 want to can it and eat it or smoke it and eat it. My
8 observations recently convinced me that we're getting
9 into an economic problem where there's going to be a
10 lot of favoritism demonstrated or making it
11 complicated.

12
13 What rights do I have? I'm a
14 subsistence fisherman. I wasn't able to go out myself
15 and dip them this year, so my youngest son went up and
16 dipped them for me up at Lower Russian. Can I
17 commercialize on those fish? What restrains a
18 subsistence fisherman from commercializing on the fish
19 he catches? Are we supposed to eat all we catch or
20 only catch enough to eat?

21
22 I know for a fact some people go down
23 to the dipnet fishery and they make a lot of money down
24 there dipping them up on a subsistence basis or open
25 basis because nobody's catching them all. Enforcement
26 is very difficult.

27
28 But what is that line when you talk
29 about rural economy? Where is that line that says I
30 have to eat the fish rather than sell it to somebody
31 else that wants to eat it? This is where I see
32 conflict coming. This question of sovereignty down at
33 the Washington level, it's up here too. We have a lot
34 of difference of opinion as to who has superior
35 authority.

36
37 If we don't solve some of our economics
38 because that's what it all boils down to. One of my
39 friends said that historically he used to catch about
40 40 kings and after he got subsistence he took 400
41 because he could sell them. Pretty soon we've got to
42 watch out there. There won't be any fisheries here for
43 anybody.

44
45 I caution you people up in Washington,
46 D.C. I've been down there many, many times and
47 familiar with it. It's not my favorite place to be or
48 I wouldn't be living in Cooper Landing for 60 years.
49 They have a lot of influence. Not only from you people
50 in Washington, D.C., but down in Seward, up in

1 Anchorage and down in Juneau. National Forests are a
2 very vital part of our total economy. You're sitting
3 astride probably 60 percent of our known mineral wells.
4 We're constantly having arguments with managers as to
5 what to develop next.

6
7 I'm proud of the fact that I helped
8 many years before we became a state, if you look at
9 Article 8, it says fish, forest, wildlife, you know,
10 all these things are vitally important, and they say
11 its people. That's us. That doesn't mean just the
12 Native people of Alaska. It means every resident of
13 Alaska as identified as its people. We have a
14 tremendous authority constitutionally identified as
15 well as an opportunity.

16
17 I noticed this year there wasn't enough
18 bugs for my swallows to stay. There weren't enough
19 fingerlings going down --downstream migrants we used to
20 call them. There weren't enough at the bridge for the
21 terns to survive. They all show up, can't make a
22 living, so they leave. So something is changing.
23 There's no black flies around. I saw one whitesock
24 this year. Somebody is doing something, either it's
25 God or the Forest Service. You know, if you can't
26 blame God.

27
28 (Laughter)

29
30 MS. ZIMMERMANN: I didn't know we were
31 up there.

32
33 MR. SMITH: Let's take a little closer
34 look at some of these areas. I don't mind people
35 selling the fish that they catch as subsistence, but
36 pretty soon there won't be any -- the big fight will be
37 between the commercial and the subsistence. I can just
38 see it. It's going to be an interesting future. It's
39 absolutely amazing to me.

40
41 Luckily we got a couple neighbors here
42 that heard -- if I hadn't of gotten a call from a
43 friend from southeastern, I wouldn't have even known
44 there was going to be a meeting. You want to decide
45 how the fish in Cooper Landing are going to survive.

46
47 I can tell you, you ought to move the
48 boundary down to the bridge. The November run of
49 silvers used to always spawn just above the bridge and
50 now the commercial guides and everything, since the

1 boundaries are further up along the lake, they fish out
2 all the spawners. So we're soon going to have a dead
3 run where we used to have a run. That's one
4 recommendation I would make is if we move that boundary
5 down to that bridge. At least let a few of those
6 November run of silvers spawn.

7
8 Then I would like to know if anybody
9 has the answer to my question. I rambled quite a ways
10 afield, but I want to know. Is there an established
11 boundary. In other words, can I go ahead and take a
12 maximum limit of subsistence fish for my whole family
13 and then go ahead and sell the part that I don't eat?
14 Is there an identifiable dividing line there? Give us
15 some guidance.

16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Red, I'm going to ask
18 our law enforcement agent to answer that question for
19 you. He can probably do that, unless we need it right
20 now as part of the public meeting. He could probably
21 give you those answers. I think you'll find that
22 there's regulations in place, State and Federal
23 regulations in place that govern most of that. It's a
24 good question.

25
26 Some of the things you brought up, like
27 the changes in the environment, things like that. I
28 think that's going to be part of the Forest Service's
29 scientific stuff that they look at. We have changes
30 going on all over the place. We have impact going on.
31 As our population changes in the state, things don't
32 stay the same. As our use from out of the state
33 increases in the state, things don't stay the same.
34 That's where we're going to have to deal with crafting
35 regulations, looking at scientific studies and trying
36 to find out what needs to be done.

37
38 We have, to a certain extent, the same
39 problem in Cordova as far as fishing on spawning
40 grounds. Those are cultural questions that we're going
41 to have to face as people who live here, as people who
42 work here, as people who make an economy off the
43 fishery, you know, as to what that can be done.

44
45 The Forest Service, I think, has
46 biologists working on what's going on on their land and
47 they are looking at the overall -- I know if we take a
48 look at these fisheries proposals that we've got in
49 front of us, one of the aspects in these fisheries
50 proposals now is recording the effects of climate

1 change. Do we actually have climate change long range?
2 What kind of impact? Why didn't we have whitesocks
3 this summer or black flies? What's changed? You're
4 right, things change. I think that's part of your
5 ongoing program. Am I correct in that?

6

7 MR. SOWA: Yes.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions
10 for the boys from Fairbanks. I think we have somebody
11 on the phone that would like to ask them a question,
12 right?

13

14 MR. ELVSAAS: Yeah, you know, the
15 problem I see, especially in our area, is we don't have
16 Forest Service lands available to us or close to us
17 enough to do much good. But the fish that we fish,
18 they're spawned on Forest Service lands up in the lakes
19 and rivers and so forth, then they come out. But the
20 minute they leave the Forest Service areas they're
21 State fish.

22

23 So I think if there's some way to work
24 with the Forest Service and the State to assure that
25 subsistence rights to the fish are recognized even in
26 State waters because the State says, well, we don't
27 recognize subsistence rights under ANILCA or anything
28 else. It's a real problem. The fish belong to the
29 Federal agencies one day and they're State owned the
30 next day. We just don't have access to those areas
31 where subsistence rights prevailed.

32

33 I think that the effort should be to
34 make sure that fish generated on Forest Service lands
35 are utilized for subsistence purposes as well as the
36 sport and commercial fisheries.

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do any of you wish to
39 comment on that or got a comment for Fred on that?

40

41 MR. KOMPKOFF: Ralph.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, Fred.

44

45 MR. KOMPKOFF: Ralph, this is Don
46 Kompkoff.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, Don. Okay.

49

50 MR. KOMPKOFF: I have one question on

1 Forest Service lands. My Uncle Nick had a cabin in
2 Crafton Island and they burned it down and they had to
3 quit fishing. He had a setnet site on Crafton Island
4 and then they had to move all his stuff back to Chenega
5 and they burned my cabin down on the Shipyard Point.
6 My dog and Nick and I had a cabin there. And then they
7 put the light there and said we were on their property,
8 so they said we had to burn them down. We used that
9 for subsistence every year.

10
11 I could remember moving all that stuff
12 there, you know. Everybody, just about the whole
13 village, had moved from Chenega to Shipyard and they
14 were subsistence fishing and gathering of seals and
15 everything. We'd go all the way to Coghill and then a
16 whole bunch of family would be in Coghill Point in
17 tents. You can still see the remains of a tent there
18 and stuff up there. We used that to catch the red
19 salmon that came in from Coghill Lake. We'd go up there
20 every summer starting from April to May and we'd use
21 all that land, all the way from Chenega up to Igot
22 Point and my dad had a cabin on Igot Point and that had
23 to be torn down.

24
25 So I know the Forest Service is taking
26 away our stuff that we had years ago.

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Donald. I
29 think what comes out of both of what you and Fred said
30 is that you can see that subsistence is a controversial
31 issue and the Forest Service is directly involved in
32 all of it.

33
34 Now I know as people from Washington
35 you're not going to sit down and address these
36 individual things right here, but you can see what your
37 managers and everything are dealing with and how
38 important it is to people. Sometimes it sounds like --
39 to a lot of people in Alaska, it looks like -- and this
40 is not a criticism or anything, but it looks like a
41 bureaucratic mentality enters into a -- directly
42 affects you personally.

43
44 For people who are like in the outlying
45 places, like what Donald is talking about on the
46 Chenega and stuff like that, where on the large scale
47 this doesn't look like much, to the individual involved
48 this is extremely important to that rural individual
49 who was making use of this, this is extremely
50 important. I think that's something, that kind of

1 attitude has to be understood in Washington, too. That
2 it's not that you're just dealing with budgets and
3 stuff like that. You're dealing with people.

4

5 MR. SCHMIDT: Yeah, I couldn't agree
6 more, Mr. Chairman. I don't know the specific
7 situations both out of Chenega or Ninilchik. I think
8 in my opening remarks I tried to hit on, as both a
9 biologist in Alaska, but especially as a district
10 ranger on Prince of Wales, at least me personally,
11 living and working with the communities and the rural
12 residents folks, I know exactly how national policies,
13 national decisions affect those local people and I
14 think that's one of the main reasons that we're here.

15

16 We may not be able as a small
17 contingent from D.C. to solve some of these local
18 problems, but to understand what those implications
19 are, what the effects are, I couldn't agree with you
20 more. I think that's a big part of our review, is to
21 understand again how those national decisions play out
22 at that local level.
23 because that doesn't involve these people

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I've got a couple
26 comments and then what I'd like to do is I'd like to
27 get us back on schedule. We'll go back to calling of
28 roll and getting onto the things we have, but I really
29 appreciate the time that you guys have been willing to
30 give us.

31

32 We have three people that want to make
33 comments or add something to it.

34

35 MR. ZEMKE: This goes to the question
36 about Valdez and subsistence use in that area. Kate
37 Walker is our new district ranger out in Glacier area
38 on western Prince William Sound and I'll make sure that
39 she knows that Don has concerns about that area. The
40 other issue also is that in January of 2010 will be an
41 open proposal period for subsistence fisheries. An
42 example would be the Coghill. There isn't a customary
43 and traditional use for Chenega or Tatitlek or for
44 Coghill right now. If they have a concern, we can work
45 with Don to be able to put in a proposal for that to
46 help address the subsistence needs there for the
47 community of Chenega.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Were you able to copy
50 that, Don?

1 MR. KOMPKOFF: Yeah. There's some
2 things in Valdez too that since we moved over here
3 we've been gathering eggs and stuff on the container
4 dock and they stopped us from doing that and they're
5 charging \$132 to get a permit for each person to go out
6 and pick eggs and that's just too expensive to do that.
7 Also, we used to get dog salmon, late dog salmon on
8 Turnabout Creek there into Valdez. Years ago my dad
9 used to drive the boat close to the creek there and
10 we'd get a whole bunch of dogs and then we'd hunt the
11 bear there too, you know. I could still remember dad
12 working on the propeller on his boat there and while we
13 were catching the chums, my mother would be cutting
14 them up and getting ready for the smokehouse. We did a
15 lot of stuff in Valdez. I could remember in 1948 when
16 I fell off the dock over in Bayville (ph). I was seven
17 years old then. We finally got a house in Valdez in
18 '58 and then the earthquake came and destroyed the
19 whole land over there. We never got a chance to get a
20 house from Valdez either. So we moved back to Chenega
21 and we did all our subsistence fishing all around
22 Valdez, clear down to Tatitlek and everything, you
23 know.

24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Don, can I interrupt
26 you for a second. I think what Steve said is what you
27 really need to do is get together with Kate at this
28 point in time and put some proposals in for C&T and see
29 what can be developed on that. Go through the regular
30 routes of the program that way. We know that a lot of
31 those kind of things happened and a lot of those kind
32 of things haven't been addressed.

33
34 But the route to do it is to get
35 together with Kate and put some proposals in front of
36 us so we can discuss them in an open meeting. Right
37 now this isn't the time to -- technically we can't
38 discuss what you're talking about right now. We heard
39 what you said and we understand it's a problem.

40
41 MR. KOMPKOFF: I just wanted to bring
42 some stuff up, maybe under new business or something.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Or you can
45 bring it up from the standpoint of proposed proposals
46 too. Anyhow, what we're going to do, Don, is we're
47 going to try to get back to having our regular meeting
48 call to order and we're going to go through the
49 fisheries monitoring proposals. Have you got them in
50 front of you?

1 MR. KOMPKOFF: Yes. I wrote a letter.
2 I don't know if you guys got it or not. I faxed a
3 letter to you.

4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Anyhow, if
6 you've got the fisheries monitor proposals, maybe you
7 and Fred can review those while we're getting ready.
8 I've got a couple more comments that need to be made
9 here and then we're going to go into our regular
10 meeting.

11
12 MR. KOMPKOFF: Okay.

13
14 MR. GIBSON: I'm waiting for the answer
15 from Jeff, law enforcement, in regards to Red's
16 question if there's time for it. Just a brief answer.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Can we take that later
19 on in the meeting? We're right in the middle of
20 introductions and stuff like that. I'll have law
21 enforcement make sure and address that and if we need
22 to have it in the open, we can do that under other
23 business if that's okay with you.

24
25 MR. GIBSON: Okay.

26
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: With that, I'd like to
28 again thank you guys for -- oh, that's right, Doug had
29 something. Sorry. There was one more.

30
31 MR. BLOSSOM: Mr. Chair. Thank you. I
32 welcome you folks here. I think what you heard this
33 morning, just in this little synopsis, is that we have
34 a lot of diverse interests. All of us that sit on this
35 board are all different walks of life. You heard from
36 people, there's a map up there, that are probably,
37 what, 400 miles apart. That's just a portion of the
38 area that we cover. We look at a large area. We have
39 to know more than just our area. That's what I think
40 you should kind of think about and take back.

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Doug.
43 That's something I forgot to bring up. The
44 Southcentral District does cover an awful large area,
45 from Denali to almost Yakutat outside of Cordova. It
46 covers most of the urban area of the state except for
47 Fairbanks. So we have a very diverse population in our
48 area.

49
50 MS. ZIMMERMANN: So that map is the

1 area that you all cover.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes. So with that I'm
4 going to give us a recess and then we will have a roll
5 call and call to order.

6

7 (Off record)

8

9 (On record)

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If we can gradually
12 find our seats. For the sake of the folks that are on
13 the phone, we'd like to take care of the part of the
14 meeting that they have to stand by the phone on. So if
15 we could find our seats. We'll have plenty of time for
16 discussion and talking to each other later. That's
17 nice, quieting down fast.

18

19 I'm going to call to order this October
20 meeting of the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional
21 Advisory Council at this point in time. So our meeting
22 is now called to order. With that we will have a roll
23 call and establish our quorum.

24

25 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.
26 Robert Henrich.

27

28 (No response)

29

30 MR. MIKE: Mr. Doug Blossom.

31

32 MR. BLOSSOM: Present.

33

34 MR. MIKE: Mr. Greg Encelewski.

35

36 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Here.

37

38 MR. MIKE: Mr. Bill Stockwell.

39

40 (No response)

41

42 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. Mr. Stockwell
43 sent me an email saying he was on medical and couldn't
44 make the meeting. Ms. Tricia Waggoner.

45

46 MS. WAGGONER: Present.

47

48 MR. MIKE: Mr. John Lamb.

49

50 (No response)

1 MR. MIKE: We also got an email from
2 Mr. Lamb. He's weathered in Icy Bay and couldn't make
3 this meeting either. Ms. Gloria Stickwan.

4
5 (No response)

6
7 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. Gloria Stickwan
8 had some family business to attend to and she couldn't
9 make this meeting. Mr. Donald Kompkoff.

10
11 MR. KOMPKOFF: I'm here.

12
13 MR. MIKE: Mr. James Showalter.

14
15 MR. SHOWALTER: Present.

16
17 MR. MIKE: Mr. Ralph Lohse.

18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Present.

20
21 MR. MIKE: Mr. Tom Carpenter.

22
23 (No response)

24
25 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. Mr. Carpenter
26 sent me an email also and he couldn't make it due to
27 family flu in Cordova. Mr. Fred Elvsaas.

28
29 MR. ELVSAAS: Yeah, I'm here, but
30 you've got to speak up better, Donald.

31
32 MR. MIKE: Okay, Mr. Elvsaas, I'll
33 speak up louder. Mr. Chair. You have five members and
34 two via teleconference. You have a quorum established.

35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Donald.
37 We've gone through the welcome and introductions, so we
38 don't have to do that at this point in time. We have
39 review and adopt agenda. With the Council's consensus,
40 I'd like to put off reviewing the agenda, but I would
41 like to do is go to the only action item on the agenda,
42 which is adopting or recommending the fisheries
43 monitoring program. At that point in time, if we take
44 care of that, which is our only action item, we can
45 then recess the meeting and go into a work session and
46 the folks on the phone don't have to sit here. If
47 that's okay with the rest of the Council, we'll do
48 that. Is that okay?

49
50 (Council nods affirmatively)

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hearing no objections,
2 I'm going to take for granted that it's okay. With
3 that, we're going to go on to Item 11 on our agenda,
4 which is the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, on
5 Page 13. Do both of you have a copy of it in front of
6 you there, Fred, Donald.

7
8 MR. KOMPKOFF: This is Don Kompkoff
9 from Valdez. I don't have the agenda, but I'd like to
10 put this letter on whenever it's ready for the
11 proposals and stuff.

12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, but right now
14 we're dealing with Fisheries Monitoring Program and I
15 was wondering if you had your book in front of you or
16 how much we needed to go through it here. So we're
17 going to go through it and review it. As a Council,
18 Donald, we need to make recommendations whether to
19 accept it or reject it. With that I'm going to turn it
20 over to -- introduce yourself.

21
22 MR. FRIED: Good morning. My name is
23 Steve Fried. I'm a fishery biologist for OSM. I'm
24 here to provide information on the 2010 Fisheries
25 Resource Monitoring Program. At my side is.....

26
27 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Helen Armstrong.
28 I'm the anthropology division chief for OSM and I'm
29 also going to be presenting a portion of this as well.
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Steve and
33 Helen.

34
35 MR. FRIED: As you mentioned, this is a
36 Council action item. You're being asked to provide a
37 recommendation on funding for southcentral Alaska
38 projects that are under consideration for 2010. An
39 overview of the monitoring program and a summary of the
40 statewide request can be found on Pages 14 to 18 of the
41 blue Council books in front of you. There's an
42 overview for Southcentral Alaska in here also and
43 that's on Pages 19 to 32. Just to remind you that the
44 monitoring program is a collaborative effort by five
45 Federal agencies and these five agencies work closely
46 with the Regional Advisory Councils, Alaska Native
47 rural Organizations and the Alaska Department of Fish
48 and Game to fund projects that are used to manage
49 Federal Subsistence fisheries.

50

1 Project funding is determined through a
2 competitive process. We use reviews and comments from
3 interagency Technical Review Committee, the Regional
4 Advisory Council, the general public and also an
5 interagency Staff Committee. The Federal Subsistence
6 Board then considers all this information and the
7 recommendations in approving a final annual monitoring
8 plan.

9
10 The Monitoring Program started in 2000
11 and since then 40 projects have been funded in
12 Southcentral Alaska, 37 of the projects have been
13 completed. They're listed on Table 1 in the book. You
14 can find them on Pages 21 and 22. Three projects are
15 still ongoing. They're on Table 2 on Page 23. Just to
16 remind you, the 2010 budget will not only be used to
17 fund new projects, but also be used to keep funding
18 these three ongoing projects as well.

19 Each request for proposal that comes
20 out is focused on identifying priority information
21 needs, but all proposals that come in for projects, no
22 matter what issue they're on, will be considered even
23 though it's not a priority need. Just that those
24 investigators have to make a case that it is important
25 to fund that project.

26
27 For this region, the priority
28 information needs are largely based on a strategic plan
29 for Copper River, Prince William Sound and also on -- I
30 guess we can say it's expert opinions of the Council,
31 the Technical Review Committee, Federal and State
32 managers and OSM for Cook Inlet. Of course, you don't
33 have a formal strategic plan in place for Cook Inlet.

34
35 For 2010, the request for Southcentral
36 was focused on two priority information needs. Both of
37 these are addressing Copper River salmon. You can find
38 them on Page 19. I'll paraphrase them. One was to
39 determine the validity and reliability of Federal and
40 State permit estimates of subsistence harvest in the
41 Upper Copper River. It was of particular interest for
42 just the one or two-year study that focuses on harvest
43 reporting.

44
45 The other need was estimating total run
46 abundance and retaining reliable estimates of spawning
47 escapement for chinook salmon. Again, this was for
48 Copper River. In addition to these, all investigators
49 were asked to consider monitoring and examining the
50 effects of climate change on subsistence fisheries,

1 subsistence resources and subsistence use patterns.

2

3 So that's sort of a new thing for the
4 Monitoring Program, although a lot of our projects
5 actually are useful for looking at climate change
6 because they're long data series of things like fish
7 numbers and temperature and other things like that.

8

9 Statewide, a total of 44 investigation
10 plans are under consideration for 2010 and they're on
11 Page 17. There's a Table 1 that goes into this. Out
12 of these 44, this is for the whole state, the Technical
13 Review Committee recommended funding for 41 out of the
14 44. Four of these investigation plans I mentioned
15 earlier for Southcentral Alaska and all four happen to
16 concern the Copper River.

17

18 The Technical Review Committee
19 recommended funding all four of these Southcentral
20 projects and ranked them in priority order, which you
21 can find on Pages 19 and 20. The order was from the
22 most important to least important, a project on Copper
23 River chinook salmon assessment, the second one was
24 Copper River subsistence salmon harvest validation, the
25 third was Tanada Creek adult salmon assessment and the
26 fourth was Long Lake adult salmon assessment.

27

28 Right now I'll provide just some brief
29 descriptions of the four projects and talk about them
30 in the same order the Technical Review Committee put
31 them in a priority order. I'll paraphrase some of the
32 information on Pages 20 and 21. There's more details,
33 including the justification of why the Technical Review
34 Committee made these recommendations on pages 25 to 32
35 and also on Tables 3 to 5 on Pages 23 and 24.

36

37 So the first one, the number is 10-503
38 Copper River chinook salmon assessment. Basically what
39 this project would do is provide four annual estimates
40 of chinook salmon escapement into the Copper River by
41 conducting mark recapture experiments using four
42 fishwheels. There would be two fishwheels that they
43 use for marking and further upriver there's two for
44 recovery. This work has been funded by the Monitoring
45 Program since 2001 and actually resulted in the first
46 abundance estimate of chinook salmon on the Copper
47 River in 2003.

48

49 One of the best examples of capacity
50 building within the Monitoring Program and it's

1 conducted and administered by the Native Village of
2 Eyak and the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program
3 biologist is the principal investigator and you'll
4 probably hear from him later on just giving an update
5 of what the project has done this past year.

6

7 The next project is 10-552 Copper River
8 subsistence salmon harvest validation. I'll let Helen
9 provide some information on that.

10

11 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr.
12 Chair. Council. I'm just going to give you a brief
13 overview. If you have additional questions, please let
14 me know. The summary is on Page 20 and the full
15 description is on Page 27.

16

17 10-552 Copper River Subsistence Salmon
18 Harvest Validation is a project that I think Steve said
19 earlier was a high priority for this region for the
20 2010 monitoring plan. It was also a high priority in
21 the last monitoring plan in 2008, so it is one that the
22 Council has seen as having high importance for a number
23 of years.

24

25 The PI's for project are James Brady
26 with HDR, the Bill Simeone with ADF&G and Erica McCall-
27 Valentine with Eco Trust. The project is a three-year
28 project and it would examine the validity of annual
29 subsistence salmon harvest estimates for the Upper
30 Copper River.

31

32 There are two objectives in the study
33 design and one is the analyze how subsistence salmon
34 harvest data are compiled and reported by State and
35 Federal managers and to see if there are any errors in
36 how the reporting is done. The second objective
37 focuses on fish wheel management. The project includes
38 pre- and post-season interviews of 60 percent of fish
39 wheel owners, monitoring fish wheels at Copperville and
40 Chitina/McCarthy Bridge.

41

42 The PI's will be looking at activity,
43 harvest rates, and catch per unit effort through
44 observing the fish wheel owners as well as installing
45 fishwheel counters on 20 fish wheels. The project is
46 really important. It will provide additional
47 information that's much needed to provide some accuracy
48 of annual Upper Copper River subsistence salmon harvest
49 estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If there's any
2 questions by anybody on the Council on any of these as
3 they're presented, you can ask questions of the person
4 presenting it, otherwise we'll take care of it in
5 discussion.

6
7 Okay. Steve.

8
9 MR. FRIED: I'll just go through the
10 last two. Project 10-502 is the Tanada Creek Adult
11 Salmon Assessment. This would provide four annual
12 estimates of salmon abundance in Tanada Creek, which is
13 an upper tributary of the Copper River. It would do
14 this through use of a floating resistance board weir
15 and this weir has been fitted with an underwater camera
16 and video recorder since 2007. The work was first
17 funded by the Monitoring Program when it first began in
18 2000, so this is a fairly long-term project.

19
20 The last one, the fourth one, is
21 Project 10-505 Long Lake adult salmon assessment.
22 Again, a Copper River project. Provide four annual
23 estimates of salmon abundance of Tanada Creek. It
24 would use a picket weir instead of a floating
25 resistance board where it's a much smaller creek and a
26 picket weir works just fine. This would be fitted with
27 an underwater camera and video recorder. This project
28 has also been funded by the Monitoring Program before,
29 since 2004, but the use of video technology would be a
30 new addition to this project.

31
32 So those are basically a quick review
33 of the four projects under consideration. As I
34 mentioned before, they're all recommended for funding
35 by the Technical Review Committee. This concludes our
36 presentation. We'd be happy to answer any questions,
37 provide more information on any of the projects or any
38 aspects of the Monitoring Program to help the Council
39 develop their funding recommendations. Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Steve.
42 Council members, any questions for Helen or Steve on
43 any of these projects? Any comments on these projects?
44 Trish.

45
46 MS. WAGGONER: Yes. Helen, for the
47 subsistence harvest study, did the principal
48 investigators present local support? In looking at the
49 overview, I see where the AHTNA Subsistence Committee
50 didn't want to participate, so I don't see where the

1 local support and without local support then the
2 project can't really be successful.

3

4 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's a good
5 question, Tricia. This is complicated in this one and
6 we worked with the principal investigators because we
7 were also concerned about that issue when the AHTNA
8 Subsistence Committee said that they didn't want to
9 work with them in terms of being involved in the
10 project.

11

12 Our understanding is they are going to
13 hire local technicians. They're going to work through
14 Eco Trust tribal projects, so they'll be hiring AHTNA
15 and work with them in getting traditional knowledge
16 from them and work in terms of local involvement.
17 Because there aren't actual communities that they're
18 working with, it made it a little more complicated and
19 there wasn't an organization of fishwheel owners and
20 these fishwheel owners come from all over the
21 Southcentral region. It made it harder to work with
22 sort of an entity that actually -- you know, you could
23 go to some organization. There isn't one and there's
24 not a community, but it is something that we've talked
25 with them about, that we need to have that capacity
26 building component in the project.

27

28 So I guess my comment would be if you
29 have concerns about that, that needs to be part of your
30 comments to the Board.

31

32 MS. WAGGONER: Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Helen. And
35 speaking to that, Trish, in some ways, because it does
36 use fishwheel users from all over the state, to have an
37 individual local entity in charge of it or actively
38 involved in it, it actually could cause controversy
39 knowing some of the fishwheel users involved because
40 they would look at it as an intrusion by somebody
41 that's right there. So it's going to have to be an
42 overall reaching thing. I like the idea that they're
43 going to use local folks for doing as much of the work
44 as possible.

45

46 I know that if it would be like the
47 Chitina Native Village or CRNA or one of those doing
48 it, it would be looked at as a division type. It would
49 be divisive rather than inclusive. So I kind of think
50 that maybe we're going in the right direction here by

1 including them as workers but not having them in charge
2 of the project. It also takes out a little bit of the
3 fact that there might be bias in who was looked at and
4 what was looked at.

5

6 Helen.

7

8 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'd like to add that
9 they're doing pre-season interviews before they start
10 with the fishwheel owners and they will be using that
11 information from the fishwheel owners. If there's
12 something that comes up that directs the project in a
13 different way, you can't always anticipate what that
14 might be, but they're really looking to the fishwheel
15 owners too to help be involved in the project as well
16 in that sense. It's a little different from the way we
17 normally do projects and I think your comments are good
18 ones, Ralph. Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Trish.

21

22 MS. WAGGONER: I definitely agree with
23 Ralph. Having worked on other harvest monitoring
24 projects from the local community versus the ADF&G
25 subsistence data collection, I think they have a lot of
26 merit. Personally I would just ask that we get a
27 report next fall as to the local hire, how that went,
28 interview cooperation, so that we have an idea for
29 following years if it's actually being successful.

30

31 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Trish,
32 we'll make note of that and maybe Donald can make sure
33 we have that on the agenda for the fall.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Helen. If
36 I'm not out of line to the rest of the Council, this,
37 to me, is an extremely important project, as I've
38 pointed out before. We've sat in this meeting in the
39 fall and not even had information as to what the
40 harvest was let alone have timely harvest reporting.
41 There's been some controversy as to how accurate the
42 harvest reporting is, so I think a project like this is
43 extremely important for the Copper River, which is one
44 of our major subsistence and sport and commercial
45 fisheries in the state.

46

47 Any other comments or questions for
48 Helen on this one. Doug.

49

50 MR. BLOSSOM: Mr. Chair. I don't know

1 which one of you want to answer this, but it looks to
2 me like the Long Lake adult assessment doesn't cost
3 that much and for the number of years that you've ran
4 it, isn't it very important to continue?

5
6 MR. FRIED: The Long Lake assessment?
7 It wasn't on the priority list, but it doesn't mean
8 it's not a useful project. As I said, the Technical
9 Review Committee sort of agreed with that and they're
10 recommending funding. I think Long Lake is the longest
11 data set of salmon escapement on the Copper River
12 itself. I think it has a lot of importance, plus it's
13 probably pretty useful for monitoring climate change.

14
15 MR. BLOSSOM: Mr. Chair. The reason I
16 asked that is that we found in our part of the world
17 that the longer you run the system and do these things,
18 the more accurate they become, so I think it's
19 important.

20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Doug.
22 Steve. I'll comment on the Long Lake one. I think
23 it's not only the longest one on the Copper River, I
24 think it's the longest running salmon assessment in the
25 state. It has some of the comments that you'll read
26 later. It does show the variability in salmon. It
27 does show that you can't tie them to things, but it's
28 on a major system. It's basically the largest spawning
29 group on the Chitina River.

30
31 On Tanada Creek we have the head of the
32 Copper River and I think for the health of both of
33 those systems, both of those assessment projects, while
34 they're not meeting a current management need, they are
35 a very good tool for assessing how our management is
36 doing on the long term on both of those systems. I
37 would hate to see either one of those stopped. It's
38 going to be interesting to me.

39
40 I had a question and that was the
41 success of the camera on Tanada Creek. Has that worked
42 out good enough that we have confidence to put that in
43 the Long Lake system and expect it to work? To me,
44 Long Lake system would be a lot easier for a camera
45 than Tanada Creek. Just out of curiosity, has that
46 given us no problem on the Tanada Creek?

47
48 MR. FRIED: You're correct in that.
49 Tanada Creek is more difficult than Long Lake. Molly
50 McCormick is here and she'll be providing a report

1 later and she's got a video clip and it seems to be
2 working quite well. Some of the advantages of doing it
3 that way also are not impeding fish migration as much
4 by keeping the weir open all the time and then just
5 counting off of the video recording. This technology
6 is used in other places throughout the state too.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Steve. I
9 was going to make a comment on that too knowing Long
10 Lake personally. The fact that you're not impeding the
11 fish that does not make them accessible to predators
12 quite to the same degree that we've had problems in the
13 past or predators disrupting the count because of
14 tearing the weir out. Those kind of predators are big,
15 brown and furry.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions on
20 any of these projects right here? I notice, Steve,
21 that basically the four projects have been all
22 recommended by the Technical Review Committee, that the
23 funding is actually less than what's available, so
24 there will be funding that can carry over for next
25 year. Like Doug said, the two assessment projects are
26 not large monetarily and the other two projects look
27 like they're well within the scope of the benefits that
28 we get back from them. Evidently the Technical Review
29 Committee thought the same thing. Am I correct?

30

31 MR. FRIED: Yeah, that's correct.
32 There's a pretty good match of in-service and also
33 monetary from the Park Service for Long Lake and Tanada
34 Creek. As you noticed, if you look at Table 2 on Page
35 18 statewide, we did have about \$6.5 million available
36 to fund projects. Technical Review Committee
37 recommended that about \$5.5 million of projects. You
38 can see there's about \$1 million that wasn't used for
39 projects.

40

41 In years when we have this situation
42 what we do is call it forward funding projects. So
43 instead of just funding 2010 for some of these projects
44 we can fund for multi-year projects, either two or
45 three years or four years of the project, so this frees
46 up money. Once we get to the next call in 2012, there
47 will be more money for new projects that we can
48 consider. That's what would happen with the money if
49 you're a little bit undersubscribed in projects.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions from any
2 of the Council members?
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Don, Fred, did you get
7 most of that? Were you able to copy Steve and Helen's
8 presentation?
9
10 MR. ELVSAAS: Oh, yeah, it sounds good
11 to me.
12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: How about Donald?
14
15 MR. KOMPKOFF: Yeah, sounds good to me
16 too.
17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. If there's no
19 further discussion on this, a motion is in order. Do I
20 hear a motion?
21
22 MS. WAGGONER: I move to accept the
23 four projects for the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
24 Program.
25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: To recommend them to
27 the Board?
28
29 MS. WAGGONER: Yes.
30
31 MR. BLOSSOM: Second.
32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and
34 seconded to recommend these four projects for funding
35 to the Board. Any other discussion.
36
37 (No comments)
38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hearing none, the
40 question is in order.
41
42 MR. SHOWALTER: Question.
43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The question has
45 been.....
46
47 MR, KOMPKOFF: I'll second the motion.
48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, Donald. The
50 motion has been seconded, but we're calling the

1 question now.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All in favor signify
6 by saying aye.

7

8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
11 saying nay.

12

13 (No opposing votes)

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries
16 unanimously. With that we have taken care of the one
17 action item that we have on the agenda. Do we have to
18 have a quorum in place to adjourn the meeting or can we
19 recess the meeting at this point in time and then
20 adjourn the meeting when we're done with all of our --
21 Donald.

22

23 MR. MIKE: The Council hasn't reviewed
24 and adopted the agenda and the last meeting minutes.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: My neighbor just
27 brought something else up too that we need to do. We
28 need to decide when our meeting is going to be on the
29 12th. So what we're going to do at this point in time
30 is review and adopt the agenda, review and adopt the
31 minutes or we're going to decide whether we adopt the
32 minutes from the March 10th, 11th meeting. I don't
33 know if we have to take action on the winter and fall
34 2010 at this point in time, do we, or should we just
35 make a recommendation, Donald, meeting locations?

36

37 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. You can make a
38 recommendation as far as where you want to meet.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We could do that by
41 consensus later, couldn't we?

42

43 MR. MIKE: Right.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So at this point in
46 time we're going to take care of our two other action
47 items. One is to review and adopt the agenda before us
48 as been amended by myself with the consent of the
49 Council to take care of 11 first. I need a motion on
50 the table.

1 MR. BLOSSOM: Move to approve.
2
3 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Second it.
4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and
6 seconded to approve the agenda that we have in front of
7 us with the change of moving 11 to after the welcome
8 and introduction. Any discussion.
9
10 MR. KOMPKOFF: Yeah, Ralph.
11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, Donald?
13
14 MR. KOMPKOFF: This is Don in Valdez.
15 Just wondering, can you fax me an agenda?
16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We can sure do that,
18 Donald.
19
20 MR. KOMPKOFF: Okay.
21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We have a motion on
23 the table. All in favor signify by saying aye.
24
25 IN UNISON: Aye.
26
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
28 saying nay.
29
30 (No opposing votes)
31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries. At
33 this point in time we need a motion to review and
34 approve the minutes from the March 10th and 11th
35 meeting. I hope everybody has read them. Motion on
36 the table, James?
37
38 MR. SHOWALTER: Yes.
39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved by
41 James Showalter to approve the minutes from the March
42 10th, 11th meeting. Do I hear a second?
43
44 MS. WAGGONER: Second.
45
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and
47 seconded to approve the minutes from the March 10th and
48 11th meeting. Any discussion, changes, additions,
49 corrections that anybody came across.
50

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hearing none, the
4 question is in order.
5
6 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Question.
7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The question has been
9 called by Greg. All in favor signify by saying aye.
10
11 IN UNISON: Aye.
12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
14 saying nay.
15
16 (No opposing votes)
17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries. At
19 this point in time we are going to recess the
20 Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory
21 Council meeting. Thank you for standing by, Fred and
22 Donald. You can continue to stand by if you wish. The
23 rest we're going to hear our informational things at
24 this point in time. We will call it back to order at
25 the end for adjournment.
26
27 MR. KOMPKOFF: Great.
28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If that's okay with
30 the rest of the Council.
31
32 (Council nods affirmatively)
33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. At this point
35 in time we're going on to item number 6 on our agenda,
36 which is the Chair's report. The main thing on the
37 chair's report is the answer to our annual report that
38 we got from the Chair of the Subsistence Committee
39 where he addressed some of the questions that we
40 brought before him. The increase in the fuel cost, I
41 hope everybody read the answers that he gave us. Some
42 of them basically don't change anything, but they show
43 that the Board is aware of our concerns.
44
45 Some of them are directly -- could be
46 addressed like issue three, which is subsistence
47 resource study funding. That's going to have to be
48 addressed by the folks that we see in the back from
49 Washington, D.C.
50

1 As our Chair points out, the customary
2 and traditional use policy and the response of the
3 ninth circuit court of appeals in conjunction with what
4 we've done in the past. I have no pressing thing that I
5 need to present to you, but you can see that the
6 concerns that we brought forward were addressed and as
7 we go through this meeting we need to think of concerns
8 that we might want to bring forward to them at the end
9 of this meeting for our annual report.

10

11 I'm going to be very interested in
12 seeing how some of the projects that we've put in place
13 on the Kenai what's actually happened with them. I'm
14 looking forward to getting some of the reports on the
15 results of the projects, the Cooper Landing moose hunt,
16 subsistence fisheries and things like that. That's
17 mostly what I have as a Chair. I have more questions
18 and more interest in seeing what actually happened than
19 anything to report to you.

20

21 If any of you Council members have
22 anything that you'd like to report that's directly
23 involved with our fisheries or our game as subsistence,
24 that's item number seven on our agenda, or questions on
25 the answers of our Chair on the questions that we
26 brought before him for our annual report, now is the
27 time to air those.

28

29 Anybody got anything of interest they'd
30 like to share with the rest of the Council from your
31 area? Any successes that you've seen or problems that
32 you've observed. Greg. I can see that you were
33 thinking.

34

35 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I was thinking, yes.
36 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Actually on the agenda here
37 it says update proposal on the Kasilof fishwheel and I
38 was going to give a little report on where we're
39 working on that project later on.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But you can carry it
42 on to there?

43

44 MR. ENCELEWSKI: But it's actually
45 right there, so I can do it there. And then I also
46 wanted to talk about reporting. It's been brought to
47 me on some problems with harvest reporting and stuff
48 that we'd like to address sometime.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Would that be on this

1 or would you like to present it under Council member
2 reports right now?

3

4 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I could do it at the
5 same time.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Hearing no
8 other concerns from Council members, we'll go on to
9 item 8 on our agenda, which is administrative business.
10 Donald Mike.

11

12 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
13 provided copies of some reports from the Southeast
14 Alaska Regional Council meeting they recently took
15 action on. It's a blue document. The yellow colored
16 paper is from Denali National Park and Reserve. It's
17 just a wildlife update. Also this morning Wrangell-St.
18 Elias subsistence manager handed out four documents and
19 I had them placed in front of you. It's got a
20 letterhead with the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
21 address.

22

23 Also, Mr. Chair, I provided a recent
24 update on the Regional Councils meeting windows and we
25 can refer to this one on the Council discussing their
26 meeting location.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Donald.
29 Any questions for Donald.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. The report from
34 the Southeast Regional Council meeting actions, in
35 their summary they briefly reported that the Council
36 expressed an interest to have a joint meeting with the
37 Southcentral Council to discuss mutual interests. I
38 didn't get a chance to speak with the coordinator,
39 Robert Larson, in great detail.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That would be
42 something that would sure be nice if we could arrange
43 to have our regular meetings at the same time and then
44 have a joint meeting with them because Southeastern
45 shares a lot of the same concerns as Southcentral. We
46 deal with the same kind of lifestyles and everything
47 else and Forest Service. It would be nice to have at
48 least a shared work session with them if possible.
49 Donald.

50

1 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. We'd have to
2 discuss that further in detail. Thank you.

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. I understand we
5 share a lot of the Staff. Because we're Forest
6 Service, a lot of the same Staff deals with
7 Southeastern and deals with Southcentral, so it's hard
8 to have our actual meetings at the same time, but if we
9 could overlap them end to end or something and then
10 have a joint session in between that might work.

11
12 Okay. Any questions or comments for
13 Donald.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Donald.
18 Thanks for all the work you had to go through setting
19 this up and keeping us informed. At this point in time
20 we go to public testimony. Do we have our green slips?

21
22 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
23 forgot to mention if the public wishes to testify on
24 any subsistence subject matters, they can fill out a
25 green testifier form, which is located on the table.
26 Also, I'd remind the public if you haven't signed in,
27 please do so now. We have a sign-in sheet on the
28 table.

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Donald.
31 We're going to open it up to public testimony. Because
32 we haven't mentioned the green slips up to this point
33 in time, I'm going to give people time to fill them out
34 by taking another five-minute coffee reduction break.
35 At this point in time you can testify on any concerns
36 you have with the subsistence program. With that,
37 we're going to take a five-minute break.

38
39 (Off record)

40
41 (On record)

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Everybody find your
44 seats and we'll get started with the meeting again. At
45 this point we're on public testimony. I've got two
46 green slips in front of me now. I see a couple other
47 people looking at green slips. If they want to fill
48 them out while we take these two, they can. If you'd
49 like to put your public testimony off to a certain
50 issue that's on the thing, you can do that. Other than

1 that we're going to start with our public testimony
2 right now.

3

4 The first one I have is Robert Gibson.
5 Robert, if you can give your name.

6

7 MR. GIBSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
8 name is Robert Gibson. I'm here to represent myself.
9 A couple years ago -- I would to first of all say that
10 I referred to the subsistence regulations pamphlet that
11 has taken different forms of designs over the years and
12 there's a lot of confusion on how to interpret what's
13 written in the regulations. Then I'd like to know if
14 there's any way that any local person can get in on the
15 committee that writes these regulations. I'd be
16 interested in volunteering for that. We talked about
17 it, I think, two years ago, but unfortunately my
18 schedule didn't allow time to participate. I'd like to
19 be a part of how that's written. I have these last
20 couple years, since people know I'm involved in these
21 issues, gotten many phone calls from subsistence users
22 seeking help on how to interpret the regulations
23 booklet.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Robert, is the
26 confusion more over location or is the confusion over
27 seasons and bag limits usually?

28

29 MR. GIBSON: Seasons, bag limits, means
30 and methods, locations for the most part.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So just in general.

33

34 MR. GIBSON: But also locations. And
35 then maybe it would help to refer to some other
36 graphics, maps on locations. I know there's been --
37 maybe law enforcement can testify to that, but there's
38 been issues where people have misunderstood the
39 geographical boundaries of the subsistence allowed
40 area. I would welcome some information for improvement
41 in that area to better help people understand that.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Robert. Have you put
44 specific problems in writing that you could give to the
45 OSM so they could see how to incorporate some of your
46 ideas into the regulation booklet? I know a lot of the
47 regulations are basically in legal language and I know
48 that sometimes makes it a little hard for some of the
49 rest of us, but if you see some specific things,
50 specific locations that aren't identified correctly,

1 information on seasons and bag limits, I'm sure that
2 they'll be willing to talk to you, but it's also very
3 handy for them to have something down in writing in
4 front of them so that they can refer to it.

5
6 MR. GIBSON: I noticed some of the
7 information there is very repetitious and hence
8 confusing. If there is a work group that gets together
9 on this, I don't know what the deadlines are for
10 issuance of the next cycle, I'd be called upon to give
11 my opinions on it or maybe participate in it.

12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Polly, maybe you could
14 give him some answers.

15
16 DR. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 Polly Wheeler with the Office of Subsistence
18 Management. The regulation book, what we call the
19 handy-dandy, is as clear as we can make it, but we
20 recognize that even with that it's also confusing and
21 redundant.

22
23 If you're interested in being involved,
24 our process starts with the wildlife proposals or a
25 fishery proposal and the proposals are offered by the
26 Regional Advisory Councils or by any member of the
27 public and then it goes through an analysis process.

28
29 At the next set of Regional Advisory
30 Council meetings, people will have an opportunity to
31 comment both on the proposal and on the analysis and on
32 the proposed regulatory language. Then that goes
33 before the Federal Subsistence Board. The wildlife
34 cycle will be in May 2010 and the language is again
35 discussed. So there's several opportunities for input.
36 In the end, the regulations are written, we put them in
37 the Federal Register and then the book with the picture
38 on the cover is the version for the public.

39
40 I would encourage you to both be
41 involved at the proposal stage where you're offering
42 specific regulatory language or at the stage where the
43 Regional Councils are addressing the proposals where
44 you can again address the regulatory language. Then
45 again before the Federal Board. You can also submit
46 comments as a member of the public. So there's lots of
47 opportunities to be able to submit comments on how the
48 regulations can be written better, how the regulatory
49 language can be more specific.

50

1 We really appreciate the public that is
2 interested at that level because, trust me, not a lot
3 of people are. They want a particular regulation, but
4 they're not exactly sure how they want to say it. So I
5 think there are lots of opportunities for public
6 comment, I guess. I have made note of your offer. If
7 we can avail ourselves of your expertise at some point
8 in time, then we know where to find you.

9

10 MR. GIBSON: Who is heading the work
11 sessions for that or is it done on a continuous basis?
12 Is it a work group that sits down and hammer out the
13 language on these regulations and the layout of the
14 book?

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If I understand Polly
17 right, there is no work group that makes the book.
18 There is our meeting cycles that works on the language
19 of what the regulation should say, first from the
20 Council, and that's just a recommended language, and
21 recommended way of presenting the bag limits, the
22 methods, means, things like that, and then it goes to
23 the Board and the Board comes up with final recommended
24 language of what the regulation should be. Then, like
25 she said, it's put in the Federal Register. To make
26 the actual booklet, the handy-dandy, I think Staff
27 pretty much just does that out of the regulations that
28 have been passed by the Board and posted in the Federal
29 Register.

30

31 At that point in time, this is where I
32 was thinking that if you had some suggestions for
33 clearer locations, clearer methods and means, or things
34 that are redundant, if that was presented to them or if
35 you could take part, and like Polly was saying, now
36 that she knows you're interested, if you could take
37 part in that making the book. There is no work group
38 that does it. That's Staff.

39

40 MR. GIBSON: Uh-huh. I'd be interested
41 in that.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: At that point in time,
44 anything that would be written down or verbally
45 communicated would be very handy. The regulations
46 can't be changed at that point in time.

47

48 MR. GIBSON: I realize that.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now if the regulations

1 need to be changed or the location needs to be changed,
2 then a new proposal has to be put in and goes through
3 the whole cycle. Like let's say that -- I'll just pick
4 something. From Mile 53 on the highway to Mile 67 on
5 the highway you can do such and such and such. If that
6 ends up not being what everybody wants, but that ends
7 up being the regulation, the only way to change that is
8 not in the handy-dandy book. The only way to change
9 that is to bring a proposal that says it should be from
10 Mile 53 to Mile 62. That's how you would have to
11 change that.

12

13 MR. GIBSON: Uh-huh.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You bring that back,
16 you put that proposal into the Council, the Council
17 goes through it, they present their recommendations to
18 the Board, the Board makes a decision on it, then that
19 information is given to the Staff and the Staff has to
20 find a way to write that up in a form that the public
21 can understand.

22

23 MR. GIBSON: That's what I'm referring
24 to.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's what I thought
27 you were referring to. At that point in time, it would
28 be nice to have somebody from the public say these are
29 where I see the problems in your booklet.

30

31 MR. GIBSON: Yes.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I don't think that's
34 ever been done, where we've said what are the problems
35 in this booklet. As a member of the public, where are
36 you having problems with. I know they try to write
37 them as clear as they can. It's easy to understand
38 them if you're involved in them, but when you just open
39 up the book to find out can I hunt grouse on such and
40 such a place, like Skilak Lake Road, you might run into
41 problems. And can I use a pellet gun there instead of
42 a regular .22, you know. What's classed as a firearm,
43 you know, that type of thing.

44

45 MR. GIBSON: Bow and arrow.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, I know, but my
48 kids didn't know. This was 25 years ago. They were
49 out there with a BB gun and a pellet gun. Fortunately
50 they didn't get one. All they got was a warning.

1 MR. GIBSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, for
2 my time.

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. And thank
5 you for bringing it to our attention. The next one is
6 Ben Romig.

7
8 MR. KOMPKOFF: Mr. Chair. This is Don
9 from Valdez.

10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Don?

12 MR. KOMPKOFF: I have a question. I
13 think it would solve the problem if there was a
14 proposal for a permanent statewide subsistence license
15 be granted to Alaska Native elders 55 and older. That
16 was one of my proposals that I was going to do. The
17 reason why is one of our shareholders Fish and Game
18 came and took the pot away because it had Anchorage
19 address on it instead of the village.

20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Donald, there you're
22 running into the problem we've had in the past and
23 that's the fact that ANILCA addresses rural residents,
24 Native and non-Native. When you're dealing with
25 somebody who has an Anchorage address, they don't class
26 as a rural resident and it doesn't matter whether
27 they're Native or non-Native.

28
29 MR. KOMPKOFF: Oh, I see.

30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's why a proposal
32 like that would not fit into the Federal program
33 because it doesn't fit into ANILCA. But those are the
34 kinds of proposals that can be submitted and then they
35 have to be looked at on their merit. That's the same
36 thing like I was talking about before as to location or
37 methods and means and bag limits. If a change is
38 needed, put them in as a proposal so they can be looked
39 at for their merits or see if they even fit into the
40 Federal program.

41
42 MR. KOMPKOFF: It didn't fall under
43 customary and traditional use of all species, your
44 Chenega shareholders. That's what I was trying to
45 bring up too.

46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Again, you're going to
48 run into the same thing. ANILCA does not address
49 Chenega shareholders. It addresses rural residents,
50 Native and non-Native. If a Chenega shareholder is not

1 a rural resident, they are not covered by the
2 subsistence regulations under ANILCA.

3

4 MR. KOMPKOFF: Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Milo.

7

8 MR. BURCHAM: I just wanted to make a
9 quick comment. I just picked up on something that he
10 said. He talked about an address on a pot. That's a
11 separate set of regulations that we don't deal with.
12 You might refer him to the State subsistence fisheries
13 or NMFS for halibut longline. I don't know what it
14 was. But you might mention who he should go to for
15 that information.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Donald, I think also
18 on that pot one what we're dealing with is something
19 that's not under Federal regulation. That's a State
20 regulation.

21

22 MR. KOMPKOFF: Okay.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So whether they had a
25 subsistence permit or not, unless the State changed its
26 law to give subsistence users year-round access, which
27 they haven't and I don't think they will, the fact that
28 the season is closed it doesn't matter who you are.

29

30 MR. KOMPKOFF: When I turned 60, they
31 gave me a hunting, fishing and trapping license.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Do you have
34 yours? Thank you, Donald.

35

36 MR. KOMPKOFF: You betcha.

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Ben Romig.
39 Sorry I called you before.

40

41 MR. ROMIG: My name is Ben Romig and
42 I've lived here all my life. I wanted to comment just
43 in general about the subsistence. I know that when
44 this was originally put together in 1993, by law, we
45 had a lot more volatile meetings so to speak because a
46 lot of the people were thinking that pretty much the
47 Federal government was just going to take over and have
48 their own rules and the State would have their own
49 rules. I think over the course of the last 16 years or
50 however many it's been I think there has been a little

1 bit more cohesiveness on both sides. I feel like the
2 system is working somewhat.

3

4 Just starting with the dipnet fishery
5 that we have down here for the locals, for Ninilchik
6 and Hope and wherever else, but we're allowed 25 fish
7 at the falls and that's a real good deal because
8 predominantly the majority of the first run of fish go
9 to the Upper Russian and so by picking up a few right
10 at the falls as they're going out has had no impact
11 whatsoever as far as I can tell on the salmon
12 escapements. So I think that's a program that the
13 Federal government has put into place that's worked
14 real well.

15

16 I know that some of the families go up
17 together and there's probably a lot of opportunity that
18 other people wouldn't have chances of sharing and
19 getting out in the woods unless this program was in
20 place, so I'm definitely for programs like this in the
21 future.

22

23 However, last fall when the moose hunt came up,
24 I did go down and try and participate in that somewhat.
25 It started in November, I believe, and of course the
26 days are quite short then, so you're limited. First of
27 all, you've got to drive from Cooper Landing into
28 another area and that takes time. The roads are slick
29 and icy, whatever. I'm not trying to make it sound
30 like it's a hard hunt or anything, but I think it would
31 be a lot easier for the people who lived in Sterling
32 just to go out their back yards and catch one rather
33 than us have to drive 50 miles.

34

35 As far as making it easy, I don't think
36 there's any way you can make it any easier. I think
37 the disparity and stuff that it brought about between
38 us having a privilege that they don't have, that was
39 more weighed upon than just the fact of the harvesting
40 the moose. I don't think anybody had a problem with
41 people shooting moose in the second season if there
42 were enough moose, but I think it was a little bit too
43 close to home, so to speak, when you're hunting in
44 somebody's back yard in Soldotna and then they're not
45 allowed to hunt. So I had a real difficult time
46 pulling my rifle out under those circumstances. As a
47 matter of fact, I don't even think I would have shot a
48 moose.

49

50 We're always going to have those types

1 of problems if they're so close. I think there should
2 have been a little bit of distances weighed in there
3 rather than just units. We went by where the lines
4 were drawn. I think under these situations you have to
5 figure in the residential areas and then the time of
6 year and amount of moose and then make a good decision.

7
8 Personally, I was against that hunt.
9 The Fish and Game Board voted 9/2 for it, so I was
10 outweighed on that and I wasn't even on the State
11 Committee. When those types of situations come up that
12 people really have a voice in, where are the best
13 places to address that? I mean I tried to call over to
14 Cordova and the phone service got cut off when I was
15 going to speak when they were going to have a vote on
16 it, so I was never able to put in my input on that.
17 Those types of things I think should be scrutinized a
18 little bit more.

19
20 The fisheries and stuff that bring
21 people together, when the families come together and
22 they learn how to share and stuff like that, which is a
23 difficult thing I think nowadays for a lot of people to
24 understand how to do, but it does bring some of that
25 out in people and I think it makes for a nice picnic or
26 whatever
27 you want to call it.

28
29 Personally, we're on a road system
30 here. Being on a road system we have to weigh in
31 things different than people that are further back off
32 the systems. Just because we have the rights that
33 other subsistence users have in rural areas, I don't
34 think we should necessarily have to have everything
35 identically as they do. We're on a highway. A lot of
36 these areas aren't on highways.

37
38 So, in the future, that this proposal,
39 for instance this one down here, this late moose hunt,
40 I think that should have been looked at a little bit
41 better. I don't think there was actually any moose
42 shot in -- I don't even know how many moose were shot
43 if there were any shot. It's just the principle of the
44 thing. That's the way I feel about it. That's the way
45 I feel about subsistence.

46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Ben. Any
48 questions or comments for Ben?

49
50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Ben, I think basically
2 what you're saying is that, you know, if you have to go
3 someplace else where somebody is not able to take part
4 in it, you shouldn't flaunt it. We could probably work
5 out so that we could put some buffer zones and that
6 might be something to think about in the future.
7 Instead of having the whole unit open, it would be nice
8 to put buffer zones around communities and things like
9 that so you're not, like you said, shooting them in
10 their back yard.

11
12 I could see that because I know that --
13 speaking as somebody that lives in Cordova, it would be
14 really hard to all of a sudden have the moose hunt in
15 Cordova and only people from Valdez could come and
16 shoot the moose in Cordova. It would be extremely
17 difficult.

18
19 I see Mr. Zemke looking at me like,
20 yeah, it would be extremely difficult. What you're
21 saying is basically that Cooper Landing was qualified,
22 Soldotna/Sterling wasn't qualified, but the moose hunt
23 had to take place in the Soldotna/Sterling area. That
24 would cause conflict and maybe that is something we
25 need to take into consideration in the future.

26
27 I'm sorry you couldn't get through when
28 we were discussing it in Cordova. The one thing that
29 you can always do is you can do it when the Board is
30 doing it. We don't make the decisions, we make
31 recommendations. The Board meeting in Anchorage with
32 the heads of the departments, that's where the decision
33 is going to be made and that's your last opportunity,
34 but they're very concerned about things like that and
35 that's a good place to put that kind of comment in.
36 You know that from past experience.

37
38 MR. ROMIG: Yeah.

39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions or
41 comments for Ben.

42
43 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Mr. Chair. Ben. I
44 just wanted to make a comment, Ben. First of all, I
45 appreciate your testimony and I'm glad to hear that
46 that dipping is working out great. Being from
47 Ninilchik and being a rural resident there, this moose
48 hunt is very important to the residents of Ninilchik.
49 And I do know that you know that the Federal land is
50 the only land that we can hunt on. We don't like to

1 have to hunt in Ninilchik either. I mean come up to
2 Soldotna necessarily, but some of the areas to hunt is
3 restricted to that Federal land. So it's real hard to
4 differentiate those areas.

5
6 So what I would suggest -- you know, I
7 know the proposal came, one of them, from Cooper
8 Landing for that moose hunt for you guys specifically.
9 I would just suggest if you have a proposal for a
10 change or an area to put it in through the RACs or
11 through whoever and take another look at it. Thank
12 you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's the other
15 thing, I think, like Greg was pointing out. Nothing is
16 set in stone. The fact it's in regulation this year
17 does not mean it can't come up for a proposal next
18 year. It maybe can't come up for a motion for
19 reconsideration, but every regulation is up for a new
20 proposal the following year or the following cycle. So
21 if something is in place that you don't like, submit a
22 proposal, explain why and then it would be considered
23 in the next cycle. Thank you, Ben.

24
25 So do I, out of politeness, call you
26 Sherman or do I call you Red?

27
28 MR. SMITH: Just call me, how's that.

29
30 (Laughter)

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Mr. Smith.

33
34 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair. Members of the
35 Council. I welcomed you earlier. I'm always curious
36 that my question will be directed toward this item that
37 I put down there, this Cooper Creek dolly varden
38 assessment. Anybody here ever catch a dolly in Cooper
39 Creek? There's a guy. Well, that's pretty good. Did
40 you catch him above or below the falls?

41
42 MR. PALMER: The Stetson Creek Falls?

43
44 MR. SMITH: Yeah.

45
46 MR. PALMER: Below.

47
48 MR. SMITH: There used to be a king run
49 in there too, you know, at one time. Anyway, I have to
50 be curious as to -- this is a funded program, I

1 presume.

2

3

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

4

5

MR. SMITH: So money went into this study and it says ADF&G. I presume that means the State really is handling the study or the money.

8

9

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Both.

10

11

MR. SMITH: Both. All right. Then you people don't have any direct responsibility to pick up this study and do something with it or what does.....

14

15

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'll let Polly answer you on that one.

17

18

DR. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thanks for the question. For the benefit of the people in the audience, Red or Sherman is referring to the chart on Page 22 that's looking at monitoring program projects that have been funded since the start of the program. The Monitoring Program started in 2000. It started when the Federal government got management authority for fisheries on Federal public lands. So this project was funded the very first year of the Monitoring Program and it was funded in -- that's why it has the 00038. I don't know quite frankly what the outcome of that study was, but when I go back to the office I can get a copy of the report and send it to you.

32

33

MR. SMITH: Good. Will you do that?

34

35

DR. WHEELER: I will do that. I'll get your address and I'll get you a copy of the report and we can both learn something. So that's the best I can do, Mr. Chair.

39

40

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: This is a completed study. This is not an ongoing study. This was done the first year of the program.

43

44

DR. WHEELER: Correct. It was funded in the year 2000, so it was almost 10 years ago. Like I said, I don't know offhand what the outcome was, but I will find out and I will get the report to Mr. Sherman Smith.

49

50

MR. SMITH: I guess I'll just wait

1 until I get that. Just for your information though, my
2 curiosity was piqued by the fact -- I've worked for
3 every level of government at different times in my
4 life. I attended a meeting of the local advisory
5 fishing people and they were intending to use this
6 study to remove the Cooper Lake Dam and I thought it
7 was a little ridiculous at the time, which I told them.
8 But I do know right now they're in a period of decision
9 making, maybe they just made it, whether to divert some
10 of the drainage back into Cooper Lake. This study had
11 to do with the temperature of the water, I think, where
12 the fish could actually spawn.

13

14 It gets very complicated when you get
15 into what I call government scheming rather than good
16 government planning. Some people get into government
17 service and they get into scheming. Unfortunately most
18 of the scheming is very negative. The idea of
19 destroying Cooper Lake Dam because the temperature of
20 the water won't allow a dolly varden for only one guy
21 who's ever caught one. I've caught a few dollies both
22 above and below the Stetson Falls.

23

24 So, optimistically, I just wanted to
25 let you know to be careful. When you get these
26 reports, make sure you understand what the purpose is.
27 They aren't always as straightforward as they appear.
28 This one I've got to catch up on because we're trying
29 one more time to see if can utilize some of our local
30 resources in a slightly different fashion. The
31 negative thinkers are still among us and they're still
32 diligently working away to try and undo anything that
33 we try to do. So I'd appreciate knowing that this is
34 not negatively affecting Homer Electric's efforts to
35 continually generate more power. Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Red, but
38 you disappointed me.

39

40 MR. SMITH: I did?

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes. I thought maybe
43 you were scheming and you wanted that report so that
44 you could find out when the dollies were there so you
45 could go up and harvest some dollies.

46

47 MS. SMITH: What I would like to say is
48 when I got here, Russian Creek, Quartz Creek,
49 everything had spawning kings and there were 12 the
50 last time I went up to my mining claim and counted the

1 kings. There were 12 pairs of spawning kings between
2 the falls and the first little creek that's unnamed,
3 comes in from the left there. Lo and behold, having
4 been accused of destroying that fishery, I took a
5 picture of this fly fisherman out there picking up the
6 eggs so he could catch a trout. So I was a little
7 disappointed in some of the management in those days.
8

9 Like I said earlier, I think you're
10 doing a fine job. I would like to see you move that
11 boundary.

12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Put a proposal in.

14
15 (Laughter)

16
17 MR. SMITH: All right. Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Do we have
20 any other testimony at this point in time.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hearing none, we'll go
25 on with our agenda. I sure thank you guys that did
26 testify. I hope some of your concerns can be met. Any
27 time you have a question like that I know the Staff is
28 totally willing to give you whatever kind of
29 information they can give you at any time.

30
31 We will now go on for call for
32 proposals to change 2010/2012 Federal subsistence
33 wildlife regulations. This is where I tell you that
34 you are always able to put a proposal in. If you want
35 these proposals to go in for this time period, they
36 need to be in by November 5, 2009. So you have about a
37 month right now to get any proposals on the table to
38 deal with the 2010/2012 Federal subsistence wildlife
39 regulations.

40
41 Proposals are available -- any person
42 can put a proposal in. Any entity can put a proposal
43 in. You can put it in if you're a member of the Fish
44 and Game Advisory Committees, but you, as an
45 individual, can put a proposal in too on any subject.
46 In this case here, what we're dealing with is wildlife
47 regulations.

48
49 We have a review and confirm proposals
50 submitted by the Council. I don't believe this Council

1 has any proposals right at the moment to submit. This
2 Council has tried to maintain a reactive method instead
3 of a proactive method. We like to deal with proposals
4 that come from the users. We don't like to make our
5 own proposals and we haven't to this point in time.

6

7

Donald, yes.

8

9

MR. KOMPKOFF: This is Donald in
10 Valdez. I wrote down moose and elk transplanting on
11 Knight Island -- not Knight Island, Chenega Island and
12 LaTouche. I was wondering what I have to do to make a
13 proposal to transplant moose or elk on these islands.

14

15

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Donald, I suppose you
16 could submit that proposal, but I don't think that's
17 within the scope of ANILCA. I don't think that's
18 something that can be handled by this program, but it
19 doesn't hurt to put the proposal in just in case it can
20 be because if it doesn't fit within the scope it won't
21 be put on the agenda. I would think you'd have to
22 approach Fish and Game for that one.

23

24

MR. KOMPKOFF: The question was because
25 they planted deer on Knight Island and those things are
26 growing all the way clear up to Anchorage now.

27

28

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, better be
29 careful. They'll be classed as an invasive species.

30

31

(Laughter)

32

33

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I suppose that could
34 be submitted to the Forest Service, but at this point
35 in time my inclination would be with all the concern
36 about invasive species and stuff like that that
37 something like that's not a viable proposal, but it
38 doesn't hurt to put it in.

39

40

MR. KOMPKOFF: Okay. For like a setnet
41 site on Evans Island for elders for subsistence, would
42 I have to go to the Forest Service for that too?

43

44

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That would be a
45 customary and traditional use proposal to start off
46 with. That would be submitted through this if that's
47 Forest Service land and then it would be considered in
48 the regular round of proposals.

49

50

MR. KOMPKOFF: Okay.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But that would be a
2 fisheries proposal.
3
4 MR. KOMPKOFF: I would like to propose
5 a customary and traditional use for salmon in Cape Cove
6 for all species of salmon, reds, pinks, chums and
7 silvers that traditionally use that place every year
8 for filling up your smoke houses.
9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Again, that would be
11 the same kind of proposal if I understand right. Am I
12 correct, Polly? That that would be a proposal that --
13 if that's Federal land, the proposal could be submitted
14 for a C&T for that and a season and a bag limit. That
15 proposal would be due by November of 2010. Oh, I just
16 got a shake of the head.
17
18 MR. KOMPKOFF: Okay.
19
20 DR. WHEELER: The fisheries proposals
21 window or the window for submitting proposals is going
22 to start actually in January. We're a little bit
23 behind the times right now with the wildlife cycle
24 because we had that problem last January, but the
25 fisheries window will open sometime in January 2010 and
26 close sometime this spring. The spring meeting cycle
27 you all can have proposals before you, but then at the
28 next -- a year from now you'll be dealing with
29 fisheries analyses.
30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So he has about three
32 months to submit.....
33
34 DR. WHEELER: You've got three months
35 to think it through and put it in.
36
37 MR. KOMPKOFF: Mr. Chairman.
38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes, Donald.
40
41 MR. KOMPKOFF: Could I get the address
42 and stuff that needs to be sent to?
43
44 DR. WHEELER: We will get that to you,
45 Mr. Kompkoff, and we'll get you the forms and
46 everything else, but we'll do it after this meeting.
47
48 MR. KOMPKOFF: Okay.
49
50 DR. WHEELER: I think Donald has your

1 contact information. We'll be sure to get it to you.

2

3 MR. KOMPKOFF: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Donald.

6 Does everybody understand that anybody can put a
7 proposal in on any regulation? If it meets the
8 criteria, then it is considered in the Council, then
9 it's considered by the Board.

10

11 So, with that, we'll go on now to -- we
12 had our Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. I don't
13 have my glasses.

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 MS. WAGGONER: Lunchtime.

18

19 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Lunchtime.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, it is lunchtime.

24 Thank you, Trish. With that we are going to recess for
25 lunch. Since this is a work session, I don't know what
26 kind of recessing we have to do, but we're going to
27 recess for lunch and if it's currently 12:05 and you
28 have to run around here to find some place to eat lunch
29 and there's not very many places, do we need more than
30 an hour and 15 minutes? We'll just say 1:30.

31

32 (Off record)

33

34 (On record)

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Everybody want to
37 quietly take their seat. We're going to go on to
38 agency and organization reports at this time. Milo.

39

40 MR. BURCHAM: Milo Burcham, wildlife
41 biologist on the Cordova Ranger District working on
42 subsistence. I asked Donald a week or two ago if he
43 had a proposal that I thought was turned in last spring
44 before the old deadline and he says he doesn't have it,
45 so I'll have to do some checking. I know there was
46 some interest, I think it was Dave Regionne (ph) that
47 turned it in, to turn in a proposal to make it so that
48 someone who draws a subsistence permit for moose in
49 Unit 6C cannot put in the next year. It's a way to
50 distribute the harvest for people who get drawn. We

1 have 900 people trying for a small number of tags.
2 This way it kind of spreads the benefit of drawing a
3 permit around. So that proposal will probably be
4 coming in.

5
6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's there. I
7 got it off the web.

8
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All right.

10
11 MR. BURCHAM: Donald said it wasn't
12 there. Good. So it's in the works now and being
13 considered.

14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The impact would be
16 negligible, but it's a makes sense proposal.

17
18 MR. BURCHAM: A perception of just
19 giving people more opportunity to draw the tag.

20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right. Polly.

22
23 DR. WHEELER: Mr. Chair. If I could
24 just speak to the regulations a little bit. The reason
25 why there's some confusion, if you remember at the
26 spring meeting, I had talked about there's a new way of
27 submitting proposals. The Obama administration wants
28 everything to be electronic, so we've gotten this sort
29 of special permission to submit things through OSM, but
30 the Federal government has this website called
31 www.regulations.gov and if you go to that you can find
32 all of the proposals that have been submitted to the
33 Federal subsistence program. I will tell you in
34 advance it's pretty cumbersome. So you can go there
35 and find these things, but they're a little tough to
36 find.

37
38 In the meantime, if you don't want to
39 submit it through that portal, they call it, you can
40 submit it to OSM and we've gotten special permission to
41 then put it into www.regulations.gov. But some of us
42 at OSM have been a little reluctant to actually go in
43 there. They're not organized particularly well. Thank
44 you, Pat, for being more agile in that website. Just
45 to remind everybody that's how they're going to be
46 doing things in the future.

47
48 MR. BURCHAM: I just wanted to make
49 sure it's in the system.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Polly, in any other
2 system you have to go through that, but OSM has agreed
3 to take them in writing and then submit them for you.
4 Donald.

5
6 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. At
7 our meeting last spring the Council passed a letter to
8 the Board opposing this new portal to Washington. I
9 sent a copy to all the Council members.

10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. If we have
12 nothing further, we're going to go on to our agency and
13 organization reports. The first thing on the agenda is
14 the Bureau of Land Management Anchorage office.

15
16 MR. OVIATT: No report from the
17 Anchorage office.

18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Then the
20 Glennallen field office.

21
22 MR. CEBRIAN: Mr. Chair. Merben
23 Cebrian, Glennallen field office. You have a handout
24 there in front of you. Just going over this briefly,
25 Mr. Chair. The first item I have is about moose. Just
26 an update on the Federal subsistence hunt RM313 and 314
27 for Unit 13. So far we have 55 bulls harvested out of
28 1,095 permits. This is as of the 12th October. The
29 hunt ended on the 20th of September.

30
31 I also have numbers from the AHTNA
32 community hunt. That is a State hunt. They harvested
33 90 moose for the same hunt duration. I just heard news
34 that we got \$23,000 allocated to BLM for a five-year
35 project on population monitoring for both moose and
36 caribou.

37
38 Just showing here a graph of the status
39 of the harvest since 1990. We're pretty much going as
40 projects, around 50 or so. The number of applicants
41 have risen over the years, but seems to have stabilized
42 at around 1,000.

43
44 The second item is about caribou. As
45 of October 12th we issued 2,366 permits, 107 bulls
46 harvested in both caribou hunts, the RC513 and RC514.
47 This year is a bull only hunt. The hunt closed on the
48 30th of September. It is planned to reopen on the 21st
49 of October. By contrast, the AHTNA community hunt
50 generated 56 caribou harvested for the same duration.

1 On Page 2 you have a graph of the
2 successful harvest from 2003 onwards. I have data from
3 previous years, but when I printed this out I had data
4 from 2003.

5
6 Now the last points here in the 2009 --
7 of course, the hunt is not finished yet, these are all
8 preliminary results as of the end of 30 September. A
9 quick rundown on the fisheries. Fish tower count on
10 the Gulkana fish tower, we have 2,712 chinook passed
11 through that were counted on that Gulkana fish tower.
12 This is a joint project with ADF&G Glennallen, might be
13 able to elaborate on that a little bit more later.

14
15 Other items. The Glennallen Fish and
16 Game conducted a fall count for the Nelchina Caribou
17 Herd. The estimate for this fall is 33,835 caribou. As
18 we all know, the management objective for the Nelchina
19 Caribou Herd is 35 to 40,000. There are 29 calves per
20 100 cows observed. When they weighed them during the
21 calf captures, there were lower than average calf
22 weights and it appears there's loss of 15 calves per
23 100 caribou over the summer. So that's mortality.

24
25 There's an upward trend in the bull to
26 cow ratio for the Nelchina Caribou Herd, 42 bulls per
27 100 cows. Depending on the winter conditions, an
28 overwinter survival, it is possible the Nelchina
29 Caribou Herd could reach the minimum population
30 objective of 35,000 by 2010, next year.

31
32 The BLM Glennallen continue to have
33 some rural residency issues in terms of the applicants
34 for subsistence hunts, but we struggle along with that.

35
36 An update on the Federal land
37 conveyance, the State of Alaska submitted their final
38 selection for land conveyance in GMU 13 on September
39 30. The BLM regional office is currently sorting it
40 out. I'm waiting to hear more about this. I don't have
41 the land status at my desk yet and I don't have a
42 timeline as to when I'm supposed to get that
43 information, but there is still a possibility that the
44 BLM Glennallen field office may have to consider
45 changes where subsistence hunting may occur in the near
46 future.

47
48 That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any

1 questions.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I have a couple quick
6 ones. The caribou herd one.

7

8 MR. CEBRIAN: Uh-huh.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That 107 in 2009 was
11 all bulls, right?

12

13 MR. CEBRIAN: Yes, sir.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Was it 274 in 2008 all
16 bulls or was that bulls and cows mixed.

17

18 MR. CEBRIAN: Bulls and cows.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So 2009 is the first
21 out of all these years where it's a bulls only hunt.

22

23 MR. CEBRIAN: Yes, sir.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Which that could
26 explain the lower take. You said both the caribou and
27 the AHTNA moose hunt is State managed. That's not
28 under Federal subsistence regulations.

29

30 MR. CEBRIAN: No, I may have misspoke.
31 Oh, I'm sorry, the AHTNA moose hunt and the AHTNA
32 caribou hunt, yes, those are State.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Those are State
35 regulations, not Federal regulations.

36

37 MR. CEBRIAN: Yes.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So we have no input or
40 nothing to do with those at all then.

41

42 MR. CEBRIAN: Not with the AHTNA.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions.
45 Tricia.

46

47 MR. WAGGONER: Just a point there,
48 Ralph, the 107 is not complete since there's still the
49 later season, which I know gets a lot of moose during
50 that later part.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You mean caribou.
2
3 MR. CEBRIAN: Caribou.
4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.
6
7 MR. CEBRIAN: Update on the movements
8 though, they've moved eastward already.
9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: They're already down
11 towards Chistochina, in that area down there?
12
13 MR. CEBRIAN: They're heading that way,
14 yes, sir.
15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Did it look like the
17 majority of them moved out of the Paxson/Tangle Lakes
18 area?
19
20 MR. CEBRIAN: I'd say about half of
21 them as of last week.
22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions
24 for him. Rob.
25
26 MR. GIBSON: Can you mention something
27 on how predation is managed in that Nelchina Herd.
28
29 MR. CEBRIAN: Predation is managed by
30 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and most of Unit 13
31 is under predator control. Wolves are the ones that
32 target mostly caribou, but in the historic calving
33 grounds near the Talkeetnas that I would say is
34 practically wolf free. So in terms of the impact on
35 the calving grounds towards the Talkeetna region, there
36 is low predation as of yet. The grizzly bears are a
37 different story. They mostly target in that area and
38 mostly target moose calves.
39
40 MR. GIBSON: The wolves probably den
41 somewhere else away from the calving grounds.
42
43 MR. CEBRIAN: Yes. There's a refuge in
44 the Denali area, so once they enter that they don't get
45 -- well, they can be trapped, but there's not a
46 predator control area.
47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'll just make a
49 comment on that from talking to some of the people I
50 know in the Kenny Lake area that hunted up there this

1 fall and have been hunting up there for quite a number
2 of years. They feel like the predator control up there
3 has had a big impact. They said they saw lots of twin
4 calves this year. They saw lots of twin yearlings from
5 last year. They seem to see a pretty good increase in
6 the moose population up in that Tangle Lakes, Denali
7 Highway, Paxson area. They pretty much attribute it to
8 the fact we've had predator control for the last few
9 years and we've managed to get some calf survival.
10 They said they saw a lot of bulls that were just under
11 size too. They figure in the next three or four years
12 the moose hunting is going to be pretty good up there.
13

14 MR. CEBRIAN: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Having
15 talked with Bob Toby there at Fish and Game Glennallen
16 the count area they visit every year within the
17 Alphabet Hills, just south of the Denali Highway, that
18 population of moose there is up.
19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But the caribou aren't
21 responding quite as fast then.
22

23 MR. CEBRIAN: Well, they're
24 stabilizing. The calf weights are lower. We might
25 consider extending the bull only hunt to next year if
26 the wintering conditions aren't as good.
27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Any other
29 questions.
30

31 (No comments)
32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.
34

35 MR. CEBRIAN: You're welcome.
36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Next on the agenda is
38 the Office of Subsistence Management. Polly.
39

40 DR. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
41 have a couple of items I need to go through under the
42 organization reports. We'll start with number one.
43 The Federal Subsistence Program schedule of key dates
44 on Page 33. I'm not going to read it, but I can point
45 out a few key dates. One is the spring meeting cycle,
46 which is February 15 to March 26, to review and make
47 recommendations on the analyses of the wildlife
48 proposals we'll be getting through November 5th.
49

50 The Federal Board will be meeting on

1 those proposals on May 18th to 20th, 2010.
2 Unfortunately we'll be meeting at the West Coast
3 International Inn. That's where the Federal Board is
4 going to be meeting for the next several meeting
5 cycles, so just get used to it. The Egan Center will
6 be in our rear-view mirror. We'll be meeting at the
7 low-ceilings, dank hotel in Anchorage. Anyway, that's
8 going to be May 18th to 20th, so you have that to look
9 forward to, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We have the Federal
12 Board meeting on January 12th to 14th.

13

14 DR. WHEELER: Correct. The Federal
15 Board is meeting then. That's going to be a fairly
16 light meeting. They'll be looking at the Fisheries
17 Monitoring Plan like you did today. Also touching on
18 the Section 19 changes to our regulations, which I'll
19 talk about in a little bit. That meeting was
20 originally scheduled to deal with the wildlife
21 proposals, but because we had that bureaucratic SNAFU
22 last winter, we've been delayed in that, so those have
23 been put off until May 2010. So the January meeting
24 probably won't be a three-day meeting.

25

26 Mr. Chair. So that's just for your
27 information than anything else.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

30

31 DR. WHEELER: The second item that I'm
32 here to talk to you about is the status of the work
33 group on tracking brown bear claws and handicrafts. I
34 guess Mr. Pappas is going to come up and join me so
35 that we have the appearance of a united front here.
36 I'll do the talking and George can certainly jump in if
37 he needs or wants to.

38

39 The briefing for the Regional Advisory
40 Council can be found on Pages 34 to 35. I'm going to
41 touch on a few highlights. You probably may remember
42 from April to May 2008 the Federal Board addressed a
43 proposal that had been submitted by the Department to
44 refine the Federal regulations dealing with
45 incorporation of brown bear claws into handicrafts for
46 sale. In its view, the Department felt the Federal
47 regulations allowed for unconstrained commercial sale
48 of handicrafts made from brown bear parts and created
49 market incentives for poaching.

50

1 When this proposal came up and the
2 related analysis came up before the Board, the
3 Department of Fish and Game recommended that the Board
4 form a working group to deal with this issue. In
5 response to that, the Board actually deferred the
6 proposal. The Board was quite clear that the work
7 group must include representation from the Regional
8 Advisory Councils. If I remember, Trish, you were the
9 RAC representative and Chuck Lamb was the alternate.

10

11 MS. WAGGONER: Correct.

12

13 DR. WHEELER: Before that the Federal
14 and State Staff met to come up with a draft charge.
15 Once we had that, we presented that to the Regional
16 Advisory Councils. The group met in June and a bunch
17 of questions were raised. They met by teleconference,
18 not actually in person. There were some concerns
19 regarding the necessity of tracking brown bear claws
20 made into handicrafts. There were a number of concerns
21 about what initially appeared to be another arbitrary
22 regulation.

23

24 State and Federal managers described a
25 bear claw tracking system as a means of protection for
26 those who legally harvest and then want to sell brown
27 bear crafts. The discussion then focused on some type
28 of paper tracking system rather than anything more
29 technologically intrusive such as microchips or
30 something like that.

31

32 Proponents of this idea said this type
33 of tracking system could be used as a marketing tool so
34 buyers would know that the handicrafts they purchased
35 were made from legally harvested bears and would
36 provide the necessary documentation to allow
37 individuals traveling to another country to obtain a
38 CITES (the Convention on International Trade in
39 Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) permit for
40 the item so they could legally transport it across
41 borders.

42

43 A number of questions were raised and
44 they're on the bullet points there on Page 35. OSM
45 Staff did a superb job. Cole Brown on my Staff as well
46 as Liz Williams put together a booklet addressing many
47 of the issues that were raised by the Council members
48 at this meeting. Staff has currently met to keep this
49 issue ongoing. At this point we're kind of looking at
50 organizing a teleconference to discuss this issue

1 further with RAC representatives. Ideally we'd have an
2 in-person meeting, but I think it will probably be a
3 teleconference with everything else going on this fall,
4 to talk about the issue further and potentially come up
5 with some approach or proposal for the Federal Board to
6 consider.

7

8 I will say that because that proposal
9 from the State was deferred, it will be before the
10 Federal Board at the May 2010 meeting. Ideally we'll
11 have some sort of resolution from the work group on
12 what to do with this issue of tracking bear claws
13 incorporated into handicrafts from bears that have been
14 harvested in the Federal subsistence regulations.

15

16 Mr. Chair, that's all I really have to
17 say on that. I don't know if George has anything to
18 add. I'd be happy to answer questions on that
19 particular topic.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Tricia.

22

23 MS. WAGGONER: I did participate in the
24 June teleconference and I would like to thank anybody
25 who put the booklet together. It was promptly sent out.
26 We did try to have another teleconference in August and
27 not everybody could make it. The notes here pretty
28 succinctly address the issues that were brought up. My
29 personal feeling was that if anything does move
30 forward, we have to make sure it's something the
31 subsistence user can live with and manage. Again, I'd
32 like to thank everybody and let the rest of the Council
33 members know if there's questions, concerns, I'm more
34 than happy to take them to the next working group
35 meeting.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Greg.

38

39 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I just had a question,
40 through the Chair. How do you compile numbers on
41 illegal harvest of bears.

42

43 DR. WHEELER: George is going to take
44 that one, sir.

45

46 MR. PAPPAS: Through the Chair. That
47 was one of the primary questions that came up during
48 our first teleconference. The Alaska State Troopers,
49 Alaska Wildlife Protection Officers and the U.S. Fish
50 and Wildlife Refuge enforcement officers went back the

1 last 10 years information they had and when they found
2 a dead bear with its claws missing they came up with
3 150 cases in the last 10 years, both rural and non-
4 rural. Who is to say where they were shot, how they
5 were shot, did they die of old age, was it a trophy
6 hunter. You can't answer those questions if you find a
7 dead bear in the woods with its claws missing. Thank
8 you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: George, are you saying
11 they found -- how many?

12

13 MR. PAPPAS: 150 cases.

14

15 DR. WHEELER: In the past 10 years,
16 agents have documented over 150 cases where they have
17 found dead bears with only the claws, paws or gall
18 bladders removed. These cases do not reflect actual
19 findings by other enforcement agencies that have
20 different ways of organizing individual cases.

21

22 I would qualify that by saying those
23 bears are illegally harvested, so we're not equating
24 that with bears harvested for subsistence purposes.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Those are illegally
27 taken bears.

28

29 DR. WHEELER: Correct.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Were these all brown
32 bears or brown bears and black bears.

33

34 DR. WHEELER: Brown bears and black
35 bears, but predominantly brown bears though is my
36 understanding.

37

38 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. That's only
39 two of the agencies. The other agencies don't have the
40 searchable databases for that, so there's potentially
41 more. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'm surprised. That's
44 more than I expected. Tricia.

45

46 MS. WAGGONER: Two things. That also
47 included bears where it was just gall bladders. That's
48 not 150 cases of just the claws. Post the meeting,
49 they had talked about how you could go on the internet
50 and buy claws and the price and I did some internet

1 searching and you just can't go buy claws like on eBay.
2 The highest price I did find in doing some research was
3 \$165 for a bear claw necklace.

4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Bear claw necklace.

6
7 MS. WAGGONER: Yeah, a single bear claw
8 necklace. I personally didn't find anything else in my
9 research.

10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Ben.

12
13 MR. ROMIG: So what are we worried
14 about here on the claws?

15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We're just trying to
17 see what kind of a market there is going on in bear
18 claws right at the moment and see whether we need to
19 put a tracking mechanism in place.

20
21 MR. ROMIG: In Canada, what do they do
22 with them?

23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I don't know. It
25 should be in that report on Canadian bear claw sales
26 tracking system. Do you have something on that?

27
28 MS. BROWN: Mr. Chair. Cole Brown with
29 OSM. Canada currently -- the United States and Canada
30 are members of CITES and Canada does sell brown bear
31 claws on the internet with a CITES permit, so they have
32 this tracking method already in place.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So the claws are taken
35 with a scientific permit?

36
37 MS. BROWN: No, Mr. Chair, it's not a
38 scientific permit. It's a regulating permit so that
39 they can trade this claw globally.

40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All right.

42
43 MR. ROMIG: It's not a really big issue
44 then, right, 150 claws?

45
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's what we're
47 trying to figure out, Ben.

48
49 DR. WHEELER: Just to clarify, under
50 Federal subsistence regulations it's currently legal in

1 some units to incorporate brown bear claws into
2 handicrafts and then sell them, but the State has
3 consistently I would say opposed that regulation and
4 two years ago submitted a proposal to change the
5 regulations because they're concerned over the
6 potential abuse of this. So the Federal Board deferred
7 this proposal to form this work group and have them
8 look into is it an issue, is it something we want to
9 embrace, something we want to track so that if they are
10 incorporated into handicrafts can we track them. So
11 that issue is still out there. I would say the problem
12 is still being defined on the part of the users.

13

14 MR. ROMIG: I see.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Is that understood
17 then, Ben?

18

19 MR. ROMIG: Yeah. There's always going
20 to be little issues on bear claws, I think.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So basically
23 all those buttons on the report pretty much have all
24 the information on those buttons. Trish has seen that.
25 Have the rest of us seen that? I don't recall having
26 seen that myself.

27

28 DR. WHEELER: Mr. Chair. Like I said,
29 it was quite an effort on Cole and Liz Williams' part
30 and we put together about 35 books. Because it was
31 kind of labor intensive and involved sticking tabs on
32 them, we didn't put them together for broad
33 distribution, but we can find one and get it to you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I would like to see
36 one myself.

37

38 DR. WHEELER: George will be happy to
39 give you his copy.

40

41 MR. PAPPAS: Sure.

42

43 DR. WHEELER: We'll get you a copy, Mr.
44 Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'll just read it and
47 give it back to somebody else.

48

49 MS. WAGGONER: I'll give you my copy,
50 Ralph.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I am surprised that
2 you found 150 in 10 years because if you found 150 of
3 them, most of them haven't been found I would say. Mr.
4 Cain.

5
6 MR. CAIN: Bruce Cain, Native Village
7 of Eyak. I'd be real careful about making decisions or
8 getting excited about people finding dead bears out in
9 the woods. 150 animals over 10 years is 15 per year,
10 so let's get that in our heads, not 150 bears out there
11 laying around right now.

12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

14
15 MR. CAIN: You know, the Native Village
16 of Eyak was accused of strike and loss of sea otters
17 when we found these dead sea otters. The Natives are
18 shooting them and leaving them lay. Well, sea otters
19 float. We went out and did a study on it and they were
20 dying from a parasite they were getting from eating
21 cannery waste. It took five years of research to
22 figure that out. We controlled the cannery waste and
23 the dead sea otters went away.

24
25 You find a dead bear out in the woods,
26 that doesn't mean someone shot it and took its claws
27 out and sold them. You're making a lot of assumptions.
28 Was it by the highway, did he fall of a cliff, did he
29 get attacked by a moose. There's a lot of bears that
30 eat moose and those moose fight back. There's a lot of
31 things that kill bears besides somebody shooting it and
32 taking its claws away. It's only 15 bears a year. So
33 just a comment there to slow down here, guys. There's
34 not really a big deal.

35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: There is a question in
37 my mind, these 150 bears had illegal parts removed from
38 them. It wasn't the fact that 150 bears were found
39 dead, but 150 bears were found with illegal parts
40 removed. Am I correct in that?

41
42 DR. WHEELER: (Nods affirmatively)

43
44 MS. BROWN: (Nods affirmatively)

45
46 MR. PAPPAS: (Nods affirmatively)

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We said black bears
49 and brown bears. It would be interesting to me what
50 the percentage was. I know Fish and Game have broke a

1 couple rings of people who were taking black bears for
2 the gall bladders. Again, that's not under subsistence
3 regulations to start off with, but that's a possibility
4 that some of those bears could be that instead of the
5 other.

6

7 Again, it's not a red flag to me, I was
8 surprised that they found that many. It's surprising
9 to me that they're running around in the woods that
10 much that they found them.

11

12 MR. ROMIG: Ralph.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Ben.

15

16 MR. ROMIG: You know, when they have
17 these problem bears in the villages, a lot of times
18 they'll take them to the dumps and the people go out to
19 the dumps and you can pull the claws right off and
20 actually an easy thing to get to. If somebody goes
21 around to the different villages that they're having
22 problems with, they could really come up with a large
23 sum of them.

24

25 MR. GIBSON: Mr. Chair. What was the
26 proposal that pertained to road kills and DLP cases
27 when it came to the use of claws as artifacts?

28

29 DR. WHEELER: Our regulations and the
30 proposal there of speaks specifically to bears that are
31 harvested for subsistence purposes under ANILCA, so
32 it's pretty specific to that.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And bears that are
35 taken in defense of life and property and bears that
36 are taken as road kills become the automatic property
37 of the State of Alaska and what they do with them -- I
38 mean you are required to skin it out with the claws
39 attached and give it to the State of Alaska, so it
40 doesn't even enter into the subsistence discussion
41 because they already are the State's property and
42 there's regulations in place. You skin out a bear and
43 take a bear without the claws and the head attached to
44 it and you're going to get yourself a ticket whether it
45 was defense of life and property or not. Am I correct
46 on that, George?

47

48 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, sir.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Any other

1 questions for them.

2

3

(No comments)

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CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you for that report, Polly. So it's still an issue on the table for us in the future.

DR. WHEELER: I'm still here, Mr. Chair. Next items to cover are the proposed changes to Section 19 regulations. This is on Page 36 of your books. I will preface this by saying this is another one of those seemingly bureaucratic issues that the Council does get presented with from time to time, but the Board did want to make sure that you all were aware of what was going on and what the Board is up to.

We're in the process of looking at some proposed changes to the section of our regulations which address special actions. Just to remind you, that's kind of like the emergency order under the State system. The primary purpose of these proposed revisions are to basically accommodate the new biannual regulatory cycle and improve some clarity with respect to the Board's process for accepting these requests and bring clarity to the role of the Regional Advisory Councils with respect to special action requests.

We did come up with a proposed rule and it is in your book. If you wanted to extend your meeting, I could read it, but you can all probably take a look at it yourself. It's somewhat lengthy. This is how it appears in the Federal Register only it's single spaced. These regulations are included in our subpart B regulations and if you probably remember the subpart D regulations are the regulations you all comment on. The subpart B regulations require Secretarial signatures.

So the Board is informing you as to what it's doing with these proposed changes, but recognizing that it's Secretarial signature level, it's not the level which requires Council review and the Federal Subsistence Board has the authority to sign off on these changes.

It got delayed back in D.C. Imagine that. So the proposed regulations finally got published in the Federal Register last week. Now the deadline for public comments is January 12th, 2010,

1 even though it says December 18th. This briefing was
2 written back in August when we were optimistic that
3 things would move smoothly back in D.C., but we're
4 learning. Slowly I'll admit. Any comments received
5 will be considered in developing the final rule. At
6 the Federal Subsistence Board meeting January 12th to
7 14th the Board will be accepting public comments. We
8 will present the Board with a summary of the public
9 comments and then take direction from the Board.

10

11 We will be developing a final rule if
12 the Board directs us to do so and then that will be
13 reviewed by the Solicitor's Office, the Staff
14 Committee, et cetera, then the draft final rule will be
15 sent to the Federal Register and published at some
16 point in time.

17

18 Again, the key aspects for you all to
19 pay attention to is some of the wording. Right now we
20 accept special actions based on extenuating
21 circumstances. Now it's time sensitive. You tell me
22 what the difference is. We're now accepting things
23 electronically and that's reflected in these
24 regulations. So it's really more bureaucratic than
25 content, but this is our attempt in part at clarity, so
26 we'll see what the public thinks of that. That's all I
27 have to say about that unless there's any questions.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you for not
30 reading the whole thing to us. I read it. I don't
31 think at this point in time most of us could -- most of
32 us would fall asleep.

33

34 DR. WHEELER: I was kidding.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I know you were
37 kidding, but thank you for not reading the whole thing.
38 If anybody is concerned about how special actions can
39 take place, it's worth reading. If you have any
40 comments on it, send them to Polly.

41

42 DR. WHEELER: Mr. Chair. I would say
43 too that this is another one where we will accept
44 public comments.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And forward them on.

47

48 DR. WHEELER: And forward them on,
49 exactly.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: For those of us that
2 are computer illiterate.

3
4 DR. WHEELER: Right. As one who is
5 sort of computer illiterate myself, if you get them to
6 me, I'll make sure I get them to somebody that can do
7 something with them. You can send them to OSM and
8 we'll make sure they get entered in.

9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Any questions
11 for her on this Section 19 special action.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No. Now you're on
16 again.

17
18 DR. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and
19 thank you for your patience. Number four on the list
20 here is climate change and subsistence management.
21 This is just a point of information as much as anything
22 else. Our office is increasingly being asked to
23 respond to climate change, how are we going to address
24 climate change, what do we do about it.

25
26 Clearly climate change, as you all
27 know, is a pretty big topic. Fish and Wildlife Service
28 is getting a lot of extra money this year to deal with
29 climate change, although our office is not. My concern
30 over this is what do we do about it in the context of
31 subsistence management. I think we are being
32 responsive to climate change when we get a special
33 action request to lengthen a season, shorten a season,
34 move a season because of late break up, early break up,
35 late freeze up, early freeze up, whatever. That's how
36 our program can respond to climate change.

37
38 We also have some fisheries monitoring
39 projects that are looking specifically at climate
40 change. I would also say a lot of our fisheries
41 monitoring projects are long-term data sets and those
42 are going to be helpful to us as anything. So we do
43 have these baselines from which to measure change.

44
45 So as time goes on we hear these
46 comments about climate change and Mr. Kompkoff had some
47 comments earlier about how things are changing. We're
48 trying to be responsive, but we have fairly narrow
49 parameters for how we can be responsive and what we do
50 with these comments. We can collect these comments,

1 but then what do we do with them. We're trying to
2 figure out ways. So any input or insights that you all
3 have for helping us figure out our way through this.
4 Our job is to protect and continue subsistence uses and
5 we need to protect and continue subsistence uses in
6 light of climate change. So that's all I have to say
7 about that, Mr. Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Polly. I
10 really appreciate the last thing you said because in
11 light of it, not dealing with it. There's no way that
12 we can deal with climate change. That's way beyond our
13 capability to deal with it, but we can react to how it
14 affects subsistence users. The long-term database, I
15 need to apologize to everybody from this morning. I
16 said Long Lake was the longest one in the state. I got
17 jumped all over and explained to me that Kodiak has had
18 a longer one, some place else has had a longer one,
19 some place else has had a longer one, so I'll correct
20 it to the longest one in Southcentral and I think I can
21 get away with that one.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Depends on the
26 year.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 MR. ROMIG: The longest what Ralph?

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The longest continuous
33 collected database for fish escapement. So I stepped
34 out of line. I didn't mean to be lying to you all. It
35 was a little egotistical since I've had quite personal
36 dealings with Long Lake.

37

38 MR. ROMIG: I'd like to say something
39 on climate change.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You have to come by a
42 microphone, Ben.

43

44 MR. ROMIG: I think climate change is
45 affecting us so fast now that I think some of the bag
46 limits and such like that are going to have to be
47 adjusted on an emergency scale somewhat like the State
48 has done in the past. For instance, when you go over
49 all the creeks that usually produce pike for instance
50 on the Kuskokwim, when they all dry up and there's a

1 need for an immediate change and there's all
2 subsistence use over there, those need to be addressed
3 right away.

4
5 When you have unusual low water or high
6 water or extremely high temperatures, a lot of these
7 things we can't wait until the next year to change it.
8 We need an immediate change.

9
10 I know this is the first summer that I
11 can remember that I couldn't even have a fire in my
12 smoke house because of the extreme heat. So all these
13 issues that have taken years and years to happen are
14 snowballing now and without a little bit of emergency
15 knowledge to some of the individuals I think there will
16 be a lot of wanton waste.

17
18 I definitely think that there needs --
19 Robert Gibson, for instance, talking about some of the
20 ways of reading the rule books and the proposals and
21 this and that. It is time now that we have a better
22 type of communication between the public and the people
23 that represent us. I notice that Bill Stockwell is not
24 here. Even so, I think we need to open the rapport up
25 a little bit amongst ourselves and be able to help
26 ourselves.

27
28 If there's a 25 bag limit quota, for
29 instance, that the dipnet fishery and people go up
30 there and notice something different from the year
31 before, a person needs to know where to go to make that
32 change right away. Some of these things we don't have
33 days and times and years.

34
35 Anyway, I'd just like to see a little
36 bit better -- personally, my awareness of climate
37 change, and I'm not here to argue with anybody, but I
38 think Alaska as a whole we're seeing it a lot different
39 than anywhere else. If you're from around here and
40 you've hunted here all your life, then you're really
41 noticing the changes. I'd just like to see those
42 things addressed at a more serious level rather than
43 argumentative. People tend to want to argue about
44 climate change rather than form a consensus. You know,
45 people have to start thinking that way.

46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think what Polly was
48 talking about in the changes to Section 19, the ability
49 enact special actions, I think streamlining that is
50 going to be pretty important to the future. Like you,

1 Ben, I think there may have to be actions taken. We
2 may have to have more special actions than we've had in
3 the past in reaction to what actually happens as
4 opposed to what we thought was going to happen in the
5 coming year.

6
7 The big problem is going to be
8 communicating those to the public so they can
9 understand them. I think you're right on that, Ben.
10 Thank you.

11
12 Lastly, Polly, the update on the
13 Kasilof fishwheel.

14
15 DR. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On
16 Page 48 in your books there's a short little update.
17 Just to remind you, because this is dealing with
18 something the Board did almost two years ago in
19 December 2007 on a Southcentral Alaska fisheries
20 proposal. For the benefit of the public, when the
21 Board takes an action, that action can be questioned
22 through a process that we call
23 request for reconsideration.

24
25 When we get a request for
26 reconsideration and there's a bunch of parameters for
27 that, it has to be submitted within a certain period of
28 time after the regulations are published. We develop
29 an analysis which reviews the claims made in the
30 request and we look at three criteria.

31
32 The request for reconsideration has to
33 either say that there's new information that's provided
34 that was not previously considered by the Board, the
35 existing information used by the Board is incorrect or
36 the Board's interpretation of information, applicable
37 law or regulation is in error or contrary to existing
38 law.

39
40 In this respect this fisheries request
41 for reconsideration requested Board action to adopt
42 with modification a proposal Number 08-09 and that
43 requested that temporary community fishwheels be
44 established on the Kenai River and Kasilof River for
45 the take of salmon. When the Board acted on that
46 proposal, it established a temporary fishwheel fishery
47 only on the Kasilof River and included several other
48 modifications. The Southcentral Alaska Subsistence
49 Regional Advisory Council had recommended support with
50 modification, but to also include the Kenai River. The

1 ADF&G requested reconsideration of the Board's action,
2 and to require reporting to occur within 24 hours
3 (rather than the 72 hours adopted by the Board) after
4 leaving the fishing site.

5
6 The Board finally met on this RFR this
7 past July. I will apologize on behalf of my staff that
8 with our workload we just didn't get to develop the
9 threshold analysis. It took us a lot more time than we
10 had intended. In any event, the analysis was done and
11 the Board met in July on this in a work session
12 concerning the request and a threshold analysis of the
13 claims. The Board concluded that none of the claims met
14 the criteria for further consideration, denied this
15 request for reconsideration, and thereby completed the
16 administrative process.

17
18 So that, Mr. Chair, is an update for
19 you all on that RFR of that proposal.

20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So basically the Board
22 left it stand as it was without reconsidering.

23
24 DR. WHEELER: That's correct, Mr.
25 Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any
28 questions for Polly.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Anything else you want
33 to throw at us?

34
35 DR. WHEELER: I'm done for now, Mr.
36 Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. With that
39 we go to tribal and non-governmental organizations.
40 We'll start with the Native Village of Eyak.

41
42 MR. VANDERBROCK: Mr. Chairman. Keith
43 van der Brock, Native Village of Eyak. I'm a Partners
44 biologist for the Fisheries Monitoring Program. I'm
45 just going to be giving a brief update on our 2009 FRMP
46 projects.

47
48 The 2009 season we were funded under
49 the FRMP for two studies. First was the chinook
50 escapement monitoring program, which has been ongoing

1 since 2001. This was the final year of study under the
2 current funding cycle. We have a new proposal that was
3 discussed in the FRMP update. This was ranked as the
4 highest priority for the Southcentral region by the
5 TRC. We're hopeful that funding will continue for an
6 additional four years after this.

7

8 This is also the final year of study
9 for the sockeye mark recapture analysis. There are
10 currently no plans to continue this unless our final
11 data analysis indicates a need. The previous two years
12 of study have indicated that Miles Lake sonar is a
13 valid indicator of salmon abundance as long as maximum
14 threshold for the sonar is acknowledged. We expect
15 similar results in 2009 that will be available later in
16 the fall.

17

18 Concurrently with these two studies we
19 were also operating a sockeye radio telemetry program.
20 This is no longer funded by the FRMP. It was picked up
21 by the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund. 2009 was the
22 final year this program will be operated. We're
23 currently working on a general publication that will
24 summarize the complete five years of the study.

25

26 Just to summarize our field operations
27 for 2009. Pre-season training began on May 1st. All
28 field personnel attended courses in first aid, CPR,
29 bear safety, firearms handling, boating safety,
30 standard operating procedures, fish handling guidelines
31 and were given a general overview of the FRMP program.

32

33 Eight full-time seasonal technicians
34 were employed. Of these, four are returning from the
35 2008 season. This is the highest percentage of
36 returning technicians we've ever had on the projects.
37 We were excited about it. I think it might be an
38 indicator of the economy at the moment.

39

40 In addition to the fisheries
41 technicians, the projects also employed two student
42 interns, two full-time permanent biologists, including
43 myself, and several on-call temporary laborers
44 throughout the season.

45

46 We began mobilization of Baird Canyon
47 on May 6th. Conditions were average with approximately
48 five feet of snow on the ground and moderate river ice
49 remaining. All personnel and equipment were brought in
50 by helicopter. The first fishwheel was operational by

1 May 13th and sampling continued through August 2nd.

2

3 We began mobilization of the Canin
4 Creek camp on May 13th. As usual, no snow or river ice
5 remained at this camp. However, mobilization was
6 slightly more difficult than usual with some of the
7 stored equipment we had out there sustaining damage
8 from bears over the winter and we also had a major
9 breakdown of one of the new boats shortly after
10 launching for the season.

11

12 Additionally some bank scouring had
13 occurred in front of the fishwheel storage site during
14 breakup, so we had to fill in several large divots
15 before the fishwheels could be launched. Despite these
16 challenges, mobilization was efficient and the fish
17 recovery fishwheel was operational by May 18th.

18

19 The first recaptured fish from Baird
20 were seen on May 23rd. Because of high water late in
21 the season, recovery fishwheels remained operational
22 for a longer duration than planned and final sampling
23 ceased on August 15th.

24

25 Some new developments on the program in
26 2009. We developed some new PDA software for sampling
27 fish. This increased sampling efficiency and ensured
28 higher-quality data for the program. We also replaced
29 the Canin Creek weather ports with small cabins and
30 built a tool shed, which will allow for safe overwinter
31 storage of equipment. This will hopefully dramatically
32 reduce mobilization time and cost in the future. Also
33 opens the potential for late fall or winter research to
34 be conducted at this site in the future.

35

36 At Baird Canyon we decommissioned
37 fishwheel 5. It was deemed no longer necessary now
38 that we completed the sockeye mark recapture study. So
39 this will reduce our sampling from five fishwheels down
40 to four. We also conducted testing which showed that
41 the strong potential to successfully install cell phone
42 antenna at Baird Canyon, which would relay a digital
43 signal from the flag point tower. We need some more
44 developmental work on this in 2010, but if it works it
45 would allow access to voice and data services and
46 eliminate the need for satellite, internet and
47 telephones.

48

49 Some problems encountered this season.
50 Boat problems and breakdowns seemed to be our biggest

1 problem for some reason despite having replaced much of
2 our aging equipment with four new boats at the start of
3 the season. Every one of our new boats experienced
4 total engine failure and had to be returned to the shop
5 for warranty repairs at various times through the
6 season.

7
8 Our older boats and outboard motors
9 that are still operational experienced the usual
10 breakdowns and required continual maintenance, but
11 overall actually proved more reliable than the brand-
12 new boats. Not sure why this occurred, but hopefully
13 we've resolved all the issues for next year.

14
15 Also a problem this season for the
16 first time on the projects we lost a fishwheel when the
17 dead man anchor pulled free on very high water. The
18 crew unfortunately ignored protocol on installing
19 secondary anchors. Fortunately this happened only a
20 few days before we had already planned demobilization
21 of that wheel and run strength had already slowed, so
22 we didn't lose any major sampling effort.

23
24 We were able to recover the fishwheel
25 from a gravel bar about two miles downstream, but it
26 had incurred extensive damage. So we replaced all four
27 decks and we've hauled the life tanks back to Cordova
28 for welding repairs. The pontoons and the uprights
29 were not damaged and the baskets were already scheduled
30 for replacement next season, so we'll be rebuilding
31 those on schedule.

32
33 In terms of preliminary data, we're
34 still working through the database and unfortunately I
35 don't have anything to present at this time. Because
36 of the poor chinook salmon return observed in the
37 fisheries, I'm getting a lot of pressure from managers
38 to produce a chinook escapement estimate as soon as
39 possible, recognizing the importance of this, so I will
40 hopefully have numbers available by the end of
41 November.

42
43 That concludes my report unless there's
44 any questions.

45
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You say you got your
47 first fishwheel in at Baird Canyon on May 13th?

48
49 MR. VANDERBROCK: That is correct,
50 yeah.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: When was the first
2 fish caught in it?
3
4 MR. VANDERBROCK: I believe it was
5 operational for two days before we saw any fish.
6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: About May 15th?
8
9 MR. VANDERBROCK: Yeah.
10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And then the first
12 fish was caught in the recapture one on May 23rd.
13
14 MR. VANDERBROCK: The first recapture
15 was on May 23rd. We were catching fish pretty much
16 immediately when we launched those wheels.
17
18 MR. ROMIG: Is this part of an
19 educational deal? What type of an operation is it?
20 How many fish do you get?
21
22 MR. VANDERBROCK: We're not retaining
23 fish. It's a mark recapture program to enumerate the
24 strength of the run entering the river. We generally
25 tag approximately 5,000 chinook salmon each season.
26 With the sockeye work, we've been tagging a total of
27 15,000 fish between the two species.
28
29 MR. ROMIG: When you catch them in a
30 wheel, the mortality is not too bad?
31
32 MR. VANDERBROCK: Virtually negligible.
33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: They have live boxes.
35
36 MR. VANDERBROCK: We have live tanks in
37 the wheels and we're able to safely capture and retain
38 about 400 fish at a time before overcrowding becomes an
39 issue. We're checking wheels on average three times a
40 day. During the peak we'll check them more regularly.
41
42 MR. ROMIG: One of the better ways to
43 really get a fish?
44
45 MR. VANDERBROCK: It's been incredibly
46 successful.
47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's interesting
49 because I did the same thing in 1968 on the Copper
50 River when they were talking about putting a dam at

1 Woods Canyon. At that time the Army Corps of Engineers
2 was saying not sufficient fish went through Woods
3 Canyon to be of any economic importance, that most of
4 the reds spawned on the delta. That was one of the
5 things we did to show that there was economic incentive
6 there not to have a dam on Woods Canyon.

7
8 At the same time they were talking
9 about the Rampart dam and I think the political
10 environment changed about that same time too. It was
11 interesting because the Army Corps of Engineers
12 basically said in their report it would have negligible
13 impact on the red salmon of Copper River to put a dam
14 at Woods Canyon.

15
16 This tag and recapture thing is
17 probably the most effective way to actually find out
18 how many fish of what kind go up the river that there
19 is. It's very accurate. If it's operated properly,
20 has very low mortality.

21
22 I think Eyak's program that they've put
23 in I think it's considered one of the best examples
24 that's been done in the state. The information and
25 validity that's come out of it is very, very good. I'd
26 like to thank you guys for it.

27
28 Any questions for him?

29
30 MR. ROMIG: That shows you how far
31 we've gone. They used to dynamite them out there.

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Anything else
34 that you want to throw at us?

35
36 MR. VANDERBROCK: Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you for your
39 work and thank you for your report. U.S. Fish and
40 Wildlife Service.

41
42 MR. PALMER: Mr. Chair. Council
43 members. Doug Palmer, Federal fisheries manager for
44 the Cook Inlet area for the Fish and Wildlife Service.
45 I have a summary of harvest that has been reported to
46 date for the Cook Inlet area on the Kenai and Kasilof
47 Rivers. I had hoped you had this information and
48 materials, but I understand it was not distributed.
49 Donald will send that to you electronically after this
50 meeting, I guess.

1 Just a brief summary on the number of
2 permits that we issued and some of the harvest
3 statistics that we've observed so far this year. The
4 permits totaled 160 for the year and that's all three
5 fisheries in the Kenai, Kasilof and Tustumena Lake ice
6 fishery. About half of those were issued to residents
7 from Cooper Landing, 15 percent from Hope/Sunrise area,
8 and 37 percent from the Ninilchik community.

9
10 A total of about 1,000 salmon have been
11 harvested in those fisheries on both rivers during
12 2009. This level of harvest is in between what we
13 observed last year, which was around 1,700 fish and the
14 previous year about 750 fish, so right between the two
15 previous years. All the harvest was sockeye with the
16 exception of 6 coho salmon that were reported. Keep in
17 mind that these aren't final statistics because the
18 reports are still coming in. It gives you a general
19 idea of the harvest.

20
21 About 74 percent of that harvest of
22 1,000 fish were taken from the dipnet fishery on the
23 Russian River. Mostly Cooper Landing and Hope
24 residents participated in that fishery. The Ninilchik
25 folks harvested the majority of their sockeye actually
26 from the Kenai River this year using the rod and reel
27 fishery both in Moose Range Meadows and the Upper Kenai
28 River.

29
30 I'd be glad to answer any questions
31 regarding the harvest summary if the Council members
32 have any. Otherwise we do have a brief summary report
33 also on the fisheries research that OSM has funded on
34 the coho and steelhead fisheries on the Kasilof
35 watershed.

36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Just a couple
38 questions. You said the majority of the fish were
39 sockeye, six cohos, no chinook harvested?

40
41 MR. PALMER: No chinook, no resident
42 species.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And no resident
45 species, no rainbows, no steelhead.

46
47 MR. PALMER: None reported to date,
48 yes. Also I forgot to mention that no fish were
49 reported as harvested in the Tustumena Lake ice
50 fishery. We issued five permits for that this year.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But no fish were
2 harvested.
3
4 MR. PALMER: Right.
5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And the fishwheel
7 wasn't put into place this year either.
8
9 MR. PALMER: It was not. Greg, were
10 you going to give that report? I don't want to steal
11 your thunder.
12
13 MR. ENCELEWSKI: You go right ahead.
14
15 (Laughter)
16
17 MR. PALMER: Yes, we made some progress
18 on the fishwheel on the Kasilof River this year. The
19 Fish and Wildlife Service has approved an operational
20 plan that was done, I believe, in the spring, about
21 April. The Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, Robin West,
22 issued a special use permit to operate that fishwheel,
23 so the ball was on the Kasilof side of the court as far
24 as getting that wheel in the water. They have made
25 some progress in the way of building some floats for
26 the fishwheel and my understanding is that there's
27 other components that are being constructed. The hope
28 is to have that in the river next season.
29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Correct me if I'm
31 wrong. The fishwheel does not increase the amount of
32 fish that are available, just provides a different
33 method for taking them, am I correct?
34
35 MR. PALMER: That's correct. They're
36 still seasonal.....
37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The same limits still
39 apply.
40
41 MR. PALMER:and household limits
42 that apply.
43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's not additional,
45 it's cumulative.
46
47 MR. PALMER: That's correct. That's a
48 temporary fishery that's good for two more years, three
49 years total, or until 2011.
50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.
2
3 MR. ENCELEWSKI: It depends on the
4 interpretation, I guess.
5
6 MR. PALMER: Anyhow, it's going to spin
7 next year most likely.
8
9 MR. ENCELEWSKI: That's good to know.
10 My understanding it was from the time of the permit
11 issue, so it would be two more years because we just
12 got the permit issued even though we didn't use it.
13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Any other
15 questions. Doug.
16
17 MR. BLOSSOM: Mr. Chair. I might
18 direct this probably to Greg. As a matter of review,
19 how are you going to disperse the fish? What was
20 happening with that part? Who gets them when they're
21 caught? Everybody in the subsistence area or what
22 happens there?
23
24 MR. ROMIG: Yeah.
25
26 MR. ENCELEWSKI: You need to read the
27 plan, Doug. Our plan that we submitted specifically
28 was through the Council and that plan was you sign up
29 and you fish the day you sign up for and you go under
30 your bag limits as required by law.
31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think Doug was
33 asking is that sign up available to only people from
34 Ninilchik or everybody that's qualified.
35
36 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Well, my understanding
37 is it's available to all the users in the area.
38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's what I thought.
40
41 MR. PALMER: The only users that are
42 eligible for the Kasilof River are folks from
43 Ninilchik, so Cooper Landing and Hope folks do not have
44 C&T for the Kasilof River.
45
46 MR. ENCELEWSKI: That's correct.
47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But the plan has been
49 approved.
50

1 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yep.
2
3 MR. PALMER: It has been approved, yes.
4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions.
6
7 MR. ROMIG: Yeah. Did you have data on
8 the increase?
9
10 MR. PALMER: Increase in?
11
12 MR. ROMIG: The amount being caught.
13
14 MR. PALMER: Actually it decreased this
15 year from the previous year. From 2008 was our highest
16 harvest level, around 1,700 fish, and it's actually
17 dropped off to about 1,000 fish
18 reported so far this year.
19
20 MR. ROMIG: Is that just from lack of
21 interest?
22
23 MR. PALMER: There's a couple things
24 that were possibly going on. The early run sockeye
25 returning to the Russian River came in fairly strong
26 this year, so some users may have -- the State issued
27 an EO which increased the bag limit to six fish in the
28 recreational fishery in the Kenai River at confluence
29 area Russian River. So rather than walk up to the
30 falls, some users may have opted to fish the
31 recreational fishery since the fishing was considered
32 fairly good there this year and saved themselves a
33 little walking and harvested fish under a sportfishing
34 license as opposed to subsistence permit. That's one
35 possibility.
36
37 MR. ROMIG: Yeah. As far as bear/human
38 conflicts, what have you seen along those lines?
39
40 MR. PALMER: The folks that I have
41 talked to that have participated in that fishery have
42 had no bear interactions. Overall the number of bear
43 interactions was way down. Somebody else could
44 probably talk to the number of DLPs that occurred this
45 year, but it was way down from the previous year.
46
47 I will mention there has been some
48 interaction between subsistence users at the fall and
49 non-subsistence users. A lot of that was dealt with
50 this year with some signage that the Forest Service put

1 up to explain to tourists what was going on. People
2 aren't used to seeing people with dipnets at the falls
3 in what has been a no-fishing area for many years. I
4 think a lot of that has been resolved.

5
6 MR. ROMIG: Personally, I think if a
7 person only wants a particular amount of fish per year,
8 if you can go down and get your 25 fish in a day, it's
9 nice. One thing I'd like to point out, when you target
10 that one day toward those specific fish with a group of
11 people, the bears usually know what you're doing and
12 they're out of the area. Makes it for a pretty safe
13 fishery.

14
15 When you go down there sportfishing by
16 yourself, you're quiet, you're only picking up a
17 certain amount of fish, you're putting in a lot more
18 hours on the stream, therefore when you catch the
19 quantity that you want to catch at the end of the year,
20 you've put a lot more hours on the stream, therefore
21 increasing the odds of running into a bear.

22
23 So I think not only as a way of getting
24 your fish very efficiently, I think that we've lowered
25 the odds of the human/bear conflicts substantially too.
26 Also this year there just wasn't as many bears as
27 normal in general in Cooper Landing. But I think added
28 on to the fact that people put their barbecues away,
29 they are doing these dipnet fisheries and they're
30 taking a few precautions. Maybe some of the real late
31 night closures and stuff like that, I think those all
32 added into the bear/human conflicts which we'd like to
33 all see go down. As far as the subsistence fishery
34 goes, I think it's helped the bear/human conflicts.

35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Ben.
37 Anybody else have any questions. Doug.

38
39 MR. BLOSSOM: Mr. Chair. You were
40 going to talk about steelhead and coho.

41
42 MR. PALMER: I'll let my counterpart
43 here, Jeff Anderson, speak to the research.

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Bob, did you have a
46 question directly for him.

47
48 MR. GIBSON: Yes. Robert Gibson here
49 again. My question relates to the collection of
50 harvest reports and data. What compliance from the

1 subsistence users do you see when it comes to in-season
2 reporting? As far as I know, reporting is regulated to
3 be within 72 hours. Does that happen -- or you say the
4 reports are still coming in. Is there a tendency for
5 everybody to wait until the last day or week for
6 reporting so that you have a grasp of what the harvest
7 has been? Number one, for the salmon and I believe
8 it's April the 15th for resident species. Is there a
9 requirement for in-season reporting on the resident
10 species as well? If not, I can't remember what the
11 regulation says right now, but would it be helpful for
12 us to understand salmon migration and the timing for
13 resident species such as trout and dollies in regards
14 to spawning of the salmon?

15

16 MR. PALMER: There are several
17 questions you had there. I'll try to do my best to
18 answer them. First of all, this was the first year
19 that we did not issue separate permits for salmon and
20 resident species simply because it was an additional
21 administrative exercise based on the track record of
22 harvest that we've seen with resident species. We
23 didn't see the need to issue separate permits, so we
24 consolidated the permit and we issued one permit now
25 for the Kenai River, which includes both salmon and
26 resident species and then another permit for the
27 Kasilof that includes salmon and resident species.

28

29 MR. GIBSON: But does that not extend
30 the period that you can study the harvest report?

31

32 MR. PALMER: Well, that was some of the
33 confusion, that there were separate different reporting
34 requirements, so now it's by the calendar year. The
35 permit is from January 1st through the end of the year
36 through December. Reports are due no later than
37 January 31st. To date, about 50 percent of the permit
38 holders have reported. As far as in-season reporting,
39 the only folks that have to report in season are the
40 folks that participate in the dipnet fisheries at the
41 Russian River falls, below Skilak, Moose Range Meadows
42 and also on the Kasilof River.

43

44 If you're using hook and line to
45 harvest fish, there is no reporting requirement
46 in-season. So those are the numbers that are still
47 trickling in. So the lion's share of the harvest
48 comes from the dipnet fisheries. I have that
49 information and there's been excellent compliance as
50 far as people reporting within 72 hours of harvest.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.
2
3 MR. GIBSON: That follows State
4 regulations anyway. The bag limits.
5
6 MR. PALMER: Excuse me. I don't
7 understand the question.
8
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No, it's not State
10 regulations. The reporting that you're getting is
11 strictly Federal.
12
13 MR. PALMER: Federal subsistence
14 fisheries only.
15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Federal only.
17
18 MR. GIBSON: But the bag limits follow
19 the regulations of Fish and Game, of State regulations,
20 correct?
21
22 MR. PALMER: Well, it's similar. For
23 household limits in these fisheries we're speaking
24 about Russian River falls, for example, it's 25 sockeye
25 for head of household, five additional fish for each
26 family member. Are you referring about the personal
27 use fishery at the mouth of the Kenai River?
28
29 MR. GIBSON: No, no. I'm talking about
30 the subsistence permit as it relates to the resident
31 species.
32
33 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I think he's
34 talking about hook and line.
35
36 MR. GIBSON: Hook and line, yeah.
37 Exactly.
38
39 MR. PALMER: Hook and line, there is no
40 requirement to report within 72 hours for resident
41 species.
42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The bag limits are
44 double the State.
45
46 MR. GIBSON: I know that.
47
48 MR. PALMER: As a general rule. The
49 exception is -- and the gear types you're allowed to
50 use are more liberal in most cases as well.

1 MR. GIBSON: Uh-huh.
2
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Thank you.
4
5 MR. GIBSON: Thank you.
6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Go ahead.
8
9 MR. ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
10 Council members. I'm Jeff Anderson, staff for Mr.
11 Palmer. I've got a quick update on some of our ongoing
12 projects, which are listed on Table 2 on Page 23 of the
13 handout here. Start with 08-502. It's run timing,
14 abundance and distribution of adult coho salmon in the
15 Kasilof River watershed. That involves some radio
16 telemetry work and some weirs, mark recapture in 2008.
17 Basically came up with an abundance estimate of a
18 little over 16,000 coho salmon for the entire
19 watershed. Breakdown about 6,800 in Tustumena Lake in
20 the tributaries and about 9,500 in the Kasilof River
21 itself.
22
23 We also have a couple of weirs still in
24 this year counting coho in Nikolai and Shantatalik
25 Creek tributaries of Tustumena Lake. As of last week
26 we only had about a little less than 500 coho come back
27 to Nikolai and a little under 20 so far to Shantatalik,
28 but I think it's a weather/rain related issue. I think
29 we're expecting a big pulse as soon as we get a good
30 pulse of water up through there.
31
32 That's pretty much the last year for
33 this project. We're going to wrap up a report covering
34 the abundance estimate for the 2008 work as a peer
35 reviewed journal article with our biometrician. We
36 have a data series report already out covering the
37 telemetry work in 2008 and then we'll have another
38 follow-up report for the coho weir escapement this year
39 for this project.
40
41 With that I'll move on to 08-503, the
42 Kasilof River steelhead radio telemetry. That was
43 tagging work and tracking with radio telemetry from
44 September 2008 through June of 2009. We tagged 80 fish
45 in September and tracked them through June of this year
46 and had 38 confirmed spawners. Most of them in the
47 Crooked Creek, some in Nikolai Creek and a few in Coal
48 Creek and Shantatalik Creek and the fate of the
49 remaining 42 fish are probably either going to be
50 backed out or the dead categories. We're working on a

1 final report for that project.

2

3 08-504 is the Crooked Creek and Nikolai
4 Creek steelhead weirs. This past spring we counted 564
5 steelhead in Crooked Creek, 471 in the Nikolai Creek
6 and that's the final year for this project and we're
7 going to have a report coming out over the winter.

8

9 That's a quick rundown on our.....

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Did those look pretty
12 average from the years that you did it?

13

14 MR. ANDERSON: For the steelhead work
15 in Crooked Creek and Nikolai, it looks like it was down
16 a little bit from the previous year in 2008. We had
17 877 in Crooked Creek, 588 in Nikolai, so both down a
18 little bit from 2008.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But they're both less
21 than 1,000 fish.

22

23 MR. ANDERSON: Correct. We did also
24 document steelhead spawning in a couple of additional
25 tributaries, small numbers of fish in Indian Creek and
26 also Coal Creek as well.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Did you come up with
29 an overall estimate for the steelhead run on the
30 Kasilof River?

31

32 MR. ANDERSON: No, we did not, and I
33 don't think that was one of the objectives of the
34 study.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I don't think it was.
37 I was just wondering.

38

39 MR. PALMER: What may be of interest,
40 what these steelhead do when they first enter the
41 Kasilof River in the fall, they're coming in September
42 into October, they're certainly taking advantage of the
43 food resources available with the king salmon that are
44 spawning, then the coho salmon that are spawning in
45 October going into November in the upper watershed. We
46 observed nearly half of the radio-tagged fish utilizing
47 Tustumena Lake at some point during the winter. A lot
48 of those steelhead reside in the upper watershed all
49 winter long, but then come spawning time a lot of those
50 fish drop down and migrate up the Crooked Creek for

1 spawning.

2

3 Peak abundance past the weirs is
4 typically about the second week of May, with spawning
5 occurring later in May and then kelt immigration back
6 out mostly during June.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Was your radio
9 telemetry still going for the kelt outmigration?

10

11 MR. PALMER: We operated the tracking
12 through the end of June.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: What percentage of the
15 ones you tagged went back out?

16

17 MR. ANDERSON: I don't have that
18 number.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Was it pretty low or
21 about what you'd expect? Do you have an idea on that?

22

23 MR. PALMER: Can't answer that because
24 the biologist that has that information isn't here
25 today.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All right. Any other
28 questions. Doug.

29

30 MR. BLOSSOM: Mr. Chair. Did I
31 understand right, you just checked two streams for coho
32 or you did the whole lake?

33

34 MR. ANDERSON: We have weirs on two
35 tributaries to Tustumena Lake, Nikolai Lake and
36 Shantatalik Lake.

37

38 MR. BLOSSOM: Mr. Chair. The reason I
39 ask is what did you do at Indian Creek? Did you check
40 it at all?

41

42 MR. ANDERSON: Yes. Actually we
43 tracked radio-tagged fish into Indian Creek. We
44 tracked 20 tagged fish into Indian Creek. I think in
45 our abundance estimate we would be able to split those
46 fish out to have an estimate of how many those 20 fish
47 represent overall for the entire abundance.

48

49 MR. BLOSSOM: What is that, the
50 abundance?

1 MR. PALMER: The abundance is 6,800
2 fish in Tustumena Lake and tributaries and an
3 additional 9,500 in the Kasilof River.

4
5 MR. BLOSSOM: The reason I ask, Tom
6 Mears and I physically counted 10,000 coho in Indian
7 Creek one year by ourselves, so it just shows you how
8 it can fluctuate in different areas.

9
10 MR. PALMER: One comment about Indian
11 Creek. It's the only glacial system where coho seem to
12 do well in that watershed. The other streams are
13 smaller and non-glacial. So I think the conditions in
14 Indian Creek vary dramatically from one year to the
15 next, so that may have some bearing on fluctuations in
16 abundance there.

17
18 Basically what we did was use the radio
19 telemetry information along with the weir counts on two
20 of those tributaries and our biometrician came up with
21 a model that he developed to estimate abundance using
22 that information.

23
24 There is a difference in run timing.
25 The tributaries spawners come in early and then the
26 mainstem spawners will come in later, so there is run
27 timing differences that occur with the coho in the
28 watershed.

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions?

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

35
36 MR. PALMER: Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: U.S. Forest Service

39
40 MR. ZEMKE: Mr. Chair. Council. Steve
41 Zemke, I'm the subsistence coordinator for Chugach
42 National Forest and to my left is Milo Burcham, our
43 subsistence wildlife biologist in the Cordova Ranger
44 District and also kind of the Prince William Sound
45 area.

46
47 What I'll do today is give you kind of
48 a brief update on our current schedule of proposed
49 actions, called the SOPA, and then discuss some of the
50 subsistence activities on the Kenai Peninsula portion

1 of the forest and then Milo would give you an update on
2 wildlife and subsistence activities out in Prince
3 William Sound.

4
5 Before I go onto that, I'd like to say
6 -- I don't remember in March whether I told you we had
7 three new rangers on the forest on each one of our
8 three districts. There's Teresa Benson on the Cordova
9 Ranger District, Kate Walker on the Glacier Ranger
10 District, and Travis Mosely on the Seward Ranger
11 District, which includes most of all Unit 7 on kind of
12 the western side for reference. And none of them are
13 here today, but we also have a deputy district ranger
14 who is stationed in Moose Pass but is kind of deputy
15 for the entire three ranger districts and that's Robert
16 Stovall. He came in after introductions today, so I
17 don't know if he wants to stand up so you can see his
18 face.

19
20 One other note of personnel is Tim
21 Joyce, who you probably all know as the fisheries
22 subsistence biologist out in Cordova. He's moved on to
23 a new position also in Cordova, so he won't be directly
24 involved in the subsistence program now. In the
25 interim, I'll be taking care of some of the fisheries
26 information, but the permitting portion of things Milo
27 Burcham, since he's in Cordova, will be handling that
28 important work.

29
30 So I guess I'll move on to the schedule
31 of proposed actions. I think I passed that around.
32 It's 11 pages and it's organized by ranger district as
33 you go through. The first page is national programs
34 and it has to do with oil and gas and there really
35 aren't any oil and gas opportunities on the forest, so
36 it's probably not applicable, but after that there will
37 be the Cordova Ranger District, the Glacier Ranger
38 District and then the Seward Ranger District as it goes
39 down in order.

40
41 There's actually 37 projects that are
42 listed there, 12 are from Cordova, 13 are from Glacier
43 and then 12 are from the Seward Ranger District. Many
44 of them probably don't have a lot of applicability to
45 subsistence hunting and fishing opportunities on the
46 forest, so you may not be real interested in that.

47
48 I'll give you a brief overview. On the
49 Cordova Ranger District, if you look on Page 2, in the
50 past we've discussed this outfitter and guide

1 reauthorizations and those are ongoing on the forest
2 and each year there's a batch of those that go through
3 the process. I know Tom Carpenter has been very
4 interested in that. There's about six to eight of those
5 a year that go through. Bruce Campbell is the
6 recreation special uses coordinator on the district as
7 the person who handles that.

8
9 Also one of the things that's going on
10 in Prince William Sound, we've got the Hawkins Island
11 off-road vehicle reconstruction and that's on Page 2
12 and that's ongoing. Some of it's related to
13 subsistence use for deer hunting. What we're planning
14 to do is take a look at a planning effort that may be
15 upcoming this year to take a look at trying to
16 designate some trails and then probably rehabilitate
17 some trails and then rehabilitate some trails that are
18 unauthorized use. I think Ken Hodges is the primary
19 contact for that effort.

20
21 If you have any questions, feel free to
22 ask. I present this each time and it's updated
23 quarterly, this Schedule of Proposed Action, so there
24 will be another one coming up and maybe I can include
25 it in your Council booklet earlier so you can take a
26 look at it and see if you have any specific concerns
27 before the meeting.

28
29 Moving on to Glacier Ranger District.
30 In Glacier probably the things of most interest are
31 some fish pass reconstructions that are going on in
32 Otter, Solf Lake and Shrode Lake out in western Prince
33 William Sound. Those were fish passes that were put in
34 several years ago, probably decades ago, and they're
35 gradually disintegrating. A lot of them were built
36 with gavean (ph) baskets and gavean baskets have broken
37 up over the years and probably looking at pouring
38 concrete in that.

39
40 Solf Lake, which is a small lake in
41 northern Knight Island, a large portion of that was
42 targeted at providing subsistence opportunities for
43 Chenega Bay residents, since that's relatively close to
44 their community.

45
46 Then finally onto the Seward Ranger
47 District, the major one that's coming up is what's
48 called Resurrection Creek reconstruction/restoration
49 and that's a major creek that flows through the
50 community of Hope. Res Creek 1 has been completed. It

1 was about a mile of reconstruction and it's been a very
2 successful project. King salmon and coho salmon are
3 currently spawning and rearing in the channel.

4
5 This new Res. Creek 2 reconstruction
6 project on Page 10 is to help restore that creek that
7 has been degraded in the past from placer mining
8 activities that occurred back in the early 1900s.
9 That's been a cooperative project with quite a few
10 various folks, the Youth Restoration Corps. Currently
11 there's no subsistence fishery within the area, but
12 talking with some of the folks in Hope they've
13 indicated that they may be considering proposing
14 customary and traditional use for that stream system.

15
16 I guess that's what I have for the
17 schedule of proposed action. I'm not sure if there's
18 any questions. If you don't, I'll kind of move on to
19 the second part of my presentation.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 MR. ZEMKE: That's the agency report,
24 U.S. Forest Service Kenai Peninsula and Chugach
25 National Forest. The first one is kind of the
26 permitted subsistence fishing participation harvest on
27 the Seward Ranger District. Again, it's mostly about
28 the Russian Falls subsistence fishery. It's
29 essentially the same information that Doug Palmer
30 already presented, so I won't go into too much detail
31 on that that.

32
33 It is interesting to note that in 2009,
34 I've got this 124, that's different from the 160 that
35 Doug had quoted and that's actually for Kasilof and the
36 Kenai, where this 124 is just for the Kenai permits.
37 That's actually a slight decrease in the number of
38 permits from 2008. There was 134 salmon permits and
39 there was only 124 in 2009. There's been a slight
40 decrease in the number of permits, 77 in Cooper Landing
41 in 2009 versus the 84 households that got permits in
42 2008. Ninilchik went from 30 households in 2008 to 23
43 in 2009. Though Hope has shown an increase in number
44 of permits and it went from 20 to 24.

45
46 One of the things we are doing for
47 Cooper Landing and Hope is we're hosting a meeting
48 before the beginning of the fishing season each year to
49 be able to provide one-stop shopping for the people
50 here. Our district office is in Moose Pass, so that's

1 a fair distance from here or conversely to Soldotna to
2 pick up a fishing permit, so we have a meeting here, go
3 over the current regulations and also provide an
4 opportunity for the residents to pick up a subsistence
5 fishing permit at that time. That's been pretty
6 successful. We get 40 or 50 people show up, so there's
7 an increased level of interest in direct activities.

8
9 Again, the rest of this, kind of the
10 table that shows the sockeye harvest, as Doug said,
11 it's kind of unusual that the number of harvest is down
12 significantly from what it was last year, though the
13 rod and reel reporting isn't in right now. In the
14 dipnet areas, if they capture either by dipnet or rod
15 and reel in those specific areas they require to have
16 it 72 reporting, but then other areas they have till
17 the end of the year or January 31st.

18
19 So that's what I had for kind of the
20 permitted fishing activities. Then on the next page on
21 the back of this Page 2 it's kind of a brief paragraph
22 on the subsistence moose hunt that was first instituted
23 last year. It's register moose 071. This year, as of
24 October 9th, there was 22 permits issued and there's
25 been no reported harvest. That season is now closed
26 for Unit 7, but there is still an upcoming season for
27 that permit in Unit 15B, which is kind of north of
28 Tustumena Lake, west of Russian River and kind of south
29 of Skilak Lake. That's upcoming from October 20th
30 through November 10th. Also Robin West, the refuge
31 manager, keeps track of that and it could close by
32 emergency order if, in his opinion with consultation
33 with ADF&G, an adequate number of bulls have been
34 harvested.

35
36 In contrast, last year in 2008 there
37 was actually 33 permits issued for that hunt. There
38 was no reported harvest in either season last year. We
39 actually had eight permit reports. Hunt reports were
40 not turned in as required. Those permit holders were
41 given two notices that they needed to report and they
42 did not report, so those eight were allowed to
43 participate in this year's hunt and that may be some of
44 the reason why there's fewer numbers this year than
45 last. Another one is that people may have decided it
46 wasn't in their interest to be able to pick up a
47 permit.

48
49 Again, we had a meeting here in Cooper
50 Landing to be able to explain what the hunt was, what

1 their opportunities were, where they could hunt.
2 Unlike these subsistence fishery season where people
3 can fish within the exterior boundaries of the unit, on
4 the wildlife hunt they have to hunt on Federal public
5 land. So they have to be on Forest Service or Kenai
6 Wildlife Refuge in Units 7 and 15B. That meeting was
7 well attended and we were able to provide permits
8 there. The people that didn't get permits at that
9 meeting could either go to Moose Pass or to Soldotna at
10 the refuge to pick up permits in that area.

11
12 From what people are saying and what
13 I've heard today, I think we'll plan a talk with some
14 of the individuals here and have a winter meeting in
15 January or February to talk about the current fishing
16 regulations and see whether or not -- to help people to
17 figure out whether they need to put in any new
18 regulations that would help meet their subsistence
19 fishing opportunities.

20
21 That's all I have. If there's no
22 questions, then Milo will take over.

23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions.

25
26 MR. ROMIG: Yeah.

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Ben.

29
30 MR. ROMIG: These meetings that you
31 have down here, what type of - do you put them on the
32 radio?

33
34 MR. ZEMKE: Yeah, we put flyers up in
35 the post office. I'm not sure about the radio, but
36 we've got public contact here and we try to advertise
37 them that way.

38
39 MR. ROMIG: Public contact here?

40
41 MR. ZEMKE: Yeah. If you've got other
42 ideas about how we could better meet.....

43
44 MR. ROMIG: What's the public contact
45 here now?

46
47 MR. ZEMKE: Pardon?

48
49 MR. ROMIG: The public contact here now
50 is just a thing that goes up on a board?

1 MR. ZEMKE: Yeah. And Kay Brown and
2 Bobby Jo Skibo, who is kind of the Russian River
3 interagency coordinator, she's got a large contact list
4 and we can put it through that way. Say the local
5 advisory committee, if they have an email list, it
6 would probably help to put that in.

7
8 MR. ROMIG: I don't think that Cooper
9 Landing is being short-changed at all in any of the
10 harvests, but I think some of the local people are
11 having a hard time communicating with the other people.
12 For instance, this meeting wasn't listed anywhere. I
13 heard it on the radio. The Fish and Game meetings,
14 there's been very little input. In other words, they
15 have a certain amount of people and usually that
16 certain amount of people show up at the meetings.

17
18 We used to have meetings down here 20
19 years ago and 10 people would be on the committee and
20 20 people would be in the audience. Now we have
21 meetings down here and people just want to get a quorum
22 and the public really doesn't have a lot of input.

23
24 What I'm saying is that if you're in
25 these meetings and you have these public contacts or a
26 good connection within the community, you will get
27 notice of these things, but there are a lot of people
28 and I can name at least half a dozen families that are
29 getting older in the years and they don't get out as
30 much and I would like to see them be able to
31 participate in some of these things and I'd like to see
32 some of the younger people providing some of the things
33 for these older people.

34
35 If you're going to try to sustain
36 something like this where it is actually sharing, I
37 think that everybody needs to share. It's not a -- you
38 know, it's right, it's wrong. In the villages they
39 call the people that have been there a long time
40 elders. Now we're starting to call them old people
41 here and old people are kind of cumbersome to younger
42 people. So I think if some of these older people that
43 I'm aware of with disabilities and such that have eaten
44 fish and moose all their lives, if there was some way
45 that they could get a little bit of that, I think
46 that's about the only thing that's lacking.

47
48 If you're on the internet and you're in
49 the loop so to speak, you will find out. Let me tell
50 you, it doesn't take much not to be in the loop down

1 here.

2

3 MR. ZEMKE: If you have folks that you
4 know, let me know and we can get them on a formal
5 mailing list and make sure they get the flyers that the
6 meetings are upcoming. Let me visit with you
7 afterwards.

8

9 MR. ROMIG: I've never had a problem
10 with individuals on this, and I don't want to break
11 away from this, but, for instance, something as easy as
12 the roadkill list, it gets to be that one person has
13 the list, then you have to sign up with this other
14 person, but then that other person has to get a hold of
15 dispatch. So a lot of times you have to go through
16 three or four people before you can get on the right
17 list. There's a lot of people going without, older
18 people down here, elders, and I'd like to see them
19 getting their fair share.

20

21 Even these people that go up the falls,
22 I don't see a lot of locals in there today, but if they
23 were just aware that there are people that can't walk
24 that far and they can get a permit and people can fish
25 for them. A lot of those old people do not know that.
26 That's the only thing I see lacking here.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So, Ben, what you're
29 saying is that we need to get better information out as
30 to when the meetings are and what's available for the
31 old folks?

32

33 MR. ROMIG: Yes. Yeah, because the
34 young folks, the old folks will tell them. That's the
35 only thing that I see any flaw at all, if you want to
36 even call it a flaw.

37

38 MR. ZEMKE: Thank you, Ben. We'll take
39 that into consideration. I think that's a very good
40 point.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Ben.

43

44 MR. GIBSON: My question is, is a proxy
45 good for subsistence hunting or fishing?

46

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: There are proxy
48 permits and limitations. I'm not sure what they all
49 are on every fishery or hunting thing.

50

1 MR. GIBSON: Do you know?
2
3 MR. BURCHAM: For hunting, except for
4 Unit 6 in Cordova, you can designate anybody else to
5 harvest an animal for you and I think it's the same for
6 fishing. Is that right?
7
8 MR. ZEMKE: That's correct. There's a
9 designated hunter and designated fisher. It's not
10 actually called proxy. That's one of the things we go
11 through in the permit process. Looking at issuing the
12 permit, on that permit you can designate fishers for
13 you and you can work it out that way.
14
15 MR. GIBSON: How does that differ from
16 a proxy?
17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It doesn't. Just a
19 different name.
20
21 MR. GIBSON: Okay.
22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think the proxy is
24 the State system. Designated hunter or designated
25 fisher is the Federal system.
26
27 MR. GIBSON: I'd also like to comment
28 on Steve's report on the Section 15B. I hunted there
29 this year and there was 14 permits this year. As you
30 stated, there's no harvest reported. All I saw for
31 days was just black bears, brown bears and wolf packs.
32 I saw two moose tracks during those days.
33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. One comment up
35 here.
36
37 MR. NEIS: I was just wondering.....
38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Your name?
40
41 MR. NEIS: Jerry Neis. I was just
42 wondering, were you guys the one doing -- how did the
43 restoration go on Davis Creek?
44
45 MR. GIBSON: Oh, yeah.
46
47 MR. ZEMKE: Yeah, the Forest Service
48 has pretty much completed Davis Creek restoration
49 project there where they re-engineered the channel and
50 tried to put it back into its natural contours and

1 sinuosity and putting in a lot of woody debris. When
2 you first look at it right now, I think when it was
3 first done it looked pretty raw because the material
4 was first anchored down and that. Basically the work
5 is completed for that except for some trail work and
6 kind of interpretation work that's done there.

7

8 MR. NEIS: Is that to try to introduce
9 the salmon run back up into Tern Lake?

10

11 MR. ZEMKE: Yeah, there is a salmon run
12 there already, but at the same time it's to provide for
13 better salmon habitat to enhance the run and then also
14 provide for unrestricted access since the upper end of
15 Davis Creek there was that Perch Culvert in there that
16 periodically blocked salmon from being able to access
17 the upper watershed.

18

19 MR. NEIS: Is there going to be any
20 studies done?

21

22 MR. ZEMKE: Yeah, they've already done
23 baseline information and they'll be looking at that
24 information in the next several years to compare what
25 the difference is between previous and what the future
26 holds.

27

28 MR. NEIS: Thank you.

29

30 MR. ZEMKE: You're welcome.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions
33 for Steve.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Let's go to Milo.

38

39 MR. BURCHAM: Milo Burcham, subsistence
40 wildlife biologist on the Cordova district. I'll
41 update you guys on the moose, mountain goat and salmon
42 subsistence harvest on the district. I have another
43 moose drawing issue that I see coming up that I'll just
44 put on the radar.

45

46 Our popular moose hunt in Unit 6C, the
47 Federal subsistence hunt, that still has a population
48 objective of 400 animals. At the end of the season
49 last year, last winter, the population estimate
50 obtained by Fish and Game was 388 animals. So we are

1 right at objective. We're right where we're supposed
2 to be, but that's considerably down from the high
3 populations we've had years before that. We were up to
4 I think close to 600 animals and through heavy harvest
5 brought that down to objective. So things are going as
6 planned there or looks like it is.

7

8 With the smaller population this year,
9 there were fewer permits issued. There were a total of
10 52 bull permits and 10 cow permits. That's a total of
11 62 permits, whereas the last two years we had over 100
12 permits.

13

14 The 52 bull permits, we have the
15 breakdown between Federal subsistence and State
16 harvest. We had 25 percent or 13 were in the State
17 harvest and 75 percent or 39 bulls permits were issued
18 under the Federal harvest this year. All 10 cow
19 permits are under the Federal subsistence system.

20

21 This year, as in the last few years, it
22 stayed about the same. We had 901 people put in, so
23 it's a very popular hunt and important to Cordova.
24 Harvest information at this point in time. Cow season
25 has a couple more weeks to go and bull season has two
26 and a half months to go, so there's still quite a bit
27 of time left. We had 19 of the 39 bulls harvested so
28 far and six of the 10 cows. It might be a little
29 slower than what it's been. I am hearing hunter
30 reports and flying with Tim Joyce, whose wife has a
31 permit, I think the number of mature bulls is down in
32 the population and bulls easily accessible from the
33 road system I think are maybe a lot harder to find.
34 That's what I have on the moose population to report
35 for you.

36

37 Mountain goats. Of all the harvest
38 areas, we have Federal subsistence mountain goat
39 harvest in Prince William Sound. I think it's six
40 subunits in Prince William Sound. There's 17 total
41 mountain goat permits that are reserved for subsistence
42 harvest. I think I've mentioned this in the past,
43 we've had fairly poor reporting rates. We've had light
44 use of the permits in general and poor reporting and
45 that poor reporting has mostly been from Chenega Bay
46 and Tatitlek. I've been working hard to make contact
47 with them every fall and stress the importance of
48 documenting their use of the resource and I think I've
49 made some headway.

50

1 We're still in the 2009 season so I
2 don't have information to report. In 2008 16 permits
3 were issued. None from Cordova. Usually there's been
4 one or two. Four from Chenega Bay, 10 from Tatitlek
5 and two from the cannery workers that live year round
6 in the Sound. I'm impressed with those numbers. We
7 had four goats reported harvest out of that 17 reserved
8 for subsistence and that's the largest harvest we've
9 had reported. So I look at that as good news.
10 Basically we're keeping this resource from State
11 sporthunters and outfitters that would like these
12 permits to take additional clients or whatever out.

13
14 Tim Joyce has now taken the lead
15 wildlife position on the Cordova district, so in the
16 meantime Steve and I will be implementing the
17 subsistence fisheries program in Cordova. He issued
18 the subsistence salmon permits earlier in the year and
19 I'll be collected the permits and data. Right now 39
20 permits were issued this year. Only six have been
21 returned so far. They don't have to be returned until
22 the end of the year. I have a report of 65 coho and 10
23 sockeye.

24
25 People started learning I think this
26 fall that if they got this permit they can keep a
27 larger bag limit, more like the State subsistence
28 harvest. They can keep 15 fish per person or 30 for a
29 household of two. Ten sockeye were harvested. I told
30 you 39 permits were issued. The mean over the last
31 four years since 2005 is 42, so about the same number
32 issued.

33
34 I wish Tom Carpenter was here because I
35 know he'll have an interest in this and you, Ralph,
36 will as well. This regards the subsistence moose
37 harvest in Unit 6C. The State this year is going to a
38 one draw. They had a winter and spring draw and their
39 moose permits were issued in the spring draw, which
40 applications were received May 1st to the end of May
41 and then the drawing occurred in the summer. They're
42 going to one draw period which will take place in the
43 spring, so their moose permits will now be available
44 through that earlier drawing. There's going to be a
45 lot of PR necessary to make people aware that they're
46 going to have to apply for the State permits earlier.

47
48 That opens up an issue for me or for --
49 I don't think it requires Council action, but I think
50 it does need some discussion. What should I do with

1 the timing of the Federal subsistence permit period?
2 I'm reluctant to change it for this coming year because
3 of a lot of people who do leave for a few months might
4 have left or might be hard to get that information out
5 in time, so I'm reluctant to change anything this year.
6 I'm likely to leave it from May 1st to May 31st and
7 then do the drawing in the summer.

8
9 In the future, do we want to move that
10 application period and that drawing time to line up
11 with the State and do it all at the same time or just
12 leave it the way it is? I think that's something we
13 should discuss at the local AC meeting and even the
14 Council if you guys would like.

15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: What exactly was the
17 State's time period?

18
19 MR. BURCHAM: I don't know.

20
21 MR. GIBSON: November, December.

22
23 MR. BURCHAM: Is it that early? That
24 was the winter draw.

25
26 MR. DELFRATE: Gino Del Frate,
27 management coordinator for Southcentral. The new
28 drawing application period will be the month of
29 November and December. The drawings will happen
30 sometime around the first of February and permits will
31 be mailed closer to hunting season, but everybody will
32 know what they got early in the season.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do you want my comment
35 on that, Milo?

36
37 MR. BURCHAM: Yes.

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think that sounds
40 like a wonderful time to do it.

41
42 MR. BURCHAM: That point has been
43 brought up as it might weed out the people who don't
44 really live there and that gives us more of a reason to
45 do that. I also want to be sure we don't catch people
46 cold, but I think it's a good discussion.

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think you can't put
49 it into effect without prior warning and it's not a
50 case of whether they live there or not, but it would at

1 least get the people who spend the winter there and
2 have more use for having the meat on hand than somebody
3 that goes out and spends the winter some place else and
4 comes back in the summertime. That's my personal
5 opinion. I'm not saying that's the Council's or
6 anything like that. I wouldn't see a problem with
7 that. To me, Alaskans are the ones that spend the
8 winter here.

9

10 MR. BURCHAM: As far as I know, it
11 doesn't require any official action, it's not a
12 regulation change or anything, but I want to proceed
13 carefully with input from everybody. Keep me posted on
14 ideas you have.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I, myself, maybe I'm
17 hard-nosed, but I would say if they're not there in the
18 winter to put an application in, they shouldn't have an
19 application. That's my personal opinion.

20

21 MR. BURCHAM: I deal with a lot of
22 shades of gray when we do draw names and I determine
23 residency. It's a difficult determination and a lot of
24 those people that turn out to be legal aren't here for
25 many months in the winter. That will be a sticking
26 point.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If the State is going
29 to November/December, it would be something that would
30 be totally -- I don't think it would cause the
31 subsistence community any hardship and it would be
32 something that would be -- for one thing, if you don't
33 do it, there's going to be -- I mean if you wouldn't
34 have mentioned this, I would have never put in for a
35 State permit this year.

36

37 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I would have just
40 taken it for granted that.....

41

42 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah, that's just a
43 couple weeks away, the opening of the application
44 period.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I would have taken for
47 granted our permit application period was in May just
48 like it always has. To a Cordova resident, the permit
49 application is directly tied to the moose permit. You
50 would have never thought of any other time.

1 MR. BURCHAM: One con that I've heard
2 mentioned by Dave Crowley is we would be issuing
3 permits for an unknown number of moose at that time of
4 year. All the survey data won't be in. He was
5 thinking that the May drawing would give him some lag
6 time to adjust, but we don't have to issue the final
7 numbers. We can do the drawings and then wait for the
8 data to come in and then issue the designated number of
9 permits.

10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You can draw the
12 permits by priority and then starting with number one
13 you issue the moose by the priority number. That's
14 going to be interesting to see what you do on that,
15 Milo.

16
17 MR. ROMIG: I don't think we have a big
18 problem with that here, but I would like to see some
19 way -- you know, these moose are raised on Federal
20 land. They walk out on State highway and they become
21 State property. I'd like to see some of those moose
22 allocated to some of the possible low income
23 subsistence users, that maybe there's a pool of moose a
24 certain time of year that when they get them maybe they
25 should give 50 percent of the cut to somebody down
26 there at the refuge building or something to see that
27 they go into the right hands within the local areas.
28 Does that make any sense?

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That makes sense, but
31 you're going to have to deal with that through the
32 State. There's nothing we, as Federal, can do to that
33 because that becomes State rights and State property.
34 If they're on State land, they're out of the
35 subsistence community.

36
37 MR. ROMIG: So basically the whole
38 Kenai you're talking about because we don't have that
39 type of a thing here. Our subsistence hunt is brand
40 new anyway. I definitely would like to see, since we
41 don't have many moose left, I would like to see them
42 dispersed around a little bit better, the few that we
43 do have.

44
45 I think there needs to be a better --
46 we qualify subsistence now by lines. Lines pretty much
47 determine it. I think in some cases, even though
48 somebody might not be that close to that line or he
49 might be very close to that line, I think we have to
50 weigh in today the needs of some of the people rather

1 than just where they live. I know it's more
2 cumbersome, but for goodness sakes it doesn't take that
3 much to realize that there's a few people out there
4 that need meet. It's a personal issue. You can't
5 write it into law, but I just think there needs to be a
6 consciousness of it.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And that's where it
9 needs to be brought up to the State because they're the
10 ones that have those moose to disperse. We don't have
11 access to that. We're very limited to what we can deal
12 with. One of the things is we can only deal with
13 animals that are on Federal land and we can only deal
14 within the present qualifications of what meets the
15 qualification for rural resident. As a Federal
16 program, they can't step outside of the law.

17

18 MR. ROMIG: Right, right. But I still
19 think there can be a consciousness of it, you know,
20 that there are people out there in need.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think so. Okay.
23 Milo, I had a question for you but now -- shoot. It
24 was on the moose hunt in Cordova. Oh, I wanted to thank
25 you guys for the map that you put out this year. As
26 much as my father-in-law finds it very confusing -- not
27 confusing, but aggravating, the fact that there's lines
28 here and lines there and everything else. It actually
29 makes it very clear in comparison with people have
30 guessed about in the past.

31

32 MR. BURCHAM: I've been giving out that
33 map for probably six years or so. Did have required
34 orientations for hunters drawing permits. Now it's
35 optional. That was the main point of this, going over
36 the complicated land ownership along the road so people
37 know exactly where they can and cannot shoot moose. I
38 consider that pretty successful. That I know of, we've
39 only had one illegally shot moose and that person I
40 explained the map in painstaking detail and I don't
41 think he even tried.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Just saw a moose and
44 shot him.

45

46 MR. BURCHAM: We've had good
47 compliance, yeah.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions
50 for Milo.

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Milo. I
4 don't know about anybody else. We've got Alaska
5 Department of Fish and Game. I think we need --
6 question or comment?

7

8 MR. BARTO: Afternoon, Chair. Rob
9 Barto with the Kenai Refuge. I thought I'd give you an
10 update on the moose harvested as well as the brown bear
11 season going on. I just spoke with our office and we
12 had issued 43 moose permits. We always see a
13 significant increase in permits after the regular
14 season for this late hunt. As far as I know, two have
15 been caught, shot, and they were in 15B, along Funny
16 River Road, and one in 15C on the lake shores of
17 Tustumena.

18

19 We've issued 7 brown bear permits.
20 We'll close that hunt whenever ADF&G closes their hunt.
21 The last I spoke with Jeff Sallinger he said when two
22 more sows are shot they'll close that down. And we
23 have five permits issued for black bears.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's interesting
26 because that's one of the questions I had down here,
27 was on the bear hunt. I was wondering what your
28 defense of life and property and road kills were this
29 year. So evidently they were small enough you could
30 actually have a hunt this year.

31

32 MR. BARTO: We had a hunt this year
33 addressing the Russian River area. We had zero DLPs
34 this year and attribute that to lots of different
35 things. I think DLPs in general were down.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Good. Any questions.
38 Doug.

39

40 MR. BLOSSOM: What was the late season
41 moose harvest last year?

42

43 MR. BARTO: I can't give you an exact,
44 but I believe there was two to three harvested last
45 year in the late season and that's only for 15 B and C
46 on the Kenai Refuge.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions.

49

50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That concludes our
2 Forest Service. Let's take no more than 10 minutes.

3
4 (Off record)

5
6 (On record)

7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'd like to call this
9 work session back into session. At this point in time
10 we have a request from Donald Kompkoff who has a couple
11 comments he'd like to make to us and then we'll go on
12 to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Donald.

13
14 MR. KOMPKOFF: This is Don from Valdez.
15 Did you hear me?

16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We got you.

18
19 MR. KOMPKOFF: I wanted to bring some
20 stuff up when you guys were talking about -- let's see,
21 I don't know who was talking about the bear claws, but
22 couldn't they do something like a tag like they do the
23 otter. They could have a record of the tag. That was
24 one of them.

25
26 I wanted to talk about the moose hunt
27 if they could change the dates due to warm weather.
28 Change to a later date, November to December. That was
29 a good hunt in Valdez. I remember that in 1958 when
30 I'd hunt over here. We used to get one just about
31 every year and I think that was the best time of the
32 year to get a moose because it was cold and the meat
33 lasts longer when you could let it hand.

34
35 There was some other things that Tom
36 was talking about, Fish and Game.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

39
40 MR. KOMPKOFF: About State permits or
41 something about the moose, deer or goat down in
42 Chenega.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, that was for
45 Forest Service. The goats down in Prince William
46 Sound, Chenega and Tatitlek, and increase in their use
47 of getting permits that they needed and answering the
48 permits. I think that was a good report on that, that
49 compliance was increasing in that area.

50

1 MR. KOMPKOFF: I wonder if I can get
2 copies of all this when we get done so I can have it
3 and bring it down to the Board down in Chenega.

4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'm sure you can get a
6 copy. In fact, we'll have Donald make sure you get a
7 copy of the transcript so you can read the whole thing.

8
9
10 MR. KOMPKOFF: Okay. You could fax it
11 or email it to me.

12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We can email it to
14 you. I wanted to make a comment on your moose thing.
15 Which moose hunt were you talking about there? A
16 Federal or a State moose hunt? The one out of Valdez
17 is a State moose hunt and the Federal moose hunt in
18 Cordova does go into cold weather. Or were you talking
19 about the King's Bay hunt.

20
21 MR. KOMPKOFF: Okay. A whole bunch of
22 us moved over from Chenega, about 33 people moved over
23 because of the oil spill and went to find employment.
24 So now we're stuck over here and doing our subsistence
25 out of Valdez again like we used to years ago I
26 remember.

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, I think.....

29
30 MR. KOMPKOFF: Our subsistence egg
31 gathering was stopped. We had to pay \$132 pass permit
32 for each person to go down and pick eggs to show our
33 kids how we used to do it years ago. That was our
34 subsistence for seagull eggs and tern eggs and leave
35 the duck eggs alone because we were told not to pick
36 those and we just left those there.

37
38 I think that's it.

39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. I think,
41 Donald, that might be -- I'm not sure if that was under
42 the State or Federal, but I know that Valdez doesn't
43 qualify as a rural area and I think that could be part
44 of the problem right there.

45
46 MR. KOMPKOFF: Uh-huh.

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: A resident of Valdez
49 does not qualify as a rural resident of the state of
50 Alaska because it's a non-rural area.

1 MR. KOMPKOFF: All right.
2
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.
4
5 MR. KOMPKOFF: That's about all I got
6 then, Ralph. Thanks a lot.
7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thanks for coming on
9 the phone and attending this way so we could have your
10 input so we could have our quorum too. Thank you
11 muchly, Donald.
12
13 MR. KOMPKOFF: Yeah, you betcha. I'm
14 not going to miss another one of these meetings. It's
15 too important for me.
16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I sure hope so. Okay.
18 Well, we'll talk to you later.
19
20 MR. KOMPKOFF: You betcha.
21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now let's go on to
23 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
24
25 MR. SOMERVILLE: Mark Somerville,
26 Department of Fish and Game, sportfish biologist for
27 the Upper Copper, Upper Susitna management area. Board
28 of Fish this year made a change that affected State
29 subsistence. They altered the boundaries for the
30 Prince William Sound area. For the northern and
31 western boundaries of the Prince William Sound area now
32 coincide with the north and western boundaries of the
33 Upper Copper, Upper Susitna management area. That
34 change was made to accommodate a positive C&T
35 determination for freshwater fish in those area.
36
37 The State of Alaska's subsistence areas
38 are broken down by drainages and where the drainages
39 feed out to. In the Upper Copper, Upper Susitna I've
40 got two different drainages that fall into the
41 management area in different directions. So what they
42 did is took the upper part of the Susitna out of the
43 Cook Inlet area and moved it into the Prince William
44 Sound area. That was to accommodate AHTNA
45 Corporation's proposal for positive C&T determination
46 in that area.
47
48 If they did not make that
49 accommodation, the C&T determination, they would have
50 had to put a proposal in that met within the areas that

1 AHTNA wanted it, it would actually have to go up to
2 three different Board cycles to make those changes in
3 the areas they were concerned with. Now it all
4 coincides with the Upper Copper, Upper Susitna.

5
6 In 2009 I'll be covering some harvest
7 on the Copper River this year for subsistence. I
8 manage subsistence, personal use and sportfish in the
9 area. For Fish and Game I'm the only sportfish manager
10 that actually manages subsistence fisheries as well.

11
12 If you look at Table 1, I'll be
13 covering mostly just the State harvest areas. In the
14 Chitina subdistrict, this is the personal use fishery
15 below the Chitina/McCarthy bridge, right now in 2009 we
16 saw a drop in the number of permits almost by about
17 1,000. So we had 7,060 permits issued within that area
18 this year. The drop in permits probably reflects the
19 fact we closed the king salmon portion of the fishery
20 this year.

21
22 Personal use dipnetters on the Copper
23 River were not allowed to retain a single king salmon
24 this year after about the first week of the fishery we
25 closed that. They were still allowed 30 salmon, but
26 none of them could be king salmon this year. That's
27 probably why we saw a reduction in the number of
28 permits.

29
30 Normally we'd have some preliminary
31 data. We don't have any on that fishery at this time.
32 On average, they harvest about 111,000 sockeye from
33 that fishery and about 2,300 king salmon. This year
34 they might see a couple hundred king salmon within that
35 first week that they were allowed to retain them.
36 Sockeye, we had two high water events, I would imagine
37 the harvest will be much lower this year than the
38 average.

39
40 Going over to Table 2. Table 2 is the
41 same basic table only this addresses the Glennallen
42 subdistrict subsistence fishery. This is basically the
43 entire Copper River north upstream of the
44 Chitina/McCarthy bridge. This fishery uses both
45 fishwheels and dipnets. In 2009, we issued 1,092
46 subsistence permits. That's slightly above the five-
47 year average. Not quite 100 fewer permits than the
48 previous year in 2008.

49
50 Based on about 50 percent of the

1 permits that have been returned so far, estimate a
2 harvest on chinook about 2,900 and it's slightly above
3 the average. For sockeye we're looking at about 53,000
4 and that's slightly below the average. Coho, 151 and
5 steelhead 43 and 69 other fish.

6
7 This year we made no -- chinook return
8 up the Copper River this year was weaker and we had
9 several emergency orders reducing the harvest potential
10 in the sport fisheries on the Gulkana and the Klutina
11 river systems, but we did not make any regulatory
12 reductions in the subsistence fishery.

13
14 Going over to Table 3. This deals with
15 the Glennallen subdistrict subsistence fishery and this
16 looks at the breakdown between the number of dipnet
17 permits versus the number of people getting permits to
18 fish fishwheels. Out of the 1,092 permits that were
19 issued, 470 were for people to use dipnets and 619 were
20 for fishwheel permits.

21
22 Over the last two years, 2008-2009,
23 we've seen a fair increase in the percentage of people
24 using dipnets above the bridge versus below the bridge.
25 Part of this reflects the higher catch limits for king
26 salmon in the dipnet fishery above the bridge. You're
27 allowed to retain five king salmon versus one below the
28 bridge. So we tend to see a few more people trying to
29 dipnet above the bridge. It also shows an increase in
30 the number of boats that would be fishing above the
31 bridge.

32
33 People fishing dipnets from shore in
34 this fishery have less of a chance of catching fish
35 than they do below the bridge because the river braids
36 out more, but somebody who has a boat is just as
37 effective above the bridge or below and the limits are
38 higher. We see a few people shifting from the dipnet
39 fishery -- the personal use fishery to the subsistence
40 fishery. Remember also with the State subsistence it's
41 open to all State residents, it's not simply limited to
42 rural residents.

43
44 I'm going to skip over to Table 6.
45 This one was an afterthought. Table 6 breaks down the
46 permits. It shows the percentage of permits by
47 residents for the Glennallen subdistrict State fishery.
48 In 2009 -- this also includes the permits from the
49 Federal permits because in 2002 Federal permits were
50 issued separately from the State permits and Federal

1 permits were limited to rural residents, so the data
2 would be skewed if it didn't include the Federal
3 permits in this table.

4
5 So including Federal permits within the
6 Glennallen subdistrict area, 33 percent of the overall
7 permits are issued to Copper River Basin residents, 27
8 percent are issued to Anchorage resident, 16 percent to
9 Fairbanks, 17 percent to the Mat-Su and 8 percent to
10 other communities, from Juneau to Barrow.

11
12 The demographics have changed
13 significantly over the years. If you look at the
14 averages below, those are five-year average periods.
15 From 2004 to 2008, 38 percent of the permits have gone
16 to local residents or Copper Basin residents, whereas
17 back between 1994 to 1998 it was 46 percent. So it's
18 just a change that reflects the population changes in
19 the area.

20
21 All right. Flipping back to Table 4.
22 This is a summary of the king salmon harvest and
23 upriver escapement in the Copper River from 1990 to
24 2009. The data here for the Glennallen and Chitina
25 subdistrict harvest includes Federal as well as State
26 harvest. This table basically reflects total harvest
27 and returns of king salmon in the Copper River. To
28 note here in 2009, the commercial was only 9,029 king
29 salmon, which is one of the lowest in how many years,
30 probably a historic low in 2009.

31
32 The Glennallen subdistrict harvest
33 again comes out -- this is only the State data for 2009
34 is 2,896. To compare that to 2008, was also a low year
35 for the commercial harvest, a little over 12,000 kings
36 in the commercial harvest in 2008, but the upriver
37 harvests were slightly below average, but didn't tend
38 to reflect the weak king return.

39
40 Average harvest for the last five years
41 in the commercial harvest for kings is about 31,500.
42 The Glennallen upriver sport fishery is about 3,900.
43 Subsistence Glennallen district 3,400 and the personal
44 use fishery about 2,400 for a total average harvest of
45 roughly 50,000 king salmon. The average escapement
46 upriver from 2004 to 2008 was 45,000.

47
48 Our escapement goal for the state, for
49 the Copper River, is 24,000 or more king salmon to the
50 Copper River. We don't have any individual escapement

1 goals at this time for any of the tributaries.

2

3 Shift over to Table 5. This is the
4 same table as we just covered except for sockeye. The
5 sockeye return to the Copper River in 2009 was
6 substantially better than projected. The commercial
7 harvest was 890,000 and the Glennallen subdistrict
8 harvest was about 53,000. Average over the last five
9 years for commercial is roughly 1.2 million.

10

11 Jump up to upriver sport harvest
12 average has been about 12,000. Harvest in the
13 Glennallen subdistrict State subsistence fishery around
14 75,000 and the Chitina subdistrict the personal use
15 fishery is around 112,000 on average. Average total
16 harvest for sockeye on the Copper River over the last
17 five years is about 1.4 million and the estimated
18 escapement is around 820,000. Escapement goal for
19 sockeye is 300 to 500,000.

20

21 That concludes my report. If you have
22 any questions, I'll be more than happy to answer them.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: When you say other,
25 what are other fish?

26

27 MR. SOMERVILLE: Some are whitefish,
28 suckers, burbot, Dolly Vardens as well.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Just various and sundry.

31

32 MR. SOMERVILLE: Right.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Greg.

35

36 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I just got a quick
37 question. These total numbers of the kings continue to
38 drop. Is there any theory on the reason?

39

40 MR. SOMERVILLE: Lots of theories.

41

42 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I want to hear yours.

43

44 MR. SOMERVILLE: It has to come down to
45 a more professional opinion. I've seen king numbers
46 drop throughout the state. There are changes going on
47 in the ocean at this point where we're seeing cooler
48 nearshore waters and my experience is with hatchery
49 fish is that your nearshore waters cool down, your fish
50 grow. When they first enter those estuaries, they've

1 got a period where they've got to grow. The longer it
2 takes them to grow, the longer they're open to
3 predation. A lot of your overall marine survival is
4 based in those first few months in saltwater. Once
5 they get through that, if the cooler nearshore waters
6 will slow down their growth and decrease the overall
7 survival.

8

9 Not much on the upper river that I can
10 see. Looking back at the brood years for this year
11 that indicate any reason why the kings would be
12 diminished at this point. We may see something in the
13 next two years up on the Copper River 2010, 2011 based
14 on the floods that occurred in 2006. The 2006 brood
15 year was one of the largest king salmon returns we've
16 seen up the river. Unfortunately most of those kings
17 probably went up into the Chitina and Tonsina drainage
18 and that's where the floods had the most effects, so
19 we'll see what happens in the next few years.

20

21 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

22

23 MR. BEGICH: Robert Begich, Division of
24 Sportfish, area management biologist for the northern
25 Kenai Peninsula. Mr. Chair, Members of the Council.
26 I'm just going to briefly summarize some of the
27 sportfish in-season run monitoring assessments that
28 sportfish division is responsible for in the northern
29 Kenai Peninsula.

30

31 The area we work with is everything
32 from the Kasilof and including the Kasilof River
33 drainage, north to Ingram Creek and Turnagain Arm. Our
34 in-season assessment work is focused mainly on the
35 Kenai River. Starting with early run king salmon, the
36 returns were -- the run to the river was forecasted to
37 be about average and ended up being below average, but
38 we did make escapement. Late runs similar situation,
39 well below average run for late run king salmon into
40 the Kenai, but we did make the escapement goal.

41

42 Moving up the drainage to the Russian
43 River, we operate a weir at the lower Russian Lake for
44 the early and late run sockeye. The early run was a
45 blockbuster. We liberalized the fishery twice. The
46 first step is increasing the area open to fishing, then
47 we followed two days later by doubling the bag limit
48 for sport anglers in the upper river here from the
49 Russian River downstream to Jim's Landing. We exceeded
50 the escapement goal for early run sockeye salmon by

1 about 20,000 fish.

2

3

4 The late run sockeye that returned to
5 the Russian are contained in our late run Kenai return.
6 The escapement goal is 30,000 to 110,000 through the
7 weir at lower Russian Lake outlet. We achieved that
8 goal. We ended up with about 80,000 fish.

8

9 All in all a pretty successful year on
10 the Kenai as far as kings and sockeye. I welcome any
11 questions you might have.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do you have anything
14 on the rainbow trout?

15

16 MR. BEGICH: We did an abundance
17 estimate for rainbow trout between Sportsman's Landing
18 and Jim's Landing on the upper river. The last time it
19 was done was in 2001 and we don't have a point estimate
20 yet of the abundance, but for all practical purposes it
21 looks like it will be similar to previous estimates.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Anything noticeable in
24 size?

25

26 MR. BEGICH: No.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Just looks pretty well
29 stabilized.

30

31 MR. BEGICH: Yes.

32

33 MR. ROMIG: Mr. Chair. What was the
34 total?

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: For what?

37

38 MR. ROMIG: 80,000?

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: For escapement, yeah,
41 80,000 on the late run. Any questions.

42

43 MR. NEIS: I don't know if you'll be
44 able to answer it. Jerry Neis. How does the
45 escapement of kings run to the bycatch from the
46 commercial fisherman? Is there any records on that as
47 far as kings that are caught out before they get to the
48 river? Do they keep any records?

49

50 MR. BEGICH: There's a fish ticket

1 system that the commercial harvesters record when they
2 sell their fish to the processors and the Department
3 knows how many king salmon are caught. The issue is
4 how many of those fish are Kenai origin. That's not
5 fully understood. The way we manage the fishery we
6 allocate all the fish harvested in the eastside setnet
7 fishery to the Kenai stock.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's an arbitrary
10 allocation, right?

11

12 MR. BEGICH: Correct.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Or is that based on
15 otoliths?

16

17 MR. BEGICH: It's an arbitrary
18 allocation if that's how you want to put it. They're
19 all allocated the Kenai.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: They're all classed as
22 Kenai stock then.

23

24 MR. BEGICH: Correct.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Have they done any
27 otolith studies, stock separation studies?

28

29 MR. BEGICH: Mr. Chair. We're moving
30 to something that's going to be better in the future.
31 We have a genetic baseline now for the genetic stock
32 structure of Kenai king salmon. We've completed that
33 over the past five years and what we're going to hope
34 to be doing is moving toward sampling the marine mixed
35 stock fisheries including a sport fishery on the east
36 side of Cook Inlet so we can better apportion the
37 harvest of those fisheries to the correct locations,
38 not only to the Kenai River, but the Kasilof, Lower
39 Cook Inlet and the Susitna River area.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Are you going to carry
42 that over to the winter fishery too?

43

44 MR. BEGICH: Mr. Chair. The
45 information that we have is that the preponderance or
46 all of the fish that are caught in the winter fishery
47 are non-Cook Inlet origin.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Copper River origin.

50

1 MR. BEGICH: Could be.
2
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No, I used to charter
4 for winter fishery out of Cordova and just the tags we
5 sent in went all the way down to Barkely Sound. They
6 were definitely fish from all over. And I'm sure it's
7 the same as Homer.
8
9 MR. BEGICH: Yeah, it's a melting pot.
10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions.
12
13 (No comments)
14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, guys.
16
17 MR. DELFRATE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 Gino DelFrate, management coordinator for Southcentral.
19 I don't have anything to report. However, George
20 Pappas said earlier there were some questions related
21 to predator management and caribou and I could attempt
22 to answer those at this time or I could answer any
23 questions that the Council might have or I could sit
24 back down.
25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think the caribou
27 predator questions were pretty well answered at the
28 time or in the discussions that followed. The Alphabet
29 Hills up in Unit 13, right?
30
31 MR. DELFRATE: Right.
32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But not caribou on the
34 Kenai Peninsula. It would be in Unit 13, right?
35
36 MR. DELFRATE: I guess I could try to
37 answer questions for all of the Southcentral area if
38 necessary.
39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Does anybody have any
41 questions.
42
43 MR. ROMIG: Mr. Chairman. I think it
44 just kind of came up in cross talk. I don't think
45 there was any.
46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I don't think there
48 was any questions on it so much as the fact that it got
49 mentioned in the harvest improvement and things like
50 that. Any other questions while we've got him up here.

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

4

5 MR. DELFRATE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now we're to the
8 National Park Service. Subsistence use of horns,
9 antlers, bones and plants. Who is taking care of that
10 one?

11

12 I don't see anybody volunteering and
13 jumping forward. Well, we have a report in our book on
14 it, so if there's nobody here that's planning on taking
15 care of that, we're capable of reading the report.
16 It's on Page 49. It's just something that's come up.
17 I think they're still under the process of deciding
18 what they're going to do with that.

19

20 I'll throw in a little something. I
21 talked to the head guy that was here and he stressed
22 the importance -- you know, they're talking about
23 sustaining rural economies and I talked to him about
24 the importance of maintaining access to that kind of
25 stuff for local residents qualified subsistence users
26 for their local economy. I mean just basically making
27 use of plants, animals, horns and bones because that's
28 another source of income for people who are qualified
29 rural residents. I think it's important as long as it
30 doesn't cause any ecological damage to make the access
31 as simple as possible on that. I don't know if we have
32 anybody presenting anything on that. It's for our
33 information on Page 49. Polly.

34

35 DR. WHEELER: Mr. Chair. Polly Wheeler
36 with OSM. I would encourage you to go through it. The
37 Park Service is looking for comments. On Page 52 at
38 the very top of the page it has please send any
39 comments or questions to Sandy Rabinowitch, Project
40 Manager, 907-644-3596 or Sandy_Rabinowitch@nps.gov or
41 the NPS Subsistence Manager serving your subsistence
42 use area. So in this case it would either be Gates of
43 the Arctic or Wrangell-St. Elias. But I would
44 encourage you to go through it because they are looking
45 for public comments on this.

46

47 The very first sentence in the briefing
48 says The National Park Service is considering whether
49 to allow the collection and uses of plants and shed or
50 discarded horns, antlers, and bones by NPS-qualified

1 local rural residents in Alaska National Park System
2 units where subsistence is allowed.

3

4 So they're considering whether to allow
5 it, so this could have implications for people that do
6 this sort of thing whether or not it's allowed, so I
7 would encourage you to go through it and give comments
8 to the people they have outlined here.

9

10 Mr. Chair, that's all I have.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Polly. And
13 I agree with you on that. Personally, I would
14 appreciate it if every Council member took a look at
15 this and expressed an opinion on it because I think
16 this has a direct effect on the economics of the rural
17 subsistence user in the state of Alaska, especially
18 those that live near either Denali or Wrangell-St.
19 Elias National Park. Inevitably it has an effect on
20 all of us.

21

22 I know the Forest Service is going
23 through the same thing and it's something that -- he
24 was talking about his four pillars, which is the
25 sustainability of rural economies. That means you need
26 to have access to resources that you can use for
27 economic purposes and those resources have to be either
28 plant, mineral or animal. I'm hoping that the Forest
29 Service takes that into account as they go through
30 theirs. I think it would be well advised if we'd all
31 make comments to the Park Service about the need for
32 that for the local residents. That's my pitch.

33

34 Okay. Then we have Wrangell-St. Elias
35 National Park. Molly.

36

37 MS. MCCORMICK: Mr. Chairman and
38 Council members. My name is Molly McCormick. I'm a
39 fisheries biologist at Wrangell-St. Elias National
40 Park. Our subsistence coordinator, Barbara Cellarius,
41 was sorry that she could not be here today. There was
42 a conflict with the scheduling of the Eastern Interior
43 RAC and she is up in Fort Yukon right now, but she did
44 give me some updates on things that she wanted you guys
45 to know.

46

47 First of all, she is currently working
48 on a community harvest assessment for the Copper Basin
49 in conjunction with the Alaska Department of Fish and
50 Game Subsistence Division. Assuming that approval of

1 the survey is received from the Office of Management
2 and Budget in time to do so, Chistochina and another
3 small community will be surveyed in February 2010. She
4 hopes to obtain funding to survey two larger
5 communities in 2011, but that will depend on funding
6 availability.

7
8 She also mentioned Wrangell-St. Elias
9 Subsistence Resource Commission has submitted two
10 wildlife proposals to the Federal Subsistence Board.
11 They would add two areas, the Tok Cut-off Road from
12 milepost 79 to 110 and the Nabesna Road milepost 25 to
13 46 to the list of communities in areas where the
14 customary and traditional use determination for bear in
15 Unit 11 remainder. One proposal is for brown bear and
16 the other proposal is for black bear and otherwise they
17 are identical.

18
19 She also asked me to mention that in
20 scheduling future RAC meetings to please consider
21 coordinating this RACs schedule with the Eastern
22 Interior RAC schedule so that the meetings don't
23 coincide on the same days. Park Staff does try to
24 attend both the Southcentral and Eastern Interior RAC
25 meetings and it's difficult to do if they overlap.

26
27 The tentative date for the spring 2010
28 Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission
29 meeting is March 9th and 10th and the tentative
30 location is either Copper Center or Gulkana. If you
31 have any questions about these things I just mentioned,
32 please call Barbara Cellarius at 822-7236.

33
34 As far as the rest of the agency
35 report, there are four reports. I can give you kind of
36 a summary of the highlights of some of those reports.
37 I probably cannot answer all the questions that you
38 have unless it's about the fishery report, which I'll
39 give in a little bit more detail. You should have
40 copies of all these reports in your packets.

41
42 The first one I'll mention looks like
43 this. It's got a map on the second page. This is a
44 report about the fire we had in the park this summer,
45 called the Chakina fire. It started on July 2nd, 2009.
46 It was caused by lightening. It burned a total of
47 52,413 acres. It was in the wilderness area in the
48 part southwest of McCarthy. It was on the south side
49 of the Chitina River. There weren't really any crews
50 that were on the fire. There was one engine that was

1 there, one helicopter and a total of 12 personnel that
2 were monitoring the fire throughout the month of July.

3
4 The current status is that right now it
5 will probably continue to smoke until significant rain
6 or snow falls on it and it is still being monitored.
7 We're kind of excited it happened in the park because
8 this is going to provide some improved wildlife habitat
9 by diversifying the species composition in regenerating
10 valuable forage species. So we're going to be keeping
11 an eye on the fire area for the next several years.
12 That's all I've got on the fire.

13
14 The next report you should have in your
15 packet is a project update. It's a one-page report by
16 Bruce Rogers, who is working on the Nabesna off-road
17 vehicle environmental impact statement. What he asked
18 me to tell you was that a draft of our environmental
19 impact statement will be available probably around
20 March 2010. There will be a 60-day public comment
21 period after the draft comes out and please contact him
22 if you have any questions about this environmental
23 impact statement.

24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Is it still open for
26 comment then, too, Molly?

27
28 MS. MCCORMICK: Yes, there will be a
29 comment period after the draft comes out.

30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

32
33 MS. MCCORMICK: 60-day period. There
34 is a report from Judy Putera, our wildlife biologist.
35 It looks like this. The one thing she did ask me to
36 mention was that there will be a Federal proposal for a
37 joint State and Federal harvest of the Chisana Caribou
38 Herd. This will be drafted this fall in accordance
39 with the Chisana Caribou management plan that was kind
40 of put together at a planning workshop in Tok in
41 February last year.

42
43 This proposal will be available for
44 comment from the spring RAC meetings. The State will
45 probably draft a similar proposal for the Board of Game
46 to decide on. Harvest from this herd will likely be
47 very small and probably less than 10. Please call Judy
48 if you have any questions on that.

49
50 The fisheries report looks like this

1 and has a couple pictures on it and I'm going to do a
2 little bit more in depth reporting since this is what I
3 know about. We currently have three projects ongoing
4 in the park that are funded by OSM through FRMP. The
5 first one that I'd like to discuss is the Tanada Creek
6 weir. This weir is located in the northern park of
7 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, two miles off the
8 Nabesna Road and just downstream of Batzlenetus, Katie
9 John's fish camp.

10
11 In 2009, the Tanada Creek weir was
12 installed on May 13th. The first fish passed through
13 the weir on July 5th. That should be June 5th. Sorry
14 about that. A total of 38,208 sockeye and nine chinook
15 were counted through the weir this season. This was a
16 very high number of sockeye salmon coming through the
17 Tanada Creek weir. It was the highest that we've ever
18 recorded going up the creek.

19
20 We've been using an underwater video
21 camera at the weir and a DVR recording system at the
22 weir since 2007. This has greatly improved the
23 accuracy and efficiency of the salmon estimates at the
24 weir and it also allows for continuous fish passage.
25 There are a couple of pictures. One of the weir, one
26 of the crew members reviewing the videos. I do have a
27 short, two minute video clip showing fish passage at
28 the weir. I can either show it now or I can show it at
29 the end of my presentation. It's up to you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Should we have it at
32 the end and that way we can turn the lights off.

33
34 (Council nods affirmatively)

35
36 MS. MCCORMICK: Okay. The Tanada Creek
37 weir is operated by a crew of three local residents.
38 There is a table comparing the numbers of both sockeye
39 and chinook that we've counted since National Park
40 Service has been operating the weir. So the first fish
41 migrating through the weir was earlier than normal, on
42 June 5th.

43
44 The second project that I wanted to
45 talk about is funded by Fish and Wildlife Service is
46 our Long Lake weir. This weir is located around mile
47 45 on the McCarthy Road and it's in the Chitina River
48 drainage. It was originally operated by Alaska
49 Department of Fish and Game in the mid '70s and when
50 they were not able to fund it in 1976, the local

1 landowner, Cliff Collins, took over the operation and
2 continued running it until 2003 when, at the age of 93,
3 he asked for help in continuing data collection at the
4 weir from us.

5
6 So we have been involved in the daily
7 operations since then. We work in conjunction with the
8 Collins family. We usually provide one local hire to
9 oversee the project and then there is a crew that
10 Cliff's son Phil provides for the rest of the weir
11 work. There's a couple pictures here. We collect both
12 scale samples and otoliths and there's a picture of one
13 of our crew members sampling fish carcasses for
14 otoliths.

15
16 This year the weir was installed on
17 July 21st. It's a late run of fish that comes into the
18 creek. It will probably be removed October 17th, but
19 there are still sockeye salmon that are being counted
20 there, so we might leave it up for about a week longer.
21 The first fish migrated through on August 23rd, which a
22 couple weeks later than average. The estimated number
23 of sockeye as of October 6th was 4,378.

24
25 Then there is a table of escapement
26 migration from 1974 through 2009 and I also included a
27 table of the Miles Lake Sonar from 1978 through 2009.

28
29 Our third project that is funded by
30 Fish and Wildlife Service was a Tanada and Copper Lake
31 burbot abundance project. Both Tanada and Copper Lake
32 are in the upper reaches of the Copper River. This
33 project was actually a three-year project, but then the
34 plan they decided to use to do this estimate -- we did
35 this in conjunction with the Alaska Department of Fish
36 and Game and the plan that was decided that we should
37 use ended up being a two-year plan, so we actually
38 finished this project in 2008 and the data that we got
39 from the project told us that in Copper Lake there are
40 approximately 1,200 burbot over 450 millimeters, and in
41 Tanada Lake there are about 2,613, which is a pretty
42 healthy population, whereas the population in Copper
43 Lake is a little bit less than we like to see it.

44
45 One of the crew members that was
46 working for Fish and Game, Heather Skinnel (ph), who
47 was working on this project for the last couple of
48 years is a graduate student at the University of Alaska
49 in Fairbanks and she is doing a burbot project also in
50 both Tanada and Copper Lakes that is going to look at

1 the vertical movement of burbot within the lake and the
2 temperature ranges that they inhabit.

3

4 So we talked to the committee at FRMP
5 and they allowed us to use the final year of funding
6 that we had for the burbot abundance project as a start
7 for her project and then we're getting funding for the
8 next couple of years from a different source than Fish
9 and Wildlife Service to finish out her project, but
10 what she's doing is she's surgically implanting
11 archival tags into the burbot and when they're
12 recaptured you can use a scanner on the fish itself and
13 record the data of the temperature range that they
14 inhabit and the depth range they inhabit within the
15 lake.

16

17 Those are the projects that we have
18 been working on. I have a little bit of data about the
19 Federal subsistence permits that we issue in both the
20 Glennallen and Chitina subdistrict. Mark talked about
21 the dual management that we have there. I have no
22 harvest data for this year. I did include the on last
23 page harvest data from 2002 through 2008.

24

25 The data that I do have for you is on
26 the number of permits that we issued. We did issue 277
27 Federal subsistence permits for the Glennallen
28 subdistrict, which is about average, maybe a little on
29 the high side. We issued 68 permits in the Chitina
30 subdistrict, which is on the low side. The permits are
31 due back on October 31st and I do not have harvest data
32 for you yet.

33

34 I just wanted to say that there were no
35 permits that were issued for the Batzlenetus fishery
36 this year and no fyke nets were used in Batzlenetus
37 either this season.

38

39 That's the end of my report.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Can we turn the lights
42 out and see the little film clip we've got.

43

44 (Film Clip)

45

46 MS. MCCORMICK: These are images from
47 our video recording that we get from the Tanada Creek
48 weir from the underwater camera. They're from 2008,
49 but you can see the great detail that we get. The fish
50 passage shoot is about maybe six to seven inches deep,

1 so we can tell what kind of fish it is. You can see
2 tagged fish come through. You'll see a king salmon
3 coming through. We're very happy with the results that
4 we get from this underwater camera and we're hoping to
5 put one in at Long Lake.

6

7 It's run on solar power as much as we
8 can do that. We have a generator backup. Each year
9 this gets a little bit better. Dave Sarafin, the other
10 fisheries biologist at the park, manages this weir and
11 every year he makes improvements. It's real impressive
12 I think about the accuracy of what we can do as far as
13 counting fish goes.

14

15 It also makes us more efficient. We've
16 been able to cut the number of crew members. They go
17 out to the weir for maybe four to six hours. They do a
18 video review check from the day before to make sure
19 everything is working properly, they check the weir and
20 go back home again.

21

22 DR. WHEELER: How long do you run the
23 camera?

24

25 MS. MCCORMICK: It runs 24 hours a day.

26

27 DR. WHEELER: With solar power?

28

29 MS. MCCORMICK: As I said, we have a
30 generator backup. We run it as long as we can with the
31 solar power.

32

33 DR. WHEELER: Okay.

34

35 MS. MCCORMICK: Yeah, Dave's done all
36 these innovative things and hangs the solar power from
37 this cable that's suspended across the creek to get the
38 maximum amount of solar that we can get.

39

40 DR. WHEELER: Who gets to watch the
41 video?

42

43 MS. MCCORMICK: The crew does that.

44

45 DR. WHEELER: To count the fish?

46

47 MS. MCCORMICK: Yeah. So this is
48 actually how we count fish anymore. We have this
49 little viewing thing that they look at when they're out
50 at the weir. That's how they check to make sure

1 everything is going right with the recording system.

2

3 DR. WHEELER: Wow.

4

5 MS. MCCORMICK: We have a DVR and VCR
6 that are attached to this, so then they take the tapes
7 home and review the tapes back in the office. So they
8 count them twice to make sure they're getting an
9 accurate count.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So are the tapes
12 archived then?

13

14 MS. MCCORMICK: So far we have been
15 archiving them. It's getting harder and harder to find
16 actual tapes to record on, but we will continue to
17 archive them as long as we can record them.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Could you download
20 them onto a CD or DVD and then archive that?

21

22 MS. MCCORMICK: We could. It would be
23 an incredibly large file. We thought we could just do
24 it by exchanging the DVR, but it was so big and
25 cumbersome and we don't really have the capacity to
26 keep all of it.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: How do they look at
29 night?

30

31 MS. MCCORMICK: They're a little
32 dimmer.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: There's actually
35 enough light down there?

36

37 MS. MCCORMICK: No, we do have lights.

38

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Well, thank
41 you, Molly. Any questions for Molly.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, Bruce.

46

47 MR. CAIN: Can you speed the tape up
48 while you're reviewing it?

49

50 MS. MCCORMICK: You can speed it up,

1 which is one of the really neat things about this
2 because you can speed it up enough so that you can
3 actually review the last 24 hours in about four hours
4 unless there are a lot of fish. There were so many
5 fish coming through this year that it did take them a
6 little bit longer.

7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It looks like you can
9 almost count the smolt outmigrating with it if you
10 wanted to.

11
12 MS. MCCORMICK: You could, except they
13 can actually go through the weir itself.

14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You'd have to count
16 fast too.

17
18 MS. MCCORMICK: Count fast, yeah.

19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Molly.
21 That was interesting. I'm glad you had that to show
22 us. Do we have anything from the Denali National Park?

23
24 MS. MCCORMICK: Oh, I'm sorry. I was
25 supposed to mention this. Amy Craver did ask me to
26 apologize for her not being able to be here and to
27 remind you that there is an agency update from Denali
28 National Park in your packet.

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's on the yellow
31 page.

32
33 Thank you, Molly. With that we're
34 going on to other business. We have future meeting
35 dates and locations. It must be about 5:00 o'clock.
36 Does the Council wish to go on and take care of this
37 today or put it off until tomorrow?

38
39 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I say we finish her
40 up.

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If that's the
43 consensus of the Council, I guess we can do that.

44
45 (Council nods affirmatively)

46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. You guys are
48 here for the duration.
49 Identify topics for the 2009 annual report. Do we have
50 any topics of burning interest or any topics that you'd

1 like to see on the annual report? Trish.

2

3 MS. WAGGONER: I think for the annual
4 report we need to discuss the meeting windows for the
5 fall meetings to not conflict with moose hunting season
6 if there's any way possible.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do we think we need
9 that in the annual report or amongst ourselves?

10

11 MR. SHOWALTER: Amongst ourselves.

12

13 MS. WAGGONER: Okay.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It might be a topic
16 because what's happening is they're putting more work
17 load all the time on Staff members to the point where
18 it's pretty hard to get us separated. So maybe we
19 should put it in the annual report. I don't know how
20 to put it. It's pretty hard to put it in as schedule
21 Council meetings so they don't interfere with fall
22 moose hunting. I guess what we could do is don't
23 schedule meetings so they don't interfere with fall
24 subsistence harvest which your Council members take a
25 part of.

26

27 Donald, what do you think on that?

28

29 MR. MIKE: If it's an issue with the
30 Council members, I think that's a valid subject to
31 include in the annual report and I can work with the
32 Council members and we can develop some language for
33 the annual report. At our winter meeting in Anchorage,
34 Mr. Carpenter identified one other subject item which
35 didn't make it on our last annual report, but it was
36 qualified for 2009. I'd have to go back to the
37 transcript. Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If that's in agreement
40 with the rest of the Council, we'll include that in our
41 annual report then. Hearing no objection, anybody else
42 got any other issues they'd like to put in the annual
43 report?

44

45 One thing I would like to stress, going
46 along with that pillar of sustainability for rural
47 economics or being able to keep rural people in the
48 rural is that the Board should make every effort not to
49 put undue burden on rural subsistence users in the use
50 of the natural resources that are available that could

1 be used for economic growth and stimulus on the Federal
2 land, such as the horns and bones and plant material
3 and mineral material, things like that.

4

5 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Trees.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Trees. I think that
8 goes along with the Secretary's pillars and I think
9 that's something that's extremely important because
10 that's what I see is possible future detriment. If you
11 can't make a living it's awful hard to stay out there.

12

13 Any other. Doug.

14

15 MR. BLOSSOM: Mr. Chair. Greg brought
16 it up earlier today. We were sitting at breakfast.
17 Possibly along the same line, using more coyote hides,
18 wolf hides, stuff like that for rural residents to make
19 money off of. In other words, more opportunity for
20 those type of critters to be harvested for rural
21 people.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Increase access to
24 furbearing animals. Is that how you'd put it or what?
25 Encouragement in using those for.....

26

27 MR. BLOSSOM: Encouraging using them
28 more.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: For local industry.
31 Greg, what were you thinking?

32

33 MR. ENCELEWSKI: What I was thinking, I
34 was just discussing and what I was trying to get at is
35 that we probably have to put in through the process,
36 through the RAC, all the uses for these various
37 animals. Every time we use any species or anything
38 even down to a tree, I mean you have to have a C&T use
39 for it. So what I was trying to get at is we have
40 people that utilize all of this stuff. In fact, they
41 utilize bones and horns and innards. I mean there's a
42 lot of use that we haven't put in or have as proof of
43 use and that's what I was getting at, that we need to
44 get that in through proposals, I guess. I would
45 commonly think that it would be covered, but it's not.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: How would you figure
48 on putting something like that in an annual report? Or
49 do you think this is something we need to address with
50 proposals in the future?

1 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I think it's something
2 we need to address in proposals. You might approach it
3 in the annual report as a need for it, I guess.

4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Doug, were you
6 thinking of a way to express this in the annual report?

7
8 MR. BLOSSOM: I guess I was looking at
9 this Ninth Circuit Court decision, just kind of makes
10 it more liberal, I think, and we wouldn't need C&T on
11 everything. We could start putting some of these
12 species for more use than just one thing.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I just don't know how
15 to express it.

16
17 MR. BLOSSOM: I don't either.

18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Trish.

20
21 MS. WAGGONER: In listening to your
22 sustainable communities, from one of the things I
23 gathered when we were sitting in the bear claw tracking
24 conference call was that we're looking at -- or the
25 current system to put in some sort of permitting or
26 tracking is putting an added obstruction to the
27 subsistence user, so I think not only for sustainable
28 communities allowing and encouraging harvest, but also
29 making sure the bureaucratic system isn't impeding the
30 economic development of subsistence resources too.

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So we could kind of
33 include what you were talking about and what we were
34 talking about before, recognizing if we're going to
35 have economic sustainability for the rural community we
36 need access to the resources and lack of impedance as
37 far as using those resources.

38
39 Maybe like Doug was talking, and
40 encouragement and you could go even so far as
41 encouragement and I won't say training, but education.
42 Last night I was visiting with a lady in Seward who
43 happens to make use of driftwood, bone and all of that,
44 old metal and everything else for artwork that she
45 sells and those kind of things would be good for a
46 rural community. Not everybody is going to do that,
47 but to even think of doing it you need somebody to give
48 somebody some ideas, the training in that kind of art
49 or something like that. Maybe it's not traditional,
50 but those are economic opportunities for rural

1 communities. That's something that can be done by
2 anybody in a rural community or any place else, but
3 there's access to materials there to use. I don't know
4 how you'd work that into the Federal program. I think
5 the idea of at least not putting roadblocks in the way
6 would be one that we can stress.

7
8 I don't have any burning topics at this
9 point in time myself. That's the problem. A lot of
10 the issues that we've dealt with in the past, some
11 steps have been taken in some of them, such as predator
12 control on the caribou herd up in the Nelchina, looking
13 at the ORV impact on land.

14
15 Anybody else have any ideas in those
16 kind of areas that we feel we should put down as issues
17 we'd like to see addressed or things we want to thank
18 them for addressing. Tricia.

19
20 MS. WAGGONER: I think one of the
21 things we heard here today was a good support for
22 Russian River dipnet fishery and getting subsistence
23 fisheries out there. I think that's something that
24 this Council and the Board did well. Came to a
25 consensus where nobody was 100 percent happy, but
26 subsistence had an opportunity.

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Is that agreeable with
29 everybody? Greg.

30
31 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I certainly
32 agree with that. You heard it from the local community
33 and I think it's pretty much a success story and I
34 think it should be reported as that. A lot of times we
35 get all these fears even on our moose hunt that we're
36 going to damage the resource and what it really comes
37 down to we're taking this fall hunt two, three moose
38 and we're actually -- even though sometimes the people
39 are not getting it, you're still providing that
40 opportunity and I would like that opportunity to stay
41 there and to increase in fact. I think it's a good
42 thing.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So a thank you for the
45 success of some of the programs we have brought
46 forward. I think that's a good one. Anything else
47 anybody can think of putting in the report.

48
49 (No comments)
50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'd like to thank them
2 for their continued support of the fisheries
3 monitoring resource program because I think it's been
4 good at capacity building and I also think it's been
5 good at the information that's been gathered. I'll
6 speak as a resident of the Copper River Basin and/or a
7 combination sport fisherman, commercial fisherman,
8 subsistence user and everything else. The information
9 that we've gotten back with some of the studies that
10 Native Village of Eyak has done has been real eye
11 opening and given us hard data to work with and make
12 decisions on. I'd ask for continued support in that
13 area.

14

15 Anything else.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hearing none, we could
20 probably go on to our next agenda item, which goes
21 along with what we've been talking about right now. Do
22 we have any of these things that we've been talking
23 about or other things like this that we can identify as
24 Council topics that we feel we need to discuss at our
25 next meeting or at the January Board meeting. Tricia.

26

27 MS. WAGGONER: I think for the January
28 Board meeting is really stressing the fisheries
29 program. I just think it's good and continued support
30 of all the projects that are being done under it. I
31 think they provide a benefit to the Council and
32 everyone else.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I don't remember if
35 that bear claw tracking issue is coming up at the
36 January meeting or if it's coming up at the May
37 meeting.

38

39 DR. WHEELER: (Nods affirmatively)

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's the May meeting?
42 Okay, we can leave that off the agenda at this point in
43 time then.

44

45 Any other Council issues that you'd
46 like to see discussed in front of the Board at the
47 January meeting. I'm planning on attending that. If
48 not, one of the rest of you will be attending it.

49

50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. I don't hear
2 anything else that anybody really wants to do, so now
3 what we need to do is go on to future meeting dates and
4 locations. Winter 2010 that's our spring meeting,
5 right? Winter is our March meeting. In the past
6 we've tried to have that one in Anchorage simply
7 because it's so much simpler. Donald, what have you
8 got to tell us.

9
10 MR. MIKE: I just want to include our
11 Council member's online if they want to discuss part of
12 the future meeting plans. I can get Fred Elvsaas
13 online. I think Donald is still there.

14
15 MR. KOMPKOFF: Yeah, I'm still here.

16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Boy, you've been
18 patient with us today. Hang in there for just a little
19 while longer.

20
21 MR. KOMPKOFF: You betcha.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Let's look at
24 our calendar. It looks like the last week in March is
25 about all that's left for us, which is acceptable to
26 me.

27
28 MR. BLOSSOM: Acceptable.

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: How about the rest of
31 you? You wanted to leave before that, right, Greg?

32
33 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I was going to
34 leave somewhere around here to go Outside. If I'm
35 gone, I'm gone.

36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, that looks to me
38 like -- although we could have one of the other ones,
39 but we still would be conflicting with the various
40 Staff members. Donald, do you have any suggestions?

41
42 MR. MIKE: Just briefly, Councils to
43 avoid are Northwest, Seward Peninsula. We share Staff
44 at those meetings. The first few weeks of March will
45 work for me except for Southeast. The second or third
46 week of March. Southeast is March 16, 17, 18.

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Would the 11th and
49 12th be okay? Donald, would that interfere with
50 anything you have?

1 MR. MIKE: No, it doesn't. Travel on a
2 Wednesday and have the meeting on Thursday, Friday. If
3 nobody has a problem traveling on the weekend, I'm fine
4 with that.

5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Polly.

7
8 DR. WHEELER: It's fine with us. I was
9 just going to say the next meeting will be a busy
10 meeting because it's going to be the wildlife
11 proposals. We won't know until November 5th how many
12 proposals we have, but you'll definitely need two days.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If we overlap with
15 Yukon St. Mary's, that's not a conflict?

16
17 DR. WHEELER: No.

18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: What would happen if
20 we would overlap completely and go Tuesday, Wednesday
21 and Thursday of that week? Is that a problem with
22 anybody?

23
24 DR. WHEELER: It's not a problem for
25 me.

26
27 MR. ENCELEWSKI: My birthday is the
28 10th.

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Your the one that
31 wanted it that week.

32
33 MR. ENCELEWSKI: That's fine. I'm just
34 kidding.

35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's good. We can
37 celebrate your birthday then. How about the 9th, 10th
38 and 11th? Does that look good to everybody?

39
40 MR. KOMPKOFF: In Anchorage?

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Anchorage, Donald.
43 9th, 10th and 11th of March.

44
45 MR. ELVSAAS: This is Fred. What was
46 the date?

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: 9th, 10th and 11th of
49 March. How does that look to you?

50

1 MR. ELVSAAS: That sounds good to me.
2
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. If that's good
4 for you and the consensus of the rest of the Council is
5 that it's good, we'll take 9th, 10th and 11th in
6 Anchorage. Molly.
7
8 MS. MCCORMICK: I don't know how it
9 would work with you guys, but the Wrangell-St. Elias
10 SRC meeting is actually scheduled on the 9th and 10th.
11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes, Gloria is on the
13 SRC. It would be hard for Gloria to get there on the
14 11th if she's got a meeting on the 10th. Where are you
15 going to hold yours, Molly?
16
17 MS. MCCORMICK: Probably either Copper
18 Center or Gulkana.
19
20 MR. ELVSAAS: What's the change?
21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We're discussing it
23 right now to see what we should do about that or if
24 it's a problem. If Gloria is there, that would mean
25 one Council member we wouldn't have to establish a
26 quorum.
27
28 MR. BLOSSOM: What's wrong with
29 Saturday?
30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Is it a problem with
32 Staff? 11th and 12th and we could run over to the 13th
33 if we need to. Tricia.
34
35 MS. WAGGONER: Doesn't the winter
36 meetings normally have that half day of training? If
37 we did half day of training on the 10th, then we
38 wouldn't even start until the afternoon or the 11th, to
39 give Gloria time to get there on the 11th.
40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, I think that is
42 part of the normal schedule for the winter meeting.
43 Let's do that then. Let's take the 11th and the 12th
44 and if we have to we'll carry over to the 13th. That's
45 no problem for Staff.
46
47 MR. KOMPKOFF: That sounds good to me.
48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, that's what
50 we're doing then. Now that we've reached consensus for

1 the second time.

2

3 MR. ELVSAAS: I heard you, Donald.
4 What did he say? I move to adjourn.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Fred, what we said was
9 we're going to put it off to the 11th, 12th and if
10 necessary the 13th.

11

12 MR. KOMPKOFF: That sounds good.

13

14 MR. ELVSAAS: Okay.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We have one more thing
17 on the agenda.

18

19 MR. MIKE: We have the fall meeting.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's what we have on
22 the agenda, the fall meeting. We have to think of a
23 location and a time for the fall meeting. We don't a
24 big window on the fall meeting after moose hunting
25 season. Can we have it the same time as Nome? Is that
26 a problem? How about the 7th, 8th and 9th?

27

28 DR. WHEELER: Mr. Chair. The meeting a
29 year from now will be to address fish proposals, so
30 while we share wildlife staff, we don't share fisheries
31 staff across those regions. So you can have your
32 meeting at the same time as the Nome meeting. That's
33 fine.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Somebody pick
36 it in October.

37

38 MR. ENCELEWSKI: 13th and 14th.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: 13th and 14th? Does
41 that sound good to everybody?

42

43 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The next question is
46 where? Lake Clark. Icy Bay. Hawaii.

47

48 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Hawaii.

49

50 MS. WAGGONER: Well, it's fisheries

1 though. We haven't gone out to Cantwell for a while,
2 but for fisheries, I don't know if that's appropriate.
3 Seward, Valdez.

4

5 MR. BLOSSOM: Back to Cordova.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You're always welcome
8 there. It's probably going to rain and blow there.

9

10 MR. BLOSSOM: We're inside, so what's
11 the difference.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You might get to eat
14 fresh moose meat. I'll leave that up to the rest of
15 the Council. You guys pick a place to go and Donald
16 will do his best to get us in there.

17

18 MR. BLOSSOM: I see nothing wrong with
19 Cordova. I move for Cordova.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Let's put it down as a
22 tentative and see how things work out.

23

24 Okay. With that, we have those two
25 things taken care of. We have only one other thing to
26 take care of and that's a motion to adjourn. I think
27 Donald already made that. Oh, Fred made it. Okay. Do
28 I hear a second?

29

30 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Second.

31

32 MR. BLOSSOM: Seconded.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and
35 seconded. Meeting is adjourned

36

37 (Off record)

38

39 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 141 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SOUTHCENTRAL FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically by our firm on the 14th day of October 2009, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. at Cooper Landing, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 23rd day of October 2009.

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