

1 SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6
7 VOLUME I

8
9 Homer, Alaska
10 October 15, 2012
11 9:00 a.m.

12
13
14 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 15
16 Ralph Lohse, Chairman
17 Lee Adler
18 Doug Blossom
19 Judy Caminer
20 Greg Encelewski
21 Robert Henrichs
22 Elsie Kanayurak
23 Andrew McLaughlin
24 Mary Ann Mills
25 Mike Opheim
26 James Showalter
27 Gloria Stickwan
28
29 Regional Council Coordinator, Donald Mike

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Homer, Alaska - 10/15/2012)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Good morning, everybody. We'll give everybody time -- a chance to sit down and we will open the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting for October, 2012 into session. And we'll welcome all of you that are here. At this point in time we're going to have a roll call to establish a quorum. And I'd like to ask Donald Mike to do that.

MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is a roll call of the South Central Alaska Regional Advisory Council.

Bob Henrichs.

MR. HENRICHS: Here.

MR. MIKE: Doug Blossom.

MR. BLOSSOM: Here.

MR. MIKE: Greg Encelewski.

MR. ENCELEWSKI: Here.

MR. MIKE: Mary Ann Mills.

MS. MILLS: Here.

MR. MIKE: Lee Adler.

MR. ADLER: Here.

MR. MIKE: Gloria Stickwan.

MS. STICKWAN: Here.

MR. MIKE: James Showalter.

MR. SHOWALTER: Here.

MR. MIKE: Mike Opheim.

MR. OPHEIM: Here.

1
2 MR. MIKE: Andrew McLaughlin.
3
4 MR. McLAUGHLIN: Here.
5
6 MR. MIKE: Judy Caminer.
7
8 MS. CAMINER: Here.
9
10 MR. MIKE: Ralph Lohse.
11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Here.
13
14 MR. MIKE: Thomas Carpenter.
15
16 (No response)
17
18 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, Mr. Carpenter
19 informed me that he couldn't make this meeting due to
20 family commitments.
21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That and the fact that
23 he has jury duty.
24
25 (Laughter)
26
27 MR. MIKE: Elsie Kanayurak.
28
29 MS. KANAYURAK: Here.
30
31 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, you have a
32 quorum, you have 11 members present -- 12 members
33 present.
34
35 Thank you.
36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Donald, and
38 thank you for all the work that you do for us.
39
40 At this point in time I'd like to
41 welcome everybody that's here, all the guests that are
42 out there. And I'd like to welcome the new members
43 that we have on our council. And it's sure good to see
44 a lot of the people that I've seen for -- it seems like
45 quite a few years now for some of us, but we're going
46 to at this point in time go around the council and
47 introduce ourselves. And then we will have some
48 introduction from the people out in the audience so we
49 know who's here to.
50

1 MR. STOVALL: Hi. This is Robert
2 Stovall over at Seward.

3
4 MR. MIKE: Yeah, this is Donald Mike.
5 We're going through introduction and -- of the Regional
6 Advisory Council. So if you can hold on a minute we'll
7 get to you. Thank you.

8
9 MR. STOVALL: Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. With that I'll
12 introduce myself. I'm Ralph Lohse, I'm from the Copper
13 Basin. In other words I'm from the headwaters of the
14 Chitina to the -- the mouth to the delta on the Copper
15 River. And I've been on the Board for I think now 20
16 years. And it looks like some of the other people have
17 been here just about that long and some of us are new.

18
19
20 And so with that I'm just going to ask
21 that we start with Gloria and we go around the table
22 and tell you where we're from and who we are then we'll
23 go out to the audience.

24
25 MS. STICKWAN: My name is Gloria
26 Stickwan, I'm from Tazlina. I've served on the
27 Southcentral for seven years, I think, and been
28 involved from the beginning with this process.

29
30 MS. MILLS: My name is Mary Ann Mills
31 and I'm from Sterling and I'm also a citizen of the
32 Kenaitze Indian Tribe. And I'm a fairly new comer to
33 this council, I've been on the council for a few years.

34
35
36 Thank you.

37
38 MR. McLAUGHLIN: I'm Andy McLaughlin,
39 I'm from Chenega Bay out in Prince William Sound, a 20
40 year resident out there.

41
42 MR. OPHEIM: My name's Michael Opheim,
43 I'm from Seldovia. And this is only my second meeting
44 so I'm still learning.

45
46 MS. KANAYURAK: I'm Elsie Kanayurak,
47 I'm from Kenai. And this is like my second meeting so
48 if you'd bear with me.

49
50 MS. CAMINER: Good morning, I'm Judy

1 Caminer. I've spent many years with the Federal
2 Subsistence Program first on the Federal side and then
3 after retiring from National Park Service on the
4 Council for the last two and a half years. Nice to see
5 everybody.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 MR. HENRICHS: Another fine day. I'm
10 Bob Henrichs, I'm President of the Native Village of
11 Eyak and I've been on this Board off and on since the
12 late '90s. They throw me off if I put something in
13 they don't like.

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's as good excuse
18 as any.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 MR. ADLER: I'm Lee Adler, I've lived
23 in Copper River Basin, Glennallen for 43 years. And
24 I've been on the Board for a couple two years. And I'm
25 very interested in wildlife managers having worked as a
26 biologist years ago for the BLM and Fish and Game. So
27 glad to be here.

28

29 MR. SHOWALTER: My name's James
30 Showalter, I'm from Sterling, originally from Kenai.
31 I've been on the Board here for a few years with broken
32 time in between.

33

34 MR. BLOSSOM: I'm Doug Blossom from
35 Clam Gulch, I've lived there for 64 years. I'm a
36 commercial fisherman by trade, but I love to hunt and
37 everything else.

38

39 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I'm Greg Encelewski,
40 I'm from Ninilchik. I've been on the RAC for quite a
41 few years, I don't know if I want to even think how
42 many, but it's been a while. And I'm from Ninilchik
43 like I said, I'm a lifelong. I'm also President of the
44 Council up there, the Traditional Council. I
45 commercial fish and I also subsistence hunt and fish.
46 So that's me.

47

48 MR. MIKE: Good morning. My name is
49 Donald Mike, I'm the Regional Advisory Council
50 Coordinator.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And thank you, Donald,
2 for the job that you do.

3
4 And now we'll start right in the front
5 row and we'll start with Pete.

6
7 MR. PROBASCO: Good morning. I'm Pete
8 Probasco. I'm the Assistant Regional Director for the
9 Office of Subsistence Management.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 MR. BURCHAM: Milo Burcham, Wildlife
14 Biologist with the Cordova Ranger District on the
15 Chugach Forest specializing in subsistence.

16
17 MR. FRIED: Good morning. Steve Fried.
18 I'm a Fish Biologist with OSM in Anchorage.

19
20 MR. LORANGER: Good morning. Andy
21 Loranger. I'm the Refuge Manager at the Kenai National
22 Wildlife Refuge.

23
24 MR. GRAHAM: Patty Graham, R.N., also
25 related with the entertainment industry for 35 years.

26
27 MS. FORD: Emily Ford with the Alaska
28 Energy Authority. We've been asked to talk about the
29 Susitna-Watana Hydro Project.

30
31 MS. KRAUTHOEFER: I'm Tracie
32 Krauthoefer, I'm the Anthropologist for HDR Alaska and
33 I'm here on behalf of the Alaska Energy Authority.

34
35 MS. HYER: Good morning. I'm Karen
36 Hyer with the Office of Subsistence Management.

37
38 MS. PALAGIUS: Vija Palagius, Fisheries
39 Biologist, Native Village of Eyak.

40
41 MS. DEMICO: Ruth Demico, U.S. Forest
42 Service Subsistence out of Moose Pass.

43
44 MR. KESSLER: Good morning. Steve
45 Kessler with the U.S. Forest Service. I'm a member of
46 the Interagency Staff Committee and work out of
47 Anchorage.

48
49 MR. CARIAGE: Good morning. Brian
50 Cariage, Alaska Energy Authority, Susitna-Watana

1 project and also Bradley Lake.

2

3 MS. CELLARIUS: Good morning. I'm
4 Barbara Cellarius, I'm the Subsistence Coordinator and
5 Cultural Anthropologist for Wrangell-St. Elias National
6 Park and Preserve based in Copper Center.

7

8 MR. VEECH: Good morning. I'm Eric
9 Veech, I'm the Chief of Natural Cultural Resources for
10 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.

11

12 MR. ENCELEWSKI: My name's Ivan
13 Encelewski, I'm the Executive Director for the
14 Ninilchik Traditional Council, also a Federally-
15 qualified subsistence user from Ninilchik.

16

17 MS. THOMPSON: Madeline Thompson, NTC
18 member and a subsistence member.

19

20 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Dave
21 (indiscernible) I sit on the Board of Directors for
22 Ninilchik Traditional Council. I'm also the Fisheries
23 Manager for 487 Ninilchik Native Descendants.

24

25 MR. ODMAN: Kenny Odman, Ninilchik
26 Tribe. I'm sole Director for NTC.

27

28 MR. BIRCH: March Birch, Wildlife
29 Biologist with the Department of Fish and Game in the
30 Division of Wildlife Conservation, Region IV.

31

32 MR. WILLIAMS: Darrel Williams,
33 Ninilchik Traditional Council.

34

35 MR. NELSON: Good morning. Dave
36 Nelson, I'm a Fisheries Biologist with the National
37 Park Service and I work out of Anchorage.

38

39 MS. BULLOCK: My name is Sara Bullock,
40 Bureau of Land Management.

41

42 MR. PALMER: Good morning. I'm Doug
43 Palmer with the Fish and Wildlife Service. I serve as
44 the Field Supervisor for the Kenai Field Office and
45 also Federal Fisheries Manager for the Cook Inlet Area.

46

47 MR. CHENN: Aloha. Glen Chenn, I'm the
48 Subsistence Branch Chief for the Bureau of Indian
49 Affairs. And I'd like to welcome you to my hometown of
50 Homer.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. And thank
2 you for the welcome. Homer's a pretty nice place. I
3 have to say that since I have a daughter living here.
4 So but no, it is a pretty nice place. It would be
5 tempting to live in Homer if you didn't live in the
6 Copper Basin.

7
8 Okay. With that we're going to go on
9 and we've had our welcome. Donald, do you have
10 somebody on the phone?

11
12 MR. MIKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. Who do we
13 have on line, please introduce yourself.

14
15 MR. STOVALL: Hi, this is Robert
16 Stovall. I'm with the U.S. Forest Service out of
17 Seward.

18
19 MR. MIKE: Robert Stovall, Forest
20 Service. Anyone else?

21
22 MR. CRAWFORD: This is Drew Crawford,
23 I'm with Fish and Game, Federal Subsistence Liaison
24 Team in Anchorage.

25
26 MR. MIKE: Drew Crawford. Anyone else?

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MR. MIKE: I think that's it, Mr.
31 Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. And thank
34 you for standing by on the telephone.

35
36 Okay. With that we're going to review
37 and adopt the agenda that we have in front of us right
38 here.

39
40 MR. HENRICHS: Mr. Chairman. Point of
41 order, you skipped the invocation.

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mr. Henrichs, would
44 you like to give it, please?

45
46 MR. HENRICHS: No. Mary Ann can do it.

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

49
50 MS. MILLS: Heavenly father (in

1 Native), we ask that you be with each of us today and
2 we ask that you guide us as we do this important work
3 that affects all people in Alaska and we ask this in
4 your precious name. Amen.

5

6 IN UNISON: Amen.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Mr.
9 Henrichs, for the reminder. And with that we are going
10 to go on to review and adopt the agenda. And if
11 anybody has anything that they see that they would like
12 to add to it, this is a good time to do it. I have got
13 a suggestion on it, but I'll wait until everybody else
14 is done.

15

16 Mr. Encelewski.

17

18 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, Mr. Chairman.
19 I'm not sure how to -- what I want to add on here, but
20 I would like to -- us to entertain a discussion on the
21 Kenai king crisis and all over the state actually, but
22 specifically the king where they've -- the State
23 appointed some committees and task force and I notice
24 that there's no subsistence users on that force.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, let's just --
27 let's just put that under new business. And I think
28 that -- like you and I talked about before I think that
29 a resolution or a letter from us to the effect that
30 somebody from the subsistence users should be on that
31 kind of committee too is in order. So let's just put
32 it at the end of new business right there, if that's
33 okay.

34

35 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thanks.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Anything else?

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I'm going to
42 make a suggestion. I was looking at all of our new
43 business and so much of our new business is related to
44 information that we will probably get from the agency
45 reports that I'd like to suggest that we reverse 11 and
46 12, that we take our agency reports -- we've always
47 taken our agency reports at the end of the meeting, but
48 in this case I'd like to put the agency reports prior
49 to us discussing our new business so that the
50 information that we get from the agency reports can be

1 incorporated in our -- in our discussion of the new
2 business. And if that's -- if that's agreeable to the
3 rest of the Council and we have some agency people that
4 also need to speak today because they have to leave, so
5 if it's agreeable to the rest of the Council we'll
6 reverse 11 and 12, we'll have the agency reports before
7 the new business and then we'll finish up with the new
8 business after we've heard them.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hearing no objection
13 okay, we'll do -- we'll do it that way then. Any other
14 suggestions?

15

16 Donald.

17

18 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
19 Alaska Railroad contact me via email and stated that
20 they were going to have a representative here to do a
21 presentation on moose fatalities on the Railroad, but
22 due to scheduling conflicts the individual can't be
23 here in person. But if the Council wish to do so we
24 can have a time certain at 2:00 o'clock for him to do
25 his presentation.

26

27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If that's agreeable to
30 the rest of the Council that's sure agreeable to me.
31 We'll make a time certain for 2:00 o'clock for the
32 Alaska Railroad moose fatality report.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Is there any other
37 thing that needs to have a time certain, Donald, do you
38 know of anything else?

39

40 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, I'm not aware of
41 any other time certain except some agency folks that
42 need to do their business today need to get them
43 completed by today. So and we'll go through that. I
44 know.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think.....

47

48 MR. MIKE:the Park Service and
49 the Forest Service were wanting to do their
50 presentations today.

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think by reversing
4 this we'll be able to do that, but if we don't we --
5 let's put the Park Service and the Forest Service ones
6 that have to leave as time certain after the Alaska
7 Railroad if that's agreeable to everybody else. And
8 that way if we don't get to them before that they'll
9 have a time certain report after the Alaska Railroad
10 report this afternoon. It would be a good way to
11 finish the day anyhow.

12

13 Any other suggestions, any
14 disagreements with what I've said?

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If not a motion to
19 accept the agenda as amended is in order.

20

21 MR. HENRICHS: I'll make the motion.

22

23 MR. BLOSSOM: Second.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and
26 seconded to accept the agenda as amended -- accept the
27 agenda as amended.

28

29 Any discussion?

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MR. HENRICHS: Question.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The question's been
36 called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

37

38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
41 saying nay.

42

43 (No opposing votes)

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries.

46

47 Now we need to review and approve the
48 previous meeting minutes and we'll see if everybody's
49 on the ball. Okay. Does anybody see any changes or
50 corrections that need to be made in the minutes?

1 MR. HENRICHS: Make a motion we approve
2 the minutes.
3
4 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE VOICE: I'll
5 second.
6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I won't accept that
8 motion at this point in time.
9
10 UNIDENTIFIED MALE VOICE: He's got
11 something he's seen in there, I don't know what.
12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Come on, read the
14 first line.
15
16 MS. CAMINER: Ut-oh. Mr. Chair.....
17
18 UNIDENTIFIED MALE VOICE: Oh, he wasn't
19 there.
20
21 MS. CAMINER:I don't think it was
22 you.
23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.
25
26 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, so it should
27 read was called to order by Vice Chair Tom Carpenter.
28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.
30
31 UNIDENTIFIED MALE VOICE: Had you as
32 being present too in the roll call.
33
34 MS. CAMINER: True.
35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And did you have an
37 invocation by Larry Williams?
38
39 MR. HENRICHS: Who's Larry Williams?
40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I don't know. I
42 don't.....
43
44 MR. HENRICHS: Well, he says he's a
45 Council member.
46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But I don't know of
48 any Larry Williams that's a Council member of ours.
49
50 MR. HENRICHS: No, I don't either.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So a motion to amend
2 the minutes is in order.
3
4 MR. HENRICHS: I'll move.
5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You're just moving to
7 amend it, you're not telling us what we're amending,
8 huh?
9
10 MR. HENRICHS: Right.
11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy, would you like
13 to.....
14
15 MS. CAMINER: Sure.
16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:make a motion
18 to.....
19
20 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, I move that a
21 few adjustments be made to the minutes to reflect that
22 Vice Chair Tom Carpenter called the meeting to order,
23 that you were unfortunately not present at the meeting
24 under roll call and none of us can remember if or -- if
25 there was an invocation, who did it, but it certainly
26 was not someone who was a Council member named Larry
27 Williams. So perhaps that whole sentence needs to be
28 strike -- stricken.
29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. That was the
31 kind of questions you get on Federal exams, it's called
32 a.....
33
34 MS. CAMINER: Right.
35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:trick question.
37
38 MS. CAMINER: We didn't get a second on
39 my motion or my -- on my amendment.
40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We need a second if
42 we're going to go anyplace with that motion.
43
44 Greg, you second it?
45
46 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Well, I just noticed
47 that there's -- your name appears in other areas too
48 under Unit 7 and 15 moose it says Chair Lohse.
49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Thank you,

1 Greg.
2
3 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I'll second it with
4 those amendments.
5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And we'll replace it
7 with Tom Carpenter.
8
9 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Right.
10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. With that if
12 there are no further corrections or additions that need
13 to be made, we have a motion to put these amendments on
14 the table. We need either the question on it or
15 discussion on that.
16
17 MR. HENRICHS: Question.
18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The question's been
20 called on the amendment to change the things that we
21 mentioned where it puts my name in and the invocation.
22 All in favor signify by saying aye.
23
24 IN UNISON: Aye.
25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
27 saying nay.
28
29 (No opposing votes)
30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries. And
32 now we need a motion to accept the minutes as amended.
33
34 MR. HENRICHS: I'll make the motion.
35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The motion.....
37
38 MS. STICKWAN: I second.
39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria.
41
42 MS. STICKWAN: I second.
43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Moved and
45 seconded to accept the minutes as amended. Any
46 discussion?
47
48 (No comments)
49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All in favor signify

1 by saying aye.
2
3 IN UNISON: Aye.
4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
6 saying nay.
7
8 (No opposing votes)
9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries.
11
12 MS. CAMINER: Actually you were at the
13 March meeting.
14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Huh?
16
17 MS. CAMINER: You were at the March
18 meeting. We were thinking of the Cantwell meeting when
19 we were saying this.
20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I didn't know
22 about me, but I knew that Larry Williams.....
23
24 MS. CAMINER: Right.
25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:wasn't. I can't
27 remember the March.....
28
29 MS. CAMINER: You were at the March
30 meeting.
31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Ut-oh.
33
34 MS. CAMINER: Excuse me.
35
36 UNIDENTIFIED MALE VOICE: Yeah, because
37 he started.....
38
39 MS. CAMINER: Let's think back to the
40 Anchorage meeting. The Cantwell meeting Ralph was not
41 attending.....
42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.
44
45 MS. CAMINER:but the Anchorage
46 meeting Ralph was there.
47
48 UNIDENTIFIED MALE VOICE: Yeah, this
49 was the Anchorage meeting.
50

1 MS. CAMINER: Yeah.
2
3 MR. HENRICHS: Yeah, that's correct.
4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.
6
7 MR. HENRICHS: So we need to reamend
8 that.
9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We need to reamend
11 that and we got -- I got off because I saw the
12 invocation thing.....
13
14 MS. CAMINER: Right.
15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:and then I
17 started from there.
18
19 MS. CAMINER: Okay.
20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So I was there. Okay.
22 We can -- how do you do that to recall a motion?
23 With.....
24
25 UNIDENTIFIED MALE VOICE: Consent.....
26
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We can't withdraw it.
28
29 MS. STICKWAN: We have to take
30 back.....
31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Huh?
33
34 MS. STICKWAN: I thought you would --
35 they would have to take back.....
36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.
38
39 MS. STICKWAN:their.....
40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The motion makers have
42 to made a motion to rescind the motion.
43
44 MR. MIKE: And with concurrence by the
45 person that second the motion.
46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right. So the last
48 motion that we have on the table is the one by Mr.
49 Henrichs and Gloria. So if you make a motion to
50 rescind your motion and Gloria seconds it then we can

1 take the final motion off and we can go back and
2 reamend.
3
4 MR. HENRICHS: Okay. I'll make a
5 motion to rescind it, but I still don't know this Larry
6 Williams.
7
8 MS. CAMINER: Right.
9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.
11
12 MS. STICKWAN: I second.
13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So now we're --
15 now we're back to the amendment and what we can do, I
16 think, if I realize right, is we can amend the
17 amendment with the concurrence of the two folks who
18 made the amendment. So who -- Judy.....
19
20 MS. CAMINER: Uh-huh.
21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:Judy and Greg,
23 right?
24
25 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I concur. Second.
26
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You concur. Okay. So
28 we're withdrawing our amended motion and we are
29 reamending it. Judy, would you make -- would you make
30 a motion that follows with what we need to amend?
31
32 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, I believe in
33 looking at the minutes from the March meeting, the only
34 correction that needs to be made to what's presented in
35 front of us is strike the line about the invocation.
36 We do not recall that there was a Council member named
37 Larry Williams nor an invocation, but other than that
38 the minutes appear to be fine so just strike that one
39 sentence.
40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Does the second
42 concur?
43
44 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I do.
45
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The second concurs.
47 All in favor of the amendment signify by saying aye.
48
49 IN UNISON: Aye.
50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now we have an amended
2 motion on the table. A motion to accept the agenda as
3 amended and if we could have our original motion makers
4 make that motion we can go ahead.

5
6 MR. HENRICHS: I make a motion we
7 approve the minutes.

8
9 MS. STICKWAN: I second.

10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And second. Any
12 further discussion, anybody else see anything I missed?

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Question.

17
18 MR. HENRICHS: Question.

19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All in favor signify
21 by saying aye.

22
23 IN UNISON: Aye.

24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
26 saying nay.

27
28 (No opposing votes)

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Now we have the
31 agenda -- the previous agenda approved as amended and
32 as reamended.

33
34 So -- okay. With that I think we're
35 going to take a break for everybody to go get a cup of
36 coffee if they want it. That was confusing enough
37 that.....

38
39 (Off record)

40
41 (On record)

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'd like to call this
44 meeting of South Central Alaska Subsistence Regional
45 Advisory Council back into session. And with that
46 we're going to go on to item number 7 on our agenda
47 which are reports. And do we have any Council members
48 that have specific reports or anything that they would
49 like to report to us at this point in time?

50

1 Mary Ann.

2

3 MS. MILLS: I would like to report
4 that, you know, the Kenaitze Tribe has an educational
5 fishery. And this is the first year that the fishery
6 has done its poorest with king salmon, red salmon,
7 silvers and with all fish basically. And so we have a
8 concern about, you know, what is happening with the --
9 with the fishery and why the counts are so low. So
10 that's our concern.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Mary Ann.
15 That's on the -- that's on the Kasilof, right?

16

17 MS. MILLS: No. We -- well, we have --
18 we have nets on the Kasilof and we also have them on
19 the Kenai. And so primarily I'm speaking about both,
20 both fisheries.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So were the runs on
23 the -- were the runs on -- I knew that the Kasilof
24 didn't have as good a run as expected this year, but
25 the -- was the Kenai short too?

26

27 MS. MILLS: The Kenai was short too.
28 We have -- we had very few king salmon that came into
29 our nets. And so, you know, we're wondering what the
30 -- how the State is managing, if they're managing their
31 management scheme, if it's still the same because it's
32 -- we are seeing an alarming decrease of fish.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. I know that
35 king salmon all over the state had a significantly
36 poorer than usual return this year. I know that
37 they've -- one of the things we were talking about with
38 Greg was the commission that they're going -- or the
39 committee that they're going to have on that and
40 there's a -- for those that are interested in it,
41 there's going to be a symposium on king salmon I think
42 the 22nd through the 25th and I'm not sure where that's
43 going to be, but the State is definitely concerned
44 about what's going on with the king salmon and it's not
45 just the Kenai and the Kasilof, it's pretty much
46 statewide.

47

48 I was talking to a biologist up country
49 and one of the things that -- his suggestion was was
50 with our warming trend that we're having right now,

1 most of the king salmon are early run fish, they have a
2 tendency to go up the river while the water is cold and
3 then they spawn in cold water which makes the eggs take
4 longer to hatch. So the eggs actually come out
5 hatching about the time that you've got food in the
6 water, about the time that, you know, other -- they
7 come out hatching late because they start in cold
8 water. And what he's concerned about is the
9 temperature of the water in the upper streams has
10 warmed up to the point that the king salmon eggs aren't
11 taking as long to hatch now and they're actually coming
12 out as fry before there's any food in the water and
13 they're starving to death right up in -- right up in
14 our upper streams. So if that's the case that would
15 explain why it would be statewide because we have had
16 an increase in temperature and an increase in our water
17 temperature.

18

19 So I'm sure it'll -- I'm sure there's
20 going to be lots of theories come out in the symposium
21 and that's just one guy's theory. But there is a --
22 there is a general concern on that everywhere and I
23 think you're going to find that in the next couple
24 years there's going to be a lot of -- a lot of
25 information dug out and a lot of work done on it. And
26 as far as how the State's going to manage it I don't
27 know.

28

29 Greg.

30 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I just wanted to add
31 to Mary Ann's report from the Ninilchik side, the
32 Traditional Council also has a educational fishery in
33 Ninilchik and it wasn't poor, it was disastrous, there
34 was no kings. We have a quota of like 75 kings, we --
35 I don't think we got a dozen or so. And that said, you
36 know, there was later kings so we're going to hear a
37 million different reports and suggestions. The bottom
38 line I believe they've been -- all user groups have
39 impacted the, but just an anecdotal information, you
40 know, the kings come back in a fairly large number to
41 the Kenai late in August. The kings are getting late,
42 they fished them out early.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Doug.

45

46 MR. BLOSSOM: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I guess
47 I'll add a little more. You think about the other day
48 I had a friend of mine go out of Homer, one boat, and
49 he was legal. They caught 17 kings and kept 15 which
50 is legal. That's one boat and if you watch Homer

1 Harbor alone there's 100 boats leave every day. You
2 take that around the whole state, it's all legal, that
3 there's a lot of kings being taken that aren't being
4 counted anymore. So anyway that's -- you got to think
5 about that.

6

7 The second thing is is when Cora
8 Campbell became Commissioner I managed to weasel in and
9 get a special meeting with her right at the start. All
10 I told here, I says, Cora Campbell, you're new, you got
11 a great future if you do this, enhance kings. That's
12 all I talked about with her across the whole state. To
13 this day she hasn't done one thing about it.

14

15 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE VOICE: Did you say
16 landscape?

17

18 MR. BLOSSOM: Enhance kings.

19

20 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE VOICE: Enhance
21 kings. Thank you.

22

23 MR. BLOSSOM: We have hatcheries, the
24 politicians have guaranteed the money, we have
25 biologists that know how to do it. They've done it in
26 Southeast and places like that, king salmon are easy to
27 raise. We cannot have as many people as we have
28 harvesting a little, dinky pile of kings. If you're
29 going to continue to harvest we have to have more.
30 That's my add to that.

31

32 My second thing is are we going to talk
33 about predator control at all today?

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I don't know. It can
36 be brought up at some time especially if it's involved
37 with this.

38

39 MR. BLOSSOM: Well, it would be
40 involved with game, yeah, which is.....

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

43

44 MR. BLOSSOM: Yeah.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Thank you,
47 Doug. Mr. Henrichs.

48

49 MR. HENRICHS: Yeah, our tribe had a
50 educational permit and we were -- we caught all the

1 reds, 100 reds, but I don't think we caught 10 kings.
2 I don't even think we caught five, they just weren't
3 there.

4

5 So and talking about those king salmon,
6 you got that bycatch for those draggers and boy they're
7 taking 50,000 a year. And up in the -- out west there,
8 those CDQ groups were so concerned about them when they
9 cut the mesh size from seven and a quarter down to six,
10 a lot of the fishermen, subsistence fishermen, didn't
11 have nets. So the CDQ group brought a bunch of nets in
12 and they would give them to the subsistence fishermen,
13 but they had to sign a pledge that they wouldn't bitch
14 about the draggers taking all those kings before they'd
15 give them the nets. So what's going on here.

16

17 And if you want to enhance those salmon
18 and it's not really hatcheries, what we got is more
19 like ocean ranching. And we have the largest red
20 salmon hatchery in the world up the Copper River and
21 it's right off of a warm springs and the fishermen put
22 that in themselves. So it can be done, you just have
23 to go do it.

24

25 You can talk about it forever or just
26 go do it.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Mr.
29 Henrichs. Gloria.

30

31 MS. STICKWAN: I just want to state
32 that the Wrangell-St. Elias SRC meeting is October 30th
33 after this meeting. So I don't have a report. We
34 didn't -- couldn't get a meeting date before this one
35 and we don't have any proposals.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Gloria.

38

39 MS. STICKWAN: And chinook is a problem
40 in our area too, you know as well.....

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

43

44 MS. STICKWAN:as I do.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Elsie.

47

48 MS. KANAYURAK: I work for the Kenaitze
49 Indian Tribe and this year we had -- we caught 14 kings
50 and we have 1,405 tribal members enrolled in the tribe

1 and, you know, 14 kings doesn't go very far.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You don't even get a
4 taste.

5

6 MS. KANAYURAK: And, you know, well,
7 they shut us down, they closed all fishing in the Kenai
8 River from June 22nd and we couldn't -- we had to pull
9 our net. And we stayed pulled until the -- until July
10 1st. And so we had no fishing during that period.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Elsie.
13 Lee.

14

15 MR. ADLER: Well, I just got to
16 reiterate what everybody else is saying about salmon.
17 This year according to the Fish and Game we had the
18 highest number of reds come up the Copper River in
19 recorded history. And I believe it. Everybody got
20 plenty of reds, the fish wheels were full. Just the
21 reverse was true on king salmon. They closed the
22 season down early in both the Klutina and Gulkana and
23 the commercial guys were whining and complaining and
24 justifiably. But I think the solution to getting more
25 kings is to let more kings get to the spawning grounds,
26 we're just taking too many of them in the ocean and the
27 fish wheels. And I know a lot of people with fish
28 wheels that get way too many kings. They get -- they
29 don't want them, they want reds, but they'll take the
30 kings home. But I don't know that that's really the
31 problem, but we do need to get more kings up on the
32 spawning ground. That's about all I can say about
33 that.

34

35 As far as moose and caribou, it's
36 pretty similar. The subsistence hunts are about the
37 same as they've been for years with one exception. We
38 have this community harvest for moose, Fish and Game
39 manage it and Ahtna to some extent. But it was set up
40 to help the local people get more moose in subsistence.
41 Well, it's turned out that people from all over the
42 state are setting up these community groups and coming
43 up there. And I've heard from two Fish and Game
44 biologists that we're over killing the bull population
45 in Unit 13. For example, on one weekend along in the
46 Puritan Trailhead, there were 15 bulls taken out of
47 that. And I didn't know there were 15 bulls in there.

48

49 So that's about all I've got to say.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Lee. Greg.

2

3 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, if
4 I could just make one more comment on a report that I
5 think's relevant to our Board here. And that is the
6 subsistence use priority of fish and kings. Ninilchik
7 residents, rural residents, have a subsistence right on
8 the Kenai and on the Kasilof. And I just want to note
9 and I want everyone to know that subsistence was the
10 very first to be shut down rather than the last or
11 later.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Greg. Doug
14 and Lee, I think you both hit something that's very --
15 I can remember reading a book by (indiscernible) a long
16 time ago and it's on salmon. And in there he points
17 out that there are no viable wild stock salmon
18 fisheries that survive anywhere in the world where
19 there's an industrialized population and road access.
20 The main reason is because you have an exponential
21 number of users that continue to grow and continue to
22 grow and continue to grow. And it doesn't matter
23 whether we do catch and release or we keep them or
24 what, you're going to have an impact on them. I can
25 remember when I taught school in British Columbia and
26 this was 40 some years ago, I won't say how many 40
27 some, but it was quite a while ago. And coming from
28 the midwest where, you know, like my kids said when I
29 took them down there and I took them to my brother's
30 cabin and they went to catch some of the fish we caught
31 when I was a kid and they said, dad, we use bait bigger
32 than this in Alaska, you know. So I went there and man
33 the first time I went out the road, I went to this
34 creek and my gosh, here's all these great big fish
35 swimming in the creek. I headed for my car to get my
36 fishing pole and a guy tapped me on the shoulder and
37 said you can't fish those. In British Columbia when
38 the fish get on the spawning grounds, when the fish get
39 up in freshwater, king salmon are in freshwater,
40 they're closed.

41

42 UNIDENTIFIED MALE VOICE: Yeah, that's
43 a good idea.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Because if you -- and
46 this is -- I like to use this illustration, I really
47 think that this is part of our problem. Like Lee says,
48 we need to get fish on the spawning grounds. Fish are
49 the most important subsistence food that we have and to
50 me I think -- and some day when I'm not on this Council

1 anymore I'm going to put a proposal in that the Federal
2 government closes all fishing on waters that have
3 spawning salmons in them for the sake of the
4 subsistence users because that to me is the biggest --
5 one of the biggest impacts we have. We see it down in
6 Cordova right now. You cannot go and yank something
7 out of bed that's trying to spawn, look at it and say
8 oh, that's pretty nice, throw it back and expect it to
9 have a very good spawning success. I would -- I would
10 guarantee that there aren't very many people that would
11 have very many children if they were yanked out of bed,
12 put back in bed, maybe not put back in bed, maybe
13 knocked on the head and somebody else has to get there
14 and we do that with fish all the time. So I think that
15 Lee and Doug both hit it is we have an increase in
16 users. I know what Lee was saying, I've talked to some
17 of my friends that have fish wheels up in the Copper
18 River and good news and bad news. The bad news was at
19 the start of the season when they first put their fish
20 wheels in the kings were just -- you know, of the guys
21 -- well, one of the guys I talked to had 27 kings the
22 first day he put his fish wheel in, you know, the kings
23 were going up early. That's bad news. We've replaced
24 -- we've put fish in fish wheels that used to be in dip
25 nets or in gill nets too.

26
27 But the other thing was at the end of
28 the season he started catching jacks all over the
29 place, he had 20 some jacks in one day which bodes good
30 for the future because that means there's a lot of
31 small, young fish swimming around. And it's just what
32 we do when we're on Prince William Sound, if you have a
33 lot of four year old red salmon you figure you're going
34 to have a strong run the next year because you'll have
35 a lot of five year olds. If you don't have four year
36 olds the next year's run is going to be weak. Well,
37 there was a lot of jack kings going -- and I've heard
38 this from other places too, there was a lot of jack
39 kings going up the river at the end of the season. So
40 maybe we'll have kings in the future, but we do need to
41 do something about it as a state.

42
43 Doug.

44
45 MR. BLOSSOM: Yeah, Mr. Chair, one more
46 comment on that. The reason I'm pushing this
47 enhancement and hatchery so strong is it's a proven
48 fact that if we hatch the eggs in the hatchery we'll
49 get a 90 some percent hatch rate. In the wild very
50 seldom does it reach 10. That's the important part.

1 After that we turn them loose and they're wild fish.
2 So that's important that we enhance them for that
3 reason.

4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's kind of
6 interesting because what -- a book that I was reading
7 last night, you know, for centuries people looked at
8 how many eggs fish give and figured that fish were --
9 you couldn't use the fish up because they produce --
10 they reproduce so high. A cod will have 9 million eggs
11 or 6 million eggs, a salmon will have X amount of
12 thousand eggs, you know, and stuff like this. But
13 what's really interesting is the survival rate on those
14 eggs come out to about the same survival rate as any
15 mammal. The average king salmon pair gets six fish
16 coming back out of all their eggs. The average cod
17 that puts 9 million eggs in the water gets six fish
18 coming back. You know, it's not the fact that there's
19 so many eggs you're going to get that kind of return,
20 but like Doug says you can enhance at least the first
21 part of the cycle, you can't enhance what goes on once
22 they get out in the big, black box out there and
23 there's lots of things that like to eat them.

24
25 Mary Ann.

26
27 MS. MILLS: Well, I think we also need
28 to address the biggest -- I think one of the biggest
29 wanton and waste coming from the factory trawlers.
30 It's something that's been put aside for many, many
31 years, but, you know, it's having an affect on a lot of
32 our fisheries. And, you know, traditionally with the
33 indigenous people to throw edible, good food and life
34 away is not -- is definitely against our principles.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Mary Ann.
39 And that is something else that's hitting the fan in
40 our day and age. And like the book I was reading last
41 night said, this is -- the kids that are growing up
42 today have a chance to change this and they have a
43 chance to change this by what they buy. And we all
44 have that kind of a chance, you know, because it is
45 recognized today the kind of damage they do. Their
46 political power is still strong enough that they're
47 going to do some of it. But we're the people who end
48 up buying the product and if people start refusing to
49 buy product that's caught unsustainably then it's
50 totally possible that we can change things to where

1 these kind of fisheries don't exist or at least exist
2 on a small scale. We've all seen pictures of what
3 happens on a factory trawler. I was looking at what
4 happens with shrimp trawling in the Gulf of Mexico and
5 for every pound of shrimp they throw away 12 pounds of
6 fish. I mean, that's pretty wanton -- you know, in
7 Alaska we call that wanton waste. But I also know
8 that, you know, because of the way our laws are written
9 you can be fishing and if you catch more than the --
10 more bycatch that you're supposed to have you've got a
11 choice, you can do like the people in England did and
12 keep it and end up in court because they refused to do
13 wanton waste and ended up with big fines over it and
14 losing their boats or you can do what the Fish and Game
15 and management and everybody else expects you to do
16 which is to throw it overboard dead. And somewhere
17 along the lines that's got to change. And you're
18 right, Mary Ann, that's a -- that's -- how do you waste
19 12 pounds to get one pound, you know.

20

21 Mr. Henrichs.

22

23 MR. HENRICHS: You know, and Doug hit
24 it on the charter boats trolling, but the other side of
25 it is what about the commercial trollers, how many
26 kings do they take. And every one of those kings they
27 take is an intercept fishery, every one of them. And
28 the only way you're going to get those runs back is to
29 shut down those trollers for a cycle.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's interesting
32 because you can have -- if you put fish down far enough
33 you can close them down for a cycle and it doesn't have
34 much affect. Ask the Newfoundland people over their
35 cod banks and see how long they've been shut down and
36 how many fish have come back. We have to be careful
37 with them and I think what Mary Ann was getting at is
38 that these things are important to future generations
39 and as we look at this stuff and I really appreciated
40 your invocation, as we look at this stuff we need to
41 ask that kind of wisdom that keeps this stuff for
42 future generations.

43

44 Any other -- any other reports from
45 Council members?

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The only thing the
50 Chair has got to report, I've talked to Andy a couple

1 times, we've -- and we'll be getting into that later on
2 in-season management. I didn't get back to him all the
3 time as fast maybe as he'd have liked to have had me
4 get back because I would be doing something and he'd
5 call. I'll just say that it was good he did -- he did
6 check in with the Chair before making any -- you know,
7 making any of the closures that needed closed. We have
8 -- you know, we have contact and I felt that the
9 closures that were -- my personal opinion was I felt
10 that the closures that were made on the moose there
11 were justifiable and liked the fact that instead of
12 closing the whole thing he picked smaller areas. And I
13 don't know about you guys that live on the Kenai and
14 I'm sure that when we get to that part of the meeting
15 we'll probably get some comments on it, but it -- at
16 least that part of the protocol worked, you know, it
17 wasn't just done in the blind. And so -- and that's
18 about all that I have to report.

19

20 Now we have some public -- unless --
21 Greg, you got something more?

22

23 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I was just going to
24 add to that briefly. I appreciate Andy also, he called
25 the Traditional Council, he also called Ivan and I and
26 I think the decisions were made with everyone informed
27 and they were good, sound decisions, management
28 decisions for the game. On the fish side we won't talk
29 about that right now.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No, we'll get to the
32 fish side later.

33

34 Okay. Anybody else?

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. And at
39 this point in time we're going to go on to public and
40 tribal comments on non-agenda items. And I'm just
41 going to take these the way they're stacked on my desk.
42 I have no.....

43

44 William Cavostacof. Are you related to
45 the Cavostocofs out at Perryville and Ivanhof?

46

47 MR. CAVOSTACOF: We don't claim any
48 relationship with anybody south of Ninilchik.

49

50 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of

1 the Council my name is Dean Cavostacof. I was born and
2 raised in the Village of Ninilchik in 1941 so I've been
3 around for a while, 71 years to be exact. And I know a
4 little something about the fisheries. I have a brother
5 who's still very active in the fisheries, he's a
6 superintendent for Ocean Beauty Sea Foods and stays
7 very active. I don't stay too active anymore, but I do
8 stay active in the subsistence fishery, it's a -- it's
9 a thing that I'm really passionate about. Part of the
10 reason is I have five grandchildren, I have five great-
11 grandchildren. I want to leave them something. I want
12 you guys to leave them something.

13

14 When I look at what's taking place and
15 I look back since 1989 the laws of -- and I'm going to
16 read a bunch of this to you because I wrote it down so
17 that I could explain it in my simple terms. In 1989
18 the laws of the United States and the State of Alaska
19 governing subsistence in Alaska have been in
20 disagreement. And because of this unresolved
21 discrepancy the State of Alaska and the United States
22 government each maintain separate programs for
23 providing for subsistence on their separate lands and
24 waters within the state. I feel comfortable sitting
25 here using the word subsistence, I don't in State
26 meetings because the State doesn't like the word
27 subsistence, they hate it. They want to use the word
28 educational fishery. My argument has been and will
29 continue to be until I'm not here anymore, is that
30 subsistence was the top priority, always have been.
31 With subsistence comes education, the two go hand in
32 hand and not vice versa, but the reason the State does
33 it that way is because they have control. They
34 maintain the control when it's talked about an
35 educational fishery. They give me a quota as a manger
36 for the Ninilchik Native Descendants, they give me a
37 quota of 50 kings for 487 people Really. I thought
38 this was supposed to be a top priority, subsistence is
39 a top priority by the State and the Federal government.
40 The State of Alaska gives top priority in allocation
41 decisions for subsistence users. Really.

42

43 Here's the precedence they're setting.
44 This will be the third year coming up where they allow
45 me to open on a certain day when the kings are just
46 getting ready to start running. I fished for a few
47 days and then they shut me down until the middle of
48 June. My argument with the State is okay, why are you
49 putting us in the back of the bus. I don't need to be
50 in the back of the bus anymore, we're living in a

1 different world, high speed internet, everything's
2 different, everything's changed. You don't -- and when
3 I meet with you in Homer or I talk to you about it on
4 the phone or via internet, you tell me that -- is that
5 we're shut down until the 15th of June. As Native
6 people we don't have a problem maintaining the resource
7 so that the resource stays healthy, that's one thing
8 we've done for hundreds of years, that's why it's
9 always been there. We've never depleted the resource.
10 But I can't start fishing again until the 15th of June.
11 That first run of kings has already gone up Cook Inlet
12 for the most part. Generally, sometimes they're a
13 little bit late, but they're still trolling, they're
14 take -- I know hundreds of charter people, I used to be
15 in the charter business, they're still taking their
16 people out there fishing, making money. The river's
17 still open on weekends, hundreds of people come down
18 and get fish. I understand that, everybody wants fish.
19 But don't shut me down while everybody else can fish.
20 I disagree with that, number 1. My grandfather walked
21 along Cook Inlet with a net on a stick fishing for his
22 family many, many years ago and then everything
23 changed, everything got to where we're at today which
24 in some cases is good, some cases it isn't good.

25
26 When we talk about the fish wheel that
27 we have in the Federal waters, we're looking for a
28 meaningful fishery. The fish wheel is not a meaningful
29 fishery to us really, how many fish has it caught. It
30 hasn't caught nothing. You can't fish a fish wheel in
31 slack water and have it be productive. That's like
32 asking me to wash dishes without dish soap, it doesn't
33 work. Change it. Make it a meaningful fishery. I
34 don't care if we can go -- why can't we go set a gill
35 net there and catch the allocated amount. It's the
36 same thing the State does. They give me 50 kings, but
37 I can't fish them with a king net, I got to have a red
38 salmon net and it can only be 45 meshes deep and yadie,
39 yadie, yadie. It's a quota, who cares if I catch it
40 with a 35,000 net or a king salmon net or whatever, it
41 doesn't matter. You give me the quota and then you
42 don't let me fish the quota. We got 16 kings last
43 year. I understand there was no kings, everybody's to
44 blame in the kings. It's not like the commercial
45 fishermen, they're blaming the sports fishermen, the
46 sports fishermen are blaming the -- nobody wants to
47 stand up and be counted. It needs to be -- the problem
48 needs to be resolved by all user groups, not just one
49 user group fighting another. They don't look at the
50 whole picture. What does the State do, oh, crisis

1 management, that's how the State manages. Look at the
2 history. Now in the paper here two or three days ago
3 the State has formed a task force to study the kings.
4 That was a big deal in the paper. I've sat on task
5 force for this State, I sat on the Spruce Bark Beetle
6 Task Force, I sat on the Brown Bear Task Force, they
7 chartered a DC-9, flew us around the peninsula with a
8 stewardess on there looking for bears. That's how they
9 run their task force. I've sat on the Material Site
10 Task Force. The task force did nothing and the spruce
11 bark beetle became a -- it became a competition for
12 dollars between Homer Electric and all these other user
13 groups that could get money from the Federal government
14 on the spruce bark beetle. You get back to the
15 fishery, they got a task force. They're going to --
16 they're going to solve it. What did they do with their
17 last task force on why is the price of fuel on the
18 peninsula so high when we have -- when we have places
19 where we make our fuel or refineries in North Kenai,
20 but we pay the highest price in the state down here.
21 They never came up with an answer, did they? Now they
22 got a task force to study the kings, they don't have a
23 clue. Every year I look, I see now this year they got
24 two need big tank haulers, hauling in Shelikof Strait.
25 What are they targeting on -- were those red salmon,
26 where are they going. We know where they're going,
27 they're going up Cook Inlet. Where's them kings going,
28 they're going up Cook Inlet too. How do they account
29 for them. They don't. Do they study anything out in
30 what's going on out in the doughnut hole in the Bering
31 Sea. No. So will they solve the problem with their
32 crisis management. I don't think so, I really don't.
33 They've never shown any evidence of that.

34
35 So what we're asking for is a
36 meaningful fishery. Let me read you something about
37 historically tribes and indigenous people have been
38 shortchanged when giving standards. This is not just
39 my words, these are the words of literally hundreds of
40 people who have studied this and reported on it. Again
41 literally hundreds of studies on how much fish tribal
42 members ate show results that Native Americans and
43 Alaska Native people consume nine times more fish than
44 the national average, nine times. This is based on a
45 1992 study. Just to give you an idea of how many fish
46 per person this is, I offer another study done by the
47 University of Alaska Fairbanks researcher, Steven Julup
48 and Lawrence Duffy. In their 2007 study published in
49 the Science of Total Environment the researchers
50 analyzed data on methyl mercury levels for several

1 species of subsistence fish along with data on fish
2 consumption rates among rural Alaskan subsistence users
3 for those species. They then applied a mathematical
4 formula that yields a hazard index to estimate the
5 methyl mercury related health risk to subsistence users
6 for seven species of fish. They then gave
7 recommendations where consumption limits were offered
8 of 16 chinook salmon meals per month or 31 sockeye/red
9 salmon meals per month per adult. The recommendations
10 offered by Lori A. Verbrugese, Ph.D. (ph), on behalf of
11 the Alaska Scientific Advisory Committee for Fish
12 Consumption on the Section of Epidemiology, Division of
13 Public Health, Department of Health and Social Services
14 for the State of Alaska in October. Due to the
15 numerous well documented health and cultural benefits
16 of fish consumption, teenage boys, adult men and women
17 who cannot become pregnant should continue unrestricted
18 consumption of all fish from Alaska waters. I could go
19 on for hours on all these studies that have been done.
20 But we're very limited, we fight for everything that we
21 have. Part of the problem with our educational fishery
22 which I don't hate -- I hate that word, our subsistence
23 fishery with the State is that they -- there's no --
24 they're not like setnetters that have to be whatever it
25 is, 600 feet from apart, they're stacked in a small
26 area. Traditionally on the Ninilchik we fish between
27 the two rivers, right where the road comes down to the
28 beach. There's a big green rock, everybody knows, Greg
29 knows and Doug even remembers, that's where everybody
30 caught their fish. Now you can't do it, you got to be
31 a mile here, you got to be so many hundreds of yards
32 from the mouth of the river and they tell me I'm
33 targeting on the Ninilchik fish. They don't know that.
34 I've brought that -- you haven't come down and done any
35 scale studies. I don't even know where them king
36 salmon are going. They might be Ninilchik fish, they
37 might be Susitna fish, they might go on up the Kenai, I
38 don't have a clue, neither does the State. They've
39 done nothing, they've come down there -- I've haven't
40 seen nobody down there in many, many years. So we just
41 go down there and fish and very limited and very
42 limited amount of numbers. When I look at that and I
43 look at the Federal, at least the Feds they recognize
44 that we are entitled to a subsistence fishery. Make it
45 a meaningful fishery. You guys have the power to do a
46 lot of things, you can change things. Change it for
47 the better. This is a new world we're living in, we're
48 not living in 1959 anymore, do something about it.
49
50 Thank you for your time.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Anybody questions?

2 Doug.

3

4 MR. BLOSSOM: The sorry part is, Dean,
5 as I grew up with your older brothers so that makes me
6 older. Anyway if I was to give you a rod and a reel
7 and you went out and caught a fish would you just keep
8 catching them and throwing them back or what would you
9 do with them?

10

11 MR. CAVOSTACOF: No. The one thing
12 that Native people do and you've seen this yourself and
13 you do this yourself, you catch enough to get yourself
14 through the winter of what you're going to eat. You
15 don't take any of those fish that you catch and put in
16 your freezer and take them. You know where they go,
17 they go to the dumpster. You've seen it, I've seen it,
18 some people are pretty good, they'll take them over to
19 Seward to the Sea Life Center, but I don't over fish
20 nothing. I -- you know, I'm -- rod and reel, I can
21 tell you some stories about rod and reel. Me and rod
22 and reels don't get along, but I don't keep fishing
23 them and throwing them back, no.

24

25 MR. BLOSSOM: Now, Mr. Chair, he made
26 my point. Local people I think especially, they go
27 catch a fish or shoot a moose to eat. You don't catch
28 15 or 20 and throw them back so they die later. That
29 was my point.

30

31 MR. CAVOSTACOF: Well, in addition to
32 that, Doug, we go back a long ways, Doug and I went to
33 school together, traditionally the Ninilchik people
34 always share, it's a big sharing thing. It doesn't
35 matter whether you were born in Ninilchik or you came
36 to Ninilchik in 1950 or 1970, it doesn't matter. If
37 you need some fish for your family we're going to share
38 with you. I have a real problem with the amount that
39 the State allows you to go up there on the Kenai and
40 dip net and leave a big mess for the people of Kenai to
41 clean up behind themselves and give them 25 fish and
42 you got four kids so I'm taking 200 fish home. They
43 don't eat that much fish. But it's kind of like a
44 hoarder and people with a disease, that they got to
45 keep doing it, you know. And I have a problem with
46 that. There's other ways to deal with the excess
47 salmon if you don't want more fish going up the Kenai.
48 You know, it's -- I testified when I sat on the Central
49 Peninsula Advisory Group in Anchorage many, many years
50 ago and I did it on behalf of the commercial fishermen

1 because I grew up commercial fishing. I started my
2 testimony with a bible verse and first of all I'd like
3 to commend you for the -- saying a little prayer before
4 the meeting. That's great. We do that in all our
5 meetings. I started my testimony with a bible verse.
6 When the good lord told Saint Peter the fisherman, he
7 said cast your net on the other side of the boat and
8 you shall receive great multitudes of little fish. He
9 didn't say cast a little john or a spin and blow, he
10 said cast your net. So that tells me whether the
11 chicken or the egg came first.

12

13 So if you don't have any more questions
14 I'm done.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: James.

17

18 MR. SHOWALTER: Yes. On subsistence
19 nets, I'm not sure where you applied the State, but I'm
20 a member of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe and we fought
21 that in Federal court and we finally won it in the
22 Ninth Circle -- Circuit Court. And they, the Ninth
23 Circuit Court, directed the State to give the Kenaitze
24 an educational net. So the State I think is something
25 else. So I just thought I'd fill you in on that
26 information.

27

28 Thank you.

29 MR. CAVOSTACOF: Well, thank you for
30 that information. In addition to what you're saying is
31 one of the things that happened this year and will
32 continue to happen is that for quite a few years there
33 was a Ninilchik Traditional Council fishing their nets
34 and Ninilchik Native Descendants alongside of them
35 fishing their net. Well, then all of these other user
36 groups started showing up, they're fishing right up
37 here on -- off of Bluff Point someplace, there's some
38 outfit there that can do the educational fishery, the
39 fire department can do an educational fishery, I don't
40 know how that's run or what kind of education they're
41 trying to teach other fire department members or who
42 can even fish on the thing and historical society is
43 another one. So when I talked to the Homer people that
44 I work with on this fishery oh, anybody can get one of
45 these. Really. Really. So if you come along as a
46 senior citizen and want to take the senior citizens
47 group and get your fish, you can do that. Well, what
48 does that do. That cuts my allocation down obviously.
49 So it's really -- it's meaningless to me. And it's
50 turned from a fishery that we used to have going back

1 whenever, always set a net on the beach and got your
2 fish, no problem. Then it went to the point where
3 well, you can't do this anymore. And then we fought
4 just like you fought in Kenai to get your fisher, we
5 followed up with the Department of Fish and Game and
6 oh, yeah, you can do that now, but you have to go get a
7 permit. Okay. So you go to the office, get a permit,
8 I got to get a good permit to go fishing where I've
9 fished my whole life growing up as a little kid. Oh,
10 you got to go by the rules, you know, you're blah,
11 blah, blah. Okay, I understand the rules. Well, the
12 rules are 55 on the highway, everyone of us in here
13 have broke the rules. So I used to go set a net and I
14 got like -- like Mary Ann and some of your people up
15 there, you remember my name, I really want you to
16 remember it because you haven't heard the last of it.
17 If I don't die you haven't heard the last of my name
18 because I -- it doesn't matter to me, I've lived a good
19 life. I'm going to make sure that this happens. Do
20 it, just change it, you got the power to do it. It's
21 no big deal, I mean, just deal with it.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. I think
24 you overestimate the power that we have, but that's
25 okay. I have to agree with you on quite a number of
26 points. It's interesting because I was just talking to
27 a friend from Cordova this morning and we were
28 discussing fish and the fact that when people in
29 Cordova catch fish in the wintertime fish don't go in
30 the freezer, you take a meal for yourself and the rest
31 of the fish go to the neighbors, they go to somebody
32 else.

33

34 MR. CAVOSTACOF: Yeah, exactly.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And that is the way it
37 is. And the problem comes in our State and part of
38 it's an attitude that's picked up from TV and
39 everything else, if there's a limit of 40 fish you've
40 got to take 40 fish whether or not you're going to use
41 40 fish or not and that is not -- that is not a rural
42 attitude at all.

43

44 MR. CAVOSTACOF: No, it's not.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So what happens is
47 like you said, they end up at the Alaska Zoo, they end
48 up at the Sea Life Center, they end up on the dump.
49 And -- or, you know, at least -- maybe there's some
50 wake up going on. I know I was talking to a friend

1 from Fairbanks that have always come down and dipped
2 their 40 fish at Chitina and this year they decided
3 that they really shouldn't come down and dip their fish
4 at Chitina because they still got a freezer that's got
5 fish in it from three years ago that they haven't got
6 around to cleaning to put in the smokehouse. And
7 that's what you see happening. Or you down there -- I
8 went down to the Chitina and there was people taking
9 fish out of the fish wheel and -- from Fairbanks and
10 I'm not criticizing Fairbanks in this case, he was just
11 an ex-legislator, that's all. But anyhow that's
12 probably more the case. And oh, they had a good day,
13 they had 79 fish to take care of. But you should have
14 been here last week, it was even better. And they're
15 sitting there fileting 79 fish, they're not taking the
16 belly strip, they're leaving a half inch of meat on
17 both sides of the back bone. I said would you like me
18 to show you how to filet fish. The comment was oh,
19 there's plenty more where they came from.

20

21 MR. CAVOSTACOF: Yeah, that's the
22 mindset you're dealing with.....

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

25

26 MR. CAVOSTACOF:you know.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And until that
29 changes, until we get an attitude in the state that you
30 take what you need, not what you're allowed, we're
31 going to have problems.

32

33 MR. CAVOSTACOF: That's true.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other comments,
36 Greg, you got one more last for him?

37

38 MR. ENCELEWSKI: No, I just want to say
39 thank you, Dean, for your testimony and for -- I
40 appreciate it.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. With that
43 we'll go on to the next person on the list which is
44 David Williams -- Darrel Williams. My fault,
45 Darrel.....

46

47 MR. WILLIAMS: Call me Dave.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:you write like I
50 write.

1 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, Members of
2 the Board. My name's Darrel Williams and I'm a
3 subsistence user. And I'm here -- I was going to
4 provide testimony on FP, was it 13-15.....
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.
6
7 MR. WILLIAMS:and that's where
8 we're at?
9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes.
11
12 MR. WILLIAMS: I did a Powerpoint
13 presentation, I don't know if you guys want to
14 entertain that now or later, but I think some pictures
15 would help clarify some of these issues at the fish
16 wheel.
17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Is it on FP13-15?
19
20 MR. WILLIAMS: It's on FP13-15.
21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You know, we're going
23 to be to that very shortly. So if it's okay with the
24 rest of the Council let's look at the Powerpoint right
25 now unless -- Darrel, how about if I take the other
26 people who want to testify and then come back to you
27 and that'll lead us right into the discussion on the
28 proposal.
29
30 MR. WILLIAMS: Absolutely. Thank you,
31 Mr. Chairman.
32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Ivan
34 Encelewski.
35
36 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: Oh, I'll come speak
37 to the proposal too.
38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. But you don't
40 have a Powerpoint, do you?
41
42 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: No.
43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Why don't you
45 speak and then we'll get the Powerpoint, then we'll go
46 to the proposal.
47
48 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: I was going to
49 speak on the proposal. So.....
50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's fine because
2 that's the next thing on the agenda.
3
4 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: Okay.
5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And we can always call
7 you back if there's some more information that we need,
8 but we might as well lead right into it because our
9 next two speakers are talking on the proposal that we
10 have to deal with which is FP13-15. And so we'll take
11 testimony on it and then we'll have his Powerpoint and
12 then we'll go right into the proposal.....
13
14 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: Okay.
15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:if that's okay
17 with the rest of us.
18
19 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: It would be kind of
20 helpful if we had the Powerpoint first I think for my
21 testimony, kind of touch on that.
22
23 MS. KANAYURAK: Mr. Chair, I suggest
24 doing it in the regular order.
25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. We'll do it in
27 the regular -- we'll do it in the regular order. Okay.
28 We're not good at improvising. So I'll tell you what,
29 in other words what you would like -- both of you would
30 like to testify during the proposal. Okay. If that's
31 the case then we've handled all of our testimony and we
32 will now go on to regulatory proposal for Cook Inlet,
33 FP13-15 all fish, to revise the Ninilchik fish wheel
34 from a temporary to a permanent fishery.
35
36 At this point in time then we will have
37 agency comments, Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
38 Federal agencies, Tribal agencies, and others and then
39 we will go on into our public comments on it and
40 discuss it.
41
42 So do we have a presentation by Alaska
43 Fish and Game?
44
45 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council
46 Members. Do you want the.....
47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes.
49
50 MS. HYER: Okay. I'll just briefly

1 introduce this proposal to you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Sorry, Karen.

4

5 MS. HYER: No worries. For the record,
6 I'm Karen Hyer with the Department of Fish and Game.
7 I'm going to introduce to you Fisheries Proposal 13-15.
8 It was submitted on behalf of the Ninilchik Traditional
9 Council and it requests that the expiration date for
10 the community fish wheel be removed from -- be removed
11 from the regulatory -- from the regulations.

12

13 In 2008 the Federal Subsistence Board
14 adopted Proposal 08-09 to allow a temporary community
15 fish wheel. The new regulation was adopted to
16 determine the feasibility of operating the fish wheel
17 to harvest salmon in the Kasilof River. The fishery
18 when instated had an expiration date of 2011. In 2012
19 Ninilchik Traditional Council requested an emergency
20 special action to allow for continued operation of one
21 fish wheel in the upper main stem of the Kasilof River
22 beginning July 1st through August 29, 2012. This
23 proposal that's before you would remove the expiration
24 date from the current regulation, allowing operation of
25 the community fish wheel to continue and this would
26 begin in 2013.

27

28 Currently Ninilchik has shown a
29 continued interest in developing the fish wheel fishery
30 and they've submitted an operation plan during all
31 years and they have complied with all provision in the
32 regulation and they have continued to attempt to locate
33 a desirable site for the fish wheel. And OSM's
34 preliminary conclusion is to support this proposal to
35 remove the sunset clause.

36

37 And that's all I have, Mr. Chairman and
38 Council Members.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any
41 questions for Karen?

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Karen.

46

47 MS. HYER: Okay.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Alaska
50 Department of Fish and Game.

1 MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chair, Drew Crawford
2 from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in
3 Anchorage.

4
5 MR. MIKE: Can you restate your name
6 again, please?

7
8 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, my name is Drew
9 Crawford, I'm with the Alaska Department of Fish and
10 Game in Anchorage.

11
12 MR. MIKE: Thank you.

13
14 MR. CRAWFORD: I'd like to report that
15 on this proposal the State is opposed to this proposal.
16 During the last three plus years since the Kasilof
17 River Fishery was established to our knowledge no fish
18 have been harvested. Since this gear type has not
19 proven to be an effective or efficient harvest method
20 the Department recommends fish wheel fishery be
21 discontinued. If it is allowed to continue we
22 recommend that it be approved on a temporary basis for
23 an additional three years and not be approved as a
24 permanent fishery. Approval on a temporary basis would
25 allow the fishery to be reevaluated in the future to
26 determine if it is meeting its objectives.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 *****
31 STATE OFFICIAL WRITTEN COMMENTS
32 *****

33
34 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
35 Comments to the Regional Advisory Council

36
37
38 Fisheries Proposal FP13-15:

39
40 Revise the Kasilof River fish wheel
41 fishery from a temporary three-year fishery to a
42 permanent fishery for residents of Ninilchik.

43
44 Introduction:

45
46 Adoption of this Ninilchik Traditional
47 Council proposal would change the status of the fish
48 wheel subsistence fishery on the Kasilof River from a
49 temporary fishery which must be reevaluated for
50 continued use every three years to a permanent fishery.

1 All other regulatory requirements for this fish wheel
2 fishery would remain the same.

3

4 Only residents of Ninilchik may harvest
5 salmon from the Kasilof River under federal subsistence
6 fishing regulations. Only one fish wheel will be
7 allowed in the upper mainstem of the Kasilof River and
8 this fish wheel fishery is for residents of Ninilchik.
9 An operating plan must be submitted by the organization
10 regarding who is responsible for construction,
11 installation, operation, use, and removal of the fish
12 wheel. The plan must be approved by the inseason
13 fishery manager, in consultation with the Kenai
14 National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) manager, and must also
15 include how fishing time and fish will be offered and
16 distributed among households and residents of
17 Ninilchik. Fishing for sockeye, Chinook, coho, and
18 pink salmon will be closed by Special Action prior to
19 regulatory end dates if the annual total harvest limit
20 for the species is reached or superseded by other
21 Federal Special Action. Salmon taken in the Kasilof
22 River dip net or fish wheel fisheries will be included
23 as part of each household s annual limit for the Kenai
24 River. After 200 rainbow/steelhead trout have been
25 taken in the dip net fishery, or after August 15, all
26 rainbow/steelhead trout must be released unless
27 otherwise provided. Rainbow/steelhead trout cannot be
28 kept in the fish wheel fishery. All fish harvested as
29 part of the household limit in the dip net or fish
30 wheel fisheries in the Kasilof River must be reported
31 to the inseason manager within 72 hours of leaving the
32 fishing location. Failure to respond to reporting
33 requirements or return this completed harvest permit by
34 the due date listed on the permit may result in
35 issuance of a violation notice and will make you
36 ineligible to receive a subsistence permit during the
37 following regulatory year.

38

39 Impact on Subsistence Users:

40

41 The proponent anticipates that this
42 proposal will allow Ninilchik federal subsistence users
43 to continue to harvest fish where the community has a
44 customary and traditional determination.

45

46 Impact on Other Users:

47

48 None noted at this time, because the
49 harvest of fish has been zero.

50

1 boundaries. A detailed land status map is needed that
2 distinctly illustrates land ownership, easements, and
3 exact boundaries of legal federal jurisdiction. If
4 this proposal is adopted, subsistence users will have
5 to know exactly where federal regulations apply to
6 install a fish wheel and to keep from violating state
7 regulations.

8

9

Other Issues:

10

11 The use of community fish wheels raises
12 a number of issues, in addition to conservation and
13 jurisdiction. For example, coordination between
14 operators of the community fish wheels and households
15 receiving the fish will have to be carefully planned to
16 prevent harvesting more fish than needed at a given
17 time and to ensure that individuals do not exceed
18 household limits. Ensuring that overall community
19 limits are not exceeded may be difficult, even though
20 the rod and reel and dipnet fishermen are required to
21 report harvests in a timely manner. If this proposal
22 is adopted, individuals catching and receiving the fish
23 should be issued a federal fish wheel permit to
24 identify them as federally-qualified subsistence users.
25 Frequent catch reporting must be required. Given the
26 lack of stock status information and the harvest
27 potential of this fishery, the department recommends a
28 24-hour, rather than 72-hour, reporting requirement to
29 ensure compliance with established limit. A reporting
30 period longer than 48 hours could result in significant
31 overharvest.

32

33

34 There is a need to better define
35 cumulative harvest limits between the subsistence
36 fisheries gear types. The proposal presents challenges
37 to a Federal Designated Individual regarding the
38 ability to manage multiple gear types with specific
39 harvest limits in a timely manner.

39

40

41 The department recommends that language
42 be inserted into the regulation which would prohibit
43 installation of a fish wheel within 500 yards
44 downstream of a department fish wheel. The department
45 is concerned that if a fish wheel is installed within
46 500 yard downstream of a research fish wheel, fish
47 migration patterns may be altered, which would impact
48 project results and disrupt long term data sets.
49 During the 3+ years since the Kasilof River fish wheel
50 fishery was established, no fish have been harvested
(G. E. Pappas, State Subsistence Liaison, USFWS OSM,

1 Anchorage, personal communication). Since this gear
2 type has not proven to be an efficient or effective
3 harvest method, the department recommends that this
4 fish wheel fishery be discontinued. If it is allowed
5 to continue, we recommend that it be approved on a
6 temporary basis for an additional three years and not
7 be approved as a permanent fishery. Approval on a
8 temporary basis, would allow the fishery to be
9 reevaluated in the future to determine if it is meeting
10 its objectives.

11
12 Recommendation: Oppose.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. That's
15 your whole report?

16
17 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, sir.

18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Greg.

20
21 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, Drew, this is
22 Greg Encelewski, I'm a Council member here. I got a
23 question for you. You're recommending to oppose it,
24 would you recommend -- you say it's not meaningful,
25 recommend that we put in for nets on the Kasilof then
26 or a meaningful way to catch them?

27 MR. CRAWFORD: That isn't part of this
28 proposal to my knowledge, sir.

29
30 MR. ENCELEWSKI: No, but my question is
31 if it's not meaningful, what would you recommend how we
32 -- how we proceed. That's my question, how would the
33 State recommend a meaningful fishery.

34
35 MR. CRAWFORD: We'd recommend that if
36 you decide to continue this fishery that it be approved
37 on a temporary basis for three years. Over.

38
39 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Well, we'll
40 work on that.

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Greg.
43 James.

44
45 MR. SHOWALTER: Yes, this is James
46 Showalter on the Council, the RAC. And you're speaking
47 for the State. I do believe this is Federal
48 subsistence and not State subsistence. So that's where
49 I was coming from.

50

1 MR. CRAWFORD: That's correct. This is
2 just the Department of Fish and Game's recommendation.
3 Over.

4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, James.
6 Thank you, Bruce. Any other questions?

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hearing none we'll go
11 on to Federal agencies. Do we have any Federal
12 agencies to make a report on this right now?

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hearing none, Tribal
17 and Village agencies or comments, do we have any Tribal
18 or Village?

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Would you like to
23 incorporate your testimony as part of the Tribal and
24 Village and give us your Powerpoint presentation and
25 the whole thing?

26
27 So Ivan and Darrel.

28
29 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I
30 think that would be appropriate. Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

33
34 (Pause)

35
36 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. We'll get to the
37 Powerpoint later. It'll be a little -- it'll help fill
38 in some gaps on this fishery. I think a lot of people
39 aren't completely understanding the scope of what we're
40 doing.

41
42 First I'd like to start with some
43 comments on the staff analysis. You know, when FP08-09
44 was put in what in 2008, we developed the idea of a
45 fish wheel proposal as a way to engage subsistence
46 activities in the Kasilof River because we didn't have
47 any. And that was the consensus of many people and,
48 you know, it doesn't adequately really reflect the
49 proposals that were originally put in on -- that
50 included the empirical knowledge and the traditional

1 knowledge of active users and whatnot of people who
2 have actually fished the fishery. And that's what led
3 to this fish wheel development. It's in the staff
4 analysis, but it's a little further in and it's not
5 really readily apparent. The overall objective that we
6 have is to be able to make this fishery a permanent
7 gear type and, you know, I do want to emphasize that it
8 is one of several gear types. The harvest on the
9 Kasilof River has been really, really poor. Yeah, and
10 as a matter of fact and it's been said and it's very
11 true we have harvested zero fish in the fish wheel. I
12 think it's -- it's only fair to consider that in a
13 fishing season we're talking about 12 or 15 days of
14 fishing a year to be able to go out there and attempt
15 to implement this fishery. The fish wheel's a little
16 more complicated than I think everybody understands.
17 It's a new concept to me, but it -- the actual man
18 hours and harvest time that's been put into it are very
19 small each year. And I don't think it's -- it's really
20 had enough time to completely develop. The fishery is
21 new and it needs some more work.

22

23 The other comment I had on the staff
24 analysis is the use of the fall survey. As a matter of
25 record for this and the Federal Subsistence Board, the
26 inconsistent use of stratification in the survey
27 techniques makes it unviable for this kind of public
28 process. I also believe that when you compare the
29 harvest on the Kenai River compared to the Kasilof
30 River the majority of the fish were harvested on the
31 Kenai River. And I believe it says here that one
32 sockeye was harvested on the Kasilof River. Obviously
33 there's fish there, but we just don't have methods,
34 means and gear types to be able to make it work
35 effectively yet.

36

37 There's other comments that's been made
38 about conservation concerns and the amount of harvest
39 and how it may or may not interfere. I think that
40 that's really making some large assumptions based on
41 one fish that was harvested in the fishery.

42

43 That's all I have until we get to the
44 Powerpoint presentation, Mr. Chairman.

45

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Ivan.

47

48 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Mr.
49 Chairman, Members of the Regional Advisory Council. My
50 name's Ivan Encelewski, Executive Director Ninilchik

1 Traditional Council and Federally-qualified subsistence
2 user for the record. Obviously we're here to speak on
3 supporting FP13-15 which would essentially just move
4 the fish wheel language to permanent versus the
5 temporary clause which is actually sunsetted now. You
6 know, as Darrel mentioned there's kind of a little bit
7 of history and I won't get into that, I won't belabor
8 that. I've been here for many years testifying and I
9 want to kind of try and keep it as brief as possible.

10
11 You know, this originally kind of
12 started to develop when we looked at getting a
13 meaningful preference. And, of course, with that
14 dangerous word or chaotic word that it would net came
15 about. And so I wouldn't say it was so much of a
16 compromise, but a different idea for a method and mean
17 that kind of morphed into development. It wasn't
18 something that we sat around and said, you know, this
19 is absolutely something that we're experts on or that
20 we're -- you know, really thought would be a truly
21 meaningful preference, but it was -- it is an
22 opportunity and we believe that there's opportunities
23 to make -- to make, you know, it viable in the future.
24 How meaningful, probably not as meaningful when we want
25 to look at other meaningful preferences that would tie
26 into this.

27
28 You know, just a little bit of the
29 logistical issues there that Darrel can speak to too.
30 We fished it the first year, we did a larger fish
31 wheel. The -- as you know the Kasilof River is a
32 smaller river, it's not -- it's very unlike the Yukon,
33 the Copper, the Kenai, it's not as conducive to a fish
34 wheel environment. We all know the issues with the
35 waters, the Federal waters are high, towards the
36 headwaters of Tustumena. There's slow moving water,
37 you have to move downstream. As soon as you get
38 downstream you're into very shallow water, the boat
39 prop -- you know, like two bends you're hitting --
40 you're hitting shallow water. So the pure numbers in
41 the Kasilof are very minute compared to the Kasilof or
42 Copper, once they come up through the headwaters or
43 through the -- into the mouth of the river they're
44 fairly diversified by the time they get to the
45 headwaters so you're really looking at pure numbers of
46 fish moving through there is not -- not real conducive.
47 So it's not excuses, it's a reality. It's not to say
48 that we're not capable of doing things. The other
49 issues are resources, you know, if you had the State
50 and Federal resources to build an aluminum wheel, you

1 can't back up -- you know, you can at the headwaters,
2 but you've got to move this equipment down, you know,
3 to really get into a nice area you might have to go
4 down a mile or two through those shallows. It's just
5 there are issues there that -- you know, I know people
6 say fish wheel, and they hear the word fish wheel and
7 they think oh, man, that's just -- you ought to be just
8 spinning fish out of there, what's wrong. And it's
9 just -- it is -- presents, you know, a great deal of
10 challenges.

11
12 And so we are -- you know, we're not
13 here to say that this is a -- you know, been a truly
14 meaningful thing, but we're here to say that we are
15 putting in the proposal to make it permanent. We don't
16 have any conservation issues.

17
18 I wanted to just touch on a few things
19 that -- in regards to the State's comments. You know,
20 the requirements, their conservation concerns, we
21 talked about this, it's a fish friendly fish wheel
22 requirement, that the pure number of time issued for
23 the fish wheel it just doesn't see a lot of time in the
24 river, it's just not going to be -- create these
25 conservation concerns.

26
27 You know, under the argument that, you
28 know, because there's no catch you should take away our
29 subsistence is a faulty argument, it's a ridiculous
30 argument. Sorry to use that term, but it simply is.
31 Under that analysis anybody that doesn't get a -- gets
32 a State license that doesn't fish very well or doesn't
33 have much catch should have their right taken away too.
34 It's just not -- it's not a legitimate excuse to be
35 taking away our Federally mandated qualified
36 subsistence right. And if anything it should be
37 provided more opportunity.

38
39 You know, the issue of the community
40 plan. I know this had kind of come up and I just want
41 to touch on that. It seemed to work well, the
42 Traditional Council has applied for the permit. You
43 know, as noted in the staff analysis there, there's
44 been no issues with us applying for the permit or with
45 the Feds, it's worked out well with Doug and we've
46 incorporated community members into -- when we've
47 looked at conceptual plans we've, you know, invited all
48 community members. We had people involved in the
49 processes, we notify people so there's not an issue. I
50 think this model's been emulated around the state for

1 community because the idea -- we all know it's for all
2 residents of the community so it's not just the Tribe
3 or the Council. And we've been able to make that work.

4
5 So, you know, another issue that
6 they're -- the State has some issues with potentially
7 conflict with placement of fish wheels. Our fish
8 wheel's obviously on the Federal waters, theirs are in
9 the State waters, the -- it's pretty much a moot point
10 that we're going to be coinciding. To me it's like
11 having a Lamborghini and a Pinto in the parking lot,
12 you're going to take the Lamborghini. The waters that
13 the State has available to them and the areas are much
14 more conducive to the fish wheel. The fact that we
15 would go and put a fish wheel in front of them to
16 somehow stymie their efforts or their harvest data is
17 simply kind of -- we feel is unbased.

18
19 Anyway I won't get into that, I don't
20 want to, you know, try and belittle anything. I don't
21 want to, you know, be ungrateful for the opportunity.
22 We do want to continue this fish wheel opportunity as
23 we can make -- see enhancements to move forward to try
24 and make it something. But we will be pursuing and
25 looking at methods and means that are truly meaningful.

26
27 So with that I'll let Darrel go ahead
28 and present on the fish wheel report.

29
30 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. Well, you know, I
31 made a handout for the Board members, there should be
32 one for everybody. We'll just continue with that. I
33 just kind of wanted to be able to show what our folks
34 do to be representative.

35
36 If you look at the first page, it -- we
37 have the fish wheel that was assembled, if I remember
38 right it was in 2010. It's a very large wheel. That's
39 Jack Cavostacof, Senior in the background. I mean, for
40 scale, you have a six foot tall man, you can see the
41 size of the fish wheel, it's large.

42
43 That took a lot of effort and it took
44 basically a lowboy to haul it up and put it in the
45 river. Big trailer, heavy wheel, hard to move and hard
46 to set for that matter.

47
48 So we went back to the drawing board
49 after doing that and if you look at the bottom of the
50 page you can see that we had a lot of people -- folks

1 sitting there, input and talking about it. We made a
2 smaller fish wheel, one that we thought would be a
3 little more fishable and much more portable for the
4 fishery. If you look at the top of Page 2 you could
5 actually see there's a truck hauling the fish wheel.
6 We actually built the fish wheel so you can break it
7 down into pieces and haul it in a pickup truck to give
8 you an idea of scale of how big and how much of an
9 impact is. We wanted to have a low impact type
10 mechanism to be able catch us fish. That was one of
11 the requirements in the permit and through the public
12 process.

13
14 You can look at the next couple
15 pictures there, there we are actually assembling the
16 wheel. That is at the boat launch on the Upper Kasilof
17 River on Page 2.

18
19 Page 3 we're still putting it together.
20 They're about in the middle. It's actually put
21 together, there's a picture of Ivan standing next to
22 the wheel. At any rate at the bottom of Page 3 that's
23 the wheel in -- above the boat launch. And, you know,
24 if you notice the fish wheel, we're in the water, that
25 rope is slack. That is how slow the water is in the
26 upper river. That fish wheel, there's not enough
27 current to pull the rope tight. And I think these are
28 really interesting things.

29
30 If you look at the top of Page 4 this
31 is where you'd actually moved it down the river and
32 this is one of the first times we had set it up in
33 2011. And there's the wheel that's been put in place,
34 actually it was fishing here. If you look at the
35 middle of Page 4 there's another site where we had set
36 it up and same thing, you -- you can see that with the
37 fish wheel sitting there the current is very, very
38 slow. The -- we've had problems with the wheel fishing
39 because trying to find a spot where it will fish.
40 There's more to it than just having a good spot, the
41 wheel has to be able to turn and fish. We did a lot of
42 stuff with -- as far as the paddles of the wheel, the
43 speed of the wheel, the buoyancy of the wheel, the
44 placement of the wheel, fences and these are all
45 representative photos of that. At the bottom of Page 4
46 there's Daniel working the wheel. And you can see the
47 fence behind him.

48
49 Top of Page 5, installing fences. We
50 use a inch and a half by two inch mesh for our fence.

1 We thought it had low impact and we use a stake if you
2 go to the bottom of the page, a fence stake to be able
3 to actually hold the fence in place. And that way --
4 anything smaller than that we're not looking to catch
5 anyway. The middle of the page on Page 5 is another
6 site, setting up the wheel.

7
8 Top of Page 6, another site. Fence is
9 installed. In the photograph in -- on Page 6 in the
10 middle of the page, if you look across the center of
11 the photograph that's a sand bar. And you can tell
12 we're out in the river when I took this photograph.
13 That is representative of the types of bars and the
14 morphology of the river. That sand bar is probably
15 about a foot deep. You can see it. So -- and these
16 bars -- we found that these bars move throughout the
17 season as the water raises later in the season that
18 these bars move around. So trying to find a good
19 placement for the fish wheel's been problematic. We
20 set the fish wheel up to fish about four feet.

21
22 If we skip ahead -- well, gosh, I wish
23 the Powerpoint because there's some actual movies on
24 here. If you look at the top of Page 5 you can see --
25 get an idea of how deep that water is. If you look at
26 that upper photo, Daniel's standing there, he's got his
27 chest waders on and he's about thigh deep. So the
28 river itself there isn't real deep, there are some
29 holes, but that's one of the problems we had with the
30 big wheel is that big wheel was made to fish deep water
31 and we didn't have deep water to fish from.

32
33 If we go to the bottom of Page 7, don't
34 mean to jump back and forth it's just I'm feeling a
35 little improv here. At the bottom of Page 7 that's a
36 picture of the State wheel. Now I've heard some people
37 express about how the State wheel was more successful
38 and the subsistence wheel hasn't been successful. You
39 know, other than the learning curve and the short
40 season that we're able to actually fish the wheel, that
41 12 to 15 days during the fishery, you'll notice between
42 Page 7 and the top of Page 8, that wheel is in a whole
43 different setting in the river, a different kind of
44 morphology, it is -- it is giant. It has substantial
45 impacts from its placement. You have walkways going
46 down to it, you got big steel posts drove in the bank.
47 That's not something that we're allowed to do in the
48 Federal fishery. So I don't think it's fair to compare
49 the fish -- the fishery that we're trying to establish
50 compared to the State's use of the wheels and even the

1 wheels in different places.

2

3 I put a nice photo in there about -- in
4 the middle of Page 8 about hey, that's what we do is
5 catch fish, you know, and you can see in the photo
6 every piece of the fish is being used. We had to buy
7 that fish by the way. Yeah, so, you know, at the
8 bottom of Page 8 another interesting note, you know, I
9 remember a gentleman came in here years ago and said
10 that you can do power trolling, you can put a net in
11 the water and run up and down with a boat and you're
12 going to catch loads of fish. There's pictures of us
13 doing it with a four foot round net, running up and
14 down the river trying to catch these fish. We caught
15 zero. The fishery needs.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Drifting down with a
18 (indiscernible - away from microphone).....

19

20 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, powering, powering
21 down. Not.....

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, powering down with
24 a (indiscernible - away from microphone).....

25

26 MR. WILLIAMS: Uh-huh.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:dip net, gill
29 net, whatever you want to call it?

30

31 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Didn't catch anything?

34

35 MR. WILLIAMS: Didn't catch nothing.
36 And same thing, trying to hold the net, I mean, it was
37 problematic itself, you know, trying to -- you know,
38 catching on the bottom and stuff like that trying to
39 catch these fish. It's -- so far it's proven to be
40 kind of a difficult fishery and we're trying to figure
41 this out, the same thing. I just thought I'd throw
42 that in there because I remember we were all sitting
43 there scratching our head going power trolling, really,
44 you know. Something that we never even heard of
45 before, but hey, we gave it an honest effort, we gave
46 it a shot. And we'd like to be able to keep trying.
47 And with the -- with the amount of harvest on this
48 fishery I don't see how we could create any kind of
49 conservation concerns, some enormous impact or anything
50 else. And in the event that this fish wheel -- that we

1 get things set and it really start to harvest, we let
2 Doug Palmer know and then the in-season management
3 takes over and if we're having too large of an impact,
4 I mean, the mechanisms are in place. But to make the
5 argument that we can't have a permanent gear type
6 because it might have a problem, I don't think that's
7 fair. And that what we're trying to express with the
8 information in the Powerpoint, the photos. It's a much
9 different environment I think than a lot of people
10 thought of. This isn't like the Copper River, this
11 isn't -- this is very different. And the river
12 changes. When we first start probably to when finish I
13 imagine that the water goes up, depending on how much
14 rain, 12 to 18 inches, profound change during the
15 duration of while we're fishing the wheels. So that's
16 problematic in itself, we made the wheel to fish four
17 feet, we get it to where it bottoms out and actually
18 drags bottom and scours a hole like it should, but then
19 we go there the next day and we set it up and the water
20 came up six inches and it doesn't scour there no more,
21 we have to move it. So it's been problematic, but
22 we're trying.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Darrel, question. You
25 know, I was reading the report on it and it -- is it
26 part of the requirements that you take it out every day
27 and put it in every day, I notice in the report that it
28 didn't remain in the river, it was taken out, put back
29 in, taken out, put back in. Is that part of the permit
30 requirements or is that just you trying to tune things
31 up?

32

33 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: Mr. Chairman, yeah,
34 the permit actually would allow you to -- it has to be
35 stop spinning, you know, you have to have a -- you
36 know, that thing.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Put water to it?

39

40 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Yeah. But
41 it could be, you know, set up.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But it wouldn't have
44 to be taken out of the river?

45

46 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: No, it doesn't say
47 you have to, you can only bring it into the river and
48 then take it out, in and out, in and out.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But you were doing

1 that just trying to find a place?

2

3 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, you're trying
4 -- you're trying to find different places and whatnot
5 and we tried -- you know, like Darrel had expressed in
6 the report there, the big fish wheel that we tried that
7 may be -- it was just too big, you know, to be able to
8 -- so we tried to create a smaller, you know,
9 opportunity that was more mobile. And it was, you
10 know, because of the way that the fish wheel's built
11 they're real easy to mobilize in and out.

12

13 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, we
14 were also worried about like vandalism and something if
15 it -- if it came undone.

16

17 Mr. Chair -- Ms. Stickwan.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria had something I
20 was going to ask.

21

22 MS. STICKWAN: Yes, I wanted to know
23 more about the -- you said that this -- I didn't
24 understand or hear what you said about the state fish
25 wheel compared to your fish wheel, you weren't allowed
26 to do something?

27

28 MR. WILLIAMS: The State fish wheel -- let's
29 see if this will work here. These are -- I'll just
30 skip ahead. Well, I'm sorry guys, I'm not trying to be
31 unfair. I'll do a quick synopsis.

32

33 The first original fish wheel for scale
34 you can see the size of it with Jack there in the
35 background. This is us head scratching looking scared
36 together, wondering if this is going to work or not and
37 trying to -- this is how portable we made the wheel so
38 we could actually put it in a truck. This is a picture
39 going down the road. This is us assembling the wheel,
40 this is the upper boat launch at the Kasilof River and
41 we're assembling the wheel. There's our fish basket
42 there in the foreground for live fish. And we're still
43 putting it together. There it is put together, getting
44 ready to go -- to transport it down the river. This is
45 some of the slack water, you can see that the -- that
46 the line doesn't even get pulled tight. That's the
47 velocity of the Upper Kasilof there. This is one of
48 the places where we had it set up to fish. There's
49 Daniel. This is one of our requirements is to have no
50 hazards of navigation, to have a buoy here so people

1 don't get hung up. There are other fishery stuff that
2 goes on there, people in boats, people who recreate,
3 drift fishermen and whatnot. There we're setting up.
4 Actually a lot of these pictures are of set up and
5 whatnot. There's the -- there's a fence behind --
6 right here, the fences that were set in the water.
7 There's us putting fences in. You can actually see the
8 mesh in the fence here. Here's another site we were
9 working on. Let's see, and the other site, this is
10 where we were using stakes. Basically we're staying
11 off the bank here for Gloria's question here. We're
12 having as little or no impact to the bank that we can.
13 Here's another site. Let's see, this is the sand bar
14 that I was talking about here. You can actually see it
15 in the water. So we have these bars that we have to
16 deal with in the river.

17
18 These should play, but apparently
19 they're not going to play for me. But at any rate
20 there we are setting up the wheel there. These were
21 supposed to be movies of the wheel fishing and it
22 doesn't look like they're going to play so I'm not sure
23 what to do.

24
25 That's the fish wheel that the State --
26 that I heard some comments that the State was comparing
27 us -- comparing the fishery to. If you notice the --
28 same thing. This is a large impact type, I mean, the
29 walkways, the bars, tied -- the long ties to the bank.
30 There's two different boats. I mean, you know, so if
31 you compare the size and the actual impact that we have
32 on the wheel, we're not allowed to do this kind of
33 stuff. We're allowed to put a fence in the river, but,
34 I mean, I -- boy, I don't know, that's pretty profound,
35 I think. And I'm not sure if we can actually make
36 those assumptions that this wheel should be the same as
37 -- that our wheel should be the same as this type of
38 wheel. Very, very large wheel.

39
40 But, Ms. Stickwan, does that answer
41 your question?

42
43 MS. STICKWAN: Yes.

44
45 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. Okay. All right.
46 This.....

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Where the State's got
48 their wheel it looks like you got a lot more current.

49
50 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. Yeah, the

1 morphology of the river is very different. There's a
2 lot more current, it's deeper. Yeah, it's a completely
3 different area. But it's somewhere -- it's not in the
4 Federal waters. And it's interesting because in the
5 Upper Kasilof River where we've been fishing is about
6 as far as we dare go. I -- yeah, Ivan mentioned it,
7 but we went down and we tried to get lower in the river
8 and trying to haul the fish wheel with a boat and we --
9 when we have things like sand bars and there's glacial
10 erratics, there's big growlers and stuff in the river.
11 Yeah, we almost took the engine off the boat trying to
12 get in and out of there and be able to handle that --
13 moving that wheel in the water. And that was with the
14 small wheel. So we also had some limitations as far as
15 actual where we can put it in the stream to where we
16 can go and get it. And same thing, trying to make it
17 low impact and it has to be accessible to subsistence
18 users, you know, that's another issue too, folks have
19 to be able to get to it. So we weren't sure if this
20 was really a fair comparison. I wanted to be able to
21 make that point.

22

23 There's a -- there's a fish we cut up
24 and yeah, that's -- that's a bought fish. So at any
25 rate just to show people that, you know, it's kind of
26 sad in a way for the subsistence fisheries where we're
27 at because now we're starting to do a lot of this kind
28 of stuff, we're taking pictures, we're documenting.
29 Same thing, we're trying to teach the younger folks
30 this is how you cut up the fish. And instead of being
31 able to take them out and say hey, we got five fish to
32 clean, now we're saying here look at the photos.
33 That's disappointing. It is.

34

35 And there's Daniel power trolling. So
36 -- and same thing, that's going up and down the river
37 with a net under power. I mean, not a lot of power,
38 but, I mean, actually faster than the current trying to
39 catch fish.

40

41 You know, there's a lot of ideas, lot
42 of theories on how to fish this fishery, but the bottom
43 line is as far as methods and means, gear type, we're
44 still figuring it out. And we'd like to be able to see
45 this fish wheel be a permanent gear type that we can
46 use. And I do agree with Ivan, I don't think this is
47 going to be the last gear type that comes up in this
48 issue because there was one fish caught out of this
49 fishery and everybody says this is a great fishery and
50 it's very sustainable and lots of fish came and went,

1 there was one fish caught under the subsistence.
2 That's just not very good.

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Darrel.....

5
6 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:on the Kasilof
9 how much other fishing is done on the Kasilof, I know I
10 said there was like -- I think it -- you said you had
11 like 245,000 fish going up the Kasilof in 2012. Is
12 there a major sport fishery on the Kasilof or is there
13 a major personal use fishery on the Kasilof?

14
15 MR. WILLIAMS: There are, there are
16 both. And there's guides and there's drift fishermen
17 and there's people who recreate too, I mean, we
18 actually encountered a lot of boats this -- it was
19 interesting, they'd come down and say hey, what are you
20 doing. And.....

21
22 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, Mr. Chairman,
23 and there is more, but I think it's -- you know, the
24 more -- you know, the personal use obviously is in the
25 mouth of the Kasilof so in that fishery there. The
26 majority of it's probably in State waters. There are a
27 lot of drift fishermen that launch on the Tustumena,
28 you know, headwaters there and drift down, but it's not
29 so much -- it's more so probably in State waters than
30 in Federal.

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So what would you
33 estimate the take of the other fisheries on the Kasilof
34 would be in the river itself?

35
36 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: I'm not sure, I'd
37 probably have to defer to Doug or someone else, you
38 know, for.....

39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Greg.

41
42 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Mr. Chairman, through
43 the Chair. Thank you guys for your presentation, but
44 one point I think the RAC has not seen or I would like
45 you to expound on, you know, we're not getting a clear
46 picture of how this Kasilof truly is fished. The
47 Kasilof is a very prolific river, it does produce 240
48 some thousand escapement, a lot of our commercial fish
49 is caught off of that river, the fish go up there in
50 pulses fairly fast. The river where you're seeing that

1 State is at the bridge as you go through Kasilof at the
2 main highway where the Federal subsistence fish is
3 allowed, is many miles above that, many miles. So you
4 have to have a logistics of where you're actually
5 fishing and have that in your mind to kind of
6 understand it. If you're down lower stream,
7 downstream, you're going to get good fish dip,
8 whatever. So the State fishery is a whole -- it's a
9 different world.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's kind of what I
14 was wondering is I was just wondering if there was
15 enough fish going by up above to even have a viable
16 chance of taking some in a fish wheel. I think with a
17 fish wheel -- that was the first job I had when I came
18 to Alaska, I ran a fish wheel at Woods Cannon, below
19 and above Woods Cannon for Fish and Game and Fish and
20 Wildlife Service. And you have to have a fair number
21 of fish going by in order to catch fish in a fish wheel
22 because you're only taking a very small piece of water.
23 And I was just wondering if there was enough fish up
24 there to -- that you felt that it was -- that you had
25 enough fish going by that you had a chance.

26

27 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: Mr. Chairman, yeah,
28 it is interesting because the -- you know, they --
29 there are fish in the river, there's no question of
30 that, you know, there's 200,000 like you say fish that
31 do escape in there. But once you -- when you get that
32 high up, I mean, we were there -- the one day I was
33 there we fished the wheel all day, we had our hook and
34 line, I mean, we -- we had -- we did the dip net. We
35 tried everything, we had the -- you know, the sonar,
36 the fish finder and we didn't see a fish roll, we
37 didn't see a fish move. I mean, you try and judge it,
38 I mean, you know, when the fish run the numbers hit the
39 river, you know, you try and get those larger
40 escapement days beginning, you know, to mid July and
41 you -- you know, five to seven days from when the fish
42 hit the river to when they'll probably be up there.
43 You know, we try and time it, but we just don't see --
44 we're not seeing the pure masses of fish that would be
45 conducive to, you know, some of these things being real
46 profitable in those areas. But we want to continue to
47 -- you know, I mean, continue to move forward and see
48 if we can't make it work.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I've got one other

1 question then for you. I -- you know, the -- to me
2 there's no question that there has been -- there
3 definitely has been no impact and at the same time I
4 know the State still wants a shorter reporting period,
5 but I think our reporting period in comparison with all
6 of the State reporting periods that they have on their
7 subsistence fishing is very apropos and very short so I
8 don't see any problem there. But would there be a
9 problem with and I'll say this since it is an
10 experimental fishery, the one nice thing about having a
11 sunset clause on it is that it has to be brought back
12 for reevaluation. And it's something that would end up
13 having to come back to us so we could see whether it
14 works or whether it doesn't work. Would there be --
15 you know, to make something permanent that hasn't
16 proved to work doesn't sound as -- doesn't sound as
17 viable to me as making something with a time period so
18 that you can see if it works. And do you see a problem
19 with having a long enough extension to try to -- to
20 evaluate this?

21

22 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: Well, Mr. Chairman,
23 and Darrel can follow-up and answer that too. Yeah, I
24 mean, there's arguments both ways obviously. You know,
25 as far as -- the problem is the logistics. Here we are
26 once again, you know, back at it, you know, talking
27 about this, having to repropose. We had to do a
28 special action request and we got a shortened season
29 because of the special action requirements, I think
30 it's 60 days. So you lose out and it's just -- it's a
31 continuation. I mean, I think that, you know, our
32 position obviously is that there -- there's -- the
33 conservation issue is not there and it's no different
34 than, you know, the in-season management that can take
35 place, there's plenty of shortened reporting
36 requirements. If there's not a conservation issue and
37 it's a preference we can make the same argument with
38 the extra hook or the bait or whatever it is, whether
39 it's truly been meaningful or not. And I just think it
40 -- you know, if it's -- it's an opportunity for the
41 subsistence user and if it's been -- there's no
42 conversation concerns, it's a method and mean, it
43 should just be approved on a permanent basis versus a
44 temporary basis to where we keep talking about it.
45 Otherwise we're going to talk about every other thing,
46 we're going to continue to talk about the extra hook,
47 the bait, where we're at. And it's one more small
48 piece of the puzzle.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Darrel.

1 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman.
2 Yeah, I'd like to make a comment on that too. You
3 know, the other part of the problem is is this has been
4 a process since what, 2008 and it's 2012. You know,
5 every time we've come forward and we've tried to
6 establish the fishery everybody has thrown their hands
7 up and said conservation concern, conservation concern,
8 conservation concern. I still have the mind set of the
9 principles of wildlife management, a conservation
10 concern has to be demonstrated. There's discussion of
11 conservation concerns in this proposal with one fish,
12 one fish harvested in the Kasilof River. That's
13 unreasonable, it's unacceptable, it -- it -- I can't
14 believe it made it in here, you know, but it is. And
15 this is the way this process works. I hate to say this
16 to the RAC, but it's true. You guys have seen this
17 come back time and time again. If we don't ask for a
18 permanent gear type, Ivan's right, we'll be coming back
19 next year and the year after and the year after until
20 -- and it's like that old idea of keep asking people
21 until somebody tells you yes. And it shouldn't be that
22 way, it should work -- the subsistence -- the whole
23 idea of Federal subsistence is the subsistence users
24 have a priority. We don't have a priority, we're
25 sitting so far on the back burner we have to come in
26 and prove our case to be able to get a fishery. I
27 don't think -- I don't think we should have to.

28
29 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank
30 you.....

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Darrel, and
33 I'm glad you said what you said because that's -- that
34 to me is the -- is the problem is that instead of you
35 having to prove that this works, somebody else -- I
36 mean, I just came -- I just drove down the road, came
37 in day before yesterday and since I'm interested in
38 fish and fisheries I had to watch what was going on and
39 watch the drift boats on the river and watch how many
40 people had their rod bent over as they were fighting
41 fish. And if you've taken one fish, that's why I was
42 asking the questions about what kind of other fisheries
43 took place on the Kasilof. It doesn't take a very big
44 impact from other fisheries to equal one fish. And
45 therefore if one fish is a problem for the subsistence
46 user then it's got to be a problem, a real big problem
47 for everybody else. So -- but at the same time my --
48 the other thing is I hate the thought of not getting a
49 report in three or four years to see what you guys are
50 doing. And that -- that's the one reason that I was

1 wondering about a sunset clause. I would never think
2 of having it be have to be renewed on a one year basis.
3 But I guess we could count on the fact that it fits in
4 with all of the rest of the subsistence uses and we'll
5 get a report whether it's positive or whether it's
6 negative in the future.

7

8 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: And, Mr. Chairman,
9 just to follow-up on that. We do an annual report for
10 our -- as far as the community plan. Darrel put
11 together a nice permit that's submitted to Doug and to
12 Andy, I think, and we'll be -- you'll see us here at
13 these meetings. So we can always get that distributed
14 out to the RAC as part of our plan.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. But that's
17 true, and see something like this is -- if somebody can
18 demonstrate a problem we've -- as we've said -- set out
19 before, if somebody can demonstrate a problem then you
20 shut things down, then you make adjustments. But we
21 have a tendency -- at least a certain side of this
22 subsistence has a tendency to imagine problems that
23 don't exist, I mean, to me. And sometimes we have a
24 tendency to imagine successes that don't exist also.
25 It's kind of interesting because I was doing some
26 research on fish wheels not too long ago and the first
27 fish wheel was in 1903 on the Chena River if anybody
28 wants to know when fish wheels came to Alaska, you
29 know, and that -- that was the first fish wheel that
30 came to the state of Alaska. So it was written up in
31 the Fairbanks paper, you know, back in 1903. So that's
32 kind of interesting, but it's good that this kind of
33 stuff will be available and I'm sure about the first
34 time that you have a problem with taking too many we'll
35 have a whole bunch of things sitting on the table in
36 front of us.

37

38 Doug.

39

40 MR. BLOSSOM: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I guess
41 I'll ask you, Darrel. When we voted for this fish
42 wheel, you know, I had looked at the State fish wheel
43 and envisioned it to be about the same. Is there a
44 problem with you not putting in one like that?

45

46 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, Mr.
47 Blossom. Yes, the -- the water isn't deep enough. Up
48 there in the upper -- on the upper river. That -- I'd
49 say the State's fish wheel probably fishes 10 feet deep
50 and most.....

1 MR. BLOSSOM: It's shallow where that
2 fish wheel is.
3
4 MR. WILLIAMS: Much shallower on the
5 upper river.
6
7 MR. BLOSSOM: No, I mean, where the one
8 in the picture is, it's shallow there. But you can't
9 put in one like that or it wouldn't work or what?
10
11 MR. WILLIAMS: Well, we built the
12 bigger wheel. The problem was one, moving it around
13 and then the other problem was getting an area deep
14 enough where it could fish. And well, you know,
15 because the baskets have to be so far in the water to
16 turn the wheel, that was part of the -- you know, the
17 size of the wheel, the energy it takes to make it go
18 around. Yeah, we had difficulties with it.
19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Greg.
21
22 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I just want to
23 comment maybe for Doug's clarification and he knows
24 this, but where the State's fishing in the lower water,
25 just a reminder that they got a lot of current there,
26 they got movement there.
27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Good and shallower.
29
30 MR. ENCELEWSKI: It may be shallow, but
31 you got movement.
32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. I just -- yeah.
34
35 MR. WILLIAMS: Just on the comment too,
36 the pictures that we took, the wheel wasn't fishing, it
37 was just parked there. So I guess it was something
38 else. We got the guy who was sitting there -- the Fish
39 and Game guy who was sitting there fishing it, he said
40 they -- yeah, they just had it parked there.
41 Apparently they move the wheel when they actually fish
42 it. It wasn't actually fishing there, Doug. Yeah.
43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It looked to me like
45 they had cables on the other side of the river so they
46 could move the wheel out into the mainstream of the
47 river. And that -- and that fence they had looked like
48 it was move -- you know, like you could move -- the
49 fence was there and a weir was sitting in front of it
50 that you could then move out farther. I'm not saying

1 that that's what they did, but that's what it looked to
2 me like they were capable of doing.

3
4 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, it moved before it
5 was fished. But you -- can I make one more comment
6 just before we get too far off of it, you know, back to
7 the reporting requirements that got mentioned a minute
8 ago. I am not aware of any other subsistence use that
9 requires a work plan, an approval, a special use
10 permit, a special action request and 72 hour reporting
11 and a mandatory final report when it's over with, you
12 know, and I really believe that it's appropriate to ask
13 the RAC should -- is this a reasonable expectation of a
14 subsistence user group and if it is how come everybody
15 else isn't doing this.

16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I asked that same
18 question, Darrel.

19
20 Mary Ann.

21
22 MS. MILLS: I noticed in the report it
23 says incidental handling of rainbow, steelhead trout,
24 Arctic char, Dolly Varden and lake trout and other
25 resident species is a concern. Have you caught any of
26 these species?

27
28 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: Mr. Chairman, Ms.
29 Mills. No, we haven't caught any fish in the fish
30 wheel to date. So.....

31
32 MS. MILLS: And I noticed another
33 concern was they had a concern of not reporting or, you
34 know, with the fish -- with the people using this
35 fishery keeping track of their records. Is there a
36 problem with that, with your subsistence fishery?

37
38 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, Ms. Mills.
39 No, there's no problem. As far as I know everybody's
40 reported -- you know, it's interesting because when we
41 first started fishing the wheel I'll call Doug Palmer
42 and say, Doug, we're fishing today. And he'll be okay,
43 you know, write it down, but same thing. You know, we
44 have to report harvest. So then after, you know, the
45 first few days we don't catch anything, then I don't
46 call Doug. Then I call him every other day, you know,
47 that kind of thing. But no, I'm not aware of any
48 reporting problems, it's just that the reporting
49 requirements are profound compared to other subsistence
50 uses and even compared to other State uses.

1 MS. MILLS: Well, the reason I was
2 wondering is I was wondering if the State had any basis
3 for their concerns.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Mary Ann.
8 Judy.

9
10 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, I did want to
11 thank both Darrel and Ivan and the other people from
12 Ninilchik who did come here. One of the reasons we
13 wanted to have the meeting on the peninsula is because
14 this is our only fisheries proposal and we wanted to be
15 a little bit closer to those people affected by our
16 discussions and deliberations. I know you would have
17 come to Anchorage because you always do and we really
18 appreciate that too, but it was our hope to make it
19 just a little bit easier and I'm so glad you brought
20 the photos because it's good for us to see it rather
21 than only hear about it as is often happens. I guess I
22 was also maybe a little surprised with your proposal
23 that of all the parts of the regulation you did only
24 pick one part and ask for a change. And I think the
25 staff analysis knew and we'll hear more from
26 Interagency Staff Committee, certainly shows there's no
27 conservation concern, it's beneficial to subsistence
28 users or hopefully it will be, it's certainly not
29 detrimental to. And there is information to support it
30 as in the numbers of fish of the run. So certainly
31 appreciate your efforts. I do think there are other
32 parts of this regulation that could be looked at and,
33 you know, perhaps that'll be discussion during our
34 deliberation or future proposal that you or others
35 might put in.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Lee.

40
41 MR. ADLER: I've heard about your one
42 fish, how about the State wheel, how many did they
43 catch?

44 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Alder.

45
46 MR. ADLER: Adler.

47
48 MR. WILLIAMS: Adler. I don't know.
49 When we actually talked -- we actually went down
50 because we thought the State had the wheel out there,

1 they'd been fishing and we wanted to look at what
2 they're doing to see if we can learn something that
3 would help us. And there was a gentleman there, I
4 don't recall his name, but we talked to him and he
5 apparently was the operator of the wheel, he said that
6 they'd caught several fish already. So, of course,
7 we're like oh, okay, well, hey, they're catching fish
8 here. If you look at the map that's in your packet
9 there, you -- you'll see that down -- it's Page 16 on
10 my stuff, you would see that if you're holding it
11 upright like this that that wheel's located right here
12 in the upper corner where the highway goes across the
13 river, that's that dotted line. And, of course, the
14 Federal fisheries are several miles up the river. So
15 we thought hey, you know, these fish got to travel a
16 little bit, we got a little time, let's get out in the
17 river and start fishing. Well, same thing, by the time
18 we were done I don't think it was completely
19 appropriate to make those assumptions, but they said
20 they had caught fish. I didn't see them catch fish,
21 you know, I don't know if there's a report on it or
22 not, but they said they had caught fish. That's the
23 best answer I had.

24

25 MR. ADLER: Well, thank you.

26

27 MR. WILLIAMS: You're welcome. Mr.
28 Chairman.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions?

31 Oh, Ivan.

32

33 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: Mr. Chairman, I
34 just -- one quick comment too, you know, back to Mr.
35 Blossom's comment about the -- you know, the challenges
36 with the -- you know, the State wheel and that
37 potentially working. One of the other issues there is
38 kind of briefly mentioned it is that, you know, you're
39 starting out in that slack water and, you know, it's a
40 good ramp, you know, a good -- to get there, but then
41 you're having to move it down to get to that slow water
42 that's moving to get any -- any current really you're
43 having to move it. So if we were able to back up to
44 the bank, you know, a mile or two downstream or
45 something, into a good spot and put this big fish
46 wheel, it might be more -- also more conducive. But by
47 the time you literally make the second turn around the
48 river down from where you're going, you're literally
49 having to power trim the boat motor up and you're
50 scraping bottom, you know, especially in the early part
of the season. So it's not -- you've having to

1 mobilize that -- that wheel down there. So it does
2 create logistical challenges to -- that aren't just
3 like under the bridge in Kasilof there where we can
4 just, you know, back it up. So that's one.

5
6 And two, you know, I went up to -- in
7 Chitina and there's literally old engine blocks they
8 use for anchors and we could never get away with
9 anything like that. So we have much -- much greater
10 issues on the river there. So that's all I'll say
11 about that.

12
13 And if I could make one quick comment
14 because I think that pretty much concludes our
15 presentation unless there's any more -- I just want to
16 touch on from the -- from the Ninilchik Traditional
17 Council how important that I think we -- it was
18 mentioned this morning on the agenda item to get a
19 subsistence user on the committee or commission that's
20 looking at the king salmon issues. We fully support
21 that, you know, it's kind of a -- it's unbelievable
22 that there isn't a subsistence user potentially being
23 put on that and we would certainly support -- I would
24 hope that the RAC would come up with a resolution
25 strongly asking for some representation from the State.
26 Of all the user groups, personal use, you know,
27 commercial, sport, but no subsis -- I mean, to me it
28 shows the mind set of the State, but I won't even go
29 there. But we really need to have a subsistence user
30 on that commission or that committee.

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Ivan. Any
33 other questions for Darrel or Ivan? Doug.

34
35 MR. BLOSSOM: Yeah, Mr. Chair, Ivan. I
36 guess I heard you say that one time you tried it you
37 tried every kind of gear and just nothing worked, the
38 dip net didn't work either that day, right?

39
40 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, Mr. Chairman,
41 Mr. Blossom. Yeah, the days -- I was there the one day
42 last year Darrel and Daniel and them mostly did it all
43 this year. But yeah, the one day that I was there we
44 literally we hook and lined, dip net and fish -- ran
45 the fish wheel and there was nothing, nothing on the
46 radar, nothing rolling, I think they pretty much
47 experienced that this year, all that. Darrel, follow
48 that.

49
50 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. -- Commissioner

1 Blossom, yeah, I'll elaborate on that. Yeah, we didn't
2 catch any then, but, you know, it's interesting because
3 last year the subsistence user, his name's Brad
4 Glessing, and Brad lives down there and Brad's a pretty
5 good old boy and he likes to go fish and he doesn't
6 have a lot of extra and whatnot and he's been
7 struggling with the idea of the cost of going from
8 Ninilchik to the Kasilof River as, you know, to paint a
9 picture of how the rural community has to evaluate some
10 of these things. At any rate last year Brad got to the
11 river at a great time and he knocked the heck out of
12 them with a dip -- with a dip net. And it was just the
13 matter of he got there at the right time and was
14 fishing the right way in the right spot and he caught
15 fish. And he turned that into Doug and whatnot and
16 that's what actually kind of inspired us about doing
17 the power trolling, to give it a shot, was his efforts.
18 But this year -- yeah, this year we didn't catch
19 anything. And same thing, I don't know if we were at
20 the wrong spot, wrong time, wrong place, but he said he
21 was fishing right off the boat launch, walking out
22 there in his chest waders with his dip net out there
23 and he was getting them right there. So it has
24 successfully been done, just not this year, it was last
25 year. So I -- I'm not sure, I don't -- I don't have
26 better answers other than people have caught fish, we
27 just haven't.

28
29 MR. BLOSSOM: Now one follow-up.
30 That's why I always -- always in favor of the fish
31 wheel because if you got it set up right and I
32 envisioned, of course, one like the State has, that you
33 could go down there and turn it on when there's fish
34 coming through and catch them. That was my vision of
35 it.

36
37 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, and, Mr.
38 Chairman, Mr. Blossom. And we agree. You know, it
39 would -- it would be part of the other issues, it's
40 just the pure -- you know, the man hours to be able to
41 get down there and to do those things and trying to get
42 more community members involved that might want to go
43 down there and maintain that throughout the day would
44 be beneficial. But you can -- it kind of emulates the
45 -- if you look at the personal use fishery there, I
46 mean, you can go down there in the mouth of the Kasilof
47 River and dip net for two days and not catch a fish.
48 You have to be there at the right time. And you can --
49 and the Kenai's the same way, I mean, and you can miss
50 it by a day. It's sporadic, it's very sporadic. So

1 you're right, if you're -- it's timing.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mr. Henrichs, did you
4 have something?

5

6 MR. HENRICHS: Yeah. Well, our tribe
7 operates fish wheels for research on the Copper and we
8 have for six years and the consultants we had had
9 experience on that Asp River in B.C., so the first fish
10 wheels that we got were aluminum floats, 38 feet long.
11 The wheel was 30 feet in diameter and you could raise
12 it up when you wanted to move it and we modified it a
13 little bit and put some mounts on it so we could have
14 outboard motors on both of them. And let me tell you
15 that thing moved. And it worked, but after a while we
16 hired a guy, Johnny Goodlataw from upriver who had
17 built and operated fish wheels for years and caught
18 thousands of fish. And he built the wheel out of
19 native wood, smaller and we started using that one and
20 it caught more fish than all the rest of the wheels
21 combined. And it was the least expensive. So if you
22 guys want some technical assistance we're available.
23 And the thing to remember about these fish wheels, all
24 the ones we have and the ones of the Copper River, they
25 have live tanks in them, the fish go into the live
26 tanks, you don't kill them just because you catch them.
27 And one of our tribal members developed the live tank
28 for ours because we were targeting on kings and our
29 live tanks let the reds escape.

30

31 So that's all I got to say.

32

33 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, Mr.
34 Henrichs. You know, it's interesting that you mention
35 that. We actually talked with Trisha Waggoner who was
36 a RAC member before here, she lives down in the
37 Ninilchik area now. And we had her come out and look
38 at our wheel, we're like, you know, please take a look
39 at this, tell us what you think. You've -- she's
40 fished other wheels in the Interior and stuff like
41 that, you know, and that's where we got into the
42 buoyancy issue. And she was saying the same thing, the
43 smaller wheels are effective. She said that was about
44 the same size wheels that they'd used before, not the
45 great big behemoth wheels, but a smaller, more
46 reasonable wheel. And that's -- yeah, that's where we
47 found out about buoy -- that the buoyancy issue
48 apparently was really important, about how buoyant it
49 is in the water and how it moves to be able to catch
50 the fish. So there's real effort going into it and I

1 -- yeah, I'd appreciate help from anybody.

2

3

So thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4

5

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Darrel.

6 And I'd -- personally I'd advise going up to Copper
7 Center and checking out the Tazlina and talk to some of
8 the people up there that have ran them for a long, long
9 time. There are a lot of small wheels up there that
10 are very, very efficient, very, very good. And it's --
11 there are some big monsters, you know, steel wheel and
12 everything else, but they don't produce like some of
13 the little wheels that are sitting there in the river.
14 And it's -- again you got to have the current, you got
15 to be able to turn it and you got to put it in the
16 right spot. But I thought that was the case with all
17 fishing, I mean, it's not what kind of lure you've got
18 or what kind of net you've got, you've got to put it in
19 front of a fish. And if you don't do that you don't
20 catch fish. So you've got to have fish there to catch
21 in other words.

22

23

So with that any more questions for --

24 Greg.

25

26

MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I'll just make a
27 comment, Mr. Chairman, through you. You know, we did
28 go to Copper -- we did go to Tazlina, we did take
29 pictures, we did study this. We studied it to death
30 just so you'd -- you know. And I just want that to be
31 out there because your last part of your statement was
32 the fish have to be there, you have to have the
33 current, you have to have the movement, that's the
34 logistics of this.

35

36

I do want to address, you know, the
37 meaningful preference. As a RAC member I really -- you
38 know, I believe there's absolutely no conservation
39 concern because we haven't had one. I do believe that
40 it would be nice to make it permanent and if there's a
41 problem they'll always come back. The reason being
42 maybe we will be able to develop this or move it down
43 river far enough in the Federal waters to make it work.

44

45

Thank you.

46

47

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria.

48

49

MS. STICKWAN: I was wondering if you
50 besides permanence fish wheel, is there any other

1 things that you would like to see changed?

2

3 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: Mr. Chairman, Ms.
4 Stickwan. Yeah, I think -- I think obviously we have
5 some ideas and we'll be looking at other opportunities
6 and presenting those, I think, in the future.

7

8 MR. WILLIAMS: Reporting.

9

10 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, reporting.
11 But there are other opportunities, I don't -- I don't
12 really want to, you know, get everybody in a stir over
13 different things, but, you know, we had originally --
14 this actually as I mentioned originally came out from,
15 I believe, our proposal for a net, you know, we wanted
16 a community net in the river and that kind of didn't go
17 over too well. And this was like more of a compromise
18 opportunity saying hey, why not a fish wheel in the
19 river. And so we've gotten that, but we, you know,
20 collectively as the Ninilchik Traditional Council we'll
21 be looking at, you know, for future proposals for more
22 meaningful stuff. But I'm not really prepared to just
23 say yeah, we're going for this or that right now. But
24 we want to look at other opportunities.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Ivan. And
27 I'd like to -- I'd like to compliment the work that's
28 been done because even the State had trouble finding
29 any problems with your reporting or anything like that.
30 And I think you've done a good job in setting the
31 program up in the boundaries that were put on you and
32 whether the boundaries are fair or not isn't the
33 question, the boundaries are there and you guys have --
34 you guys have complied with them and what more can
35 anybody ask.

36

37 Any other questions for Darrel or Ivan?

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

42

43 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

44

45 MR. I. ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Interagency Staff
48 Committee comments, do we have any?

49

50 UNIDENTIFIED MALE VOICE: There are

1 none.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: There are none. Okay.
4 Do we have any Advisory Group comments, Fish and Game
5 advisory groups that wish to comment on this proposal?

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any neighboring
10 Regional Councils that want to weigh in?

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hearing none, we'll go
15 to local Fish and Game Advisory comments.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hearing none, do we
20 have any comments from the National Park Subsistence
21 Resource Commissions?

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No comments. Summary
26 of written comments. Donald.

27

28 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We
29 did not receive any written comments on this particular
30 proposal.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The next item is
35 public comments and I have no other public comments
36 other than Darrel and Ivan and we've allowed them to
37 comment and participate. So unless there are other
38 public comments that need to be addressed at this time
39 we can skip this part and we can go on to Regional
40 Council recommendations and motion to accept so that we
41 can then discuss this proposal.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do I have a motion to
46 accept Proposal FP13-15?

47

48 MR. HENRICHS: I'll make the motion.

49

50 MR. BLOSSOM: I'll.....

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved.....
2
3 MR. BLOSSOM:second.
4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:and it's been
6 seconded by Doug. Moved by Mr. Henrichs, seconded by
7 Doug Blossom. The motion is now on the table and we're
8 open for discussion. Discussion from anybody,
9 comments, things you'd like to add.
10
11 Judy.
12
13 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, I think as
14 we've already put on the record, this is beneficial to
15 subsistence users, we applaud the efforts that have
16 taken place so far and hope for future success in
17 catching fish. We do not see a conservation concern
18 and I would support this motion.
19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Doug.
21
22 MR. BLOSSOM: Mr. Chair, I also would
23 support this totally. I believe they can make it work,
24 it's going to take some work to get it going right, but
25 I think it'll work well once they get it established
26 and I'm all for it.
27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mary Ann.
29
30 MS. MILLS: Yes, I think the State
31 concerns are unfounded and I do support this proposal,
32 this motion.
33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Greg.
35
36 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I
37 support the proposal. I also realize that, you know,
38 we haven't made it efficient yet, but I think there's a
39 possibility. So it is an opportunity and the
40 community's involved in it, it's not just the Council
41 we have local people in the community very willing to
42 help and put their time and effort into it and I think
43 it's, you know, a -- if we could work somehow to get a
44 chunk of land down closer to move it out I think we can
45 make it work.
46
47 Thank you.
48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'd like to say that
50 from my standpoint some of the things that were brought

1 up like the handling of the fish and things like that,
2 if operated properly with checks every hour like's
3 required and a live box, there's probably going to be
4 less damage to fish that are released than if they were
5 hooked by a hook and line, fought to exhaustion and
6 undone. And I think that if you're talking about
7 protecting other fish and just targeting certain
8 species, this fish wheel has the -- has a much better
9 chance of being low impact than rod and reel or gill
10 net or anything like that. So I -- personally I'll
11 support this.

12

13 Any other discussion?

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If there's no further
18 discussion the question is in order.

19

20 MS. CAMINER: Question.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The question's been
23 called. All in favor of Proposal FP13-15 signify by
24 saying aye.

25

26 IN UNISON: Aye.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed, signify
29 by saying nay.

30

31 (No opposing votes)

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries. With
34 that we'll take a 10 minute break.

35

36 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

39

40 MS. CAMINER: May I just say one more
41 thing? Again I want to thank Ninilchik for your multi
42 year kind of perseverance with the process and I
43 believe this Council certainly recognizes that the
44 conditions as part of this regulation are more
45 stringent than elsewhere in the State, but I admire you
46 saying you'll take this a step at a time. And perhaps
47 -- I mean, perhaps the Federal Board would consider
48 changing some of these conditions at their meeting, but
49 not presupposing anything, when there's a time that you
50 are catching fish perhaps consistently, you know, maybe

1 that's an appropriate time to say well, we've submitted
2 our reports, you have our evaluations, maybe that's a
3 good time to adjust some of these regulations. We'll
4 just see what the future brings, but thank you for your
5 efforts.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. With that I
10 just looked at the clock, let's take a five minute --
11 do we -- do we want to take a lunch break now and come
12 back at 1:00 or should we try to get through the
13 Memorandum of Understanding? It's up to -- up to the
14 rest of the Council on that one.

15

16 UNIDENTIFIED MALE VOICE: How long's it
17 going to take?

18

19 MS. CAMINER: You never know.

20

21 UNIDENTIFIED MALE VOICE: I'm going to
22 be doing the memorandum of understanding and it's
23 probably going to be an hour at this point.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. What we could
26 do then is let's take a five minute break and then
27 let's look at the Kenai Northwest Chugach Delegation of
28 Authority on Moose. We had a couple things on that
29 this year, that should be a fairly short one. We've
30 taken care of it in the past and then we'll break for
31 lunch.

32

33 (Off record)

34

35 (On record)

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Andy, if we give you a
38 chance can you take care of this in 10 minutes or
39 should we put it off to after lunch.

40

41 MR. LORANGER: He could take care of it
42 at 12:00.

43

44 MR. BLOSSOM: He can't get done in 10
45 minutes.

46

47 MR. LORANGER: There's two of us
48 and.....

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, in that case if

1 it's okay with everybody, I just was looking at the
2 clock, we've had a good break, I think we should take
3 lunch and we'll come back to something fresh.

4
5 MR. LORANGER: We might be able --
6 yeah, so what I thought we'd do is give a quick update
7 of, you know, this past moose season in Unit 15.
8 Milo's going to handle in Unit 7.....

9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

11
12 MR. LORANGER:the Federal lands
13 and if we can do that then maybe that makes the
14 delegation conversation -- you know, that would be
15 useful to the delegation conversation. And whether you
16 take that up now or after lunch is okay, but we can
17 certainly briefly update the Council on the.....

18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Does that sound good
20 to the rest of the Council members?

21
22 MR. BLOSSOM: At least they come back
23 after lunch for more.

24
25 MR. LORANGER: Oh, yeah. I wouldn't
26 miss it.

27
28 MR. LORANGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
29 Members of the Council. Again, appreciate the
30 opportunity to be here to address you this morning.

31
32 Just real quickly want to summarize the
33 Federal moose early season and, of course, we received
34 the delegated authority for moose in, I guess, the July
35 meeting of the Federal Subsistence Board. And so going
36 into the season spike fork and 50 inch or three brow
37 tine moose were legal for harvest. And through the
38 course of the first 20 days of the season in Unit 15B
39 West, the western portion of Unit 15B, we harvested
40 four spike forks. At that time we issued a special
41 action after consultation with the Department and with
42 Mr. Lohse in that particular case Ralph and I didn't
43 have a chance to speak, but I did get ahold of Tom
44 Carpenter and we were able to have a discussion in
45 regard. So we closed to spike fork, left the remaining
46 areas of Unit 15, 15A, 15B East and all of 15C open for
47 spike forks and the larger bulls. And 15B West also
48 stayed open for spike fork -- I mean, for the larger
49 bull harvest for the remainder of the season. We're
50 going into the late subsistence season which starts on

1 October 20th under the same -- the same scenario having
2 spike forks not being legal, but only in 15B West.
3 They will be legal in 15B East and in 15C. The
4 additional harvest that occurred during the early
5 season occurred in Unit 15A and that was a spike fork
6 as well.

7
8 So that's a brief summary of the season
9 to date.

10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So what is the total
12 number of moose taken so far under it?

13
14 MR. LORANGER: It -- in Unit 15 there's
15 five taken during the subsistence moose.....

16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And they're all
18 spikes?

19
20 MR. LORANGER: All spike forks.

21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

23
24 MR. BURCHAM: Mr. Chair and Council, my
25 name's Milo Burcham with the Chugach National Forest.
26 And we went into this having the same concerns as the
27 Refuge, seeing the -- and the State, seeing low
28 bull/cow ratios and recognizing that Unit 7 on the
29 eastern half of the peninsula has the same problem and
30 probably should have some of the same management
31 authority. And last year we with the special action
32 closed spike fork hunting and just like happened on the
33 -- in Unit 15 and, you know, a lot of users felt
34 impacted by that. And we thought we could possibly do
35 a little bit better and allow a small amount of
36 harvest. Anyway long story short we followed the
37 Refuge's example and asked for delegated authority to
38 manage moose on the -- you know, delegated authority
39 for the -- for the District Ranger of the Seward
40 District.

41
42 And we had a -- several opportunities
43 to consult people before we did it, Ralph, I think I
44 had a conversation with you, maybe it was at the post
45 office this year and talked to you about the -- our
46 concerns and the potential of setting a limit on spike
47 forks rather than having it closed completely. And we
48 had the opportunity to bring it to the public at our
49 public meetings in Hope and Cooper Landing where we
50 issue permits. And anyway had a lot of support for it

1 going into this and that's what we did, the Board
2 issued our -- you know, gave us the delegated
3 authority. Shortly afterwards and shortly before the
4 season started we set a quota of three spike fork bulls
5 in Unit 7. When the season -- well, it's come and gone
6 now, we had just one taken and anyway we allowed some
7 harvest and didn't seem to impact opportunity.

8
9 And that's about all I have to report
10 as well.

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So out of the three
13 one was taken.....

14
15 MR. BURCHAM: Of the quota of
16 three.....

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:the season stayed
19 open the whole time for spike forks?

20
21 MR. BURCHAM: Yes.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

24
25 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 Thanks both for the report. So just to clarify then
27 the five and one moose taken, was that by subsistence
28 users?

29
30 MR. LORANGER: That's subsistence
31 harvest, Member Caminer.

32
33 MR. BURCHAM: And this one on Unit 7
34 was too.

35
36 MS. CAMINER: Okay. Thanks.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And if I remember
39 right the State spike fork season was closed, am I
40 correct on that?

41
42 MR. LORANGER: That is correct.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So the only per -- the
45 only people qualified to take a spike fork were
46 subsistence users?

47
48 MR. LORANGER: That's correct.

49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions?

1 Greg.
2
3 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I just got a quick
4 question. Was that -- was that the five, does that
5 include the illegal ones?
6
7 UNIDENTIFIED MALE VOICE: There were
8 two moose that were taken outside of the Refuge
9 boundaries, yes.
10
11 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Was that added in the
12 five or.....
13
14 MR. LORANGER: No, that includes --
15 that's the five total spike forks.
16
17 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Okay.
18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Were the two taken
20 outside of the boundaries just mistakes because -- were
21 they close to the boundary?
22
23 MR. LORANGER: They -- they were both
24 fairly close to the boundary, but it -- not within the
25 Refuge.
26
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Doug.
28
29 MR. BLOSSOM: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I
30 appreciate that you did try to converse with our
31 Chairman before you did it and that -- that was good.
32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: He left me a message
34 on my voicemail and I answered him on the voicemail,
35 but in between time he talked to Mr. Carpenter.
36
37 MR. HENRICHS: That's okay.
38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So we managed.
40
41 MR. BLOSSOM: No, we had -- we had
42 spike fork up in our area, we just didn't take them.
43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.
45
46 MR. BLOSSOM: I mean, I just -- I
47 couldn't, I sit on the Central Peninsula Advisory
48 Committee and I'd voted with the State and so we let
49 them go, they'll get big.
50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Greg.
2
3 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, meanwhile we're
4 all starving in Ninilchik, but anyway.....
5
6 (Laughter)
7
8 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Just thought I'd throw
9 that out, we can't even get the bone. But no -- no, I
10 just -- really what I wanted to comment on is Andy did
11 also call us at the Council and he conferred with us.
12 And he actually gave us -- I had a day to get my -- up
13 there and get a spike, but I was busy. But anyway I
14 appreciate that.
15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So does everybody feel
17 like the delegation of authority as a Council do you
18 feel like it worked this year?
19
20 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.
21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes, Judy.
23
24 MR. BLOSSOM: As long as you -- I think
25 they should confer with you though, I mean, that --
26 that's important, I think.
27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Judy.
29
30 MS. CAMINER: I'm agreeing with Doug
31 and, I guess, if you're not available as is sometimes
32 the case with Tom or Doug or Greg being close by here,
33 I think that's exactly what the Council was trying to
34 say the last meeting or the meeting before and we
35 really appreciate that you heard that and better than
36 hearing it you're following it up with those actions.
37 That's -- that's what we were really looking for. And
38 so it sounds like it's working very well.
39
40 Thank you.
41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions
43 for them?
44
45 (No comments)
46
47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Is an hour long enough
49 for everybody to go find lunch around here? We have a
50 time certain thing at 2:00 o'clock, we have some things

1 we can handle before that. So let's just try to get by
2 with an hour for lunch, let's be back at 1:00 o'clock.

3

4

5 (Off record)

6

7 (On record)

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'd like to call this
10 meeting of the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional
11 Advisory Council in October back into session. And
12 we're going to continue with the Kenai Refuge
13 Delegation of Authority on moose. And we have Andy up
14 there and we had somebody with some questions for him.

15

16 Doug.

17

18 MR. BLOSSOM: I was going to look here
19 quick. Mr. Chair, Andy, you remember our last meeting,
20 the one that Ralph said he wasn't at, I asked you what
21 the brown bear tally was in your study and you said
22 you'd have it shortly. I think shortly is passed, what
23 is it?

24

25 MR. LORANGER: We've been in
26 discussions with the -- in the review process with the
27 Alaska Department of Fish and Game as well as in the
28 month of September, this past September, we went out
29 for independent scientific review of our report on the
30 estimation study that the field work was conducted in
31 June of 2010. And we are going to meet with the
32 Department again in the month of November and we plan
33 to have a final report with the estimate -- brown bear
34 estimate released by the end of this year. So that's
35 where we're at with the brown bear work.

36

37 MR. BLOSSOM: Mr. Chair. But, Andy,
38 you're not going to give us your preliminary? The
39 Department -- the other night I was at a meeting at
40 Aquaculture, they said it's all your fault that the
41 report isn't out yet. So I'm just trying to find out
42 what the tally was.

43

44 MR. LORANGER: Well, I'm not sure that
45 that's what the Department said the other night, but if
46 that's -- if that's the case I think, you know, we all
47 know how important this number is and that really is
48 what this all about. We really want to get it right,
49 we really want to ensure that -- you know, that the
50 estimate that is generated is as good as it comes given

1 -- you know, given the challenges of the work and the
2 analyses at hand and that's what we're trying to get
3 to. And so the review process is just very, very
4 important and like I say we should be there by the end
5 of the year.

6
7 MR. BLOSSOM: Okay. Mr. Chair, I'll
8 just give you a little report from the Caribou Hills
9 where we hunt. The brown bear are pretty bad up there
10 yet. My grandson got a nice, 60 inch bull and, of
11 course, it's raining and blowing everyday and I
12 wandered up there the next day and -- two days later I
13 guess, here come this old sow right at me so I shot her
14 so I got a subsistence bear. And anyway a couple weeks
15 later, it be about a week ago now, I guess, my oldest
16 son, Doug, and grandson Brian, took the horses and went
17 in because they had a State permit by then. And they
18 rode up and as they came over the hill into Trophy Lake
19 here's this 60 inch bull, wide open, running out into
20 the lake, water just flying. And they thought it was a
21 cow right behind him, they said what in the world's
22 going on, then they realized it was a brown bear. And
23 that brown bear was going to get that 60 inch bull, I
24 mean, not a weak bull, he's a big, beautiful bull in
25 the middle of Trophy Lake. But, of course, they got
26 off their horses quick and got down there and killed
27 the bear. And then my oldest son said now what do I
28 do. The bear's out in the middle of the lake and the
29 moose is standing right by it. He stripped down and
30 waded out there and told my grandson, Brian, to be
31 ready and the moose just stood there. That moose
32 stayed there all day. When they left four hours later
33 that bull was still there. Anyway he drug the brown
34 bear to shore and the report last night I heard it's a
35 nine and a half footer, I don't know. So I didn't
36 never get to see that one, but I just thought I'd
37 report. And one other day they went up there and they
38 come on a moose kill and a pack of wolves, and my
39 oldest son, Dougie, managed to get one wolf out of the
40 pack. So that's my report on predators, they're pretty
41 bad in the Caribou Hills.

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any other
44 questions for Andy?

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other thing that
49 we need to hear on the delegation of authority?
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Andy, I do thank you
4 for getting ahold of us and for doing what you did on
5 it and it would be interesting and we'll be looking
6 forward to the bear report. Doug's been waiting a long
7 time, I don't see that it's going to make any
8 difference to him, but.....

9

10 MR. LORANGER: We all wish that we were
11 further ahead, you know, on reporting this, you know,
12 the results of this workout, there's no doubt about
13 that. But again I firmly believe that the review
14 process is going to make it a better product and it's
15 important for us to go through it.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

18

19 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

22

23 MS. CAMINER: Perhaps one option might
24 be if it's ready by the end of the year, I mean, Donald
25 has a way to get hold of us so if you forward the
26 information to him then we'll have it before our March
27 meeting and Doug will be happier.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mary Ann.

32

33 MS. MILLS: I -- yes, I was wondering
34 how your review process works, how you figure out the
35 populations because I know a lot of our people are
36 hunters and fishers and so we're right out there, you
37 know, among the different predators.

38

39 MR. LORANGER: Well, in regards to this
40 particular study it was what we call a mark recapture
41 study and it was DNA based, the goal or the methodology
42 involves luring bears into an area that we can capture
43 some hair and then we do DNA analysis on that hair that
44 allows us to identify individual animals. And then you
45 do repeated capture sessions and so the number of bears
46 that are caught more than once, you know, basically
47 very -- very complex set of statistics and models that
48 are used, but that's what generates the estimates. In
49 this particular case we also had the benefit of
50 relatively large number, 40 or some telemetered bears

1 that were within the sample frame during the time we
2 were doing the study. So we know how many of those
3 bears that we captured during the study which helps
4 address some of the capture related biases and
5 increases the precision of the estimate.

6
7 As far as the review process like I say
8 we've been -- we basically provided the results to the
9 Department of Fish and Game and their scientists and
10 biometricians have provided a review. We're also going
11 out to scientists in other parts of the country that
12 have experience in this kind of survey and study
13 methodology as well as data analyses. And so they're
14 basically providing that independent review prior to
15 us, you know, going to finalize the report and even go
16 on to publish in a peer reviewed scientific journal,
17 sort of an intermediate step and that's what we're
18 going through now.

19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Andy, did I understand
21 you right that you had 40 of them radio tagged?

22
23 MR. LORANGER: Yeah, the Department of
24 Fish and Game has roughly 40 female adult sows
25 that.....

26
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: On the Kenai
28 Peninsula?

29
30 MR. LORANGER: On the Kenai Peninsula,
31 correct.

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's a fairly large
34 number. Are these are connected to satellite?

35
36 MR. LORANGER: There are some satellite
37 collars, but I don't think they're all satellite
38 collars, yeah.

39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Doug.

41
42 MR. BLOSSOM: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Andy,
43 when this study is done are you going to just strictly
44 take a percentage of the total and make it for hunting
45 or are you considering other methodology like Kodiak
46 does, for instance, they kind of look at it all and
47 they'll take more some years and less other years.
48 What's your thoughts on that?

49
50 MR. LORANGER: Well, of course, those

1 decisions are not unilaterally taken by the Refuge, but
2 the -- a percentage of total population, but it's also
3 very, very important to understand survival rates,
4 reproductive rates, all of that kind of information
5 ultimately and so it's a combination of things that
6 need to be considered in my mind.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any other
9 questions for Andy?

10

11 Greg.

12

13 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Andy, I got a quick
14 question and it's going back to moose. I'll let Doug
15 handle the bear, I'm real concerned about moose. But
16 anecdotal information for you and I talked to you a
17 little bit on moose and I saw a lot of mid range bulls
18 this year which I was encouraged with, the 40 inch,
19 bigger bulls, not quite the bigger size, but that was
20 encouraging. But one thing I noticed and I'm wondering
21 if the Refuge got any reports, is a lot of these moose
22 have growths, big knots on their heads and some weird
23 things. I got a lot of pictures of this and it's an
24 interesting phenomena, I don't know if there's
25 something going on or what.

26

27 MR. LORANGER: Yeah, I -- you know,
28 recall that discussion with you, Greg. There's been a
29 few -- there's been a few reports from the
30 Kenai/Soldotna area that I've heard about. I haven't
31 heard about many more than that. So.....

32

33 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I even nicknamed
34 a couple knotheads, but they're.....

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's interesting,
37 Greg, because, Milo, haven't we noticed some of that in
38 the Cordova moose too down there, the misknobbed horns
39 and odd shaped horns?

40

41 MR. BURCHAM: Yes, Mr. Chair, to answer
42 your question, there are reports and common reports of
43 clubby, you know, kind of strange formed moose antlers.
44 I'm not aware of knobs between their -- on their heads
45 between their antlers or anything like that, but it's
46 been sometimes attributed to a small gene pool, you
47 know, with our moose to have these clubby antlers. But
48 yeah, I'm not aware of what Greg was talking about
49 being reported on the Delta.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. You got a
2 picture, Greg?

3
4 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I do. But I
5 won't (indiscernible - away from microphone) taken with
6 a bigger camera, but I don't know if I've got one in
7 here.

8
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Well, it's
10 interesting because they're having the same thing with
11 deer on Kodiak and I know the last two moose that were
12 in our family that were down there had one big horn and
13 one little horn, misshapen horns. And but the Kenai
14 should have no problem with gene pool. I mean, you
15 have a big gene pool there so it would have to be
16 something else.

17
18 Any other questions, I just thought I
19 would ask -- I wanted to check with Milo whether we had
20 some of the -- you know, because you see those pictures
21 of the deer on Kodiak Island, the big mossy horned ones
22 and the ones that are just basically -- yeah, a horn
23 that looks like that type thing. And I was just
24 wondering if it was the same thing, whether they did
25 any studies to see if it was a disease or a parasite or
26 anything on that order.

27
28 Andrew.

29
30 MR. McLAUGHLIN: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I
31 can comment even in Delta Junction in 2011 I saw a
32 normal, maybe 40 inch bull, one very strange antler on
33 this side, one over there, and that's up in the
34 Interior where the gene pool would not be an issue at
35 all.

36
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Any other
38 questions?

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Thank you,
43 guys, for your report and putting up with us.

44
45 Andy.

46
47 MR. LORANGER: Yeah, Mr. Chair, maybe
48 I'll just turn to Pete. Pete, I just can't recall, did
49 the Federal Subsistence Board specifically ask for if
50 the Advisory Council had any -- would like to comment

1 on the delegation of authority to the Service and the
2 Forest Service?

3

4 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair, you will note
5 on your agenda that this is an action item and this was
6 an opportunity for Milo and Andy to report back to the
7 Council on moose and as far as how the delegation of
8 authority went, how the season went and if there was
9 any modifications, et cetera, from the Council for the
10 Board to consider. Also a discussion occurred and Judy
11 was at the meeting, where they looked at other
12 authority particularly for Unit 15 for other species.
13 And the Board at that time felt that the discussion
14 with your RAC at the last meeting was sufficient enough
15 to expand beyond moose the original request. So right
16 now quite frankly it's a discussion of the RAC and the
17 managers, both Milo and Andy, have that request and it
18 would be something that the Board could deal with
19 throughout the winter. If not it would remain for
20 moose and the other authorities that Andy currently
21 has.

22

23 Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Pete. I
26 think that if I remember our discussion on that we
27 could see the need for it on moose, but if I remember
28 right the other one was fox and a few things like that
29 that we thought could go right through the regular
30 proposal department. But is -- at this point in time
31 we could take action from the standpoint of saying that
32 we either thought further delegation was needed or that
33 we thought that the delegation had worked well this
34 time and we'd like to give it more time. Basically we
35 don't have to make a call for the Board to do anything,
36 but we could at least state what our opinion was on it.
37 And would that be action or is that just -- is that
38 already evident in the comments that have been made, I
39 mean, we have basically made comments that this has
40 worked well for this year, that everybody's been pretty
41 happy with how it's worked this year so do we need to
42 put a motion on the table or is the comments that we
43 put into the record sufficient?

44

45 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair, as far as
46 moose the Board has given authority to Milo and Andy
47 and unless they were heard otherwise, that authority
48 will remain, there won't be additional action. And
49 also just as an FYI because the Board's giving
50 delegated authority hasn't been consistent throughout

1 our program, the Interagency Staff Committee is working
2 on a process that will make it consistent, so that we
3 involve the Regional Advisory Councils, et cetera, when
4 this is done. So at this point unless either Milo or
5 Andy feel that they need additional authority then we
6 would just proceed until that time the respective in-
7 season manager is notified the Board then we bring it
8 back to you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. That sounds
11 sufficient to me and I think that -- I think that with
12 what's been stated at this meeting and what's in the
13 minute records it should be clear that we've been
14 consistently pleased or at least satisfied with what
15 took place this year. I don't think that anybody on
16 our Council at this point in time feels like a
17 additional delegation of authority is needed. If that
18 becomes apparent with some other species I think we've
19 said in the past that that would be the time to bring
20 it up to our Council and we would act on it at that
21 point in time. Is that kind of the feeling of the rest
22 of the Council?

23

24 Greg.

25

26 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, Mr. Chairman,
27 that's my feeling. I think that if we -- if you do
28 need another delegation of authority for a specific
29 thing that we would like to have the consultation with
30 the area and the need and the justification and so on
31 and so forth, but we're very pleased with what went on
32 with the moose.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

35

36 MS. CAMINER: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I would
37 agree and thanks for bringing up to us sort of the
38 second half of what action needed to be taken. So I'm
39 glad our Council now is clearly on the record because I
40 think we were not at the last meeting that at this
41 point I guess we're not in favor of other species, but
42 certainly would consider it as you see the need for it
43 as well and Milo as well.

44

45 Thanks.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you and thank
48 you, Pete. Thank you, Andy.

49

50 MR. LORANGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair,

1 Board Members. Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: At this point in time
4 we have a time certain thing for the Alaska Railroad at
5 2:00 o'clock. What I would like to do is see whether
6 Steve thinks we can get through the Memorandum of
7 Understanding in a half an hour?

8

9 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chairman, I would
10 like to make the presentation, that easily can be done
11 in half an hour and then if you want to spend a lot of
12 time talking about it later we can do that after the
13 other presentation.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

16

17 MR. KESSLER: Will that work?

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And then after that we
20 will have the -- after we have the Alaska Railroad
21 we'll have the Susitna project.

22

23 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chairman, Members of
24 the Council, Steve Kessler with the U.S. Forest
25 Service. First I would like to introduce to you Wayne
26 Owen who is the designee for our Regional Forester,
27 Beth Pendleton on the Federal Subsistence Board.

28

29 MR. OWEN: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman
30 and Council. I am the -- I work for the Forest
31 Service, I work for Beth Pendleton, I'm the Director
32 for Wildlife, Fisheries, Watershed and Subsistence
33 Management for the Forest Service in Alaska and it's my
34 pleasure to come and sit and listen to you for Beth and
35 the Federal Subsistence Board.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, we're glad
38 that you're here.

39

40 MR. OWEN: Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Steve.

43

44 MR. KESSLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
45 Members of the Council. Again I'm Steve Kessler with
46 the U.S. Forest Service. I also sit on the Federal
47 Subsistence Board's Interagency Staff Committee and I'm
48 one of the members of a working group that has been
49 helping the Board to develop modifications to this
50 memorandum of understanding.

1 There's a briefing in your book that
2 starts on Page 24. I'm going to go through that
3 briefing and following that briefing I will go through
4 the comments that you previously provided to the
5 Federal Subsistence Board on this Memorandum of
6 Understanding. The draft revised Memorandum of
7 Understanding is on Page 30 and I have handed out to
8 each of you a copy of what is on Page 30 through
9 something like Page 37, but one that probably is going
10 to be a little easier for you to read. It's in color
11 and the comments are in a larger font so it's easier to
12 read. The old eyes have troubles with the little fonts
13 on Page 30 and on. So hopefully everybody received a
14 copy and I put a couple extras on the back table for
15 anybody else in the room.

16
17 So first I'd like to review what this
18 action item is and you'll see that up on the top of
19 Page 24. Please develop and provide to the Board and
20 working group your Regional Advisory Council comments
21 concerning this draft revised MOU. If public tribes or
22 ANCSA Corporations which to provide comments to -- for
23 your consideration, please also allow for that during
24 the agenda -- on the agenda for this topic. So that is
25 something that you might want to do in this next half
26 hour or maybe later just to check and see if there's
27 any members of the public or tribes that would like to
28 comment on this.

29
30 First as a reminder the State and
31 Federal agencies first initialed a Memorandum of
32 Agreement on this topic in the year 2000. Then that
33 Memorandum of Agreement was renegotiated and an MOU,
34 Memorandum of Understanding, was signed in 2008.
35 That's what we're looking at today is that MOU. And it
36 just occurred to me also that Jennifer Yuhas might be
37 on the conference, I'm not sure, she's with the State,
38 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and we were going
39 to try and do this presentation together, but was just
40 sort of been coordinating over emails so I'm not sure
41 if she's there.

42
43 MR. CRAWFORD: This is Drew Crawford
44 with Fish and Game in Anchorage. Jennifer had to leave
45 the office and she's driving up to the Eastern Interior
46 RAC meeting tomorrow so she won't be available for this
47 discussion. Over.

48
49 MR. KESSLER: Okay. So let me
50 continue. One of the actions items resulting from the

1 2009 Federal subsistence program review which was
2 initiated by Secretary then Ken Salazar was to quote,
3 review with Regional Advisory Council input the
4 December, 2008 Memorandum of Understanding with the
5 State to determine either the need for the MOU or the
6 need for potential changes to clarify Federal
7 authorities in regard to the subsistence program. Also
8 has a reminder Regional Advisory Councils did not have
9 the opportunity to comment on the 2008 Memorandum of
10 Understanding prior to signature. So this one with
11 this revision we're bringing to you essentially twice,
12 once for original comment on the 2008 Memorandum of
13 Understanding and now we're bringing it back to you
14 with those draft changes.

15
16 The 2008 Memorandum of Understanding
17 was distributed to each of the Councils during the
18 winter 2011 meetings with a request for comment. A
19 summary document of all those comments starts on Page
20 27 of your book. The Federal Subsistence Board
21 requested that a State/Federal working group be formed
22 to review the comments and provide recommendations for
23 changes to the MOU. Members of that working group can
24 be found on the bottom of Page 24 and include Jennifer
25 Yuhas from Department of Fish and Game, Pete Probasco,
26 Sandy Rabinowitch, Jerry Berg and myself from the
27 Federal side.

28
29 These working group members met twice
30 over the winter, 2012 to review all of the Regional
31 Advisory Council comments and any other comments
32 received and we developed these proposed modifications.
33 A revised version has been prepared for review which
34 includes notes providing rationale for each recommended
35 changes. So that can be found again starting on Page
36 30 and I provided that hard copy to you also.

37
38 On July 18th the Federal Subsistence
39 Board approved the draft MOU for distribution and
40 comment to the Councils, State Advisory Committees and
41 the public and for consultation with tribes and
42 corporations.

43
44 So some of the noteworthy modifications
45 to this document are discussed here and on -- starting
46 on the bottom of Page 24. So after going through these
47 general and some specific changes I will review the
48 changes that are based -- made based on your Council's
49 recommendations. Note that we've considered all
50 requests for changes though some may not have been

1 adopted.

2

3

4 So the first one was plain language.
5 So Councils requested that plain language be used
6 whenever possible. A few changes were made in response
7 as indicated in the document. If you have other
8 changes that you would like to see that would be in the
9 -- helping with this sort of plain language emphasis,
10 please let us know.

11

12 Reordering. The MOU is reformatted to
13 consistently place Federal language before State
14 language as this MOU focuses on the Federal subsistence
15 program and Federal public lands. This partially
16 addresses multiple Councils' concerns about the tone of
17 the Memorandum of Understanding.

18

19 There's also some comment about perhaps
20 putting together a glossary or definition of terms, but
21 we decided that rather than creating a glossary or
22 defining terms we've tried to spell out a little bit
23 better what some of the text means using plain language
24 in the document.

25

26 So some of those specific changes now,
27 and traditional ecological knowledge was one of them,
28 multiple Councils, including yours, wanted TEK added
29 whenever scientific information was used, the words
30 scientific information. We responded by adopting some
31 ANILCA terminology which is the knowledge of customary
32 and traditional uses in a number of areas because it
33 provides clarity and is consistent with ANILCA. What
34 we found was a lot of people have different
35 understandings of what the terms -- term traditional
36 ecological knowledge is and what it means. So what we
37 did was we went back to the words from ANILCA. Again
38 the customary and traditional uses.

39

40 Predator management. There are a
41 number of comments specific to active management and
42 its application to the Federal program. We interpreted
43 that as a desire by some Councils for the Federal
44 program to be more involved in predator management. We
45 did not adopt that recommendation, but we did for
46 clarification add to the MOU a section that quotes,
47 from the Board's management policy. That can now be
48 found at Roman Numeral III, number 2.

49

50 State management plans. The current
51 MOU states that State Fish and Wildlife management

1 plans will be used as the initial basis for management
2 actions. That has been changed as is shown in Roman
3 IV, number 11, to use Federal, State and cooperative
4 plans.

5
6 There was a comment by the Southeast
7 Regional Advisory Council and in a sense by this
8 Council also, it's worded a little differently, but the
9 Southeast RAC specifically requested a way to evaluate
10 whether the MOU is accomplishing its goals. So
11 language has been added specifically recognizing an
12 annual opportunity for Regional Advisory Councils and
13 Advisory Committees to comment on how the MOU is
14 working and for those comments to be provided to and
15 considered by the signatories. That's in Roman Numeral
16 V, number 8.

17
18 I would like to note and if Jennifer
19 were on the phone she would be telling us this, that
20 this document has always been considered to be a living
21 document available for change, but now that is made
22 more clear through the -- through this section allowing
23 for the annual evaluation.

24
25 And then protocol review. Multiple
26 Councils asked that the existing protocols be reviewed
27 and updated and the intent is to follow-up with --
28 after this is complete, after the MOU is revised, is to
29 follow-up with a review of each of those protocols and
30 perhaps take further action on those at that time.

31
32 Now near the bottom of Page 25 there is
33 a proposed schedule and I don't plan on going through
34 that pro schedule to finalization of this MOU unless
35 you would like me to, but it -- if you just look at the
36 very end on Page 26, it shows that the Federal
37 Subsistence Board will have a public meeting in
38 January, that's the regular regulatory meeting this
39 January, and allow the tribal and ANCSA Corporation
40 again and then all the signatories will be there to
41 workout final details and hopefully agree to sign the
42 revised MOU. And then that meeting will also serve as
43 the annual MOU meeting.

44
45 So before we go into specific
46 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council comments and
47 look at some of the changes I would like to know if
48 anybody has any questions?

49
50 MS. CAMINER: I just had a couple

1 questions, Steve, and thanks very much to your
2 Committee because I can see that really a concerted
3 effort was made to listen to the RACs and incorporate
4 comments as much as possible and for those of you who
5 remember from 10 years ago, this is really great that
6 the RACs had an opportunity to comment so certainly a
7 lot of progress has been made there. I'm wondering
8 have and the policy and program liaison people been
9 named already or do they exist already?

10

11 MR. KESSLER: Policy and program
12 liaisons?

13

14 MS. CAMINER: The liaisons that's
15 mentioned in the section, I'm not sure if I have it,
16 number 9 under Roman Numeral IV.

17

18 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chairman, Mr.
19 Caminer, those liaisons are already in place and for
20 instance for the State we do have Jennifer Yuhas, for
21 -- on the Federal side we have Chuck Ardizzone and
22 George Pappas are liaisons for regular communications
23 between the Federal and State programs. There's also,
24 you know, communications that happen at other levels,
25 but sort of at the upper level those are the people
26 that are primarily the liaisons.

27

28 MS. CAMINER: Okay. Great. And if I
29 might, Mr. Chair, I guess one other question and I know
30 you probably haven't been to all the RAC meetings that
31 have taken place up until today, but if you or others
32 have any feedback from the meetings that have occurred
33 in the last few weeks for us maybe when you're going
34 over our comments it would be helpful to us to know
35 what the other RACs have said.

36

37 Thanks.

38

39 MR. KESSLER: I can help with that for
40 a couple of the meetings I've been -- this is the third
41 one that I've attended. And for Southeast they had
42 just a couple of little modifications they wanted to
43 make for the Yukon Kuskokwim. They said they really
44 liked the way the changes were made and didn't have any
45 suggestions other than what -- what's already been put
46 in this document. One moment.

47

48 I know that there were some concerns on
49 North Slope and Northwest Arctic, I think North Slope
50 wanted to completely reconsider it, Northwest Arctic

1 requested that Federal staff go out to every village to
2 ask for their comments rather than -- and I think that
3 they didn't provide any substantive comments is my
4 understanding. Neither did North Slope, they didn't
5 provide any specifics. Those are the only other ones
6 that I'm aware of, but hold on one moment.

7
8 MR. CHENN: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair
9 and Council Members. My name is Glenn Chen with the
10 Bureau of Indian Affairs. And I thought I'd give Steve
11 a hand here with some input received from a couple of
12 the Council meetings that I attended. I went to the
13 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council meeting in
14 Holy Cross last week. Chairman Reakoff did have some
15 specific changes that he wanted to have made to one of
16 the sections. Just give me a second here, I'll find
17 it. If you could turn to Page 4 of the marked up copy
18 with the red line strike out. Chairman Reakoff had
19 some concerns about the way Section 11 was written. He
20 had some concerns about the words endorsement of
21 existing management plans. So I believe his comment
22 was to perhaps in the revised version of the MOU we
23 should strike the word endorsement.

24
25 Also I'd like to report on some of the
26 feedback received from the Kodiak-Aleutians RAC and
27 that meeting was held in Sand Point this year. One of
28 the members, Pat Holmes, he submitted via fax some of
29 his comments and those came to us and the working group
30 is considering those. I haven't yet seen the fax so I
31 haven't seen what specific wording he had suggested.
32 That Council made quite a bit of emphasis on rewriting
33 the document to make it more understandable. They
34 spent a lot of time talking about wanting to make it so
35 the typical layperson could understand it and have less
36 of the legalese that's currently in there.

37
38 MR. KESSLER: Thank you, Glenn.

39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions for
41 them?

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I just had one
46 question. Was the question on endorse meaning agree
47 with or was endorse meaning to review it and if it was
48 compatible to agree with it. That -- and that -- that
49 would be my question, I guess. Sorry. My question was
50 whether the word endorse in that case meant to

1 unilaterally agree with it or whether it meant to
2 review it and endorse it if fit the program. But I
3 guess endorse is actually a pretty strong word and it
4 would cov -- it would be covered under the idea of
5 reviewing. So is Reakoff's.....

6

7 MR. CHENN: Yes, Mr. Chair. I think
8 Mr. Reakoff felt similarly as you do about the -- that
9 wording and that was fairly strong and that it was sort
10 of -- might put the program in the position of
11 accepting or in this case endorsing something that
12 perhaps there could be disagreement about.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. And that's
15 worked -- that's where to me when I look at if you're
16 going to review something you don't need to endorse it
17 ahead of time, you review it and then you decide what
18 part to take and what part you don't take. And that's
19 -- because it says to endorse existing and develop as
20 needed, but right before that it says to review. And
21 if you're going to review it you're going to agree with
22 the parts that are acceptable and not agree with the
23 parts that aren't acceptable. So you don't -- but you
24 could also say that you're going to endorse the parts
25 that are acceptable. And I don't know how to get
26 around that word.

27

28 Steve.

29

30 MR. KESSLER: The reason that this word
31 was added is because that is what the Board has
32 historically done. So if there's a new management plan
33 for the Forty-Mile Caribou Herd, that plan has come to
34 the Board, it's come to the State Boards and we don't
35 adopt it necessarily in regulation, but we say yeah,
36 all the users have come together, it's consistent with
37 Federal regulation and providing a priority under
38 Federal law and we will endorse it. And so multiple
39 times the Board has endorsed different -- the different
40 management plans. So we added -- we as being the
41 negotiators added that because it's something that is
42 done and it sends a message that this regulatory body
43 also believes that this is a good way for management of
44 this resource.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And that's what it
47 looks to me since it follows the word review. If the
48 word review wasn't there then I think you'd have a
49 concern if it just said endorse.

50

1 Judy.
2
3 MS. CAMINER: Well, perhaps because I
4 think there have been or there could be circumstances
5 where the Board looks at a plan and doesn't think it's
6 complete enough to endorse, so maybe if the word
7 endorse stays in you say something after it like if
8 appropriate or as Ralph was saying if acceptable.....
9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.
11
12 MS. CAMINER:so that it isn't
13 locked in.
14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Judy. I
16 think that that's -- that's an excellent way to put it
17 because that takes the -- that takes -- that's saying
18 you're going to review it, if it's acceptable you
19 endorse it, but if it's not acceptable you don't. And
20 I think that's a good way to put it.
21
22 MR. KESSLER: And I guess.....
23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Semantics.
25
26 MR. KESSLER: Yeah, it's semantics
27 because the Board would never endorse something.....
28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I know.
30
31 MR. KESSLER:that they didn't
32 think.....
33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.
35
36 MR. KESSLER:I would think.
37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right. But that might
39 -- that might answer Chairman Reakoff's worry over the
40 word endorse because endorse also could mean that you
41 just unilaterally endorse something without, you know,
42 without agreeing with it.
43
44 Greg.
45
46 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, through the
47 Chair. My -- I have a concern with the endorsement
48 issue also because I realize what you're trying to get
49 here, but if you go further onto here, I mean, the
50 Committee, representative tribes and others participate

1 in the review and I think everything that I understood
2 or was brought to -- thought about this, is this the
3 review and the input that we want in there. I mean, I
4 think it's very obvious that -- I know the Feds endorse
5 a lot of the State programs, I sure as hell don't, but
6 that said -- that's -- you know, we want to have the
7 right to not just blanketly endorse something
8 arbitrarily.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria.

11

12 MS. STICKWAN: I have a question about
13 procedures -- procedures for the tribe.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Just can we
16 finish this one here then I'll get to you on that one.

17

18

19 Steve, what -- do you think we've hit
20 this one enough that you've got -- kind of got the
21 sense of what Judy and Greg and I and Mr. Reakoff were
22 talking about?

23

24 MR. KESSLER: I think so, I mean,
25 obviously we can add where appropriate or add some
26 words like that, that's easy enough. But I think the
27 tone of this sentence was let's go out, get comments
28 from Regional Advisory Councils, State Advisory
29 Committees, Tribes and other public to participate in
30 the review and then the Board would take action to
31 potentially endorse which I think is what you want.

32

33 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Let's endorse.

34 Great.

35

36 MR. KESSLER: Well, I think that's what
37 you want and I think that's what it says. But what I'm
38 thinking is that maybe what would be more meaningful is
39 to reverse the sentence.

40

41 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Exactly.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.

44

45 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Exactly.

46

47 MR. KESSLER: So, you know, provide an
48 opportunity to do all that in the review and then to
49 endorse it after you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That makes a lot more
2 sense.
3
4 MS. CAMINER: A separate sentence or
5 thought, yeah, I think that -- because it's really two
6 actions you have mixed -- mixed in here. Certainly a
7 review will occur, but an endorsement, it's not 100
8 percent that'll occur. So.....
9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.
11
12 MS. CAMINER:I think that's a
13 great solution, Steve. Thank you.
14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.
16
17 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chairman.
18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes, Steve.
20
21 MR. KESSLER: If it's all right with
22 you what I would like to do is actually go through your
23 comments that the Council made and show you how in this
24 document each of those was addressed.
25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I would like to do
27 that too, but first I'm.....
28
29 MR. KESSLER: Okay.
30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:going to allow
32 Gloria to bring up what she just was trying to bring up
33 right here. And.....
34
35 MS. STICKWAN: I had a question about
36 procedures when I was reading through the online. If
37 I'm understanding it right it said that if tribes want
38 to bring up the MOU they have to request that it be
39 brought up. It wouldn't be a part of the policies that
40 we automatically be -- when they do the consultation
41 they'll do the proposals, but if they want to discuss
42 the MOU they have to bring it up; is that correct. And
43 I was wondering why because this is a policy and it
44 seemed like if there's a change to the MOU the tribes
45 should have a say in it without having to ask or
46 request to talk about it.
47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Steve, can you answer
49 that?
50

1 MR. KESSLER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Ms.
2 Stickwan, the way we came up with this consultation
3 process was that we put a news release out that we made
4 sure that all tribes received that said there would be
5 an opportunity for comments is sort of a consultation,
6 but really comments at each of the Regional Advisory
7 Council meetings and then there would be a specific
8 opportunity on this issue for consultation at the
9 Federal Subsistence Board meeting in January.
10 Furthermore we've tried to through the consultation
11 process let everybody know that we're available for
12 consultation, we being the Federal subsistence program,
13 on any of these issues at anytime. So there's sort of
14 a three part process, first is come to the Councils,
15 second --council meetings. Second would be anytime
16 that you want to consult on this or anything else
17 please let us know and we will work with each of the
18 tribes. And then the third part is that at the Council
19 -- at the Board meeting in January there will be
20 specific opportunity to consult on this MOU.

21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Does that answer your
23 question, Gloria?

24
25 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah, I just -- I just
26 thought one needed a consultation with -- I guess it
27 wouldn't be a part of it because fisheries are yearly
28 whereas this is probably every three or four years, I
29 guess that's the reason why they did it that way.

30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think this could be
32 anytime though, not just -- I mean anytime an issue
33 comes up there can be comment on this. So this isn't a
34 review yearly on this, this is a review when somebody
35 brings up a question or a -- or whatever, isn't it,
36 Steven?

37
38 MR. KESSLER: Well, yes, Mr. Chairman,
39 except that in this proposed revision we do say that
40 we'll give Regional Advisory Councils the opportunity
41 every year to provide comments back to the Board on how
42 things are going. And that goes for tribes and I do
43 want to make sure ANCSA corporations are mentioned also
44 because we're required to consult with them the same
45 way as tribes. But there's an opportunity at any given
46 -- at anytime. Again both sort of one on one between a
47 tribe and the Board or as a part of this general review
48 of the MOU that would occur every year.

49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

1 MR. KESSLER: So it's not like.....
2
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So it's not like four
4 years apart, it's.....
5
6 MR. KESSLER: Yeah.
7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:it.....
9
10 MR. KESSLER: The idea is to be open,
11 have this as a living document, be able to change it
12 from year to year if that's needed. The signatories
13 meet annually, that's right -- written right into the
14 document.
15
16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.
18
19 MR. KESSLER: So if the signatories are
20 meeting annually, if people have comments to bring,
21 tribes have comments to bring, let's bring those to the
22 annual meeting and have a discussion on those items.
23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Thank you,
25 Steve. Steve, at this time I'm going to ask your
26 tolerance. We want to go through this draft, but we
27 have a time sensitive report from the Alaska Railroad
28 right now at 2:00 o'clock and we'll come back to this
29 as soon as they're -- as soon as theirs is finished.
30
31 And thank you, Steve.
32
33 MR. KESSLER: You're welcome.
34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Greg.
36
37 MR. MIKE: Mr. Tim Sullivan are you on
38 line?
39
40 MR. SULLIVAN: Yeah, the Alaska
41 Railroad's on line, Tim Sullivan.....
42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We can start right now
44 unless Greg has something.
45
46 MR. ENCELEWSKI: No, that's fine. I'm
47 ready.
48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.
50

1 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I just thought maybe
2 you'd break while you're waiting, but they're there.

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

5
6 MR. MIKE: Mr. Sullivan, you'll have
7 the floor as soon as you get a confirmation from Mr.
8 Chair.

9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mr. Sullivan, you're
11 on the floor so we're waiting to hear your report.

12
13 MR. SULLIVAN: Okay. Thank you very
14 much. This is Tim Sullivan, I'm the Manager of
15 External Affairs for the Alaska Railroad. I'm actually
16 going to defer to Tom Brooks who is our -- one of our
17 vice presidents here and have him talk about the moose
18 here for a little bit and be available to answer any
19 questions afterwards.

20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

22
23 MR. BROOKS: This is Tom Brooks, I'm
24 the Vice President of Engineering with the Alaska
25 Railroad and have been around the moose issue for a
26 long time. I understand you would like a briefing on
27 what we do as far as moose go. And I'd like to break
28 it into two pieces. I'll try and be fairly brief here,
29 but the first piece would be describing how we identify
30 when moose are hit and on through to salvage and then
31 the second piece would be talk a bit about the
32 mitigation efforts that we make to reduce moose kills.

33
34 So when a train's going down our tracks
35 and strikes a moose the train crew reports the moose
36 strike to our dispatcher and we have a high degree of
37 confidence in our system. We think we're capturing
38 well over 90 and probably more like 99 percent of our
39 moose strikes. There's an actual record that's entered
40 in our data base and it includes the number of moose
41 hit, if it's more than one, the location in terms of
42 our Railroad mileposts and what the crew estimates the
43 condition of the moose is, dead or struck or run off or
44 injured. If we do have a moose that's reported injured
45 we'll actually call out one of our crews on overtime
46 because one of our strikes happened in the middle of
47 the night and we'll go out and dispatch the moose and
48 salvage it at that point. If the crew reports it dead
49 we'll have our crews go out in the morning and salvage
50 that moose and take it to the nearest road crossing

1 wherein we report it to the Troopers and/or others
2 depending on how the moose salvage operation is set up
3 at the moment, it's changed a little bit from time to
4 time over the years. And then we take all of our data,
5 track it and every week I believe it is we send a
6 report into Alaska Department of Fish and Game giving
7 them our data from the previous week and totals for the
8 year. And we've accumulated quite of data over the
9 years in that program. Most of this has been in place
10 since the early '90s.

11
12 On the mitigation side we do a fair
13 amount of brush cutting that's specific to moose. And,
14 of course, you guys have some understanding of that.
15 What we do is cut brush so that if the moose want to
16 eat they got to leave the right-of-way. So we cut both
17 near the track and away from the track in our right-of-
18 way.

19
20 In the winter like last winter when we
21 get a lot of snow we will go down in our -- in our
22 areas where we have the highest concentrations of moose
23 and actually plow moose trails on either side of the
24 tracks. Of course, it gives the moose somewhere to
25 stand, but I believe last winter we had moose trails
26 plowed from basically Houston to -- almost to
27 Talkeetna, trying to give them somewhere else to go.
28 And we also plow when we -- we operate plows up and
29 down the tracks, we try and plow as big of shoulders as
30 we can to give the moose somewhere to go other than the
31 track.

32
33 We've done a fair amount of
34 experimenting over the years with other methods to
35 dissuade moose from being around the tracks and to give
36 our train crews something that they can do when they
37 see a moose on the track. That includes, you know,
38 firing cracker pistols at moose and various
39 experimenting -- experiments with, you know, how they
40 use the headlights. A lot of our crews when they see a
41 moose will extinguish the headlamp for a second and the
42 moose sometimes will step of the track when that
43 happens in the dark. Some things like that, but kind
44 of in a nutshell that's what we do and I guess I'd be
45 open for any questions.

46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Questions. Mr.
48 Henrichs.

49
50 MR. HENRICHS: Yeah, this is Bob

1 Henrichs. Over the year how many moose do you think
2 the Alaska Railroad has killed and would 10,000 be out
3 of line?

4
5 MR. BROOKS: I don't think I go that
6 far back with the Railroad. I would say on average
7 we're somewhere between 75 and 150 moose annually, but
8 I don't -- don't have that number in front of me.

9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: What percentage do you
11 feel are actually salvaged and actually are made use
12 of?

13
14 MR. BROOKS: The average is about 50
15 percent. Of course, when a train hits a moose it's --
16 there can be a fair amount of trauma involved for the
17 poor old moose.

18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. And then that
20 salvage, are you working that like with the State Troop
21 -- you said you took it to the nearest road right-of-
22 way, is that like then with the State Troopers list for
23 people that come to collect road kill moose?

24
25 MR. BROOKS: Yes.

26
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Does the train crew do
28 -- when the train crew comes and has to dispatch a
29 moose or pick up a moose, do they do any of the
30 preliminary work or do they just take the -- dispatch
31 it, take the whole moose to the roadside?

32
33 MR. BROOKS: It's actually our track
34 maintenance crews that salvage the moose and I believe
35 they just simply transport it to the nearest railroad
36 crossing.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Any questions
39 by anybody else?

40
41 Mr. Henrichs.

42
43 MR. HENRICHS: Yes, Bob Henrichs again.
44 Can you get the figures on how many moose the Alaska
45 Railroad has killed and get them to us and at some
46 point I'd like to see the reports on all these moose
47 incidents on -- look at some of the reports that you
48 guys filed.

49
50 MR. BROOKS: We can certainly forward

1 you the report that we give to Fish and Game for the
2 last couple of years. I'm not quite how easily we can
3 retrieve all that data, but we can get you as much as
4 we can easily get.

5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Has speed had anything
7 to do with the -- have you experimented with speed as
8 far as the moose mortality or is -- pretty much you
9 have a tight schedule and the moose really don't enter
10 into the speed part of it.

11
12 MR. BROOKS: The -- in the big kill
13 year back in '89 there were some experimentations done
14 with train speed and moose kill trying to determine
15 what kind of correlation there was. And the -- you
16 know, I couldn't call it an in depth study, but they
17 did go out there with a locomotive and actually go up
18 on the tracks in different speeds and see how moose
19 react to different speeds and the determination was
20 that moose kills were independent of moose -- of train
21 speed.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I would kind of
24 imagine that being -- seeing as what I know about car
25 kills.

26
27 Mr. Henrichs.

28
29 MR. HENRICHS: Yeah, this is Bob
30 Henrichs again. Don't -- didn't you have some sort of
31 plan for mitigation for hitting moose between Fairbanks
32 and Big Delta or something?

33
34 MR. BROOKS: In the process of doing
35 the -- the future Railroad extension to -- from
36 Fairbanks to Delta Junction, of course, there's no
37 track out there yet, we do have a moose mitigation --
38 moose strike mitigation agreement with Fish and Game.
39 And I -- to tell you the truth, you know, that's not
40 something I have a lot of detail with, but I believe we
41 tried to model it after our existing procedures.

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mr. Henrichs.

44
45 MR. HENRICHS: So that's for this track
46 that has yet to be built between Fairbanks and Delta,
47 but are you going to extend this mitigation plan to the
48 rest of the tracks you have out already?

49
50 MR. BROOKS: There wasn't any plan to

1 do that, no.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Has the Railroad done
4 any experimentation with the -- like what they've done
5 on the highway down there by Fort Rich and places like
6 that, with some -- in some or your high strike areas
7 with fence funnels and stuff like that to keep
8 basically the funnel where it can move moose away from
9 the track and keep them from going on the track, I know
10 it's a pretty expensive project, but with your data do
11 you have places that are consistently year after year
12 high moose strike areas?

13

14 MR. BROOKS: Our highest moose strike
15 area is really between say Houston and Talkeetna. And
16 but they don't -- the data doesn't really bunch up in
17 any particular spots so given the -- we haven't been
18 able to -- we've looked at it for opportunities to do
19 something that's site specific, but haven't come up
20 with anything.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Anybody
23 else got question for him?

24

(No comments)

25

26
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So you figure
28 somewhere between 75 and 150 a year is basically what
29 it's been averaging then?

30

31 MR. BROOKS: I -- as you all know we
32 had a bad winter last year, it was a little over 300
33 moose kills, but I've seen winters where we've been
34 down in the 50 or 60 range too.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

37

38 MR. BROOKS: So I think those are the
39 outliers. We -- you know, our goal -- we do have a
40 goal is to manage to 75 or less moose kills a year.
41 And we do that by trying to make sure we get out there
42 and cut brush and plow snow when needed, pack trails.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And, Mr. Henrichs.

45

46 MR. HENRICHS: Yeah, in rural Alaska
47 the value of a moose for meat comes out to seven or
48 \$8,000 and you killed 300 last year, that's over \$20
49 million worth of meat. And a lot of that meat isn't
50 salvageable when you kill them.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No, it's over 210,000.
2
3 MR. BROOKS: I understand what you're
4 saying.
5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.
7
8 MS. CAMINER: Tim, this is Judy
9 Caminer. I had seen that there's some interest and I
10 don't know if it's the Alaska Railroad of a new line
11 that would go towards Point Mackenzie. Are you
12 involved with that?
13
14 MR. BROOKS: Yeah, that's actually a
15 Mat-Su Borough project, but we're involved with it.
16
17 MS. CAMINER: And so would similar
18 potential mitigating measures -- again we're a long
19 ways from it, but be considered or put in place for
20 that project?
21
22 MR. BROOKS: Well, certainly we would
23 do what we're doing now. I'm not sure the project has
24 had any additional requirements imposed on it.
25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank.....
27
28 MR. BROOKS: I'm not aware of any
29 anyway.
30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. If there's
32 no further questions.
33 (No comments)
34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's interesting
36 because I kind of thought your numbers would be higher
37 than that even for last year with the kind of deep snow
38 that we had. But I -- I just hope that you are working
39 on as many ideas as you can come up with to limit that.
40
41 MR. BROOKS: Yeah, I guess a couple of
42 closing comments. We do -- we do entertain new ideas,
43 we're interested -- nobody at the Alaska Railroad likes
44 to kill moose. And we do have a number of employees
45 that are pretty dedicated to get out there in the
46 middle of the night or just as part of their normal
47 work shifts and take care of moose. But nobody likes
48 it and we are interested in finding ways to reduce it.
49
50 MR. ADLER: Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mr. Adler.
2
3 MR. ADLER: Yeah. I thought of a way
4 you might save some moose and that's to run a motorized
5 car just to run ahead of the train with a couple guys
6 in it and every time they see a moose get your Roman
7 candles out and chase them off the track. I know
8 around my house the only way I can get rid of the moose
9 is -- shooting over the head doesn't work, but a Roman
10 candle when they start going into them or over them
11 they head out. And it's a very cheap and effective way
12 of getting rid of the moose and not harming them. So,
13 I mean, that's a possibility.
14
15 Thank you.
16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Lee.
18
19 MR. BROOKS: Yeah, we've looked -- you
20 know, we've given our crews cracker pistols from time
21 to time and tried to experiment with those. We have
22 done track patrols out there to try and chase moose off
23 the tracks, but frankly even though there's a lot of
24 safety systems in place we're not really excited about
25 having employees with guns out there in the middle of
26 the night running around in trains trying to shoo moose
27 off a track, it's just not a great idea safety wise for
28 our employees.
29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, thank you for
31 the report. And thank you for the information. I'm
32 glad you could attend and -- at least by phone.
33
34 MR. BROOKS: You bet. I'm sorry I
35 couldn't come down there to join you, I would have
36 enjoyed the drive. I do understand though that we do
37 owe you at least a few copies of our last several years
38 reports to Fish and Game on our moose strikes and
39 salvage; is that correct?
40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes, please and make
42 sure that you send one to Mr. Henrichs because he's
43 involved with different -- other moose projects. He
44 would specifically like to have one himself.
45
46 MR. BROOKS: Okay. We can do that.
47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.
49
50 MR. BROOKS: Yeah. And thanks for your

1 interest in moose, it's a tough problem and we'd like
2 to make progress on it if we can. Thank you.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. With that I am
5 going to request a five minute break and then we're
6 going to go back to Steve Kessler and then we will go
7 to the Susitna project right after that.

8

9 (Off record)

10

11 (On record)

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Steve, we're
14 back in session if you want to go over this draft with
15 us I'd sure appreciate it. And somehow we got an echo
16 in here that we didn't have before or am I just hearing
17 things?

18

19 MR. BLOSSOM: It's been here.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Is that better? Thank
22 you, Steve.

23

24 MR. KESSLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
25 Now Council comments begin on the top of Page 27 and
26 continue through Page 28. Your Council's comments are
27 on Page 28 sort of starting a little below halfway down
28 the bottom -- to the bottom which says the Southcentral
29 Council support the MOU in principle.

30

31 So what I'm going to do is I'm going to
32 go through each one of those comments that you provided
33 and I'll show you where those comments were adopted or
34 modified or whatever in the -- in the draft revised
35 MOU. So it might help you to have sort of on one side
36 this book open, on the other the one that I distributed
37 so you can see where I point to these changes.

38

39 When I read your comments I saw that
40 there were five separate thoughts that were in this --
41 in your comments. So the first one says additional
42 revisions recommended by the Council include
43 strengthening the tribal consultation component. So
44 that issue's about tribes and we agreed that tribes
45 should be mentioned in a number of additional locations
46 in the MOU and I'll show you where those are, but I
47 would like to also emphasize that this Memorandum of
48 Understanding is between the Federal subsistence
49 program and the State and it's not with tribes. So we
50 do need to mention tribes in a number of appropriate

1 places, but it's not -- we would not modify this MOU so
2 that suddenly it looked like tribes were an active
3 participant in the agreement between the Federal and
4 State managers. So if you -- I'll just take you
5 through a couple places. On Page 11 -- no, sorry
6 there's no 11, Page 4, number 11, there's a item where
7 tribes was added. Also actually number 10 tribes was
8 added also. So in number 10 and 11 on Page 4 tribes
9 were added. And then on Page 5, number 13, that's near
10 the top, tribes were added. And on Page 6 at the very
11 end in number 12 tribes were added there.

12

13 Are there -- if there aren't any
14 questions I'll move on to your second comment.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Steve, where tribes
17 are in number 8 on Page 4, is that an addition or was
18 that already there, Regional Council, State Advisory
19 Committee and tribes as appropriate to review data
20 analysis, is that another addition of tribes right
21 there?

22

23 MR. KESSLER: It looks to me like it
24 is. I was just walking through the document and I just
25 realized I didn't see another one of them. So yeah, it
26 looks like we've added tribes in four or five different
27 places.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. And mostly it's
30 in places when we're talking about review and
31 consultation?

32

33 MR. KESSLER: Review, consultation,
34 making sure that.....

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.

37

38 MR. KESSLER:tribes are aware of
39 different actions that are going on, that type of
40 thing, that's correct.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's not -- like you
43 say it's not as signatories to the MOU it's to make
44 sure that they get the opportunity to comment.

45

46 MR. KESSLER: Comment and participate,
47 that's correct.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

50

1 MR. KESSLER: So the next comment you
2 made was ensure that the third paragraph in Section 4,
3 so that's third paragraph in Section 4 again is.....

4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh. Page 3.
6

7 MR. KESSLER:on Page 3, is clear
8 that it only references the State program and not that
9 the Federal program is agreeing to that mandate. And
10 what we did there is had a fairly major rewrite of that
11 section so that -- that section now has been divided
12 into two separate sentences. So the first sentence to
13 recognize a Federal priority for residents on Federal
14 public lands for subsistence uses of fish and wildlife
15 resources period. And then to allow for other uses
16 when harvestable surpluses are sufficient consistent
17 with ANILCA and Alaska State statutes. So we just
18 divided it up to be clear that Federal is different
19 than the State.

20
21 And if you look at the comments, like
22 the very lower comment on Page 3 in response to
23 Southeast and Southcentral Regional Advisory Council
24 concerns, this was rewritten to do certain things. So
25 we tried to address each of your comments and how we
26 dealt with it.

27
28 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes, Judy.

31
32 MS. CAMINER: Steve, I mean, not to
33 complicate it because I'm sure you talked it over in
34 your discussions, but this harvestable surplus is
35 really a State term and so I don't know whether a
36 corresponding Federal term would need to be added or
37 whether just saying consistent with ANILCA covers it?

38
39 MR. KESSLER: Well, we left that in in
40 that situation. There is a comment that you made --
41 let's see, and this would be your fourth comment, the
42 Council also suggested that Federal terms and State
43 terms be included in the MOU, i.e., harvestable surplus
44 is a State term. And so it is a State term, but at the
45 same time it's something that we do too. I mean, if
46 there wasn't a harvestable surplus, in other words if
47 it didn't conserve health populations, you know, then
48 it wouldn't be harvested under Federal terms either.
49 And maybe when I get to that I've got a couple of
50 places I want to point out for that comment, some

1 language that's actually in the document. But there --
2 I don't think that using that language just to in some
3 way infer something about the Federal program isn't a
4 problem -- it shouldn't be a problem, it is a State
5 term, it's a commonly used State term.

6
7 Let me go on to your next comment
8 suggesting that T-E-K be added as an important source
9 of information whenever biological information is
10 developed or is mentioned. So with T-E-K we thought a
11 lot about T-E-K or traditional ecological knowledge and
12 what it means. And I told you this earlier that we
13 eventually decided that there was more understanding
14 and it was clearer to use some different words. And
15 those are the words out of ANILCA. So if you look at
16 Page 3, item number 3 near the top of the page, use the
17 best available scientific and cultural information and
18 knowledge of customary and traditional uses for
19 decisions regarding fish and wildlife management for
20 subsistence uses on the Federal public lands. And I
21 did notice also where -- this is the comment on the
22 right side in response to Southeast and Bristol Bay,
23 really Southcentral should have been added in that
24 comment. So what we did was we tried to use these
25 words that are commonly used in ANILCA and are more
26 commonly used in the Federal subsistence program and
27 have maybe a little bit firmer meaning than traditional
28 ecological knowledge.

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, but I think
31 those mean two different things, to me there's a total
32 difference between knowledge of customary and
33 traditional uses and customary and traditional
34 knowledge of the wildlife or the fish involved. It's
35 kind of interesting because I just read a book on the
36 -- last night on fisheries management and the conflict
37 at the turn of the century and earlier between
38 fishermen and scientists and the idea that the
39 scientists rejected all of the knowledge that the
40 fishermen had and the fishermen rejected all the
41 knowledge that the scientists had, of course, but the
42 thing is this is what we're trying to do right here,
43 we're trying to say that, you know, local people, local
44 rural residents, traditional ecological knowledge,
45 whatever you want -- word you want to use for it, that
46 people who actually live there just like what Doug was
47 talking about on brown bear, actually have some
48 knowledge of the wildlife or the fish resources and not
49 just -- not just their uses. I mean, it's not enough
50 to know what the uses of brown bear is, but what you're

1 doing is you're out there observing and your saying
2 the population is healthy, the population isn't
3 healthy. I mean, fishermen for years were saying that
4 the cod fishing was being over harvested, but at the
5 same time the scientists were saying that cod fishing
6 could maintain itself. That's what traditional
7 ecological knowledge does, it says that, you know, we
8 handle this resources -- you know, we've handled this
9 resource this way in the past and it worked and it
10 might disagree with what you're saying scientifically
11 or it's a different culture. But we need to add this
12 into the pot too and to me this is totally different
13 than knowledge -- you know, local customary and
14 traditional uses. It would have to be customary and
15 traditional knowledge if nothing else or observations
16 or something to that effect. I don't like that one, I
17 don't know about anybody else.

18

19 Greg, I see you had -- Mary Ann.

20

21 MS. MILLS: You know, I have a problem
22 with how for instance in the preamble where such uses
23 are customary and traditional, they refer to an area as
24 being customary and traditional which isn't always the
25 case. Sometimes you have traditional and customary
26 values that comes from -- in some cases from a very
27 ancient, ancient culture. And you could have somebody
28 completely new come in while I'm in a customary and
29 traditional subsistence area therefore, you know, I'm
30 valid and even though let's say another area or group
31 of people who have been in an area for thousands of
32 years are completely discounted. So I have a problem
33 with the use of customary and traditional even within
34 ANILCA because what you have in ANILCA and another
35 problem that I had seen in the preamble was where by
36 authority of the ANILCA and other laws of Congress.
37 One thing that is glaringly missed is international
38 treaties that the United States signed off on that
39 carries the same weight as our constitution. And one
40 of it is in the civil and political rights of human
41 beings in which states in no case may a person be
42 denied of their own means of subsistence. And to me
43 this is very important because there's been so many of
44 us that have -- we don't have the opportunity for
45 subsistence, but yet it is a treaty that was ratified
46 by the United States Congress that carries the same
47 weight as the United States Constitution. So, I mean,
48 those are -- that's an area that to me is very fuzzy,
49 it seems like terminology, what does customary and
50 traditional mean, what does it mean.

1 MR. KESSLER: Is that question for me?

2

3 MS. MILLS: Yes.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Steve, got a comment
6 on that one?

7

8 MR. KESSLER: Well, as far as -- Mr.
9 Chairman as far as customary and traditional we are
10 using those words that come from ANILCA. And as it's
11 not specifically defined in ANILCA and I would guess I
12 would have to talk to some of our anthropologists maybe
13 to expound on customary and traditional. But, you
14 know, we have our methodology of determining what's
15 customary and traditional use that's in our regulations
16 that says specifically customary and traditional use
17 determines nations will be based on the eight factors,
18 I have -- you know, I have all those eight factors. If
19 you want me to go through them they are -- have been in
20 our regulations for many years. These are ones that
21 have been with us since the inception of the program
22 and were originally adopted from the State definition
23 of customary and traditional use.

24

25 So if you would like me to go through
26 those, Mr. Chairman, I can.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No, I think we all
29 understand those. I think what was -- the objection
30 was that in -- from Mary Ann's state -- standpoint and
31 I -- and she can correct me if I'm wrong, is that we
32 use those kind of terms to -- and not -- see if we look
33 at what this is right here on number 3, we're using
34 information to make decisions in number 3. We're using
35 the best available scientific, cultural and I'll say
36 local knowledge for decisions regarding fish and
37 wildlife management for subsistence uses. This is
38 talking about using information for decisions. She's
39 talking about the fact that we use the term customary
40 and traditional basically to delineate areas of where
41 people have done things and that's not information,
42 that's -- we're using it for a totally different
43 purpose. And that's why to me -- actually I was
44 looking at this again and I guess you could almost say
45 that TEK is cultural information.

46

47 MR. KESSLER: That's correct, Mr.
48 Chairman. And that's where we thought that TEK was
49 built into here.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes.

2

3 MR. KESSLER: Use best available
4 scientific and cultural information and knowledge of
5 customary and traditional uses.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But why don't we just
8 use and local knowledge and stop right there because
9 that's what you're trying to do, you're trying to
10 incorporate the knowledge of the local rural residents
11 along with the cultural information, along with the
12 scientific information to make good decisions for
13 managing the fish and wildlife on Federal public lands.
14 And that was the purpose for making a RAC. The RAC was
15 to bring local rural knowledge into the decision making
16 process. And it's not that we need -- that we need
17 information on customary and traditional uses, we need
18 the local rural knowledge of people who live where the
19 game and the fish is to apply that just like scientific
20 knowledge and cultural knowledge, to apply that in
21 making good decisions for the management of the fish
22 and game.

23

24 Gloria.

25

26 MS. STICKWAN: Why can't we use both
27 language, just put a customary and traditional use and
28 local traditional knowledge, add it in there.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: There's no reason we
31 can't use them both, but I think -- to me I guess my
32 idea is what needs to be brought into here is that
33 you're using the local -- not just what they use it
34 for, but the local knowledge of the local rural
35 residents or whatever you want to call them as your --
36 you're incorporating that into your decision making
37 process because to me that's what a RAC exists for. If
38 that's not the purpose of the RAC then we don't need
39 RACs. But it was to -- you know, I'm expecting to
40 learning something about brown bears from Doug Blossom,
41 I'm expecting to learn something about moose from Greg
42 Encelewski, I'm expecting to learn -- I just learned
43 something about mink and otter from Andrew over there.
44 And those are the kind of things that's bringing local
45 knowledge into the decision making process that makes
46 good decision for management.

47

48 Judy.

49

50 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, thanks. I

1 mean, Steve, I think it was a good idea to include the
2 ANILCA terms, but as Ralph's mentioning it's not just
3 uses and examples that you just gave were about let's
4 say local populations so not necessarily a use. But so
5 I think perhaps including both would be the most
6 complete.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, that would
9 encompass TEK.....

10

11 MS. CAMINER: Uh-huh.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:we would
14 encompass what the term is, what most people visualize
15 with TEK which is traditional ecological knowledge.
16 It's not just what we use it for, it's the health of
17 the resource, the ecology that the resource lives in,
18 the changes that are taking place in the ecology around
19 you, the changes that have been observed over time, you
20 know, I mean, and some of it goes back like Mary Ann
21 was saying, goes back hundreds of thousands of years,
22 some of it goes back 10 or 20 years, some of it like
23 Doug was talking, 64 years. He's seen changes in 64
24 years that need to be part of how we make our decisions
25 for managing these kind of things. And that's local
26 knowledge or TEK or whatever you want -- whatever term
27 you want. It's not just about uses, it's about -- you
28 know, the creeks aren't running the same as they ran
29 before or something to that effect, you know.

30

31 Steve.

32

33 MR. KESSLER: Well, I'm thinking and
34 looking back at the words that were originally there
35 and maybe those are the words you like. And local --
36 and local trad -- well, wait a minute. And local
37 traditional knowledge for decisions. So maybe what
38 you're talking about is the words that we had before,
39 before we tried to incorporate TEK.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, local -- the --
42 definitely the local knowledge for decisions regarding
43 fish and wildlife management and I guess that local
44 knowledge would cover TEK, it would cover traditional
45 uses, it would cover everything else, but basically
46 it's recognizing that the people who live there.....

47

48 MR. KESSLER: Sure.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:know something

1 about what's going on there. And that's something that
2 -- you know, that has already been a conflict in all
3 different kinds of management schemes in the past. We
4 -- you know, we want to go scientific so we want to --
5 so the people who don't have the scientific education,
6 they get ignored or the people with the traditional
7 ones or you want to go traditional and you don't want
8 to listen to what a scientist is seeing. And somehow
9 or other we need to take all of that stuff, put it
10 together in a pot and come up with the best decisions.

11
12

13 MR. KESSLER: Well, one of the things
14 we need to decide here or you need to decide is how do
15 you want to provide comments, do you want to do sort of
16 the official comments which are the most helpful to us
17 that, you know, here's, you know, three or four
18 comments we want to make, take a vote on them, that
19 would be really helpful or we can just take all of
20 these comments sort of under advisement, but it's a
21 little hard to know which ones really represent the
22 Regional Advisory Council as a whole. But one of the
23 things in this one I'm hearing is that maybe we messed
24 it up, maybe the words that were there before were
25 better.

26
27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, if we go down to
29 number 2 under 4 and you're using the same one, to me
30 for what -- for what we're trying to say what that says
31 does not answer what we're trying to say. To recognize
32 that Federal and State historic and current harvest and
33 population data so in other words we're talking about
34 what's there and local knowledge are important
35 components of successful implementation of the Federal
36 responsibilities. In other words we're saying that,
37 you know, we need both the local knowledge and we need
38 local knowledge of customary and traditional uses. So
39 we actually need both in order to accomplish ANILCA
40 right there. We need the information from the locals
41 which is what our RACs are for, but we also need the
42 information on what kind of uses we've had in the past.
43 So I think you -- I don't think it's hurt that you've
44 added that, but somewhere along the line I think it --
45 we need to recognize what was actually intended by TEK.
46 And TEK stood for traditional ecological knowledge, in
47 other words traditional knowledge or local knowledge or
48 whatever you want to call it, of the environment around
49 you, traditional environmental knowledge. And that's
50 where I see that we have to get -- that's what I
thought we were getting at right there when we said

1 that we needed to put that in there that people who
2 live there also have knowledge about game populations
3 and current status and uses and stuff like that, but
4 when you're going to make a decision you need to take
5 their observations and their knowledge and their
6 historical background that they -- you know, that
7 they've accumulated. I'll give you an example. For 20
8 some years I told Fish and Game that there were red
9 salmon going into this one system, it never was on the
10 book. Because it wasn't on the book until the Fish and
11 Game would actually go there and see it themselves, you
12 know, until that time red salmon did not exist in that
13 system. And see that's the difference between
14 traditional ecological knowledge and scientific
15 knowledge. The scientist says I need to see it, I need
16 to document it, I need to know it's there. And after
17 all I might not know what a red salmon looks like. And
18 so consequently the fact that I told them there's red
19 salmon there doesn't mean a thing because they have it
20 documented that there's red salmon there. But see
21 that's the kind of knowledge that needs to be taken
22 into account when we start trying to handle, you know,
23 data to make good decisions. Doug says he's seeing
24 more brown bear than he's ever seen up there. Let see
25 how that corresponds with what the scientific knowledge
26 comes out of it, you know.

27

Mary Ann.

28

29

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MS. MILLS: And basically what I'm
trying to, you know, maybe steer away from is
management not based on politics, but on the knowledge
of the user groups as well as the scientists although
they're not always correct. And, you know, the -- I
think the big crash in the population of the kings
really took everybody back, but they had been suffering
prior to the big crash. And the denial of climate
change, you know, is another factor that has the
scientists particularly even within the Federal
government as well as the State agencies, when
something isn't to what they figure is their benefit or
what they don't want to see, they make decisions based
on politics instead of what is actually happening with
our environment.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. Well, perhaps

1 then so that the RAC is as clear as possible for Steve
2 who's going to have to do something with all of our
3 miscellaneous comments, it sounded like for number 3
4 parentheses there, saying local knowledge or excuse me,
5 local traditional knowledge was adequate to cover our
6 concerns. However further down for number 2 we did
7 want to include both the traditional -- we did want to
8 include it more as it's written with the revisions that
9 would include knowledge of customary and traditional
10 uses. That we needed to say local knowledge and
11 knowledge of customary and traditional uses.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That to me looks like
14 it would work for number 3 up above too. Because what
15 want -- you know, the uses are important, but the
16 knowledge of the wildlife is just as important.

17

18 Greg.

19

20 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, Mr. Chairman,
21 just a comment. I mean, one of the goals is to make
22 the language clear and more friendly user so people
23 understand it. And so I like Judy's analogy, I like
24 Ralph's, I mean, local knowledge is critically
25 important and if you don't think it is the last time I
26 floated down the Kenai a guy told me he had local
27 knowledge. Well, he didn't have local knowledge, we
28 ended up in a slough. But anyway.....

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

31

32 MS. CAMINER: Okay. So to clarify then
33 for both of them we want to include the terms local
34 knowledge as well as knowledge of customary and
35 traditional uses consistent with ANILCA.....

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think that's
38 perfect.

39

40 MS. CAMINER:for both of those
41 points and we'll see if there's any others.....

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Steve.

44

45 MS. CAMINER:further back.

46

47 MR. KESSLER: It would be very helpful
48 for the record for the first one if you just read
49 exactly which words.....

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.
2
3 MR. KESSLER:you know, you want
4 to say and then maybe again on the second.
5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Best use and the rest
7 of the Council, if you disagree with what I'm going to
8 read to him you tell me. The best use of available
9 scientific and cultural and local knowledge and
10 information and local knowledge of customary and
11 traditional uses for decisions regarding fish and
12 wildlife management for subsistence use on Federal
13 public lands. In other words the best available
14 scientific and cultural and local knowledge and
15 information and knowledge of customary and traditional
16 uses. In other words put this local knowledge in the
17 same thing as cultural knowledge and cultural
18 information. That comes very close to TEK, that comes --
19 at least it comes to my way of thinking of what TEK is
20 because it involves cultural and the fact that you may
21 not be going back to cultural, but you're going back to
22 what you say 10 years ago and 20 years ago and this
23 year, you know.
24
25 Did we get it that time?
26
27 MR. KESSLER: Can I try?
28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.
30
31 MR. KESSLER: So it says use the best
32 available scientific comma, cultural comma, and local
33 knowledge and information?
34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.
36
37 MR. KESSLER: And knowledge of
38 customary and traditional uses for decisions regarding
39 fish and wildlife management for subsistence uses on
40 Federal public lands?
41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That sounds good to
43 me, does it sound good to everybody else?
44
45 (No comments)
46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do we need a motion on
48 that or is it okay that we have a consensus. Do we
49 have a consensus?
50

1 MS. CAMINER: Yes.
2
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We have a consensus on
4 that one.
5
6 MR. KESSLER: Okay.
7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And let's go down to
9 number 2. And again we're trying to do the same thing.
10 To recognize that Federal and State historical and
11 current harvest and population data and local
12 knowledge, now we got to figure out a way to put that
13 in, population data. Okay. How about to recognize
14 that Federal, State and local historical and current
15 harvest and population data and local knowledge of
16 customary and traditional uses, are important
17 components of successful implementation. In other
18 words put right up in there that it's not just the
19 State and the Federal, but it's also the local, the
20 local -- because that's what our RACs are.
21
22 Steve.
23
24 MR. KESSLER: I understand what you
25 just said for the first sentence, but I think local
26 then is modifying sort of current harvest and
27 population data so data is the sort of scientific hard
28 fact word and I think you wanted more of the local
29 traditional local knowledge.
30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: How about data and
32 information, that would then include hard facts and
33 what the locals know. To recognize that Federal and
34 State historical and current harvest and population
35 data and information. Somehow or another we got to put
36 in there that local residents know something also.
37
38 Mary Ann.
39
40 MS. MILLS: And that indigenous people
41 also know something about management because our
42 fisheries were very well managed prior to and I want to
43 recognize my ancestors as preserving these things
44 before the State ever came here.
45
46 Thank you.
47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.
49
50 MS. CAMINER: So perhaps, Steve, it

1 reads to recognize that Federal, State and local
2 historical and current harvest and population data.
3 And I know it's difficult, Mary Ann, to include the
4 words indigenous here and so I don't know if that can
5 be -- if that will end up being covered by local or how
6 that'll be handled.

7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, historical.....

9
10 MS. CAMINER: Uh-huh.

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:local historical
13 is indigenous.

14
15 MS. CAMINER: Right.

16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I mean, that's -- that
18 would be who local historical would be.

19
20 MS. MILLS: Sure. I -- you know, to me
21 I don't see anything wrong with using indigenous
22 myself. I don't think the fight is with -- is with the
23 indigenous or the Alaska Native people to use it. I
24 think where the problem is with the State of Alaska not
25 -- tribes do not exist in Alaska. You know, it's -- we
26 don't need to be excluded like we're something that
27 should not be here. And I guess that's the point I
28 would like to make because when you look even at ANILCA
29 or ANCSA, you know, it doesn't follow really the rule
30 of law which is concerning, but that's a whole
31 different other area that I will not get into. But as
32 far as indigenous goes I don't think it needs -- we
33 need to be so careful not to use that word. And that's
34 my feeling on this.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Mary Ann.
39 Steve, what have we got so far?

40
41 MR. KESSLER: Well, so, Mr. Chairman, I
42 think that I -- I think I understand the suggestions
43 from Judy, I'm not sure if you want to include
44 indigenous in some way, but let me read what I have. I
45 think it's the same as what Judy had with just a couple
46 little, little changes. So it's to recognize that
47 Federal, State and local historical and current harvest
48 and population data and information and local knowledge
49 of customary and traditional uses are important
50 components of a successful implementation of Federal

1 responsibilities under ANILCA Title 8.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: How does that read
4 with everybody else, can we accept that as a consensus
5 and.....

6

7 Gloria, did you have something you want
8 to say first?

9

10 MS. STICKWAN: I just wanted to say
11 that this MOU is supposed to be based on ANILCA, right,
12 and if we added the word indigenous we would be
13 including a word that isn't included in ANILCA and we
14 would have to define indigenous and under the Migratory
15 Birds Act they do have a definition for indigenous and
16 I just don't want to open that up to -- I mean, it is
17 completely -- the Migratory Bird's definition of an
18 indigenous is really off key I think. So I think, you
19 know, we should stick to what -- we have to stick by
20 ANILCA because that's what we abide -- we have to abide
21 by that, right?

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I'm hoping that
24 historical local knowledge covers the fact that we had
25 a historic local population there for a long, long time
26 is what I'm hoping. So that's -- if there's.....

27

28 Mr. Henrichs.

29

30 MR. HENRICHS: Well, under that
31 Migratory Bird Act I just spent three days at a
32 migratory -- Alaska Migratory Bird CoManagement Council
33 and thanks to Senator Frank Murkowski he inserted the
34 word indigenous inhabitant which took it away from
35 Alaska Natives and made it anybody that lived in rural
36 areas. So that's we're there. Don't laugh, that's
37 what he did.

38

39 MS. MILLS: I think that's a new
40 definition.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, I think the word
43 indigenous can be used from a historical standpoint,
44 but can also be meant to mean people who live in an
45 area and that's where the -- that's where the danger
46 would come. But -- and that's what he did there,
47 right?

48

49 MS. CAMINER: Uh-huh.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. If that's a
2 consensus item we can go on to the next one then,
3 Steve.

4
5 MR. KESSLER: Okay, Mr. Chairman. And
6 there -- there were a couple additional comments that
7 were brought up by Ms. Mills, I think on the paragraph
8 on Page 2 that's all in red now. It had to do with
9 this section that says subject preferences among
10 beneficial users such as providing a priority for
11 subsistence harvest of use of fish and wildlife,
12 parentheses, where such uses are customary and
13 traditional. And you'll notice that there were in this
14 paragraph some comments that were made that have not
15 been adopted and I would just like to say that this
16 paragraph is considered the State's paragraph. And it
17 was up to the State to decide whether to make any edits
18 in that paragraph or not. The previous paragraph which
19 is now on the bottom of Page 1, let me -- that one is
20 the Federal paragraph. And we did make a modification
21 on that one adding recognized scientific principles.
22 And there was a comment from Southeast and I'm sorry, I
23 can't remember exactly what it was, but they wanted
24 something else put into this paragraph for us to
25 consider.

26
27 So I just wanted to follow-up, there
28 was one other comment I think that Ms. Mills had made.
29 And before I go on to your next comment as a Council.

30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Steve, can I ask one
32 question. Is -- when we use the term recognized
33 scientific principles, at that point isn't that also
34 where we are supposed to be using the RACs and the RACS
35 were formed with the idea that we would use scientific
36 principles and bring in local rural knowledge or local
37 knowledge for lack of a better way of putting it, but
38 that's not the -- I don't know if that's defined in
39 ANILCA, but yet ANILCA is what formed the RACs with the
40 idea that they would bring that into the mix.

41
42 MS. CAMINER: Uh-huh. I think it's in
43 the next sentence here as you go on. The RACs are then
44 mentioned at the top of the next page.

45
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So it's on in
47 the next sentence then. I'm -- thank you, Judy.

48
49 MS. CAMINER: I think that works.
50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's already covered
2 in that same paragraph or the next paragraph that is
3 then, you know.....
4
5 MR. KESSLER: Okay. Thank you.
6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But again it's only
8 talking about public participation, it's not talking
9 about bringing knowledge in.
10
11 MR. KESSLER: Which as we've already
12 gone through, we bring in elsewhere.....
13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.
15
16 MR. KESSLER:in this document. I
17 don't think that we can expect in a preamble.....
18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.
20
21 MR. KESSLER:to have everything
22 in there that's in the rest of the document.
23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Otherwise we'd only
25 need the preamble.
26
27 MR. KESSLER: Otherwise we only would
28 have the preamble.
29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Exactly. Okay. Okay.
31
32
33 MR. KESSLER: So unless there's
34 objection I'll move on to your next comment. And so
35 again going back to your book on Page 28 in the
36 paragraph. The next comment I found was the Council
37 also suggested that Federal terms and State terms be
38 included in the MOU, parenthesis, i.e., harvestable
39 surplus is a State term. So, of course, that's a very
40 difficult comment to respond to because we don't know
41 exactly what terms you're looking for. However, I can
42 point out in a couple of places changes that were made.
43 So, for instance, on Page 2 under purposes the words
44 healthy populations were added. So a healthy
45 population is pretty much an ANILCA type of term.
46 There's also terms about conservation of -- well, maybe
47 this one was the -- yeah, this is the conservation,
48 healthy populations. There are a couple of other
49 places that there's such terms, under number 4, number
50 3, of course that's where -- that's on Page 3, number

1 4, 3, near the bottom of the page is where the word
2 harvestable surplus is in there right now. If you have
3 any specifics of what you think you meant or would like
4 to see as far as Federal and State terms please provide
5 those to us.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, we could put a
8 Federal term right there. To allow for other uses of
9 fish and wildlife resources when it doesn't impact
10 healthy whatever, you know, healthy populations
11 consistent with ANILCA and Alaska statutes if we want
12 to change that from a State term to a Federal term, if
13 that's important.

14

15 MR. KESSLER: Do you want to add
16 something about healthy populations?

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Would we add it or
19 would we take our -- I mean, I have no objection to
20 harvestable surplus because it's a term we all
21 understand. But if the idea is to make this a Federal
22 document and drop State terms we could drop when
23 harvestable surpluses are sufficient and when we -- and
24 we could just say when resources are sufficient to
25 maintain a healthy population, you know, I mean, if we --
26 if we thought that was necessary. Personally I don't,
27 but if somebody else does that's fine.

28

29 MR. KESSLER: Mr. Chairman, we spent
30 quite a bit of time discussing this and because it was
31 a little touchy. So we want to allow for other fish
32 and wildlife uses -- resources when harvestable
33 surpluses are sufficient consistent with.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

36

37 MR. KESSLER: And then we thought about
38 well, it's consistent with the Alaska statute because
39 that's the term. But it also has to be consistent with
40 ANILCA because we don't want to make sure that -- we
41 want to make sure that there's some -- nothing
42 inconsistent with ANILCA.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.

45

46 MR. KESSLER:when we're
47 implementing this.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And when you say
50 consistent with ANILCA you mean when there is

1 maintaining a healthy population?

2

3 MR. KESSLER: And everything else
4 that's in ANILCA.

5

6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So that's actually
7 covered right there. Does anybody see the need to
8 change harvestable surpluses because this is only
9 applying -- this is -- the harvestable surpluses is
10 only applying to non-subsistence users. To allow for
11 other uses of fish and wildlife uses when harvestable
12 surpluses are sufficient. So it doesn't apply to
13 subsistence users, it only applies to non-subsistence
14 users.

15

16 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. Well, Steve
17 isn't -- I don't have it in front of me, is it Section
18 815. I mean, there is this section that discusses when
19 the consideration for other uses of ANILCA. And so
20 that may be one to cite in there or mentioning healthy
21 populations.

22

23 MR. KESSLER: Well, Mr. Chairman, 815 I
24 think is the clause that says you can't restrict others
25 unless you're doing it to -- for conservation of fish
26 and wildlife or to make -- or to continue subsistence
27 uses. So it's sort of a reverse.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'll just ask a
30 question, Steve. Would any of the Council members that
31 we have here feel like we need to change the word
32 harvest surplus. Does anybody find the way it's
33 written objectionable and would like to see it written
34 a different way?

35

36 Mary Ann.

37

38 MS. MILLS: I don't, but I do have a
39 concern with regard -- all of these words sound really
40 fine, but let me give you an example what happened in
41 the Cook Inlet with the beluga whales which the
42 population has declined so much that, you know, our --
43 we were so concerned that we promoted them to be put on
44 the list of -- the endangered species list. And when
45 that happened and the scientists said oh, yes, we know
46 what's happening. Nothing changed except for one
47 thing. The -- our hunters, our whale hunters were not
48 allowed to subsist or get their whales, but nothing
49 else changed, not in the management of industry, not in
50 anything. So I just want to make that comment when --

1 because when we're -- we have good ideals in trying to
2 protect and manage our -- I don't even like to say
3 resources because there -- our fish and everything that
4 has life is sacred in our way of thinking, everything
5 that's put here, the creator put here and put here for
6 all of us. But I guess it's if we do say things and
7 this is how we want our management and other ways of
8 managing it becomes political, then it doesn't really
9 do us much good. And so I just want to put that
10 heartfelt, you know, respect out to our living waters
11 and everything in our -- in our existence.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Mary Ann.
16 So basically having not heard anybody that particularly
17 needs to change the word harvestable surpluses even if
18 it is a State term we'll let that one go through,
19 Steve.

20

21 MR. KESSLER: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
22 Chairman. And by the way I was just thinking about all
23 these discussions that we had. When I go back to sort
24 of that number 1 general change, plain language. And
25 it's so hard to write this in plain language and I'm
26 not sure what plain language is because we're going
27 through and making some things seemingly more
28 complicated or there's a little statement. It's hard,
29 it really is hard. So again if there are some plain
30 language changes that could make this better it
31 certainly would be appreciated.

32

33 The last comment that you made again
34 back on Page 28 was the Council is interested in
35 getting feedback once this MOU is resolved -- is
36 revised. So we weren't exactly sure what that meant,
37 but, you know, after thinking about it for a while I
38 think that what you were looking for could have been
39 something very similar to what Southeast was looking
40 for, was a way to review this sort of on a regular
41 basis, keeping it a live document, getting feedback,
42 how well it's working. So if you look on Page 5,
43 number -- well, it's at the bottom of Page 5, Regional
44 Advisory Councils and State Advisory Committees will be
45 asked annually to provide comments to the signatory
46 concerning the Federal/State coordination of this MOU.
47 And then when the signatories meet that they will also
48 consider Regional Advisory Council and State Advisory
49 Committee comments. I think that this may be what you
50 were looking for even though I don't have the exact

1 contest of what that sentence was.

2

3 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

6

7 MS. CAMINER: Steve, I think that's
8 excellent. Perhaps our original intent might have been
9 exactly what you're going right now, coming back to us
10 and telling us the changes. But by inserting that
11 sentence, I mean, you the group have really advanced
12 the cause of the RACs I think tremendously. I think
13 that's a major step for those who again have been in
14 the program for a long time. This is a major inclusion
15 of the RAC and I think we really appreciate that. So I
16 -- I think in -- as things go along, for example, after
17 the January meeting I'm sure we'll get a briefing at
18 our March or February meeting as to what happened or if
19 there's any initial feedback that could go out after
20 the January meeting. Again Donald has a way to reach
21 us all and I think we'd appreciate feedback at anytime
22 about progress of the MOU or any of the protocols. But
23 this is a great insertion I believe.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think it -- I think
26 it meets at least what I was thinking of as the
27 necessity to bring it back so that it doesn't just
28 become something that gets set on the shelf and then we
29 never see it again.

30

31 Any other comments? Greg.

32

33 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Well, I'll just make a
34 little comment to reiterate the plain language issue.
35 Plain language is real simple, I mean, local knowledge.
36 We've all sat here, we know why the RACs are here.
37 They bring the local knowledge, they bring -- you've
38 heard passionate testimony this morning. And that's
39 what we're here for. The one thing that I see in a lot
40 of this memorandums, understanding government to
41 government with the State, you never see them again.
42 So that concerns me. I think it -- I think we did a
43 good piece of work here, but I hope it bears fruit and
44 I hope the Federal Board consults with the local
45 knowledge.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

48

49 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair and Steve, one
50 more comment. I think during the break we were able to

1 find out what the Western Interior RAC's other comment
2 was regarding -- this goes back to point number 11 on
3 reviewing the management plans. And evidently their
4 suggestion was and so it might be something we want to
5 consider, is again inserting those words about
6 following recognized scientific principles. Perhaps
7 the place to put it is the sentence four lines from the
8 bottom, consider Federal, State and cooperative Fish
9 and Wildlife Management Plans as the initial basis for
10 any management actions so long as they provide for
11 subsistence priorities and follow recognized scientific
12 principles. I don't know if that's exactly where they
13 suggested it be, but seems like it might fit in there.

14 Or, Steve, maybe when you get the
15 Western Interior RAC's comments you can see where they
16 suggested, but I think it wouldn't be a bad idea to
17 include those words again in -- this is on Page 4,
18 point number 11 at the bottom there.

19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's Western
21 Interior then, huh?

22
23 MS. CAMINER: Uh-huh.

24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I probably shouldn't
26 have read the book I read last night. I was reading
27 Mark Krolanski for lack of a better way of putting it,
28 what happens if there's no fish. I don't know if any
29 of you have read that book, it's kind of interesting,
30 it was written for grade school people, but it's got a
31 lot of information for adults in it too. And that's
32 where -- what Judy was just saying right here and
33 that's what I've been trying to get at is somehow or
34 another to have a balance. You need to have the
35 recognized scientific principles or data or whatever
36 you want included, but you also have to include local
37 or human observation of people who actually live there.
38 And I just -- you know, after seeing the impact that
39 management decisions that have been taken without
40 recognizing what locals were observing based on
41 scientific knowledge and that it can be just as far off
42 as what locals can think they're observing without
43 scientific knowledge. I really think that this program
44 especially which is subsistence and it's dealing with
45 people and it's dealing with fish and game, that
46 somehow or another the local knowledge or the knowledge
47 of the people who actually lived there has to be
48 included with the scientific knowledge. And I -- even
49 if I -- if I was going to do this with what she's
50 suggesting with Western Interior I would have to add

1 what I would think that would come out of this Council
2 is that it would have to be for subsistence priorities
3 using the best scientific data and local knowledge, you
4 know, because I think that the two have to go together
5 if we're going to make this program work.

6

7 Steve.

8

9 MR. KESSLER: My suggestion is that
10 maybe you want to leave this the way it is because
11 we've covered that very adequately.....

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.

14

15 MR. KESSLER:in two other
16 sections. So that's up to you, but I think that
17 provide for subsistence priority, subsistence is all
18 about local knowledge, it's all about scientific
19 principles, it's all about everything that we've been
20 talking about. So, I mean, it's up to you, but.....

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, it's interesting
23 because she brought up that Western Interior would like
24 to include scientific data and if Western Interior
25 wants to include scientific data personally I want to
26 include local knowledge also. If you give in to them,
27 you got to give in to us too. But that's personal and
28 I don't know if the rest of the Council feels that way.
29 But I know -- I see Greg nodding his head before, I saw
30 Doug nodding his head before. I think this Council
31 recognizes that information coming from people who live
32 there is valid information.

33

34 Steve.

35

36 MR. KESSLER: So, Mr. Chairman, that's
37 the end of your comments. There's a lot more in here,
38 we've already spent a fair amount of time. I'm willing
39 to sit here and talk about any of the other comments
40 and changes, it's up to you. And you are welcome to
41 provide other edits anywhere in the document.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Steve. And
46 if it's a consensus from the rest of the Council that
47 we've covered this to the degree that we'd like to
48 cover it right now, if there's no objection will leave
49 Steve go and I'll consider that a consensus if nobody
50 objects.

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Steve.

4

5 MR. KESSLER: Thank you.

6

7 . CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. With that we have one
8 more thing under old business and we're going to get --
9 we still got lots of time left over before 7:00
10 o'clock. We'll go to the Susitna-Watana Project
11 report.

12

13 MR. CARREY: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
14 Council. My name's Brian Carrey, I'm with Alaska
15 Energy Authority. I'm going to first give a quick
16 little background and a little bit of history in
17 regards to Susitna. And once I go through the
18 different background and whichever, I'll turn it over
19 to Tracie Krauthoefer with HGR who's the program lead
20 for subsistence. And if you have any questions at
21 anytime during my presentation let me know.

22

23 Okay. So Alaska's about the fifth
24 highest energy cost state in the nation, it's actually
25 -- a couple of the states that use for energy has
26 higher cost energy than what we do, but one of the big
27 things about -- one thing oil cost is definitely going
28 up, natural cost as we're running out in Cook Inlet,
29 the cost of natural gas is going to be going up
30 substantially during the next couple years. And
31 certainly several of our communities have problems
32 because they don't have natural gas heating or natural
33 gas energy, they have to do it by -- and also those
34 ones get -- have the high electrical.

35

36 Right now in the State approximately 21
37 percent of your electrical energy is coming from hydro.
38 Some years it's up to about 24 percent and other years
39 down to about 18 percent. And there's a comment made
40 the other week about KSKA, about Fire Island being the
41 first renewable energy project for Alaska and actually
42 hydropower's been producing energy in the State of
43 Alaska for more than 100 years now.

44

45 Of the renewable energy in Alaska 99.7
46 percent is hydropower. So you can see all the wind
47 energy in the State currently is producing .3 percent
48 of the renewable energy.

49

50 Right now there's 37 hydropower

1 projects, you know, larger ones in the State, most of
2 them are down in Southeast, but actually 20 miles from
3 here is Bradley Lake Hydro which came online '91.
4 That's the largest hydropower project in the State,
5 it's owned by the State of Alaska, Alaska Energy
6 Authority, and it produces about 10 percent of
7 electrical power on what I'll say is the grid that goes
8 from Homer up to Fairbanks. And it produces power at
9 about four cents a kilowatt hour. The most efficient
10 gas plants are probably six and half cents and oil
11 generation for Fairbanks, the percent that they oil or
12 Copper Valley or other places is anywhere from 20 to 25
13 cents per kilowatt hour.

14
15 Right now the State has the renewable
16 energy goal of 50 percent that was passed in 2010.
17 Alaska Energy Authority while receiving a little bit of
18 press in regards to Susitna Hydro has also proved over
19 \$200 million for more than 200 renewable energy
20 projects just within the last couple of years. And
21 there's a substantial amount of money being spent for
22 renewable energy projects, but by far the biggest one
23 would be Susitna Hydro.

24
25 Those other renewable energy projects
26 should be saving about 12 million gallons of diesel and
27 natural gas per year within the next couple years. And
28 one of the things about having multiple renewable
29 projects is you're lessening your reliance on just a
30 couple of fuel sources in the sense that, you know, say
31 like the Railbelt. This area here gets 90 percent of
32 its energy off of burning natural gas. If natural gas
33 prices goes up by 50 percent or doubles within a short
34 time period your electrical prices are going to jump up
35 within a short time period. So by having a couple of
36 different sources for the energy you're moderating the
37 changes in what the price could be and also you're
38 reducing your reliance on just one or two sources
39 wherever it comes from.

40
41 So the first studies were done on the
42 Susitna back in the 1950s and it was recognized as a --
43 at the location -- at the Watana location is recognized
44 as a potential project. Actually the Army Corps of
45 Engineers did a bunch of work during the 1970s. They
46 were coming up with an idea of having four different
47 dams and then that got narrowed down to for what was
48 the 1980s project. At the time when they were looking
49 to -- when the State was going license it during the
50 1980s two things occurred. One is oil prices crashed

1 and we had a -- in the mid '80s, in '84, '85, the State
2 revenue drastically was cut back. At the same time the
3 State of Alaska had a large quantity of stranded
4 natural gas in Cook Inlet that had no market so it was
5 decided that it was -- you know, go with the natural
6 gas generation at essentially about 25 cents 1,000 mcf
7 of natural gas. As a way of comparison, the more
8 recent contracts are around \$6 and you'll be seeing
9 within the next couple of years the contracts will be
10 \$9 or above.

11
12 So in 2010 the Legislators passed the
13 Renewable Energy Goal by 2025, it's one of the most
14 aggressive in what would be the United States and
15 there's a percentage of renewable energy. And in 2011
16 they passed Senate Bill 42 I believe which authorized
17 Alaska Energy Authority to pursue Susitna-Watana Hydro.
18 And actually in 2011 we did start doing various work up
19 at the site, we did various geotechnical drilling to
20 confirm some of the rock and we went forward in terms
21 of 2012 and continued additional studies of which I'll
22 talk about a bit more later.

23
24 So location, Mile 184. If you go
25 through it from Talkeetna, 87 miles on up from
26 Talkeetna of which you have to make it through Devil's
27 Canyon and so normally people don't make it through
28 Devil's Canyon going up to Watana. It's a pretty large
29 area, remote location, no roads. The nearest road or
30 railroad is approximately 40 miles away.

31
32 And I'll mention in terms of the part
33 about Devil's Canyon. Devil's Canyon is an impediment
34 to salmon, during the '80s they did not believe that
35 salmon made it up to Susitna-Watana because of the
36 various studies they did. More recently we do know
37 that some chinook can make it up there, but it is
38 definitely a very hard impediment for them to make it
39 past and so it's a very, very small number that can
40 make it up.

41
42 There's several road access routes that
43 we're studying. None of these -- we have not decided
44 upon what would be preferred route. One route would be
45 coming in off the Denali Highway which would be the
46 northern route and it shows it going around Dead Man
47 Mountain two different ways, it would actually be the
48 transmission line that would go to the right side and
49 the road to the left side. Another route would be --
50 and so that's named here as the Denali corridor.

1 Another possible route would be the Chilitna corridor
2 which heads across to intersecting where there's a
3 railroad siding at Chilitna. And the last possible
4 route would be on the south side of the Susitna River,
5 Gold Creek corridor. The first 11 miles from Gold
6 Creek corridor actually from the railroad tracks was
7 actually bulldozed back in the 1980s to give access to
8 the Devil Canyon area.

9
10 Each of these routes have their own
11 pluses and minuses. The route from Denali is generally
12 flatter and more uplands. Chilitna -- and would affect
13 some populations of fish and game versus the Chilitna
14 route versus the Gold Creek route. So it depends on
15 what route it is, it would have different possible
16 impacts in terms of how much wetlands you crossed or
17 uplands you crossed and that sort of thing.

18
19 As part of that we've also -- the
20 original screening report was done by DOT and that's
21 been on our website and the public has been invited to
22 comment as to the route selections or otherwise just to
23 receive their input along with what we know about the
24 fish and game and such like that.

25
26 As it stands conceptually approximately
27 750 foot high dam. One of the reasons with that number
28 when I say approximately 750 foot, a lot of places
29 consider the height of the dam as going from the lowest
30 point of what the bedrock is to the top. And so in our
31 case we believe the bedrock is about 150 feet below
32 what the river surface is based on the old borings.
33 And so that 750 foot translates into approximately 600
34 feet from what the tailwater of the dam would be going
35 up.

36
37 Installed capacity, 600 megawatts.
38 That's not the critical number, the more important
39 number is the amount of energy per year, 2.8 million
40 megawatt hours. The Railbelt from Homer to Fairbanks
41 uses up about 5.3 million megawatt hours per year at
42 the moment. So this would actually be a little bit
43 above 50 percent of what the Railbelt uses.

44
45 So the current cost estimate, 4.76
46 billion, that's going to be getting more defined as the
47 design goes forward during the next couple of years.
48 All the permitting is involve -- the licensing goes
49 through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission which
50 were using would be the ILS process and it's the

1 integrated license process, it has very defined
2 timelines for various milestones and public comment or
3 agency comment. And so it puts a -- it puts a lot of
4 pressure on both the State and also all the resource
5 agencies for completing the different studies under the
6 ILP.

7
8 One is, of course, it's going to -- the
9 renewable energy goal, but probably a larger impact in
10 regards to the Railbelt or the State of Alaska is
11 whatever we do in terms of what the electrical rates
12 are that come out of this project, this project is
13 going to last more than 100 years. Realistically it
14 could last 500 years, there's no reason why it could
15 not. And once you -- whatever the rate is that you
16 start out with it's probably going to be about the same
17 rate forever, you know, for the rest -- the life of the
18 project. There's projects in Canada and elsewhere that
19 they started out with a rate back in 1970s of what they
20 generate power at and they still are producing power at
21 the same rate, you know, 40 years later. So it's a
22 very stable rate and it would tend to moderate whatever
23 changes the rates occur by the various natural gas or
24 oil that's being consumed by other utilities such as in
25 Fairbanks they receive about 50 percent of their energy
26 is on the basis of burning diesel fuel. And so as the
27 diesel goes up the cost of the electricity jumps up a
28 lot. They would probably be trying to reduce their
29 diesel and use more hydro as this goes forward. But
30 regardless when diesel doubles in price, you know, what
31 their rates are going to be is -- they're going to see
32 less than doubling. Same thing, of course, with
33 Anchorage and Kenai. We're tied to natural gas and
34 this is going to reduce down what the volatility of the
35 natural gas amount is.

36
37 No questions yet?

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, yeah, a whole
40 bunch of questions, but let's -- we'll let you through
41 the whole thing.

42
43 MR. CARREY: All right. Sure. Yes.

44
45 MS. STICKWAN: How many jobs will be
46 provided after construction?

47
48 MR. CARREY: Well, say in terms of jobs
49 after construction, probably not that really large of
50 an amount. All the hydros that we have up here tend to

1 not -- once you get past construction, you get past any
2 -- I don't know within the first couple of years where
3 you've finished up any little work or other additional
4 work, the amount of people it takes to run a hydro is
5 not that much.

6

7 Now I will say indirectly over time
8 there may be a larger amount just because of the fact
9 that if your rates for the Railbelt are lower it can
10 have an impact, but that's going to be a socioeconomic
11 studies which are going to go forward, that's what
12 they're going to look at is what the potential impact
13 would be by having potentially lower rates in the next
14 50 years.

15

16 The project timeline, this is following
17 the ILP. We would be putting in the draft license
18 application during September, 2015 under ILP. And
19 there'd be a couple of years where there's going to be
20 -- the EIS would occur and various other approvals that
21 must be received. We'd be looking forward that we
22 could start construction in 2017 and in 2024 do the
23 start up for at least the first commercial power on it.

24

25 For 2012 we started the formal FERC
26 process which is actually a fairly significant step
27 because when we start out with the preliminary
28 application documents, that's a very large document,
29 it's probably I think 500 pages or more and it shows
30 quite a lot of what we know about the various -- the
31 environment up there. It pulls together the data from
32 the 1980s and also data since the 1980 of, you know, be
33 it caribou, salmon, resident fish, birds, everything we
34 know about it is -- goes into that document. And then
35 this year we also followed it up by additional
36 geotechnical drilling. We also did a substantial
37 amount of environmental program this year which was
38 radio tagging salmon, chinook salmon along with Fish
39 and Game. We funded Fish and Game to do radio tagging
40 of salmon. We've been also investigating the various
41 clear water tributaries above the site to see if
42 there's the -- for the presence of fisheries above the
43 site. Looking at oh, I think wetlands, vegetation and
44 also starting off doing the subsistence type work and
45 cultural work. I'm not quite sure what else, it's
46 quite a lot that we started out this year. This year
47 would be considered a non-formal study program year
48 under FERC and then 2013 and 2014 are actually the
49 formal study years. But the information that we do
50 this year is going to go into those follow-up years and

1 so that gives us a longer baseline in terms of what's
2 occurring and we'll know better how to focus some of
3 the effort during the next couple of years.

4
5 So we've got right now the Alaska
6 Energy Authority's proposed plan, study plan. We're
7 taking comments from the various stakeholders and
8 taking comments from the various agencies. We're going
9 to be sending the revised study plan to FERC December
10 14th. And then FERC will issue their plan
11 determination February 3rd and so at that point the
12 different study plans for all the studies between AEA
13 and the agencies will hopefully be finalized for the
14 next year. It can always get modified after the first
15 year and if there's disputes in terms of what the
16 studies are, the level of effort or otherwise, it may
17 take for those specific studies it may not be finalized
18 in February, it may be -- take longer than that to
19 figure out the exact -- what the exact study will be.

20
21 So these are the 58 studies that are
22 really going to be focused on during the next couple
23 years. It's already from the 1980s the most --
24 probably the most studied location in the State of
25 Alaska and with what we're going to be spending over
26 the next couple of years it will be their way. Even if
27 you didn't have any of the 1980s information it would
28 be the most studied area in the State of Alaska and
29 once you add on to what we're going to be spending it
30 will be very well known. And, of course it covers, you
31 know, you have botanical resources, recreation,
32 cultural, subsistence, socioeconomic, everything in
33 regards to the fish and the terrestrial wildlife and
34 finally we've got a couple studies from FERC in regards
35 to project safety, the probable maximum flood and
36 seismic hazard type studies.

37
38 And I will turn it over at this point
39 to talk about the more subsistence specific type work
40 to Tracie Krauthoefer who's the project lead on
41 subsistence.

42
43 MS. KRAUTHOEFER: Thank you. My name
44 is Tracie Krauthoefer, I work for HDR Alaska and I'm
45 here on behalf of AEA. I am the Subsistence Study
46 Program Lead, but I want to make sure everybody
47 understands that the study was developed in
48 collaboration with the Alaska Department of Fish and
49 Game, Division of Subsistence and also with researchers
50 at Steven Braund and Associates.

1 So the overall goal of the subsistence
2 resources study is to demonstrate whether and if so the
3 extent to which communities harvesting new subsistence
4 resources within or near the project area who use
5 project area lands to access other lands for
6 subsistence harvest and use or who harvest and use
7 resources that migrate through the project area and are
8 later harvested in other areas. And so that means we
9 have to cast a pretty wide net so pretty much the
10 entire area from the Denali Highway to Richardson to
11 the Parks down to the Glenn.

12
13 There are four basic components to the
14 study. The first is just a review of the existing
15 literature and research that is currently underway.
16 And then a second is household harvest surveys which
17 are going to be conducted by the Alaska Department of
18 Fish and Game sort of using their standard household
19 harvest survey methodology. We have communities for
20 2013 are primarily along the Susitna River Drainage and
21 those are up there on the slide. You'll see Cantwell,
22 Chase, Skwentna, Susitna, Talkeetna and Trapper Creek
23 and then in 2014 we would be serving communities on the
24 Copper Basin side or Copper River side and those are
25 Copperville, Tazlina, Gulkana, Nelchina, Lake Louise,
26 Paxson, Tolsona, Tonsina and Glennallen. And the form
27 that will be using, I have copies here if anybody wants
28 a copy, it's a very long, 22 page thorough form that
29 covers everything from berries, wood, different
30 vegetation resources, all kinds of fish, small mammals,
31 trapping furbearers, large land mammals, pretty much
32 everything could be possibly used. So again I do have
33 copies if anybody wants them and I'll leave them on the
34 table back there.

35
36 ADF&G will hiring community liaisons in
37 each community to help administer the surveys. They
38 will be meeting with community leaders and traditional
39 councils prior to survey initiation to consult and make
40 sure that everyone is good with the survey instrument,
41 the timing of the surveys and that the community knows
42 that surveyors are coming to town.

43
44 Let's see, the third component are 10
45 year mapping interviews. And we haven't determined
46 which communities we'll be doing those in, but I
47 suspect it'll be focused on communities like Chase,
48 Cantwell, Healy, Talkeetna, communities that are right
49 close to the actual project area because the mapping
50 interviews are aimed at getting at direct impacts. So

1 we're looking at subsistence use right there, directly
2 in the project area specifically for the mapping
3 interviews. Those communities will be determined or
4 finalized after the initial household harvest surveys
5 this year or sorry, in 2013.

6
7 And then the last component is
8 traditional and local knowledge interviews in the
9 communities that you see listed on the right there.
10 Those surveys -- those interviews will be happening in
11 2013 and we will be going to Cantwell, Chickaloon,
12 Chitina, Copper Center, Eklutna, Gakona, Gulkana and
13 Tyonek. Those communities were chosen based on the
14 presence of a Federally recognized tribe and then also
15 they have a population that is at least 50 percent
16 Alaska Native. So that was the main criteria for doing
17 those communities and traditional local knowledge.

18
19 Like I said or like Brian mentioned the
20 study plan is open for comment right now. And you can
21 view it on the website. So you can look at the study
22 plan on the web and definitely submit any comments. If
23 there are other studies that you would like to see
24 under subsistence, if there are communities that you
25 feel should be surveyed that we aren't going to, yeah,
26 I -- we'd love to hear your comments.

27
28 So I guess with that I'll turn it over
29 to Mark.

30
31 MR. BIRCH: Mr. Chair, Members of the
32 RAC. My name is Mark Birch, I'm the Wildlife Biologist
33 with the Department of Fish and Game. And my
34 understanding is that while you're I'm sure interested
35 in all the wildlife studies you're particularly
36 interested in the caribou study and so I came here
37 today to give you an update on that project.

38
39 The purpose of the caribou project is
40 to assess the range use, the general movement patterns,
41 migration routes and migration timing of caribou in the
42 project area which is primarily, of course, the
43 Nelchina Caribou Herd although I'll get into some of
44 the other confusion -- it's not really confusion, but
45 the -- the other aspect of that is that the Delta
46 Caribou Herd also comes into the project area. And so
47 that's part of our challenges to sort that out.

48
49 Some of the concerns that are
50 potentially out there as far as the project go are

1 potential changes in movement patterns of caribou,
2 impacts to calving and migration routes, of course some
3 habitat will be inundated and there are potential risk
4 of crossing that inundated area by caribou both going
5 and coming, going to the calving grounds, for instance.
6

7 The -- and as I say the -- we need to
8 sort out a little bit better what's happening as far as
9 the Delta Caribou relative to the Nelchina Caribou that
10 have some overlapping areas of use in the project area.
11

12 The population objective for the
13 Nelchina Caribou Herd is 35,000 to 40,000 caribou. And
14 the preliminary estimate right now for 2012 is 46,500.
15 And as you know the quotas for harvest this year are
16 pretty high because that population is up there and so
17 it's -- we're fortunate that we have a pretty good
18 number of caribou that we're able to harvest to provide
19 for needs.
20

21 The formal objectives for the study are
22 to document the movement through and seasonal use of
23 the greater Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project area
24 by bulls and cows for both the Nelchina Caribou Herd
25 and the Delta Caribou Herd, determine the relative
26 importance of the greater project area to both the
27 Nelchina Caribou Herd and the Delta Caribou Herd and
28 document productivity and survival of caribou using the
29 greater project area. And our intention for getting at
30 some of those objectives is to radio collar some bulls.
31 Right now we have quite a number of cows in both the
32 Nelchina Caribou Herd and the Delta Caribou Herd that
33 are radio collared, but no bulls. Well, actually last
34 spring that we did put some satellite collars on some
35 bulls, but relatively few. So the idea is to have 20
36 Nelchina Caribou Herd bulls collared with radio collars
37 and 10 Delta Caribou Herd bulls and we have 80 cows in
38 the Nelchina Caribou Herd right now that have radio
39 collars on them and 40 Delta Caribou Herd cows. And in
40 addition to the radio collars we're putting on GPS
41 collars which if you're familiar with those at all
42 provide finer scaled information. So rather than
43 having to fly out and find the animals with the radios,
44 the satellites locate the information and it's
45 maintained on the collar itself and then we have to
46 retrieve the collar generally is how that works. And
47 those all have radios in them too so when we fly the
48 radio collars we'll find out where the animals are that
49 have GPS collars. And we'll have -- we intend to
50 collar 40 to 45 Nelchina Caribou and 15 to 20 Delta

1 Caribou with the GPS collars. And, of course, with the
2 radio collars in order to really find out anything we
3 need to go and fly those and we're doing that on a
4 monthly basis during the project period. And in
5 addition to that we're going twice a month during the
6 important migration times, during the spring and the
7 fall. The monitoring began this summer and will go
8 through 2014.

9

10 That's kind of a quick overview of the
11 project and naturally I'm happy to answer questions.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Doug.

14

15 MR. BLOSSOM: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I've got
16 a bunch.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So do I, but.....

19

20 MR. BLOSSOM: Do you have a picture of
21 this topography of the Watana area?

22

23 MR. BIRCH: Yeah, actually I brought a
24 poster with me today that we -- or actually that the
25 area biologist.....

26

27 MR. BLOSSOM: So how far does the water
28 backup behind the dam, to the McClaren or how far?

29

30 MR. CARREY: No, Mr. Chair, the top of
31 the reservoir will be downriver what the Oshetna River
32 is.....

33

34 MR. BLOSSOM: Okay.

35

36 MR. CARREY:and so I forgot to
37 put the river -- significant rivers that comes into the
38 Susitna River below the Oshetna River, but it's below
39 that location.

40

41 MR. BLOSSOM: How come Watana and not
42 Devil's Canyon?

43

44 MR. CARREY: Mr. Chair, the Devil
45 Canyon Project was originally envisioned to work with
46 Watana from the standpoint of at the 1980s the growth
47 in electrical demand along the Railbelt was very high.
48 And so some people extrapolated out what the growth
49 would be and that's -- they came up with both projects
50 because that way you'd end up with a much larger amount

1 of electrical usage in terms of what was going to be
2 needed for the Railbelt. However obviously the growth
3 of electrical demand has slowed. When we look at
4 Watana right here we're projecting over the next 25
5 years less than 1 percent growth. And so by the time
6 you bring in conservation or otherwise what we're
7 looking at for growth wise we're only using about 1
8 percent growth rate which is a nice slow rate. Thus
9 Devil Canyon is not needed for the next, I don't know,
10 50, 100 years. And so thus it's not part of the
11 project at this point and it's not needed and the State
12 probably doesn't have the money.

13

14 MR. BLOSSOM: What will Devil's Canyon
15 look like with the dam above it and what will the river
16 look like below the dam, will it change much from what
17 it is or it'll be a lot milder river?

18

19 MR. CARREY: Mr. Chair, the dam would
20 tend to take out some of the sediment that's going down
21 currently. It's very -- has a lot of glacier flour in
22 it. So the river below the dam will still have some
23 sediment in it. It will tend to be a cleaner sediment,
24 more similar to what the Kenai River is now in terms of
25 what the amount of turbidity is. And those going
26 downriver from there until you hit Talkeetna where the
27 Chilitna River comes in it will tend to be more clear
28 than it currently is and it will tend to -- the --
29 whether it's going to downcut any or what changes it
30 makes in terms of rock bars, sediment bars, is the
31 subject of studies. Below Talkeetna River you have the
32 Chilitna River coming in which has about 15 times what
33 the bedload does of the Susitna River. And so as soon
34 as the Chilitna comes in it turns back into a gray,
35 glacial river.

36

37 MR. BLOSSOM: Will Devil's Canyon be
38 easier to diverse with the dam or will it.....

39

40 MR. CARREY: Mr. Chair, the answer to
41 that would be is maybe. There will be less -- the
42 summer flows will be lower flows than what they
43 currently are. When I've done some I'll saying going
44 through different rapids, some rapids are easier to
45 take at lower flows and some are easier at higher flows
46 and so whether it would be easier to go down Devil's
47 Canyon in a boat I'm not sure. It will be lower flows,
48 but whether it's easier or harder I do not know.

49

50 MR. BLOSSOM: Okay. Back in Wally

1 Hickel's day Devil's Canyon was the plan. And we had a
2 Senator named Bob Palmer and he had proposed a
3 worldclass hatchery at the bottom of that dam. It
4 would -- you could have several hundred thousand kings
5 coming back to that river every year with -- using that
6 dam water. Is it going to be possible with Watana or
7 does that mess up the picture?

8

9 MR. CARREY: Mr. Chair, in regards to
10 -- we have not been discussing with the agencies what
11 would be called the PEM. The P would be prevention and
12 then the E would be enhancement and then the M would be
13 mitigation. So any impacts that the project has, if
14 it's determined that there's any affects in regards to
15 say chinook or otherwise in terms of negotiations then
16 it -- we'd get into what can -- we'd be working with
17 the agencies to decide what can we do to either enhance
18 or mitigate any impacts. And the various agencies have
19 different feelings in regards to what they would like
20 to see or not and so that's something that we will work
21 with them in the coming years.

22

23 MR. BLOSSOM: Okay. Well, I guess I
24 would hope this Council would request that. Back in
25 Wally Hickel's day that was a big part of the dam, that
26 we could stabilize that Susitna River and produce
27 enough species of fish for the biggest city in the --
28 or half the people in the State to have fish close to
29 home. And now I see you taking that clear out of the
30 picture. And I -- this is the proper time for me to
31 get it back in, it's foolishness that we're -- you see
32 the problem, you've heard it all day, the problems
33 we're having. You've got an answer there, a positive
34 answer and you're going to spend \$4 and a half billion
35 or more, probably seven or 8 billion, you can sure put
36 a hatchery in there and do what will take care of all
37 the different users. So anyway that's.....

38

39 MR. CARREY: Yes. I'll just -- one
40 point, Mr. Chair. The hatchery -- I won't say it's not
41 being taken off at all, that's we will be I'm sure
42 having quite a lot of discussion in regards to the
43 agencies on it. And within the commercial fishermen
44 some people like hatcheries and some don't and so that
45 will be -- we're not proposing it at this time, but
46 we'll be having quite a lot of discussion in terms of
47 if there was to be any impacts in terms of and what
48 would be done, whether we enhance the different habitat
49 or we go to doing something like hatchery or otherwise.

50

1 MR. BLOSSOM: Now when I talk hatchery
2 I'm talking about Alaska hatcheries. All you do is
3 turn them loose and let them go. There's -- okay.
4 That was -- that's my question.

5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Doug.
7 Anybody else have anything otherwise I've got some
8 questions.

9
10 Judy.

11
12 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, thank you.
13 There's two question, one the height of the dam, maybe
14 you can talk about other dams, Bradley Lake or Susitna,
15 I mean, how might they be just as a comparison for us?

16
17 MR. CARREY: Mr. Chair, Bradley Lake is
18 approximately 125 feet tall. In regards to this height
19 it's, you know, what would be considered as a
20 worldclass project. There are two other dams in the
21 United States which are greater than 700 feet. There
22 are dams right now that have started on construction
23 using what would be, you know, concrete or otherwise
24 around the world that will be over 800 and so there's
25 definitely dams in construction more than 800 feet and
26 ones that are on the drawing boards which are probably
27 getting up close to 1,000 feet.

28
29 MS. CAMINER: Thanks. And my other
30 question had to do with, I mean, what is the talk on
31 financing, is it expected to be fully State project or
32 will there be private enterprise sought out for this?

33
34 MR. CARREY: Mr. Chair, in regards to
35 financing or otherwise, I would -- it's hard to jump --
36 I guess I can give some little generalities, but I
37 can't say too much in terms of how legislators will
38 want it to occur. I'll say one is in regards to it is
39 for it to come online the utilities will not want its
40 power unless its comparable with other generation
41 sources at the time it comes online. The utilities
42 would not have enough financial resources to finance
43 this themselves and so there would have to be a
44 partnership between the utilities and the State of
45 Alaska. Bradley Lake Hydro has been mentioned at times
46 as being what is called the Bradley -- Bradley was done
47 by having the State do 50 percent of the original
48 capital construction cost and the remainder of it, all
49 the -- was financed through the State, but all the bond
50 payments for the financing is essentially guaranteed

1 through the power sales agreement by the utilities.
2 And so the utilities which is six utilities on the
3 Railbelt, have to pay for all the bond cost for
4 Bradley, pay for all the O&M. If anything occurs at
5 Bradley such as a earthquake damages or otherwise the
6 powerhouse, the utilities are the ones that are on the
7 hook for it. When the bonds are paid off which comes
8 up in about 10 years, the payments the utilities are
9 making do not go away, the payments that they're making
10 right now continue at the same level with the money
11 going back to the State's Railbelt Energy Fund. And so
12 that would be kind of a partial repayment to the State
13 for what the State's money was at the start.

14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And I think that the
16 way that they've handled most of the small power site
17 developments like the one -- the Humpy Creek and Power
18 Creek at Cordova and stuff like that. The utilities
19 end up paying the State back over time, but they had to
20 come up with the funding to begin with. Am I correct
21 on that?

22
23 MR. CARREY: Mr. Chair, yes. Over this
24 last year the Senate Resources Committee has been doing
25 the funding towards various hydro projects and so that
26 they end up being approximately 50 percent or so of
27 what the cost would be.

28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. It's kind
30 of interesting to me, if no body has got any questions.
31 Okay.

32
33 Gloria, you're first and Greg.

34
35 MS. STICKWAN: I was wondering are you
36 going to be looking at any other studies that are
37 currently going on as well in the statement about those
38 villages are the ones that are directly impacted. I
39 disagree with that, I think all of the villages in our
40 region are impacted by that area because, you know,
41 people use the Denali area to hunt in. It's not just
42 those villages you have up there, there are -- all
43 eight villages that go up there and hunt, I mean, it's
44 just not those and I'd like to see those villages
45 included, all of the Ahtna villages. I'm referring to
46 the study being done by Wrangell-St. Elias, are you
47 going to be working with them in any way on this
48 because they're doing a study too?

49
50 MS. KRAUTHOEFER: I believe that some

1 of the studies that Fish and Game is doing, some of
2 those surveys are, in fact, a result of what's going on
3 with Wrangell-St. Elias.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Barbara.

6

7 MS. CELLARIUS: For the record my name
8 is Barbara Cellarius and I'm the Subsistence
9 Coordinator for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and
10 Preserve. And I've been over the last several years
11 working with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and
12 doing basically the standard Fish and Game Community
13 Harvest Assessment along with a few questions that are
14 specific to the Park Service. And so some of the
15 communities in our area, Gloria, that you don't see on
16 the list are communities that we either surveyed a year
17 or two ago or will be surveying in winter 2013. So
18 we've got four more communities including Chitina and
19 Gakona that we're going to be surveying in 2013. We've
20 already surveyed Copper Center, we've already surveyed
21 Mentasta and Chistochina and so those data will be
22 available to be used in the analysis that's done for
23 this project.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Barbara.
26 Does that answer your question, Gloria?

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Greg, you had a
31 question?

32

33 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I just have kind
34 of a basic question. On the land ownership, is that
35 all State, who's all impacted by this and then I got
36 one moot question for the gentleman on the end.

37

38 MS. STICKWAN: I'm sorry, can we just
39 see a map, it's hard to.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: There is a map right
42 back there, I thought, but maybe I'm wrong.

43

44 MR. CARREY; Well, Mr. Chair, this is
45 the best of the maps I have right now in terms of this.
46 In general I'll say along the Denali corridor is mostly
47 State and some BLM property. Along the Chilitna
48 corridor I think it's more mixed between maybe one-
49 third State, one-third BLM and one-third private
50 property. And along the Gold Creek corridor tends to

1 be a little bit of State, but for the most part it's
2 private property.

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: By private property
5 you mean Native allotment property or Native property?

6
7 MR. CARREY: Mr. Chair, it's I'd say by
8 private property most of it is being Native Corporate
9 property.

10
11 MR. ENCELEWSKI: That answered my
12 question. Thank you. And I just had a little question
13 for the other gentleman on the caribou on the -- you
14 know, you've got these -- you got all these factors
15 gadgets, GPS and you got radio collars. Now what
16 happens when they croak and they die out there, you
17 guys got to go back and retrieve those. I was just
18 wondering how that works, I mean, it's a.....

19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Helicopter.

21
22 MR. BIRCH: Through the Chair. Yeah,
23 that's right. Yeah, track them down. And we do that
24 and recover them, we just recovered some last week. We
25 hired a new biologist this summer, she's been spending
26 a lot of time on these projects and she spent a couple
27 of weeks retrieving collars on -- from all different
28 projects in that project area. So that's definitely
29 something that we do, collect those collars, especially
30 the GPS collars to get the information.

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mary Ann.

33
34 MS. MILLS: To what mile post are you
35 looking at on the Denali Highway?

36
37 MR. CARREY: Mr. Chair, I believe in
38 terms of where it would come in off the Denali Highway
39 in terms of -- in regards to where potential excess
40 route would be then right now it would come in
41 somewhere near I think it's called Seattle Creek and I
42 think mile post marker it's around Mile 25 or so.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Before Brush Canyon.

45
46 MR. CARREY: Yeah, Mr. Chair, it's
47 before Brush Canyon Creek.

48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. You had -- Lee.
50

1 MR. ADLER: It's pretty obvious to me
2 that this dam pool is going to have a very negative
3 impact on the Nelchina Caribou Herd. It's going to
4 flood a lot of their habitat, affecting their food
5 supply and migration routes and the dam pool is right
6 in the calving grounds. I know that from over 40 years
7 of experience. And also on moose it's going to flood a
8 lot of moose habitat. But I think the critical thing
9 is caribou because the people in the -- you know, the
10 Native and non-Native people here rely heavily on
11 caribou. And it's just pretty obvious that there just
12 isn't going to be as much food and they're going to
13 have trouble migrating through this big body of water.
14 And it's going to flood out some of the calving
15 grounds. So I'm concerned about that and I think this
16 is good, I know they studied this in the past, like you
17 say it was studied to death 30 years ago and it's going
18 to be studied some more, but not matter how much we
19 study it we're still going to lose on this caribou
20 thing. And so I don't know how -- on the other hand I
21 pay a lot for electricity, my electricity has gone up
22 500 percent in the last 12 years. And so, you know,
23 you can take it both ways, but I just want to make
24 those comments.

25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Lee. I've
27 got a couple of comments to make. It's kind of
28 interesting to me because this is a 1950 Army Corps of
29 Engineers project to start off with. And one of the
30 first ones that I worked on when I came to the State of
31 Alaska was the Army Corps of Engineers project that
32 they were going to build at Woods Canyon. And the
33 Woods Canyon dam would flood just about exactly the
34 same amount from what I remember, that's what the
35 Susitna dam did. Some of the questions that came up
36 with that I'll cover in just a second. But at the time
37 that we -- that the Army Corps of Engineers proposed
38 the Woods Canyon dam their comment was that there
39 wasn't enough salmon that went above Woods Canyon to
40 have an economic impact on the area. And so one of my
41 -- the job that I got was with Fish and Wildlife
42 Service and Fish and Game running fish wheels below
43 Woods Canyon, running fish wheels above Woods Canyon,
44 catching -- tag and recapture program to show that
45 salmon went up above Woods Canyon and that there was a
46 drastic economic impact on the lower river and on the
47 upper river. So when somebody starts saying that fish
48 don't get past a canyon I have -- I have difficulty
49 seeing as how where I've seen fish go, I have
50 difficulty swallowing that. Now what is the difference

1 between Devil's Canyon and Wood's Canyon?

2

3 MR. CARREY; Mr. Chair, during the '80s
4 they didn't think salmon made it up, but more recently
5 they found we did so this year we were doing chinook
6 radio tagging and Fish and Game was doing radio tagging
7 chinook too. And so multiple hundreds of chinook were
8 radio tagged. We do know that some made it past
9 through Devil's Canon with the radio tag and so we
10 know where they went and we haven't put out anything in
11 terms of estimates of what the total run is. We know
12 it's a very small number as in most of the salmon that
13 go up the Susitna River go into the tributaries such as
14 the Talkeetna River, Yentna River or some of those
15 other ones and those spawn in the Susitna River or what
16 appear to be able to make it past Devil's Canyon is a
17 very small number. So it has impediments. The time
18 period that chinook salmon made it past this year was
19 not at normal water flows at the Devil's Canyon, it was
20 during July when there was cold weather which was what
21 we'd consider 10th percentile flows for the Susitna
22 River at that location. So it wasn't -- it was
23 substantially below average flows, it was close to
24 record low flows. And during that week is when the
25 radio tagged fish made it through Devil's Canyon. So
26 from the further comment about whether it would make --
27 how would it affect Devil's Canyon at least under lower
28 flows it appears that the chinook salmon can make it up
29 more likely, you know, better able to make it up.
30 Whether they can make it up during normal flows we'll
31 find out maybe next year.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But that's true also
34 on Wood's Canyon. I mean, I -- I've sat down there at
35 the lower end of Wood's Canyon and watched the fish
36 back up into Haley Creek until Haley Creek was piled
37 full of fish and the fish that were in the river had
38 their noses rubbed off and as soon as the river started
39 dropping up through Wood's Canyon they went. So, I
40 mean, that's a normal -- for lack of a better way of
41 putting it, that's a normal process in salmon and
42 salmon is our major subsistence food in the State of
43 Alaska. So to me I know caribou are important and
44 everything else, but if this is impacting salmon up
45 there this really -- look what they're doing to the
46 dams in the lower 48, they're tearing dams out so
47 salmon can get up and we're talking about building -- I
48 look at this thing right here and I look at how much
49 river is above that and we're talking about building a
50 dam that cuts off a tremendous amount of the river and

1 a tremendous amount of the tributaries and at this
2 point in time and I know you will find this out, at
3 this point in time we don't even know what kind of
4 impact that has on the total salmon. The other
5 thing we have to remember is salmon that you tagged
6 this year that went up, this was a low king salmon
7 year, what happens when we have -- if or when we have
8 back to normal king salmon runs, how many salmon
9 actually go up there.

10
11 I'll leave that as it goes because I
12 know that you're going to study that, but I do know
13 that when the Army Corps of Engineers proposed these
14 plans in the '50s subsistence didn't enter into it. As
15 far as they were concerned and all you have to do is go
16 down to the northwest United States to see that the
17 lifecycle of salmon didn't enter into their thinking at
18 all. They proposed these dams simply because they
19 could have an economic impact. Now one of the
20 questions I have, you're going to build a dam like
21 this, it's going to make cheap power, is there a
22 mineral resource right in that area that needs cheap
23 power to be developed. I mean, the idea behind Wood's
24 Canyon dam is we've got Spirit Mountain sitting right
25 there, one of the biggest nickel deposits in North
26 America. And all of a sudden we would have cheap power
27 to develop Spirit Mountain nickel. Is there anything
28 like that in the background of this or is it strictly
29 for the local people, you know, for the people in the
30 Railbelt, you know, so that's one thing -- that's one
31 thing I'm hoping comes out in your survey is what kind
32 of -- what kind of an economic impact is this going to
33 have by attracting industry which then attracts more
34 people which attracts a growth in the Railbelt which
35 attracts all kinds of things that in the end may negate
36 the growth -- you know, negate the impact of the
37 cheaper electricity. And I'm sure that that's probably
38 going to come out in your survey too, I'll be watching
39 for that one.

40
41 Okay. We're talking -- he was talking
42 caribou and the impact of having a big dam like that
43 and backing water up on their food and impediments to
44 their travel, but the one thing that came up when we
45 were talking about the Wood's Canyon dam is this
46 massive body of water that then does two things. It
47 stops the flow of sediment and we know from some of the
48 dams that are being built in the rest of the world that
49 their life expectancy isn't anywhere near what they
50 expected because of sediment buildup and we're building

1 a big dam on a sediment river. And then the other
2 thing is how about the impact of that much water on the
3 weather in the area, on the temperature in the area. A
4 tremendous body of water, a tremendous heat sink or
5 possibly a tremendous icicle that ends up impacting the
6 weather environment in the area that directly impacts
7 the caribou that live right there. And I'm sure that
8 you'll probably cover that one too.

9
10 These are questions when you start
11 proposing dams of that size you're proposing major
12 ecological impacts and what I can't see is why isn't
13 this State doing more run of the stream, small projects
14 that have no impact or so slight of impact and still
15 can produce electricity at a lower rate, maybe not as
16 low as if you make some big mega dam, but it is
17 available. We have tremendous run of the stream
18 possibilities in the State of Alaska that don't take
19 2.8 or \$4.8 billion to develop and still produce
20 electricity and don't have the ecological damage, the
21 potential, I'm not saying it does, the potential
22 ecological damage of something like this. And that's --
23 you know, I'm not even thinking of earthquakes and
24 flooding or anything like that because I'm hoping that
25 you can build those kind of safeguards in.

26
27 But let's see what else did I write
28 down real quick. Well, to me sedimentation and
29 temperature impact is going to be one of the biggest
30 ones that you have right there. A 41 mile lake for
31 lack of a better way of putting it. Tremendous volume
32 of water sitting there.

33
34 MR. CARREY: Mr. Chair, sedimentation
35 impacts currently most of the bedload from Susitna
36 Glacier drops out in the McClaren Flats because it's
37 kind of a lower angle at that point and it's slowed
38 down. The sediment that does come down into the canyon
39 area from -- one of the reasons why Watana was picked
40 over Devil's Canyon is it has much greater storage
41 area. So based on what was -- the sediment flows that
42 were calculated or collected during the 1980s and we're
43 doing it again, the amount of time it would take for
44 Watana to buildup with the sediment to impact the dam
45 is in the range of hundreds of years. And so when I
46 mentioned the hundred years it was estimated before
47 that the Watana reservoir would only be about 5 percent
48 effected by sediment after 100 years. And so from that
49 standpoint it has a -- sediment shouldn't be a problem
50 in terms of.....

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Sediment shouldn't
2 affect the life history. Okay.
3
4 MR. CARREY: Yes, sir.
5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So has this been true
7 of a lot of the big dams on the same kind of water flow
8 all over the world?
9
10 MR. CARREY: Mr. Chair, I think some of
11 the places -- well, I know they build a lot of hydro in
12 Switzerland and Chili and al;so by the Himalayas where
13 they've got glacial rivers. The particulars for the
14 various dams, I don't know about the various ones. In
15 this case at least, you know, the bedload has -- which
16 is the amount of I'll say sand that goes along the
17 bottom of the river, has the greatest mass to it. And
18 when it comes out of the glaciers it gets into the
19 flats up there where the Denali Highway is. And so
20 that's where it tends to spread out and, you know, it
21 doesn't -- it's -- the river is energy limited at that
22 point, it cannot carry all the sediment down and so
23 that's why it's braiding out in the upper area and thus
24 is where that fine glacial stuff that comes down into
25 the reservoir area. And.....
26
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So it's not carrying
28 the load of the Copper River?
29
30 MR. CARREY: Mr. Chairman, no.
31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Gloria.
33
34 MS. STICKWAN: I guess you don't have
35 an answer, but you should have an idea. Where will the
36 Nelchina Caribou migrate if there's this big lake like
37 he says right in the middle of it, where do you think
38 they'll go, where will it travel to to its calving
39 grounds back and forth.
40
41 MR. BIRCH: Through the Chair. These
42 studies, of course, will only tell us what -- or the
43 study that I'm talking about today will only tell us
44 what they're doing now and we'll find out how many are
45 crossing and where they're going. And then from there
46 we'll have to use an educated guess as to whether it's
47 going to be possible for them to continue to do -- to
48 follow the patterns that they're in now in the future
49 based on the water. Of course in general caribou cross
50 -- are generally very adaptive to begin with and cross

1 substantial waterways in Alaska as it is. But
2 specifically at this point I can't say exactly what
3 they'll do in the future when this reservoir is
4 constructed.

5
6 MS. STICKWAN: I have another question.
7 Is it going to benefit the people in Glennallen because
8 I heard that it's not going to benefit the people in
9 Glennallen with their lower electricity rate? That's
10 what I heard, I don't know if it's true or not.

11
12 MR. CARREY: Glennallen and the Copper
13 River area is actually -- probably pays the highest
14 electrical rate in the State for various reasons
15 because you don't receive PCE whereas other communities
16 do. And so from that standpoint if it lowers the rate
17 along the Railbelt in the future it will affect the PCA
18 rate -- PCE rates across the State. However Glennallen
19 is not part of that and so we did have this last spring
20 a high level engineering look at what it would take to --
21 what the cost would be to intertie Copper Valley over
22 to the Railbelt. We have provided that high level
23 study to Copper Valley Electric and last week I also
24 sent it to the Ahtna Corporation. At this point that's
25 where it stands because they would need to be looking
26 at better -- what the benefits would be and whether
27 that's part of the whole thing or not that's too early
28 to say at this point.

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Andrew.

31
32 MR. McLAUGHLIN: Through the Chair. I
33 just was curious, the limited number of kings that you
34 did study that went above the canyon, was there
35 spawning habitat in the area that's going to be flooded
36 or was it above it?

37
38 MR. CARREY: Of the -- Mr. Chair, the
39 kings that -- the limited number and I'll say it is a
40 limited number at this point that went that was able to
41 make it through Devil's Canyon, some of them stopped
42 below the dam site and then for the ones that were able
43 -- that went on past that point most of the habitat
44 that they went to would be above what the inundation
45 area would be. And so the -- they would -- that the
46 spawning area that they went to would not be flooded.

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mary Ann.

49
50 MS. MILLS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm

1 a visual person so on your map could you show what part
2 would be affected by the potential dam?

3

4 MR. CARREY: Okay. Mr. Chair, this --
5 right here this is actually the reservoir area, this is
6 where it would be about two miles wide so this area
7 here is anywhere from a mile nicking down to a quarter
8 mile. Right here is where the Oshetna River comes in
9 and right about here would be the head of the
10 reservoir. And so most of it -- you know, the valley
11 area for here -- for most of these areas except for
12 where Watana Creek comes in tends to have higher valley
13 walls and so it's mostly constrained between the valley
14 walls and it tends to be a little bit more broad right
15 here where the Watana Creek comes in and that's where
16 it gets wider.

17

18 MS. MILLS: So could -- excuse me, Mr.
19 Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Go ahead.

22

23 MS. MILLS: So could you kind of do a
24 circle area of the area that would be affected?

25

26 MR. CARREY: Mr. Chair, the reservoir
27 area that would be affected right here because right
28 now that's where the river is. So that's the direct
29 effects and, of course, the -- in regards to affected
30 area under what the studies are being -- the work
31 that's going forward on the studies, we are studying
32 the course. Obviously the -- the caribou and
33 everything from -- pretty much about everything on what
34 this slide is and then all these tributaries that come
35 in up here we've been doing the fish surveys in terms
36 of knowing what fish are present at everyone of these
37 tributaries and downstream also the tributary work is
38 going on and they're also looking at all the sloughs
39 and site chancels down in the middle section of the
40 river here. Additionally what's going on with the
41 canyon is right now there's various -- I'll say
42 waterfalls or fish barriers on the canyon walls where
43 it's coming in, some of those places where there's
44 waterfalls will get inundated and so it would actually
45 in some case open up additional habitat because the
46 barriers that you presently have such as Deadman Falls
47 and some others in the future if you have a lake there
48 would be above where the falls were. And so any of the
49 types of affects, I guess you could say that you could
50 have positive or negative affects depending on which

1 ones they are, which specific creek that you're looking
2 at and which specific slough or side channel you're
3 looking at downriver.

4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So at -- from that
6 indication it would indicate to me that you are
7 figuring on having some kind of fish passage past the
8 dam, past a 750 foot dam?

9
10 MR. CARREY: Mr. Chair, we have been in
11 discussions with one of the agencies in regards to
12 doing a fish passage study and so we are -- they have
13 the ability to mandate a fish passage regardless of the
14 number of fish so we are going to be doing a fish
15 passage study in terms of what it would take and how
16 much it would cost. And I guess at that point we would
17 get into other discussions in regards to whether that
18 is the best way to go or if there's other alternatives
19 that would be better for the salmon or have bigger bang
20 for the buck.

21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Out of
23 curiosity some of the dams on which they're having fish
24 passages and they're having -- or fish hatcheries above
25 the dam, they're not having much luck getting the fish
26 down through the reservoir, they're actually in some
27 places barging them and everything like that. Do we
28 have -- do we expect to have enough water flow in that
29 reservoir that if we manage to get fish above it and if
30 we manage to get fish hatched above it, are we going to
31 be able to get smolt back through the reservoir and
32 down the 650 feet without killing them in a way that
33 it's actually meaningful?

34
35 MR. CARREY: Mr. Chair, actually the one
36 agency that we're -- so the lead agency that we're
37 discussing with the fish passage, National Marine
38 Fisheries, in some ways they're kind of gleeful because
39 normally they've had to deal with trying to do --
40 design fish passage on a dam that's already built
41 instead of being able to incorporate stuff at the very
42 start or play around with ideas in terms of what would
43 work best. For getting salmon up it is the actually
44 the easier part because they've been able to do that
45 fairly easy at various places, you know, trapper hauler
46 or other things. The fun part gets on terms of for
47 getting the smolt down and so from that standpoint
48 there's with them coming up in the next couple of
49 months additional brainstorming between both the
50 National Marine Fisheries and actually some fish

1 passage engineers about coming up with the start of
2 coming up, how could they do this in terms of what --
3 what ways would possibly work and then start -- refine
4 those numbers and, you know, play around with other
5 ideas. There are -- there are ways, but I would say
6 they're not easy ways and they're probably very
7 expensive ways.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That was kind of my
10 impression from what I've studied on.

11

12 Doug.

13

14 MR. BLOSSOM: Yeah, Mr. Chair. A
15 hundred years ago that's what we studied. I was on the
16 Cook Inlet Aquaculture Board forever. It's just not
17 feasible. You put the hatchery below the dam, you've
18 got 200 mile of river that those fish can habitat in
19 below the dam. Don't worry about them above the dam.
20 That's just wasting a lot of money.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Mr. Henrichs,
23 and I think we need to start pulling this down because
24 we still have to get Barbara before she has to leave
25 today.

26

27 MR. HENRICHS: So when I was a kid
28 Ernest Greening wanted to dam the Yukon River at
29 Rampart. You know how far that went, it didn't go
30 nowhere.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That was part of the
33 Army Corps of Engineers.

34

35 MR. HENRICHS: If these dams are such a
36 great idea then how come they're taking them out in the
37 South 48. And I'll tell you one thing, there's one
38 form of alternative energy that has not been mentioned
39 and it's nuclear energy. And I think it'll be here
40 before this dam ever gets built.

41

42 MR. CARREY: Mr. Chair, if I can just
43 mention one thing. In the national data base there's
44 84,000 dams in the United States and of those about, I
45 don't know, about 3,000 or so are hydroelectric dams.
46 And so there are a couple dams that are being taken out
47 and there may be very good reasons for taking them out.
48 They're -- but they are being recognized as having a
49 certain value in other locations because of climate
50 change that through where you intake the water you can

1 adjust what the temperature of the water is. And so in
2 the cases of places that become dryer during the summer
3 by releasing more water during the summer than what a
4 traditional stream would have, streams are more
5 available and you could also have cooler water. So in
6 the case on the Susitna hydro you could have this, if
7 you have warmer temperatures you can draw your water
8 from a deeper depth and have it where you've got colder
9 water coming through there if you wanted to do that or
10 you could have it coming in more of the surface water.
11 And so you can effect within a couple degrees what the
12 temperature of the water would be and thus do some
13 affects in regards to fish and what climate change
14 would be. So there definitely is some reasons that
15 they're being useful in other areas now.

16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. I've got two
18 more questions and then unless anybody else has -- oops
19 and Mary Ann. Well, three more questions then we're
20 going to -- we're going to let these guys go because I
21 do -- I had promised Barbara that we'd get her today.

22
23 Mr. Henrichs.

24
25 MR. HENRICHS: So I was in Montana a
26 few years ago and -- with some friends and we were by
27 this lake and I said how big is this lake. The guy
28 says I don't know, but it's big enough to make its own
29 weather.

30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Lee.

32
33 MR. ADLER: I lived in Idaho from 1955
34 to '64 when they were building all those dams on the
35 Colombia and Snake River and I know they devastated the
36 salmon and the steelhead runs. There was quite an
37 attempt and huge expense, they tried fish ladders, they
38 trucked the fish back up and down and I'll tell you
39 once you start trucking salmon you've lost the battle.

40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Mary Ann.

42
43 MS. MILLS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
44 Is there a way we could get a copy of your Powerpoint?

45
46 MR. CARREY: Mr. Chair, yes, we can
47 provide the Powerpoint and I don't have any of the
48 emails, but I suspect that Emily has it so that Emily
49 could email the Powerpoint on it.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Maybe what you
2 want to do is -- we can either do it to all of the --
3 all of the thing or to Donald and Donald can get -- can
4 you?

5
6 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
7 already have a copy so I can make copies for Council
8 members. If you have a thumb drive we'll be able -- I
9 can do that.....

10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

12
13 MR. MIKE:or I can email them to
14 you.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 CHAIR LOHSE: Well, I want to thank you
19 guys for coming. I know we didn't solve anything,
20 we've expressed some concerns. I'm sure you hear those
21 concerns every place you go. But from a subsistence
22 standpoint I want you to -- there's -- we're dealing
23 with two major subsistence items in our area. One of
24 them is the caribou which is probably the biggest meat
25 animal that we have in the Copper Basin area or in our
26 area up there and the other one is salmon and we've
27 seen the impact on salmon all over the world, you can
28 go back to -- you can go back to 1,000 and see the laws
29 that were written in England and the dams that were
30 built and the salmon that were killed off. What we
31 forget is that at one time salmon were so plentiful
32 that you could only feed them to your slaves once or
33 twice a week in France because otherwise you were
34 feeding them too cheap a food. And those kind of
35 places don't have salmon anymore, but they do have dams
36 and they do have electricity. So think carefully as
37 you -- you know, as you do something like this because
38 it really does impact the people. And I know Copper
39 Valley has extremely high electricity, but we've made
40 those choices in the past, we've made the choices for
41 cheap energy to run our mills, to run our everything at
42 the expense of a resource that used to be worldwide and
43 that's salmon or at least northern hemisphere wide,
44 I'll say that, I won't say worldwide, just northern
45 hemisphere wide. So I myself, I'm a real fan of run of
46 the stream power production, I'm not a fan of big dams.
47 Like I hate to see us go that route, but I also know
48 that, you know, we don't have that kind of political
49 clout to stop it either.

50

1 And thank you again, thank you for
2 putting up with us knowing that you probably would get
3 this kind of reception from us.

4

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

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. And lastly
8 we'll have -- for today we're going to have Barbara
9 give her report because she has to go someplace
10 tomorrow. And I promised her that. And then do we
11 have any other staff that has to be leaving that won't
12 be here tomorrow?

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No. Okay. Thank you,
17 Barbara.

18

19 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 For the record, Barbara Cellarius, Subsistence
21 Coordinator for Wrangell-St. Elias. And when Eastern
22 Interior and Southcentral meet on overlapping days it's
23 difficult for me to be at the meetings so I appreciate
24 being able to talk today because I'm going to Eastern
25 Interior meeting tomorrow.

26

27 I did have -- Indy Craver from Denali
28 National Park had a request for you for an SRC
29 appointment. I can either explain that now or I can
30 leave the piece of paper with Eric Veech from Wrangell-
31 St. Elias who's going to be here tomorrow.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Could you leave the
34 paper with Eric and he can explain it to us tomorrow.

35

36 MS. CELLARIUS: Yeah. So and Eric is
37 also going to do the Park's fish report and he's got a
38 couple other things to talk about. I wanted to talk
39 about just -- it's a piece of paper that I left on your
40 desk and it has the DOI logo and it says Fall, 2012
41 Subsistence Program Report. And the main thing I
42 wanted to talk about was caribou. In the annual report
43 reply there's a discussion of the Chisana Caribou and
44 it says that I'm going to give a report on the
45 permanent distribution at this meeting and a report on
46 the hunt in the spring and I'm actually going to do
47 both of those today.

48

49 So I think that everybody knows that at
50 the January meeting the Federal Subsistence Board

1 authorized a limited harvest of the Chisana Caribou
2 Herd. This herd is in the Southeast portion of Unit
3 12, however there are a couple of communities in Unit
4 11 which is in the Southcentral region that has C&T for
5 this hunt and are -- actually were identified as part
6 of the 804 analysis as being dependent on that
7 resource. And actually you talked about delegation of
8 authority today, there was a delegation of authority to
9 the Superintendent of Wrangell-St. Elias to announce
10 the harvest quota, the number of permits, the reporting
11 period to open the season and to close the season when
12 the quota had been taken. So that's why we have been --
13 the Park has been involved in this hunt.

14

15 At the Federal Subsistence Board
16 meeting there was a recommendation -- actually let me
17 back up a little more from the Southcentral RAC that a
18 working group be established to discuss how the permits
19 for this hunt would be allocated. At the Federal
20 Subsistence Board meeting the NPS Regional Director
21 suggested that instead of a working group which might
22 actually delay implementation of the hunt just because
23 of the time of doing a working group right the NPS
24 would do outreach to the various stakeholders in coming
25 up with a plan for permit distribution. So in the --
26 sort of at the end of the second paragraph there's a
27 very long list of people I talked to. I talked to all
28 the Tribal Councils, I talked to the ACs in the area, I
29 talked to the RACs, I talked to a lot of people getting
30 their advice about how the permits for this hunt would
31 be distributed. And so when we did this I need -- I
32 had done a little bit of research talking to some
33 colleagues about other limited hunts and so I said, you
34 know, here's some things that have been done in other
35 places. Those are possible options, but you might have
36 other ideas too. And obviously I got differing ideas
37 from different groups, but there was no general support
38 for a drawing permit. The villages, the four Federally
39 recognized tribal governments who are included in the
40 hunt area plus the Eastern Interior RAC favored some
41 kind of -- favored allocation to the communities and a
42 community based distribution of the permits. The ACs
43 favored issuing -- the Fish and Game Advisory
44 Committees, I talked to Upper Tanana, 40 Mile and Tok
45 Cutoff Nabesna Road, they favored issuing permits on a
46 first come, first serve basis with a short reporting
47 period. And there was also some comments about no more
48 than half of the permits going to any one community or
49 no more than half of the harvest quota.

50

1 I should back up and say that based on
2 the management plan for the herd the harvest quota was
3 going to be seven, seven bull caribou. So that's what
4 we're talking about. Six eligible communities, a
5 harvest quota of seven. So what I -- what we ended up
6 doing in terms of a plan for permit distribution was
7 that we decided to allocate two permits each to the
8 four communities with Federally recognized Tribal
9 governments and then to make the remaining permits
10 available first come first serve for the two
11 communities that didn't have Tribal governments. And
12 those are the -- well, the biggest community is Tok and
13 we spent a lot of time talking to that AC.

14
15 And so because of the small number of --
16 the small harvest quota and this is part of the
17 delegation of authority, a decision was made to limit
18 the number of permits to 14 and to require reporting of
19 successful harvests within three day of the harvest.
20 We also set up a telephone information line, it allowed
21 hunters to call and find out if the hunt was still open
22 and it allowed them to leave us a phone message if they
23 had harvested a caribou. So for the harvest that we
24 had I actually had the harvest report within a day or
25 two of the harvest. And that was very nice.

26
27 So in terms of getting the permits out
28 our wildlife biologist and I went to Tok in early
29 August, we'd sent our a press release saying we're
30 coming to Tok, we'll issue permits starting at this
31 time and we -- I'll work with Tetlin Refuge which has
32 an office in Tok because the Park doesn't have an
33 office in Tok so we worked with the Refuge up there.
34 We issued three permits that day and left another three
35 permits with Refuge staff to issue to other qualified
36 hunters. And then I worked with the Tribal offices,
37 either Tribal administrators or in one case a Tribal
38 official to get permits out to the villages. And in
39 the end we issued nine of the 14 permits.

40
41 The hunt opened September 1st and it
42 closed on September 30th. As I mentioned we had this
43 telephone hotline so people could get their hunt
44 information to me more quickly, in one case it was
45 quite useful because somebody got weathered in, but was
46 able to get a phone message to me. And I have gotten
47 hunt reports from eight of the nine hunters and we had
48 two caribou harvested and all eight of the hunters who
49 have reported in so far actually went out and hunted.

50

1 And so that's basically what I had on
2 that hunt. I have just a couple other notes I wrote
3 down. I was in the process of doing -- in the process
4 of managing this hunt and doing the community outreach
5 I was contacted by residents of two areas that weren't
6 eligible and I have offered to provide them with
7 assistance with submitting a Federal proposal if they
8 think that they meet the criteria for being included in
9 the hunt. So that was one other thing I was going to
10 mention.

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. A couple
13 questions, Barbara. Then all of the permits that were
14 issued were issued to subsistence qualified --
15 Federally subsistence qualified hunters, right?

16
17 MS. CELLARIUS: Yes, the -- this hunt
18 was limited to Federally-qualified subsistence users
19 and there was an 804 analysis done. An 804 analysis is
20 done when the resource is not necessarily going to
21 reach everyone with C&T, there's not enough of the
22 resource. So it narrows the list of who's eligible for
23 the hunt to communities that are most dependent on the
24 resource essentially. It's Section 804 of ANILCA, but
25 basically it narrows the pool down some more. And so
26 there were six communities, Chistochina and Mentasta
27 are in Unit 13 and so within the Southcentral region.
28 And then Tok, Northway, Tetlin and Chisana are in Unit
29 12. And so those were the six communities that were
30 eligible for the hunt and only people in those
31 communities received permits.

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I see. So there was
34 no sport hunting?

35
36 MS. CELLARIUS: No sport hunt. It's a
37 subsistence only hunt, Federal public lands are closed
38 to the harvest of caribou except to residents of those
39 six communities.

40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And you said that only
42 nine of the 14 permits were picked up. Was that from
43 lack of interest or was it -- I mean, did -- it seemed --
44 it's just interesting to me that all 14 weren't picked
45 up.

46
47 MS. CELLARIUS: I talked to the acting
48 Tribal President in Northway and she said that the
49 folks in that community were interested, but they had
50 other obligations and weren't able to participate. And

1 then in a couple of the communities it seems that
2 people didn't come in and get the permits. Now this is
3 a very remote hunt area, it's not accessible by road,
4 you essentially have to fly in unless you wanted to
5 take a boat or a horse and go a really long distance
6 with a boat or a horse. And, I mean, it's interesting
7 to me that everyone who got a permit clearly and gone
8 through the process of thinking about how am I -- you
9 know, can I get there. In a sense I think the folks
10 who actually signed a permit application had gone
11 through -- you know, had thought about their ability to
12 participate in the hunt because it's not an easy place
13 to access.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That was my next
16 question. I was under the impression and I may be
17 wrong, but I was under the impression that you could
18 not use an airplane in the National Park for accessing
19 hunting or fishing. Am I correct or wrong on that?

20

21 MS. CELLARIUS: You are correctly
22 citing a Federal regulation, however it applies to the
23 National Park and not the National Preserve.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

26

27 MS. CELLARIUS: And the majority of the
28 hunt area is National Preserve and not National Park.
29 So if you look at the Federal regulation book you'll
30 see, I think it's light purple and dark purple.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, okay.

33

34 MS. CELLARIUS: And you can use
35 aircraft to access the Preserve. And so I haven't
36 actually seen the hunt reports for everybody because
37 people called me and so I know their harvest or not
38 based on the phone calls, but I would guess and I'm
39 trying to think of the one person I know who does a lot
40 of overland access, I think most -- well, several of
41 the hunters actually lived in the hunt area. So.....

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Is that in Chisana?

44

45 MS. CELLARIUS:they didn't
46 actually need -- they just went from home.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

49

50 MS. CELLARIUS: Then I think the other

1 folks flew in.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. And the two
4 caribou that were taken, were they taken by residents
5 in the hunt area or were they taken by -- I mean, is
6 that even a legitimate question to ask like where were
7 -- where were the successful hunters from?

8

9 MS. CELLARIUS: It was a combination.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It was a combination.
12 Okay. Thank you.

13

14 Judy.

15

16 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
17 think it's great you set up a phone line and I assume
18 by getting eight out of nine responses pretty quickly
19 that people were okay with it. So I think it's
20 terrific you found a way to hopefully make it work for
21 local people.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Barbara, I'm impressed
24 with it myself. I'm -- I wondered how it was going to
25 be handled, I wondered -- the fact that -- to me the
26 fact that only nine out of the 14 permits were used
27 shows that there was adequate opportunity, it's just
28 that like you said people recognize that this is a
29 pretty hard thing to take part in. And there's no way
30 you're going to make it any simpler, we can't ask the
31 caribou to move to where the people are. So people are
32 going to have to go to where the caribou are. And it's
33 just -- I think it looked like -- it looks to me like
34 it worked out pretty good, better than I expected.

35

36 Now out of the hunt I know a certain
37 amount of those caribou were allocated to Canada?

38

39 MS. CELLARIUS: So under the cooperative
40 management plan for the Chisana Herd was an
41 international effort it -- it stated that they felt
42 that a 2 percent harvest of the herd would be
43 sustainable and that that harvest quota would be
44 divided equally between the U.S. and Canada. So that
45 harvest quota of seven is the U.S. harvest quota. The
46 Canadians have to take some regulatory action before a
47 harvest can occur in Canada. And that has not happened
48 yet. So they -- I think they actually were having -- I
49 was contacted by someone in Canada and they were going
50 to have a meeting like last weekend or something where

1 they were sort of talking about what the steps were.
2 But at this point the harvest -- there's only a harvest
3 in the U.S., there's not a harvest in Canada, but the
4 Canadian quota is the Canadian quota and so we're
5 not.....

6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. That was my
8 next question was -- and does that quota then -- does
9 that quota then carryover -- does that quota carryover
10 until next year, does 10 percent of that quota
11 carryover to next year or does it all start over brand
12 new next year?

13
14 MS. CELLARIUS: I believe and I'm going
15 to look at Eric here, but I believe it's sort of
16 calculated annually and it starts over again annually.

17
18 MR. VEECH: That's correct.

19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. So the fact
21 they didn't take any this year doesn't give them access
22 to a higher percentage next year?

23
24 MS. CELLARIUS: No.

25
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Well, thank
27 you.

28
29 Gloria.

30
31 MS. STICKWAN: I was wondering what --
32 who were those people that asked you to be included,
33 what communities are they from? And I just wanted to
34 say I thought Wrangell-St. Elias worked really well
35 with the communities and I commend them for doing what
36 they did, went out of their way to work with villages
37 and so I want to say thank you.

38
39 MS. CELLARIUS: So the Nabesna came up
40 at our SRC meeting and there wasn't enough information
41 about Nabesna's use of this resource at that point in
42 time to include them in the 804 analysis. So that's
43 one of the communities. And that came up when I went
44 to one of the AC meetings. And then I was contacted by
45 a resident of the hunt area, but it's a remote sort of --
46 a person who sort of lives in an isolated spot, but
47 within the hunt area. And so those are the two
48 basically areas where I've offered to provide them with
49 some technical assistance and, you know, this is what
50 you need to do to put in a proposal. So you may see

1 some proposals in the wildlife cycle.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Gloria. Do
4 you have any other questions for them -- for her?

5

6 MS. STICKWAN: No.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Barbara --
9 does anybody got any other questions for Barbara?

10

11 MS. CELLARIUS: Well, I just wanted to
12 mention there's some other things in my report.....

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. I just wanted
15 to say for this I think you did a good job.

16

17 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you. Yeah, we
18 were actually quite pleased when -- you know, I really
19 wasn't quite sure how this was all going to turn out
20 and it actually worked out pretty well.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

23

24 MS. CELLARIUS: So I'm not going to
25 talk about a whole lot of what's in the rest of my
26 report, but I wanted you to know that -- what's there.
27 There was a new joint State/Federal permit for moose on
28 the Nabesna Road so there's some information about
29 that. The last page is an actual map of the hunt area.
30 I think there's -- you know, it's a new permit, it's
31 different from how it used to be so we had a few
32 hiccups in harvest reporting and permitting and that
33 kind of thing, but that's going to happen with a new
34 hunt.

35

36 There's a table at the back it's the
37 second to last page, is some information about the
38 permits that we've issued for Federal subsistence
39 registration permits. I don't have harvest numbers yet
40 for 2012, but it does give you the number of permits.
41 You'll see that there was an increase in interest in
42 the elder sheep permit. You'll remember that it used
43 to be a late season hunt, we now have both a late
44 season hunt and an early season hunt under that permit.
45 So it'll be -- I haven't seen the harvest information
46 yet, but that will be interesting.

47

48 I did want to mention monitoring of the
49 Mentasta Caribou Herd, that was another topic that was
50 addressed in your annual report or the Mentasta Herd

1 was addressed in your annual report. There's a copy of
2 the Executive Summary from the management plan for the
3 herd in your packet. And our wildlife biologist will
4 be coming to the spring meeting and giving you a more
5 detailed report on the Mentasta Herd, but what I did
6 want to mention is that we were able to put eight of
7 these new GPS radio collars out this fall in addition
8 to there's about radio collars, the sort of more
9 conventional radio collars where you have to go and fly
10 them. So we're getting some additional collars out and
11 so we'll be able to share the information from those
12 new collars with you at the spring meeting.

13

14 And I already talked a little bit about
15 the Copper Basin Community Harvest Assessment we've
16 been surveying. We've been doing this subsistence
17 surveys in some Copper Basin communities. The
18 Chistochina report is almost complete. So for your
19 next meeting I should be able to get you a summary of
20 that report and I'll have copies if anybody wants a
21 copy of the complete report.

22 And so this is a standard survey, I
23 mean, we have a few Park Service specific questions,
24 but it's -- we'll collect the same kind of information
25 that the Susitna-Watana dam surveys are collecting. So
26 they'll all be available for use in making decisions
27 about those kinds of projects.

28

29 And we did dedicate our first
30 campground this summer and so there's just a little
31 blurb about the campground dedications. I was involved
32 because we named the campground after a local person
33 and I worked with the Tribal Council in organizing the
34 dedication.

35

36 And I'll stop there.

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Barbara.
39 Any questions for Barbara?

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Barbara, sorry we put
44 you off until the last minute like that, but glad you
45 could be here and glad the Chisana Caribou thing worked
46 out with a lot less hiccups than I expected it to. I
47 thought we might have opened a can of worms. We have
48 enough controversy on everything that it's been a
49 nightmare, but it looks like it worked out pretty good.

50

1 Anyhow thank you, Barbara, for
2 everything and thank you for those Chisana Caribou Herd
3 Management thing.

4
5 With that I'm going to recess this
6 meeting unless anybody has an objection, until
7 tomorrow.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Does 8:30 sound
12 acceptable to everybody?

13
14 MR. ENCELEWSKI: 9:00 o'clock is a lot
15 easier.

16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Then 9:00
18 o'clock it is then.

19
20 (Off record)

21
22 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

