

1 SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5  
6  
7 VOLUME II

8  
9 Homer, Alaska  
10 October 16, 2012  
11 9:30 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 - 10/16/2012)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'd like to call this fall meeting of the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council back into session. And I see that I'm already late so we've got time to make up. So I'm looking forward to all these nice, short reports from all the.....

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. All these interesting reports.

If I remember right we finished the old business and we're on to the -- we're going to skip the new business and go to the agency reports so that we have that information to handle as we go through our new business. So with that we're going to go to number 12, Page 81, and we'll get an OSM report at this point in time.

Donald.

MR. MIKE: Who do we have on line today? Good morning, who do we have on line?

MR. CRAWFORD: Good morning. This is Drew Crawford with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Federal Subsistence Liaison Team in Anchorage.

MR. MIKE: Thank you, Drew. Anyone else?

(No comments)

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

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you for being there. We'll get you in order then.

Okay. OSM.

MR. FRIED: Good morning. For the record my name is Steve Fried, I'm a Fishery Biologist

1 with OSM in Anchorage and I'll provide some information  
2 on a few topics here this morning.

3  
4                   First one I see is the staffing update.  
5 We've had a lot of vacancies the last few years in OSM.  
6 I think we've had as many as 13 or 14. There's still  
7 several positions vacant and due to the budget  
8 situation probably won't fill -- be filled in the near  
9 -- near term anyway. But there's a list here, I think  
10 there's nine names. I don't know if you've met some or  
11 all of them, but there's a new Deputy Assistant  
12 Regional Director, Kathy O'Reilly-Doyle. We do have a  
13 new Native Liaison finally to replace Carl Jack, it's  
14 Jack Lorrigan from Southeast, you might know him when  
15 he worked for the Forest Service previously. Dr. David  
16 Jenkins who used to be in the Anthropology Division was  
17 hired as a new Policy Coordinator and that position  
18 used to be held by -- I think it was Gary Goldberg and  
19 also Larry Bucklis that held it in the past. We have a  
20 new State Subsistence Liaison, George Pappas, and I'm  
21 sure everybody knows he's just kind of moved over to  
22 the other side of the aisle and replaced Rod Campbell  
23 who retired. And we have, you know, some new Council  
24 Coordinators and new Fishery Biologist, Wildlife  
25 Biologist, Administrative Support. So, you know, we're  
26 a lot more staffed up than we were, you know, a year or  
27 two ago.

28  
29                   Next is the budget update. And we've  
30 been experiencing declining budgets since about 2001  
31 due to a lot of factors. We're not sure exactly what  
32 the next fiscal year, 2013 budget's going to look like,  
33 it might be further reduced. We do have restrictions  
34 on travel, I think that our -- it's a reduction from --  
35 I think they're basing the base year of 2010, and I'm  
36 not sure if it's a 20 percent or a 30 percent travel  
37 reduction from 2010. And, you know, just a reminder,  
38 these kind of reductions do make it necessary for all  
39 the Regional Councils to think about where they're  
40 holding meetings and trying to provide, you know, cost  
41 efficiencies. And, you know, we're going to continue  
42 to support the Council, that's probably one of the most  
43 important things I think that we do. And can't really  
44 say much about that now, they're still working on  
45 budgets and I think we're on a -- under a continuing  
46 resolution which is sort of the same budget for the  
47 next six months that we had the last year, but not  
48 quite. So there still could be a bunch of tweaks.

49  
50                   Next topic unless anybody has any

1 questions so far is the Council membership application  
2 and nomination update. OSM sent out over 1,500  
3 applications for Regional Advisory Council seats and  
4 they sent these to individuals and villages, tribal  
5 organizations, the ANCSA Corps, you know, various --  
6 tried to get a real wide spread of that. The period  
7 closed February 18th, 2012. We received 67  
8 applications and nominations. Some of the Councils we  
9 did receive a very low number of applications, Northern  
10 Regions, Seward Pen, Western Interior, Eastern  
11 Interior, Northwest Arctic, North Slope. In a couple  
12 of instances there are only enough applicants to submit  
13 names to fill vacancies. In another instance one  
14 Council still had a vacant seat because there weren't  
15 enough applications.

16  
17                   The Regional Nomination Panels met in  
18 April and May and they evaluated and ranked all the  
19 applicants for the regions and in June the Interagency  
20 Staff Committee met, considered the panel reports, they  
21 made recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board  
22 for appointments. In July -- on July 18, 2012 the  
23 Federal Subsistence Board met in an Executive Session  
24 and they voted on the applicants and these were  
25 forwarded to the Secretaries of Interior and  
26 Agricultural who need to make the appointments and  
27 they're supposed to issue appointment letters by early  
28 December. So pretty soon and until the letters are  
29 issued we can't really say anything about who the new  
30 Council members will be. So that's about where that is  
31 right now.

32  
33                   Next the rural determination process  
34 and method review. Beginning of this year in January,  
35 2012 at a public meeting the Federal Subsistence Board  
36 passed a motion and directed staff to begin a review of  
37 the rural determination process and rural determination  
38 findings through publication of a proposed rule. So  
39 what the Board wants to do is conduct a review of the  
40 rural determination process, the analytical methods  
41 that are used and the findings beginning right at the  
42 beginning with the public input process. And it's  
43 supposed to be a bottoms up process according to the  
44 Board, it's going to include public comment, tribal  
45 consultation, Regional Advisory Council  
46 recommendations. And OSM in conjunction with the  
47 Interagency Staff Committee already met and developed a  
48 tentative outline of the review and they tried to also  
49 develop a timeline for the review. And the first step  
50 will be public notice in the Federal Register and at

1 that point we'll ask for input from the public. And  
2 it's being drafted, it's going to be published in  
3 January, 2013. And in the winter of 2013 the Regional  
4 Advisory Council meetings are going to provide initial  
5 public forum for comment on the rural determination  
6 project and the methods used and the findings. And  
7 then the review with public, tribal and Council input  
8 might include the following topics. On Page 83 there's  
9 a bullet list, it, you know, will cover the rural  
10 definitions, population thresholds, rural  
11 characteristics, how communities are going to be  
12 aggregated and the information sources that are going  
13 to be used and any other kind of topics that might come  
14 up. And, you know, the final goal is to develop a  
15 process and make final determinations of rural status.  
16 And as you know some of those have been pretty  
17 controversial so hopefully this will make the process  
18 better.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And when is the hoped  
21 for completion date on that?

22  
23 MR. FRIED: That I'm not sure of. I  
24 would assume it would take at least a year.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

27  
28 MR. FRIED: Or two years.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, two years. Wow.  
31 Okay.

32  
33 MR. FRIED: Yeah, long process.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. But that'll  
36 give plenty of opportunity then for people to weigh in  
37 on it and.....

38  
39 MR. FRIED: Right.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: .....and chances to  
42 review. Will we -- will decisions be made and then the  
43 decisions be reviewed type thing?

44  
45 MR. FRIED: I'm assuming, yeah, that  
46 will happen, two years would -- you know, would give a  
47 lot of time to take a hard look.....

48  
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

50

1 MR. FRIED: .....at that. Any other  
2 questions that I might not need help answering or.....

3  
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

5  
6 MS. CAMINER: Thanks, Steve. I had a  
7 question on earlier. So as part of the Native  
8 Liaison's responsibility, will -- is that the person  
9 who would be briefing the Federal Board members on  
10 upcoming meetings and topics or kind of -- or on the  
11 Staff Committee as Carl used to be, I'm just wondering  
12 how the process is working these days?

13  
14 MR. FRIED: Yeah, I think his duties  
15 would be similar to Carl. He's also very involved in  
16 the Tribal Consultation.....

17  
18 MS. CAMINER: Uh-huh.

19  
20 MR. FRIED: .....and ANCSA Corporation  
21 process too. So yeah, we -- it's been a few years  
22 since we've had a Native Liaison.

23  
24 MS. CAMINER: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

25  
26 MS. STICKWAN: Is he going to be on the  
27 Interagency Committee?

28  
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria, will you say  
30 -- put your thing on.

31  
32 MS. STICKWAN: Is he going to be on the  
33 Interagency Committee?

34  
35 MR. FRIED: Yeah, he's on -- he's on  
36 the Interagency Committee.

37  
38 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair, I just like  
39 to add to what Dr. Fried said is that as you know we  
40 got two new Board members and what Jack Lorrigan will  
41 be, he'll be the Staff Committee Member for the Chair.  
42 The Staff Committee and OSM right now is working on how  
43 best to help staff the two new Board members. And what  
44 we have right now is Helen Armstrong directly works  
45 with Charlie and Tony. One of the potential options  
46 that we're looking at is to share the duties with one  
47 of the other agencies, maybe the Forest Service, in  
48 helping to keep those two new Board members up to speed  
49 on the issues.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Pete.  
2  
3 MS. CAMINER: And I guess one other  
4 question. So with David leaving and I know it's hard  
5 to tell with your budgets, but would you plan to fill  
6 behind him because he really had a -- seemed like he  
7 had a lot of workload before too. David Jenkins --  
8 with David Jenkins being promoted, I guess.  
9  
10 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. Judy, as far  
11 as -- because of our budget situation what I can share  
12 with you, everybody has access to the President's  
13 budget and the Office of Subsistence Management was  
14 slated for a \$2.8 million reduction. As Dr. Fried  
15 pointed out though, we're on a continuing resolution so  
16 that's good for OSM, but it's only for six months. It  
17 could be, I don't think it'll happen, but you could  
18 have a scenario where in January some of those  
19 President's budgets could be enacted or we could be on  
20 a continuing resolution. So what I've been doing  
21 purposefully is any vacancies I've elected not to fill  
22 because it's easier to handle any budget reductions  
23 with a vacancy versus as you know from your prior --  
24 it's easier to do it that way.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: What percentage is  
27 that, I mean, that's a pretty big percentage, isn't it?  
28  
29 MR. PROBASCO: 2.8 million, let's just  
30 run it up to 3 million. Dollars that come to the  
31 Service for the Federal Subsistence Program is just a  
32 little over 12 million. Keep in mind of that 12  
33 million a portion goes to Refuges and a portion goes to  
34 Fisheries. OSM has a little bit over 10.2 million.  
35 So.....  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So 30 percent.  
38  
39 MR. PROBASCO: Yeah.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's a pretty big  
42 reduction. Any other questions?  
43  
44 Gloria.  
45  
46 MS. STICKWAN: That means we'll have to  
47 have meetings in Anchorage or.....  
48  
49 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair, one thing  
50 about the Southcentral Council is compared to some of

1 the other Councils, Anchorage would be one location,  
2 but a location like Homer is definitely doable within  
3 our budget scenario. Where we get into difficulties is  
4 those areas within Southcentral that would require  
5 special charters and I would look at them pretty hard  
6 and it would be difficult under my current travel  
7 ceilings to justify something where I'd have to bring  
8 in special charters to get to those communities. So  
9 when you talk about your future meetings I ask you to  
10 keep that in mind, that you look at those communities  
11 where we can get there within reason.

12

13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Pete. It  
16 actually -- Southcentral does have an advantage over a  
17 lot of the rest of the State in that we're so road  
18 connected. I could imagine what kind of stress this  
19 must be if you're dealing with places where everybody  
20 has to get on an airplane and fly.

21

22 MR. PROBASCO: And that's true, Mr.  
23 Chair. And the thing that's really troublesome is that  
24 this program is mandated by ANILCA, Regional Advisory  
25 Councils are mandated by ANILCA. But within the  
26 Federal bureaucracy when it come -- O&B comes to travel  
27 ceilings, that's neutral. You would think that we  
28 would have a waiver dealing with Council travel, but I  
29 don't. So you fall under whatever scenario we get for  
30 this fiscal year, it'll be at least 20 percent, could  
31 be 30 percent.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Ready to go on?

34

35 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair, finally these  
36 briefings are written briefings and Dr. Fried did a  
37 great job. And the last one is our consultation  
38 policies as they deal with ANCSA and tribal  
39 governments. And that policy has been adopted. And  
40 what needs to be finalized is the implementation  
41 guidelines. Crystal Leonetti, the Fisheries Services  
42 Native Liaison is the lead on this. Her and her  
43 committee which consists of native liaisons from the  
44 other agencies and tribal representatives are working  
45 on the implementation guidelines as we speak. They  
46 haven't been finalized, but that would be the final  
47 product of this consultation policy.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So the policy is in  
50 place, but how to put it into practice is still being

1 worked on?

2

3 MR. PROBASCO: That's correct. I mean,  
4 how we will finalize it. We are in an implementation  
5 process now and everybody's aware of it. We have  
6 specific meetings slash teleconferences where we have  
7 sent notices to the tribes and the corporations for  
8 this slate of proposals and issues before the Regional  
9 Councils. They have an opportunity at the Council  
10 meetings and they'll have another opportunity before  
11 the Federal Board.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Pete.

14

15 MR. FRIED: Yeah, in the book on Page  
16 91, there's the interim implementation guidelines.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Interim.

19

20 MR. FRIED: So if anybody's interested,  
21 yeah.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Any questions?

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Have you got any more  
28 for us?

29

30 MR. PROBASCO: That's it at this time,  
31 Mr. Chair.

32

33 MR. FRIED: Well, thanks very much and  
34 that's it.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you very much  
37 for the briefing.

38

39 Chugach National Forest, have we got a  
40 briefing from them? Good.

41

42 MR. BURCHAM: Thank you, Chair and  
43 Council. Milo Burcham, Subsistence Biologist for the  
44 Chugach Forest.

45

46 MS. DEMICO: Ruth Demico, Chugach  
47 National Forest Subsistence on the Kenai Peninsula.

48

49 MR. BURCHAM: Anyway we'll try to keep  
50 this quick, but there's some interesting information I

1 have from the Cordova area and I'll let her report on  
2 what's going on on the Kenai for you guys.

3

4                   To sum up a lot of what's going on on  
5 the Cordova side, you can just mention the weather, 30  
6 feet of snow last winter, 10, 11 feet on the ground at  
7 one time in Cordova. I'm sure Chenega Bay was similar.  
8 That had a huge impact on wildlife. And just this fall  
9 Cordova had 52 inches of rain in one month. And that  
10 has had an affect on people getting out and access to  
11 fish and things like that. So it's been an incredible  
12 record setting year. I haven't been there as long as  
13 many have and I, you know, rely on testimony of people  
14 like Ralph and others in the community that have lived  
15 there much longer and even they say this is off the  
16 charts. So it's no surprise that this would have some  
17 impact on wildlife.

18

19                   The first species I'll talk about is  
20 moose. And amazingly they skated through the winter  
21 with little impact and that was a real surprise. And I  
22 was working with the State biologist when we were  
23 setting the quota this year and I was real skeptical  
24 that we weren't going to get winterkill, but it appears  
25 there was very little. I think the conditions of the  
26 snow and the snow pack allowed moose to stay on top  
27 even though there were some periods where they were  
28 floundering, you know, there were reports early on of  
29 moose not even able to get off the road and such. But  
30 things set up and apparently there wasn't much  
31 winterkill. Our population objective where the  
32 subsistence hunt is on the West Copper River Delta is  
33 400 moose. A winter survey this year estimated the  
34 population at over 600 or right around 600 so we're  
35 over objective which is a good thing. And then I  
36 continued to be concerned about mortality in the  
37 winter, but in April Fish and Game had money to collar  
38 some moose and look at calf survival and they captured  
39 30 cows, put radio collars on them and in that process,  
40 in flying a lot of the West Copper River Delta, I think  
41 he saw one carcass and that was in April. And then  
42 they monitored those 30 cows later in the spring and  
43 saw not record or real high calf crop, but they saw a  
44 decent calf crop and a decent survival of calves from  
45 the previous year. So we had many indicators, not just  
46 one or so, that survival was good.

47

48                   And for that reason we issued a  
49 relatively high number of cow tags, 40 cow permits and  
50 that's all in the Federal subsistence hunt. And there

1 was 28 bull tags and 21 of those are in the subsistence  
2 hunt. There's still some, 25 percent, that are left in  
3 State management. So in the Federal subsistence random  
4 drawing that I perform, there were 61 permits, had 600  
5 applicants which is a low number in recent years to  
6 have just 600 people put in, part of that might be  
7 because we have a winter drawing period now, not a  
8 summer which might or my hope is that we're getting at  
9 Cordova's, you know, true year round population, kind  
10 of like what we were talking about a little bit ago,  
11 Andy.

12  
13 So anyway that hunt is ongoing right  
14 now, we've had roughly 35 or so moose harvested so far.  
15 It's typically close to 100 percent success rate on  
16 this hunt. The West Copper River Delta is fairly  
17 accessible with airboats, many residents have airplanes  
18 and they just -- it's just -- people in Cordova are  
19 fairly efficient, especially on that west delta because  
20 it's kind of home ground and so accessible. So an  
21 issue tags usually results in a moose. It's real close  
22 to 100 percent, there's various reasons why a person or  
23 two might not get a moose, but generally if they put in  
24 effort they will get one.

25  
26 And there was an interesting -- I  
27 hesitate to even mention it, but I will quickly, an  
28 interesting scenario that happened with three permit  
29 recipients this year who had also registered for the  
30 Unit 566 Caribou Tier I Permits. Apparently when you  
31 register for that permit, the State permit, you sign  
32 something that says you will not hunt moose anywhere  
33 outside -- you or your -- anyone in your household will  
34 not hunt moose anywhere outside Unit 13. And three  
35 people had a -- had got drawn -- who had that tag got  
36 drawn in our drawing and at the time they didn't know  
37 that they would even get this subsistence permits, it's  
38 relatively low odds or 10 percent odd of getting this  
39 Federal permit, and some of them were misled and  
40 thought that the Federal subsistence hunt didn't count  
41 as a moose hunt in the State drawing and there was some  
42 information that the State was giving out to that  
43 effect. And some -- actually one of the people who was  
44 drawn and involved in this was a trooper. And he did  
45 some initial research and got some indication that it  
46 was possible that this Federal hunt didn't count and  
47 that you might still be able to hunt moose. Well,  
48 right before the season started some pretty firm word  
49 came down that they would not be able to hunt their  
50 moose and then some conflicting -- it was a real soap

1 opera for a little while, finally people -- and this  
2 was -- didn't involve us so much, they weren't breaking  
3 any Federal regulation, finally the State got together,  
4 had a little meeting and developed an opportunity for  
5 these people to sign a waiver and turn in their Tier I  
6 Caribou Permit which is not normal in State regulation  
7 that you return a permit that you registered for.  
8 That's how they got out of this and they were able to  
9 hunt their moose which they would have rather done, you  
10 know, in the first place. The State will probably  
11 clean up their language and be better about their  
12 information that they give out to the public in the  
13 future, and it probably will include Federal moose  
14 permits and we'll just have to watch that and I'll  
15 probably warn people when they apply for this to make  
16 sure that they understand that if they have put in for  
17 that registration or that Tier I Caribou Permit that  
18 they don't apply for this moose. And.....

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So they won't even be  
21 able to apply.....

22

23 MR. BURCHAM: Well, no, they can apply,  
24 they just can't hunt if they get the permit.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If they get the  
27 permit. Now do we have anything in place that if they  
28 get the permit -- we want X amount of permits for the  
29 subsistence hunt, if they get the permit and they're  
30 not qualified can they turn it back in so you can get  
31 to the next drawing, to the next person on line?

32

33 MR. BURCHAM: No. Oh, on the Federal  
34 side?

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: On the Federal side.  
37 I mean, if you wanted to issue let's say 68  
38 permits.....

39

40 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: .....and three of them  
43 turn out to be invalid.....

44

45 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: .....can they then be  
48 passed on to the next three people in the drawing?

49

50 MR. BURCHAM: Generally the number of

1 people that have been involved for that and other  
2 reasons of why they couldn't hunt are such a small  
3 number that I don't reissue the tags.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

6  
7 MR. BURCHAM: Just personally I  
8 consider it money in the bank and, you know, leave  
9 those permits unfilled. I could go to something like  
10 that and issue those if.....

11  
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You could have  
13 alternates.....

14  
15 MR. BURCHAM: I could have alternates.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: .....a list of  
18 alternates?

19  
20 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah. Yeah.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Or standbys I guess is  
23 what you'd call it.....

24  
25 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah. Yeah.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: .....you know.

28  
29 MR. BURCHAM: So anyway that will be  
30 interesting to watch next year, it'll be cleaned up by  
31 this time next year and I think people will be more  
32 aware of it. And Cordova residents can put in for a  
33 draw caribou permit in the same area, they're not  
34 guaranteed to get it although I think with the high  
35 caribou population their chances are very good or  
36 guaranteed at the moment or at least this year they  
37 were. But so Cordova residents can put in for a  
38 caribou permit, but probably should not be putting in  
39 for that guaranteed Tier I Permit if they want to apply  
40 for Cordova moose. So that was an interesting scenario  
41 to see that play out this year.

42  
43 The next species I want to talk about  
44 is deer. Yeah, any questions?

45  
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, I'd like to add  
47 something on your moose thing where you were talking  
48 about the success rate. The one thing that happens in  
49 Cordova is if you have a permit everybody knows that  
50 you have a permit. And if -- with cells phones and

1 everything you can be sitting at your house and  
2 somebody will call and say there's a moose right off  
3 the road at 10 and a half mile, get out there right  
4 now, you know, type thing. And, I mean, the community  
5 works together to get these moose, I mean, you -- you  
6 don't have to have somebody flying and you don't have  
7 to have an airboat, you can be sitting right at home  
8 and somebody will say there's a moose at nine and a  
9 half mile right now, get out there, you know. And I  
10 know that that's -- that's worked in the past.

11  
12 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah, and it's a very  
13 popular program and it has a lot of success stories. I  
14 guess I could illustrate what Ralph just said with a  
15 neat story. One 14 or 15 year old girl got drawn last  
16 year and I was kind of under the impression she was  
17 kind of forced into this and maybe wasn't enjoying the  
18 hunting. They hunted like 50 days last year and never  
19 got a moose, she just never had that perfect  
20 opportunity to hunt. And I was thinking oh, man, she  
21 must have dreaded this. Well, apparently she didn't,  
22 she really enjoyed the experience and just was --  
23 really wanted, you know, that perfect opportunity and  
24 it just never quite happened to her. Well, as luck has  
25 it she got drawn again this year and that's where I  
26 found out that she enjoyed it and was very excited to  
27 get this second opportunity. And she got that phone  
28 call after having been out already 20 days or whatever,  
29 she got that phone call that there was a moose at 10  
30 and a half mile -- maybe it was 11, and she drove out  
31 the road and got out to where the moose was and got her  
32 moose and there was even a little feature about it in  
33 the local paper.

34  
35 So it gives Cordovans an opportunity  
36 that wouldn't be nearly so common, this Federal  
37 subsistence hunt for moose in Cordova gives Cordovans  
38 this opportunity to pass on this tradition and get meat  
39 that they wouldn't have if this was all in the State  
40 drawing. As the drawing has shown in recent years many  
41 of these are going outside of Cordova and the State  
42 permits are and by guaranteeing Cordova residents this  
43 opportunity there's a lot of, you know, very grateful  
44 people and a lot of meat that makes it to the community  
45 that might not. So anyway I think it's been a great  
46 success.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And it's very  
49 educational because nobody ever gets a moose that  
50 doesn't have help from every other community member

1 that comes by at the same time.  
2  
3 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I mean, I've seen bull  
6 moose, big bull moose, picked up and put in the back of  
7 a pickup truck because there was that many people  
8 standing there to do it that they just literally picked  
9 the bull moose up, set it in the back of the pickup  
10 truck.  
11  
12 Doug.  
13  
14 MR. BLOSSOM: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Yeah, I  
15 -- it's interesting you didn't have any calf mortality  
16 then, it was pretty good with that collared thing?  
17  
18 MR. BURCHAM: So the calf mortality  
19 would have been from the previous year's calves  
20 surviving the winter?  
21  
22 MR. BLOSSOM: The ones you collared  
23 you.....  
24  
25 MR. BURCHAM: .....or the ones that  
26 Fish and Game collared?  
27  
28 MR. BLOSSOM: Yeah.  
29  
30 MR. BURCHAM: I don't have that data.  
31 I wouldn't say there was no calf mortality.....  
32  
33 MR. BLOSSOM: Oh, because.....  
34  
35 MR. BURCHAM: .....but there was pretty  
36 decent -- there was decent survival of those calves.  
37  
38 MR. BLOSSOM: Because in our area  
39 already they've got over 40 percent of those calves  
40 were killed by brown bear alone.  
41  
42 MR. BURCHAM: Uh-huh. And we would  
43 have some of that.  
44  
45 MR. BLOSSOM: They collared 50 in our  
46 area too, you know.  
47  
48 MR. BURCHAM: Uh-huh.  
49  
50 MR. BLOSSOM: So it.....

1 MR. BURCHAM: So of the cows that were  
2 collared, the calves that they have, they lost 40  
3 percent or something?

4  
5 MR. BLOSSOM: At least 40 percent just  
6 by brown bears.....

7  
8 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah.

9  
10 MR. BLOSSOM: .....is what I got the  
11 report the other night from Fish and Game.

12  
13 MR. BURCHAM: And there's a similar  
14 thing going on, you know, we definitely have brown bear  
15 predation of moose calves on the Cooper River Delta and  
16 even the West Delta.....

17  
18 MR. BLOSSOM: Right.

19  
20 MR. BURCHAM: .....but there was okay  
21 survival as well.

22  
23 With deer, the next species I wanted to  
24 talk about, things aren't quite as good. Those deep  
25 snows caused significant mortality in the deer  
26 population. We help Fish and Game do moose -- oh, I'm  
27 sorry, deer pellet transits in the spring and Dave  
28 Crowley the State Biologist after looking at the data  
29 that we collected this year, estimated 50 percent  
30 mortality in the Prince William Sound Deer Herd, maybe  
31 as great as 70 percent in the Western Prince William  
32 Sound. Andy has backed that up with his observations  
33 so far this fall. And so anyway deer numbers appear to  
34 be down. Right now in initial or in earlier  
35 discussions with the State there wasn't any plans to  
36 change the season. I've had several people come to me  
37 with concerns and I know he must be having the same.  
38 And in some discussions with Steve Kessler on the way  
39 down here, we just kind of opened up a few scenarios.  
40 Anyway the -- you could be seeing me come to you guys  
41 for a similar delegated authority like we asked for  
42 with the -- for the moose on the Kenai Peninsula. And  
43 the reason for that is if the State does decide they  
44 want to close the season it would have no affect on  
45 residents in Cordova because we qualify for deer  
46 hunting in Prince William Sound with a bag limit of  
47 four. The State bag limit is five. So anyway all  
48 Cordova residents would basically have no -- it would  
49 have -- a State closure would have very little affect  
50 on Prince William Sound residents. And if there's a

1 need to conserve deer further it would be nice rather  
2 than try to contact the Board and go through a special  
3 action to have that delegated authority on the district  
4 level with our District Ranger to adjust -- close does  
5 or reduce the bag limit or something to that effect.  
6 And there are members in the public who are asking for  
7 things like that right now. If the snow starts coming  
8 like it did last year and there's indications that this  
9 is early onset winter, they could be very vulnerable  
10 early on again, you know, what remaining deer are out  
11 there.

12

13                   So we'll be discussing that a little  
14 bit further and don't be surprised if you see me  
15 consulting with you and asking your thoughts on a  
16 delegated authority for deer.

17

18                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

19

20                   MS. CAMINER: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Just  
21 generally what's the distribution of deer?

22

23                   MR. BURCHAM: They're on islands in  
24 Prince William Sound, the large islands, Hawkins,  
25 Hinchinbrook and Montague, have the larger populations  
26 and are most popular for hunting. Cordova -- the  
27 population of Cordova hunts mostly on Hawkins Island  
28 and on Hinchinbrook and there's a very high harvest,  
29 it's thousands of deer that Cordova residents alone get  
30 off of Hawkins Island. I've seen the number, I think  
31 it's a couple thousand deer which always surprises me  
32 how productive that deer population is. And then  
33 there's also hunters that come out of Valdez and  
34 Whittier, maybe some small number fly out of Anchorage  
35 to beaches on Montague, but they hunt other islands  
36 like Nine Island and Naked Island and places like that  
37 that also have deer populations. Tatitlek and Chenega  
38 also are hunting deer in Prince William Sound. But  
39 it's generally a very productive population, very --  
40 relatively easy access to red meat and it's important  
41 to a lot of people, these moose permits, you know, only  
42 go so far. So anyway there's some things going on  
43 there with the population.

44

45                   And with salmon we have a relatively  
46 small, freshwater subsistence fishery for salmon on the  
47 Copper River Delta. This year I issued 63 permits.  
48 Our -- the number of permits issued and the harvest  
49 from those with the permits has increased in the last  
50 two years, last year and this year. There's a segment

1 of the population in Cordova that's I think become  
2 aware of this and anyway they're aware of their  
3 opportunity to catch salmon under these regulations.  
4 Most of the catch is coho and the Federal regulations  
5 allow a larger bag limit than the State sport limit and  
6 that's what we're seeing people doing is -- mostly with  
7 this permit is keep coho from the freshwater streams on  
8 the Copper River Delta, not the Copper River proper.

9  
10                   And I think that's all that I had.  
11 I'll turn this over to Ruth who will talk about the  
12 Kenai and then the Forest Service proposed projects.

13  
14                   MS. DEMICO: Good morning. So this  
15 year we had on the Kenai Peninsula the community of  
16 Hope had requested a special action request to open an  
17 area up Palmer Creek, it was the Resurrection Creek  
18 closed area. It was opened under a State action in  
19 2011. It remained closed in 2011 under Federal due to  
20 the community's desire to have that area remain closed  
21 all together. And I believe they're trying with the  
22 State to still have it closed all together as it goes,  
23 but this year they were successful in getting that  
24 opened under a Federal hunt. So this year under the  
25 moose hunt we had a total of 51 permits that were  
26 issued for Unit 7, 31 of those permits were issued to  
27 the community of Cooper Landing, 20 out of the  
28 community of Hope. And again only one moose was  
29 harvested under those regulations and it was a spike  
30 fork. So we never had to request a closure.

31  
32                   And then the other hunt that occurs in  
33 Unit 7 is for the community of Hope which is for  
34 caribou and that is open still, it closes December  
35 31st. And that has a quota of five and so far this  
36 year two have been harvested out of 19 permits that  
37 have been issued. So we still have a ways to go and  
38 hopefully we'll have some more successful hunters.

39  
40                   And I believe Mr. Palmer with Fish and  
41 Wildlife will discuss the fishery more, but out of  
42 Cooper Landing we had 75 permits issued for the dip net  
43 fishery on the Russian River and the community of Hope  
44 had 29. And they've had some pretty good success even  
45 with high water this year.

46  
47                   So it was a very different year for  
48 most folks. They were excited to have the spike fork  
49 opened under moose.

50

1                   And that's all I have on that.

2

3                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do you have any  
4 indication out of that 51 permits how many people  
5 hunted?

6

7                   MS. DEMICO: I've gotten I think as of  
8 this week all but 11 permits back and it was about half  
9 of them had hunted.

10

11                  CHAIRMAN LOHSE: About half of them had  
12 hunted.

13

14                  MS. DEMICO: Uh-huh. And I did have  
15 one gentleman who did write on his permit that he did  
16 not see any moose in the area that he hunted, he mainly  
17 saw wolves. So we do know we have that issued.

18

19                  CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

20

21                  MS. DEMICO: And then the other thing  
22 that I've provided for everyone and there's more copies  
23 on the table in the back for anyone else who would like  
24 is a copy of the Schedule of Proposed Actions through  
25 the Chugach National Forest. And I did not -- this is  
26 not an extensive list, I pulled out those that might  
27 have some interest to subsistence users such as the  
28 Copper River Delta reed canary grass project. I don't  
29 know a lot about all of these projects, but just  
30 reading a little bit that there might be some use of  
31 herbicides so there will be comments that can come in  
32 from the public. I know at the meeting we had in March  
33 Milo discussed the Eyak boat launch project and that  
34 reconstruction project. There's an Ibek Creek ATV  
35 trail reroute that's also working and I don't know if  
36 that's something -- I know he's gone out to look at  
37 some areas of concern to make sure that everything  
38 there was not restricting access. There's a Knowles  
39 Creek or a Knowles head bridge removal project. Some  
40 back country campsite restorations and hardenings,  
41 other campground reconstruction projects. The one I am  
42 on the Kenai Peninsula is this devils vegetation  
43 project in which they are going in and trying to thin  
44 out some of the dead and dying spruce and regenerate  
45 some habitat for moose since that is one of the things  
46 that they've noticed, we are losing some forage so  
47 they're trying to regenerate some of the moose habitat  
48 in the area. And that's along the -- that's within the  
49 Quartz Creek watershed area. And then the Resurrection  
50 Creek restoration for increasing salmonid spawning and

1 rearing habitat. There was one project that occurred  
2 approximately five years ago, this would be phase two  
3 which is a lower portion of that river or that creek  
4 system. And we're still working through some issues  
5 with some of the mining that's going on in the area and  
6 the Hope Mining Company. So hopefully that will move  
7 forward here in the future. And I've provided the link  
8 of where these can be located so that you can go and do  
9 some further -- look and see what we've got going on  
10 and contact information of those that are in charge of  
11 the projects.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Just one  
16 question, in this day and age where we're seeing the  
17 impact of all the chemicals that we use, it's kind of  
18 interesting to me that the Forest Service would even  
19 think of using a herbicide. I just -- especially if it  
20 has a possibility of washing into salmon or any kind of  
21 fish streams simply because of the accumulation in the  
22 fatty tissues of the fish and things like that. I  
23 would -- personally I would object to it simply because  
24 of the fact that we're getting so much impact from it  
25 in so many places that the thought of adding it to  
26 anything that would affect our fish and Alaska's  
27 reputation for fish just seems to me like it would be  
28 out of the question.

29

30 Milo.

31

32 MR. BURCHAM: I value your input in  
33 that and, in fact, encourage you even as a Council to  
34 send a letter, you know, about this project. The  
35 Forest Service doesn't take using herbicides lightly.  
36 This reed canary grass is an invasive plant that has  
37 shown up in Cordova. I've seen in it Tatitlek on a  
38 quick visit to Tatitlek, I don't know if Chenega has it  
39 or not. But anyway it's a grass that can move into  
40 wetlands and actually just sort of choke out wetlands  
41 and we know how valuable the Copper River Delta is.  
42 It's been mostly confined to the road system, there  
43 around four -- between three and five mile, you might  
44 notice tarp along the road. For about four or five  
45 years now they've been trying to hand pull it and  
46 control it manually, it's a very difficult invasive  
47 plant to control, you know, once it gets established.  
48 But anyway just recently it's been discovered at One  
49 Eye Pond and half an acre or so of it growing out into  
50 the wetland proper. And it's something that's very

1 diff -- it's in a place that's very difficult to  
2 control manually and that's why -- you know,  
3 recognizing the chance for it to spread rapidly, we've  
4 entertained the idea of using a herbicide to try to get  
5 rid of it. I believe the fisheries biologist on the  
6 District has written up a biological evaluation of it.  
7 I haven't read that yet and I will be writing a  
8 biological evaluation to wildlife in the near future.  
9 Anyway public input or input from the RAC will be  
10 considered in this, it's not a done deal.

11  
12 And anyway there's -- it's difficult to  
13 control invasives anyway and sometimes herbicides can  
14 be the most effective, but we recognize, you know, the  
15 possible side effects from things like that and we  
16 don't take them lightly. It's not just fish, it's  
17 amphibians which are sensitive to things like that and  
18 who know where else in the food chain these things show  
19 up.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, but One Eye Pond  
22 is right on that 19 mile system which is a major salmon  
23 and we've even.....

24  
25 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah, we realize that.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: .....even had  
28 steelhead show up in there and cutthroat trout. And,  
29 you know, you -- we know where the canary grass comes  
30 from, it comes from the DOT. I harvested canary grass  
31 in Canada when I was -- not Canada, in Wisconsin, when  
32 I was 15 years old because the highway departments  
33 bought canary grass seed to plant in their mix that  
34 they use alongside the highways because of the fact it  
35 does grow, it does make a big root system, it does hold  
36 the ground. And most of our invasive species in Alaska  
37 come from the DOT. I mean, you look at what's being  
38 sprayed alongside the roads, you know, when that grass  
39 seed and fertilizer mixture that they put there, they  
40 can't keep the invasive species out of that. But if  
41 you put herbicide there that's going to be right in the  
42 19 mile system which is one of the more productive  
43 cutthroat system on the Copper River Flats for lack of  
44 a better way of putting it.

45  
46 MR. BURCHAM: I don't know all the  
47 details, I know the herbicide they've looked at is, you  
48 know, on paper, supposed to be fairly safe to use  
49 around wetlands. But I again encourage you to write a  
50 letter as a Council and express your concern and it

1 will be -- it will carry more weight than a letter from  
2 an individual and that's it from a Subsistence Council  
3 I think is important. I'd recommend you do that.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, maybe the rest  
6 of the Council doesn't feel that way.

7  
8 Doug.

9  
10 MR. BLOSSOM: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Yeah,  
11 40 years ago that was in our pasture grass, when you  
12 ordered grass seed to plant it was in it.

13  
14 My question is you said you had this  
15 special area opened up for moose hunting that wasn't  
16 normally open. And then I hear that some people don't  
17 even see a moose in there. Why was it opened if it was  
18 not productive to start with?

19  
20 MS. DEMICO: That area up in Hope is up  
21 along the Palmer Creek area. And I know that they do  
22 see moose in the area. A lot of the community of Hope  
23 doesn't want to hunt it because they think it's an  
24 important conservation area for breeding. So they  
25 wanted it open mainly to get in there before any State  
26 hunters so that they could take first. But the  
27 gentleman who was hunting that didn't see any moose was  
28 in another area on -- within Unit 7. But it -- you  
29 know, we don't -- unfortunately Fish and Game does not  
30 fly the area every year so we don't have a good idea of  
31 what's going on with the moose in Unit 7 other than  
32 with the closure order to spike fork under the State  
33 regulation they noticed a small increase in the number  
34 of bulls in Unit 15, but not in Unit 7. But it could  
35 be when they're doing their flyover counts the moose  
36 that they're counting in 7 or were in 7 are not in 15.  
37 So there's no -- we don't really have a good data set  
38 to base it on.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions  
41 for the Forest Service?

42  
43 (No comments)

44  
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

46  
47 MR. BURCHAM: Thank you.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Let's go to the  
50 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

1 MR. PALMER: Good morning, Mr. Chair,  
2 Council Members. My name is Doug Palmer. I supervise  
3 the Kenai Fish and Wildlife Field Office and as part of  
4 my duties I am the Federal Manager for the Cook Inlet  
5 area. I handed out a one page summary to each of you  
6 earlier this morning that kind of provides a synopsis  
7 of the Federal subsistence fishery on the Kenai this  
8 past year. Keep in mind that these numbers aren't  
9 final because we still have harvest reports that are  
10 coming in the mail. They're pretty accurate, but I  
11 anticipate that these numbers will go up a little bit.

12  
13 Ruth already provided some indication  
14 of the number of permits. Overall we issued 133  
15 permits. You can see the Table 1 provides a breakdown  
16 by community. About 90 percent of those permits were  
17 issued to the Kenai River and 10 percent of the permits  
18 to the Kasilof River. And then the breakdown by  
19 community. Just over half the permits were issued to  
20 residents of Cooper Landing.

21  
22 As far as harvest goes, this was a --  
23 probably the best year we've had for subsistence  
24 harvest was 2008 and this marks -- this level of  
25 harvest, this 1,254 total fish harvested, is the second  
26 highest harvest that we've seen since we've had a  
27 fishery. You know, the lion's share of those fish, 92  
28 percent, come out of the Russian River Falls Dip Net  
29 fishery, very popular with the residents of Cooper  
30 Landing and Hope. We had 56 households participate in  
31 that this year. We didn't have any harvest reported  
32 for any species other than sockeye. We heard some  
33 discussion yesterday of the fish wheel on the Kasilof  
34 River.

35  
36 So in addition to the synopsis here we  
37 had five different special actions that occurred, you  
38 know, they will not be -- that's not summarized here on  
39 your sheet, but I just want to provide a brief overview  
40 of what those were. The first one was actually as you  
41 might have remembered the fish wheel fishery on the  
42 Kasilof River actually was a temporary fishery which  
43 expired at the end of 2011. So my first special action  
44 was to issue a 60 day action that would allow residents  
45 of Ninilchik to operate that fish wheel for up to 60  
46 days during the 2012 calendar year. So they did -- my  
47 special action cannot exceed 60 days so that's why it  
48 was a 60 day period. And the chinook return to Cook  
49 Inlet like many areas of the State was way below  
50 average and so for conservation issues the -- there

1 were a lot of conservation issues concerning chinook  
2 salmon in the Kenai and Kasilof and the remaining four  
3 special actions dealt with that conservation concern.  
4 I can go into details if anybody has questions about  
5 that, but we used a step down approach with our  
6 management. Typically we reduce harvest and with some  
7 restriction to terminal gear before we will close the  
8 fishery.

9

10 I'll entertain any questions. I know  
11 Greg's probably got some.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Greg.

14

15 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I just have a  
16 couple questions through the Chair here. Doug, I would  
17 kind of like you to just kind of briefly tell us those  
18 four actions if you would and a timeline of them if you  
19 could.

20

21 MR. PALMER: I just happen to have them  
22 right here.

23

24 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank you.

25

26 MR. PALMER: We already talked about  
27 the fish wheel so that's taken care of. It was pretty  
28 obvious by the middle of June that the abundance of  
29 chinook was very low. The first action took place in  
30 mid June, was effective June 15th and typically like I  
31 say it's a step down action. And so when the sport  
32 fishery goes to catch and release we reduce our bag  
33 limit and restrict terminal gear. So we allow harvest  
34 of one chinook and two for the season and we take bait  
35 away from subsistence anglers.

36

37 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

38

39 MR. PALMER: The slot limit. I'm not  
40 sure how many of you are familiar with the Kenai River,  
41 there's early run and then a late run. The early run,  
42 there's some concerns with older age class fish and so  
43 there's a slot limit that applies to both the sport and  
44 the subsistence fishery where fish between 46 and 55  
45 inches or longer -- between 46 and 55 are -- have to be  
46 released. So that was the first action in mid June.

47

48 That takes us into mid -- oh, that  
49 takes us about a week later, June 22, it -- the return  
50 still was not shaping up, very low abundance so both

1 the sport fishery and the subsistence fishery were  
2 closed. Okay. That began June 22nd and that took us  
3 through July 14th. When this special action expired on  
4 June 14th the second run of chinook is during --  
5 returns -- the State manages the second run beginning  
6 July 1st on the Kenai River. The interesting thing  
7 about the subsistence fishery is that it's above  
8 Soldotna. There's a couple sections of river there,  
9 Mile 45 and a half to Skilak Lake and then down in a  
10 section of the river called Moose Range Meadows.  
11 That's -- those are the only two areas that qualified  
12 users can fish under Federal regulations. So come July  
13 16th I had to issue -- it was eminent that the State  
14 fishery was going to close, I had to do something to  
15 address the conservation concerns for chinook so I  
16 issued another special action to close Federal public  
17 waters in the Kenai River to subsistence fishing. Now  
18 that was about two or three days prior to the State  
19 action. And we knew it was coming so rather than to  
20 use a step down approach I just went ahead and closed  
21 it to chinook salmon and the State action followed  
22 three days later. The important thing to note with  
23 this action is that all the harvest that I've seen to  
24 date suggests that there's very little if any  
25 participation in this fishery by qualified residents,  
26 rural residents. So I don't think the impact was that  
27 great, it was a two or three day window where we were  
28 closed, the State was operating under catch and release  
29 regulations.

30  
31 Downstream of Soldotna, that's where  
32 the early and late run scenario comes in to play  
33 because during the first half of July those waters  
34 above Soldotna are managed -- because early run fish  
35 are still transiting through those areas to spawning  
36 grounds so that -- the area where the -- where our  
37 fishery occurs was still closed under State  
38 regulations. Okay. The only area that was open to  
39 harvest or retention was below Soldotna outside of the  
40 Federal area. So I know this may sound confusing to  
41 everybody, but it's a highly intensified -- it's  
42 managed intensively, let's put it that way, lots of  
43 regulations and rules.

44  
45 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Very structured  
46 fishery.

47  
48 MR. PALMER: Yes.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mary Ann.

1 MS. MILLS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If  
2 the subsistence fisheries are supposed to be the last  
3 ones closed or why were they closed the same time that  
4 the other fisheries were closed and not after?

5 MR. PALMER: Primarily because we had a  
6 special action that was expiring and we had to do  
7 something. And in reality what happened is there was a  
8 day or two there where we resorted to normal  
9 regulations. So it would be two fish allowed, bait,  
10 treble hooks, for one or two days there before we  
11 closed the fishery just because of the timing of  
12 things. And then two late -- two days later the State  
13 fishery closed. They weren't forced to take any action  
14 because they didn't have a special action or emergency  
15 order that was going to expire.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And the area that you  
18 closed was already closed under State regulations,  
19 wasn't it?

20  
21 MR. PALMER: That's correct.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I mean.....

24  
25 MR. PALMER: Above Soldotna.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right. Because you  
28 didn't have a fishery below Soldotna?

29  
30 MR. PALMER: Not a Federal fishery, no.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So the area --  
33 so the area you closed was already closed, but there  
34 was a lower area that was still open.....

35  
36 MR. PALMER: Below.....

37  
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: .....for three days?

39  
40 MR. PALMER: .....below Soldotna,  
41 correct.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Andy.

44  
45 MR. McLAUGHLIN: Yeah, through the  
46 Chair. There was a point in time where the subsistence  
47 fishery people were allowed to catch and retain fish,  
48 but you closed to bait. Why would you make it harder  
49 for them to get the fish that they wanted?

50

1 MR. PALMER: There was one day -- let  
2 me back up here, on the -- on the timeline here. Our  
3 initial -- one of our earlier special actions had  
4 closed the fishery in late June. Okay. And that  
5 expired on July 14th. Okay. The next special action  
6 really didn't take effect until July 16th. So on one  
7 day, July 15th, the regulations resort [sic] to the  
8 normal regulation which allows harvest of two fish,  
9 multiple hooks and bait. So and the whole reason that  
10 happened is because I had to allow enough time for the  
11 special action to take effect, I can't just issue it  
12 and have it take effect immediately. It has -- I have  
13 to send out the news release to media so that people  
14 are informed prior to the special action taking effect.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I also think what Andy  
17 was asking is, you know, on your initial special action  
18 you cut the limit down to one chinook, but you put no  
19 bait which made it harder for subsistence  
20 fishermen.....

21  
22 UNIDENTIFIED MALE VOICE: That -- that  
23 goes to the end of June one.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The end of June one,  
26 the mid June one.

27  
28 MR. PALMER: Oh, that one there, okay,  
29 I'm -- I was confused of which one.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's what I think he  
32 was saying.

33  
34 MR. PALMER: Okay. Yeah, that's  
35 normally the way we go. The State goes to catch and  
36 release, we still allow retention of fish. But to  
37 limit the success we do take bait and restrict to one  
38 hook. So it's just another mechanism to reduce  
39 harvest. If a fishery actually took place, I mean,  
40 that's the -- that's really the -- a good point to make  
41 here is that we've had no participation that I can  
42 detect based on the harvest reports that come in. You  
43 know, their fishery exists so we're managing a fishery  
44 that nobody participates in. That's important to note.  
45 You know, if there was participation then, you know,  
46 then there may be more hardship on people, but their --  
47 as far as I can tell there has been no participation in  
48 this fishery.

49  
50 MR. McLAUGHLIN: If that bait had left

1 open maybe people would be more apt to participate in  
2 that.

3

4 MR. PALMER: Well, the -- we've  
5 operated in previous years with wide open regulations  
6 and nobody participates.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It would be a hard  
9 subsistence fishery to take part in because you're.....

10

11 MR. PALMER: It's hook and line.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: .....you're hook and  
14 -- not only that, but your competing with all of the --  
15 I mean, that's a major sport fishing river and you've  
16 got all your sport fishermen on there that you're  
17 competing with and then -- and then it's not in the  
18 main area for catching salmon, it's above the area that  
19 most people fish.....

20

21 MR. PALMER: That's right, Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: .....because it's  
24 Federal waters only. And that's so -- so it's harder  
25 to get to, there's not as many fish there and then  
26 you're competing so people go someplace else to catch  
27 fish easier I think.

28

29 Greg.

30

31 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Through the Chair.  
32 Doug, couple questions that I got for you. One, I  
33 realize it was shut down here a couple days before,  
34 first of all I'd like to address the participation. I  
35 don't think that should even be part of the equation.  
36 It's a -- it's a Federal, you know, a fishery for an  
37 opportunity whether they do or not I'm thinking, you  
38 know, we -- I don't know that we should be basing it on  
39 whether they were there or not. The concern for me is  
40 -- and for the people of Ninilchik and other areas was  
41 that the first fishery we hear closed is the Federal  
42 subsistence fishery. And, I mean, if that ain't going  
43 to discourage anyone before anything happens on State  
44 action, I'm not saying that's right or wrong, it's  
45 probably a good decision, but I'm thinking the State  
46 should have closed a lot earlier than you had and  
47 that's -- that's in our perception. But anyway you  
48 could see the dilemma and it's very concerning that,  
49 you know, Federal subsistence is taking a hit before  
50 anyone else in our opinion.

50

1                   The other question I guess I have for  
2 you, through the Chair, is do you have -- I mean, you  
3 obviously have the authority and you mandated that you  
4 have to have other approval through -- you know, like  
5 they do for the moose range or is there through the  
6 Board or is it just you have the authority to do it  
7 through your position?  
8

9                   MR. PALMER: The Federal Subsistence  
10 Board grants that authority to in -- to the local.....

11                   MR. ENCELEWSKI: In-season man.....

12                   MR. PALMER: .....these fishery  
13 managers, yes.

14                   MR. ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Okay.

15                   MR. PALMER: The moose thing was a --  
16 the.....

17                   MR. ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

18                   MR. PALMER: .....exception to that  
19 because wildlife managers typically don't have that.  
20 But the nature of the fish returns.....

21                   MR. ENCELEWSKI: Right.

22                   MR. PALMER: .....they've delegated  
23 that to the local Federal manager.

24                   MR. ENCELEWSKI: Okay. That clears  
25 that up.

26                   MR. PALMER: Yeah, but I don't make the  
27 decision lightly. I have consultation with obviously  
28 the State biologist, with OSM staff and.....

29                   MR. ENCELEWSKI: Uh-huh.

30                   MR. PALMER: .....some of my own staff  
31 before I make any decision whatsoever. You know, the  
32 situation in July I had a special action that.....

33                   MR. ENCELEWSKI: Right.

34                   MR. PALMER: .....expired, I had to do  
35 something, the closure of the other fishery was  
36 eminent, I knew.....

1 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Right.

2

3 MR. PALMER: .....there was a two day  
4 per -- two or three day period there where the fishery  
5 below the Federal waters took place, the fishery still  
6 above Soldotna was closed so the fishery in that  
7 section of the river where the fish -- the Federal  
8 fishery occurs was closed.

9

10 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Going through the  
11 Chair again. I mean, the whole fishery was fishy as  
12 you well know this year, I mean, no one could figure  
13 out what the hell was going on. And the first thing we  
14 get is the Federal subsistence is closed. Anyway we'll  
15 hear more about that.

16

17 Thanks.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Greg. And  
20 that's -- again I have to go along with you in some  
21 ways on that, it's interesting to me, first of all  
22 we've said there's been no participation so there  
23 really -- there really is no conservation concern if  
24 nobody's catching fish. And if there's no conservation  
25 concern then the only reason to put these closures on  
26 is for public perception, not for impact on the  
27 resource. And we have the ability with out reporting  
28 and we have the ability with our observation, to take  
29 these special actions. So my -- this is kind of like a  
30 State attitude that this might happen so we better do  
31 something about it ahead of time. Why can't we say  
32 okay, if this becomes a problem now we'll take the  
33 special action. I mean, probably your closure to one  
34 chinook and no bait made absolutely no effect on the  
35 fishery at all, but it was there and what it said to  
36 the subsistence users is you're on the same level as  
37 the State fishermen. Where if it would have been left  
38 open possibly somebody would have taken place in it,  
39 possibly not, but if you ended up having a problem with  
40 it, if all of a sudden everybody said oh, boy, this is  
41 open, we can go over there and we start catching lots  
42 of king salmon, you've got the ability to close it.  
43 And that's every time we've dealt with the State that's  
44 what -- oh, my gosh, if you're going to open up a  
45 subsistence fishery on the Kenai River you've got 2,478  
46 subsistence fishermen that'll be up there taking this  
47 many fish and then reality strikes and 27 fish were  
48 taken, you know, or something like that. Why do we --  
49 why do we join in that same kind of fear type thing and  
50 react that way ahead of time instead of saying okay, if

1 there's a problem now we'll use our authority to close  
2 it, but let's wait until there's a problem or at least  
3 a -- you know, you're not going to have all of a sudden  
4 the Kasilof or the Kenai king salmon run decimated in  
5 one day because every subsistence fisherman goes up  
6 there and catches two fish because they're not going to  
7 do it.

8

9 MR. PALMER: I agree totally. Perhaps  
10 Pete would like to weigh in on this because his phone  
11 is the one that rings when I don't take action.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair,  
16 Mr. Encelewski. I think -- you said it very well at  
17 first, Mr. Chair, and then you went on and I wished it  
18 was that simple.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, I know.

21

22 MR. PROBASCO: We're dealing with the  
23 Kenai and I don't even think Doug touched on the  
24 pressure that he has when these decisions are made.  
25 And they're not made lightly and it's not Doug sitting  
26 in a vacuum. In some cases this goes all the way up to  
27 Cora Campbell and Geoff Haskett. Your comments are  
28 very well received and I think they're something that  
29 we need to look at. But when you're in the heat of  
30 the battle and you've got the Kenai unravelling and you  
31 have this small fishery with very little effort, you  
32 got to weigh what bullets are you going to take and  
33 what are you going to argue and what are you going to  
34 fight on. And that's what it boils down to, Mr. Chair,  
35 politics come into fisheries.

36

37 So I'm being honest with you and I  
38 think Greg made some good points and I think we need to  
39 take those into consideration. But we're looking at  
40 2012 and what took place there.

41

42 Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I know and I wasn't  
45 being -- I wasn't being critical about that because  
46 I'll just say and I won't say who said it, but one time  
47 somebody informed me that I needed to be careful whose  
48 toes I was stepping on because the Kenai is a very  
49 political area and there are some very wealthy and  
50 important people involved on the Kenai and maybe what I

1 was saying would come back as repercussions. Now from  
2 my standpoint they can't come back as any repercussions  
3 on me, from your standpoint they can. Your phone can  
4 ring off the hook, you can -- you can get the political  
5 pressure and I understand that. But that's what we're  
6 dealing with on the Kenai and we've seen that when we  
7 came down to the Kenai for meetings on things like the  
8 moose and that. This is a highly volatile area and I  
9 feel sorry for the subsistence users that live in this  
10 kind of a highly volatile area. But it is interesting  
11 to me that we -- because of the politics we end up  
12 doing the same thing that the State does which is  
13 trying to say this could happen, not this is happening,  
14 you know.

15 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair, if I may --  
16 the dialogue's continuing. In these situations in-  
17 season you got to ask yourself what are we managing and  
18 what are we trying to protect. Technically and your  
19 points you made are accurate. But the point of the  
20 matter, what was happening on the grounds. And that's  
21 what -- you have to put that into the formula as well.  
22 And so Doug very well clear -- to date our Federal  
23 fishery has not had participants. So you weigh that  
24 when you look at the issues that are on your plate.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Doug.

27  
28 MR. BLOSSOM: Yeah, Mr. Chair, it's my  
29 turn. You folks on the Federal side, do you do any  
30 checking and that on the -- on the king salmon on the  
31 Kasilof and Kenai or do you rely totally on the State?

32  
33 MR. PALMER: The Kenai Refuge has about  
34 five or six Law Enforcement Refuge Officers that  
35 enforce Federal regulations on the Refuge, on Federal  
36 lands. Now I'm not sure about the Forest Service, but  
37 that's on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.'

38  
39 MR. BLOSSOM: Mr. Chair. But you have  
40 -- you have idea if there's king salmon in the river or  
41 not, you rely on the State totally?

42  
43 MR. PALMER: Are you referring to  
44 assessment of abundance?

45  
46 MR. BLOSSOM: Yes.

47  
48 MR. PALMER: We do have some of our own  
49 assessment projects that we run on the tributaries to  
50 the Kenai River. The Funny River we've operated since

1 2006 and this past year was the first year that we  
2 operated a weir project on the Keeley River to get an  
3 estimate of abundance. The problem with those counts  
4 are is that the -- by the time those fish pass those  
5 weir projects they're on to the spawning grounds and it  
6 takes some time usually for those fish -- you know,  
7 it's back -- it's usually into mid July before we have,  
8 you know, a clear indication of what -- the abundance  
9 of those tributary returns will be.

10

11 MR. BLOSSOM: Yeah, Mr. Chair. But  
12 that's important to us to know what you saw now, did  
13 you have a decent escapement into those systems you  
14 started to monitor.

15

16 MR. PALMER: I can speak to the Funny  
17 River since we've got a track record of five or six  
18 years there. This was the lowest return we've seen on  
19 record. The highest return we saw was 2,700 fish the  
20 first year we operated in 2006 and this year we were  
21 about 900. So without the restrictions that took place  
22 on the Kenai River this year, we are -- our numbers  
23 would have been much lower than the record low that we  
24 observed.

25

26 MR. BLOSSOM: Yeah, Mr. Chair. The  
27 reason I'm asking this is because the late run Kenai  
28 escapement total was average or above average in the  
29 end and I just -- with the State tally. In the Kasilof  
30 do you do anything there to monitor kings or do you  
31 have any idea what's happening?

32

33 MR. PALMER: There's very little  
34 assessment on the Kasilof River for king salmon.

35

36 MR. BLOSSOM: Okay. There again, Mr.  
37 Chair, the reason I ask is a lot of years ago there  
38 used to be a big king run of large kings at the far end  
39 of Tustumena Lake. But you haven't monitored that for  
40 a number of years.

41

42 MR. PALMER: The State did conduct some  
43 research there a few years ago, three or four years  
44 where they come up with a estimate of abundance of the  
45 late returning chinook that spawn in the main stem  
46 Kasilof River immediately below Tustumena Lake. And  
47 about 70 percent of those fish do spawn on the Federal  
48 waters.

49

50 MR. BLOSSOM: Yeah, Mr. Chair, but I

1 was talking about the far end of Tustumena down in what  
2 is it, Devil's Bay or what -- down there. There used  
3 to be a large king run down in there, you haven't  
4 monitored that at all?

5  
6 MR. PALMER: No, we haven't. I wasn't  
7 even familiar with that return.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Greg.

10  
11 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, through the  
12 Chair. I just wanted to make one more comment. And  
13 it's both to -- to both of you if you don't mind. You  
14 know, I understand the political pressure and I truly  
15 do and as a RAC member my position here is to, you  
16 know, bring local knowledge and provide subsistence  
17 users an opportunity. And I believe what I'm seeing is  
18 that opportunity taken away with in-season management.  
19 Even though no one's participating I'm very concerned  
20 that we could, you know, change a process with -- like  
21 that. And, you know, I believe the State should have  
22 taken action a lot earlier, but changes to a Federal  
23 preference is -- you know, where it's really not  
24 impacting anyone is to me you're usurping the process  
25 of the Federal system. And I just want to state that  
26 because I do feel that way.

27  
28 Thank you.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria.

31  
32 MS. STICKWAN: Somebody should have  
33 been notified since this was a special action to the  
34 RAC Chair too. Isn't that right, they should have and  
35 I.....

36  
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria, that's --  
38 that's a process that the Boards have set up and like  
39 he said that's not -- that's not -- that has to happen  
40 in the case of game, but the way the Board has set it  
41 up it doesn't happen in the case of fish. Fish are  
42 directly given to the fish manager in the area to make  
43 special actions. So a game manager like Andy was  
44 supposed to call somebody -- call myself or Tom or  
45 somebody on the Council for consultation, but the fish  
46 doesn't -- I mean, the way it's set up, that does not  
47 have to happen. Now that could be brought up to the  
48 Board and that could be changed, but at this point in  
49 time that authority has been delegated.

50

1                   Pete.

2

3                   MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
4 Nothing precludes the in-season fisheries manager from  
5 making contact if the Council or their designee is  
6 available. And, of course, we found and experience in  
7 all of our Councils during the summer months many of  
8 our RAC members are not available to make immediate  
9 contact. Many of these decision are made in less than  
10 24 hours.

11

12                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.

13

14                   MR. PROBASCO: And so we got to keep  
15 that in mind. But it's not -- we're not precluded from  
16 doing it.

17

18                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You can -- you can  
21 make contact.....

22

23                   MR. PROBASCO: If time allows.

24

25                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: .....but you're not  
26 required to?

27

28                   MR. PROBASCO: Correct.

29

30                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Or not even required  
31 to attempt. Yeah.

32

33                   Andy.

34

35                   MR. McLAUGHLIN: Just a comment. I  
36 think my opinion about the community that I feel I'm  
37 representing about subsistence uses sometime seem to  
38 wax and wane on a every other generation, maybe even  
39 two generations before users come about again in  
40 certain families or whatever and those people then  
41 utilize the resource again. So I wouldn't put too much  
42 emphasis on the fact that it's not getting used right  
43 now.

44

45                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy and then Doug.

46

47                   MS. CAMINER: Well, certainly you're  
48 both in a really enviable position especially with  
49 respect to the Kenai River this summer. I mean, any  
50 manager was in a tough position, but, I mean, when that

1 email did come through to our Council about the area  
2 being closed, I mean, the first thing I wrote back was  
3 oh, but did the State close and it wasn't that easy to  
4 find an answer and ended up looking on the State  
5 website to find out the answer to that. So, I mean, I  
6 think the suggestion of trying to reach perhaps people  
7 here on the Kenai if -- you know, as there's time  
8 because I'm sure you're making a million phone calls  
9 that might be helpful, but also, I mean, again as Greg  
10 mentioned, not to look at participation, but maybe look  
11 at it from the viewpoint of impact, what would the  
12 impact be to the fisheries because it was certainly a  
13 conservation concern by allowing subsistence to fish  
14 without restrictions since fishing without restrictions  
15 hasn't caused any impact so far and with your authority  
16 on a day to day basis to change it if need be because,  
17 I mean, I think Andy brought it up, it's a really good  
18 point, that since there's so little impact currently  
19 allowing it to continue while there would have been a  
20 tremendous amount of political heat and scrutiny on the  
21 whole idea of subsistence, it probably would not have  
22 resulted in any impacts to the resources.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Doug first and then  
25 Greg.

26

27 MR. BLOSSOM: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I --  
28 we're critical, but I also want to praise where praise  
29 is do. I just found out yesterday and he didn't allude  
30 to it, but the State closed brown bear hunting last  
31 Wednesday and it's closed until the 25th. Our Federal  
32 people decided to leave it open, they didn't close it  
33 at all and I thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And Greg.

36

37 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, and through the  
38 Chair. I just want to -- you know, and I -- I truly  
39 understand and I'm not -- your position you're in. I  
40 think it's a bigger problem than that, I think what we  
41 need to come up with for the communities is a more  
42 meaningful way to harvest fish. Obviously these means  
43 and methods are not there, they're very low impact  
44 because they're not very easy to get the fish in the  
45 first place. So I'm not sure that that's the answer.  
46 But yeah, I -- you know, there are ways to work with it  
47 and I just don't want to see the Federal process gone  
48 and then just being kind of overruled so to speak.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. And I

1 don't think any of the things that were said were meant  
2 to be critical, but they are things that -- you know,  
3 they are things to put into the mix and it's true that  
4 because of the political thing you're trying -- you've  
5 got to -- you've got things that have to be done  
6 because of the community at large. But at the same  
7 time you have a subsistence community and some of these  
8 things come out, I won't use the word like a slap in  
9 the face, but they come out saying that you truly don't  
10 have a priority. And that's -- I think that's the one  
11 thing that the Federal system should be different than  
12 the State system, whether it ends up with putting --  
13 you know, it would be nice if it put fish on the table,  
14 but it's even more important to remember that part of  
15 the Federal system is to say that subsistence is a  
16 priority and the State doesn't put subsistence as a  
17 priority. And if it's a priority unless there's -- to  
18 me unless there's a conservation concern, an actual  
19 conservation -- an actual demonstrated conservation  
20 concern, the opportunity should be there. But I really  
21 -- I'm glad I'm not having to be -- make -- I'm glad  
22 I'm not having to live there and make the decisions.

23

24 Pete.

25

26 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair, in my closing  
27 comments, critical or not I think these comments are  
28 very valuable. And I take them to heart and I speak on  
29 behalf of LaVerne and Geoff since they couldn't make it  
30 here. Geoff's Acting Deputy Director in D.C. right now  
31 and LaVerne's dealing with a very ill husband. So we  
32 take them to heart and we will work on them.

33

34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Pete.

37

38 MR. PALMER: I echo Pete's comments on  
39 that.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Okay.  
44 With that we should take a coffee break, do you think,  
45 so everybody can fill their cup.

46

47 (Off record)

48

49 (On record)

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. We will come  
2 back into session.

3  
4 I forgot to mention to everybody that  
5 Mr. Henrichs had to go to medical things today and so  
6 that's why he's not here. He had a doctor's  
7 appointment for today.

8  
9 We're now going to the BLM. Do we have  
10 -- ah ha.

11  
12 MS. BULLOCK: Good morning, Mr. Chair  
13 and Council Members. My name is Sara Bullock, I'm the  
14 new Wildlife Biologist at the Glennallen Field Office.  
15 And I did hand out a couple of handouts for you guys  
16 and I'll go over -- briefly over the 2012 harvest. And  
17 I do have the 2011 harvest and the figures, the little  
18 line graphs there. So if you were curious during the  
19 spring meeting, I think there was a comment about  
20 wanting to know the numbers, they are there.

21  
22 This year for the moose harvest we  
23 issued approximately 1,300 permits. So far 418 have  
24 been attempted though and that's 32 percent of the  
25 permits that were issued were actually attempted.  
26 However I will -- a small caveat, only 53 percent of  
27 the permits have been turned in, a report -- hunt  
28 reports have been turned back in to us. So that permit  
29 attempted could be -- could rise. And below that  
30 you'll see the six year average. So we're -- I suspect  
31 us to be right on target with the average. We kill --  
32 they harvested 54 bulls this year, the six year average  
33 is 63 so it's a little down. And the hunters of the --  
34 the hunters that were successful was 13 percent while  
35 the average is 11 percent. Though that could be again  
36 -- could be a little inflated because we don't have all  
37 the 100 percent permits turned in back so there could  
38 be folks that have not turned it in that did go hunting  
39 and just were unsuccessful. In the figures you can see  
40 permits have slowly risen over the past six years,  
41 however the green line there at the bottom is the  
42 harvest and it's relatively stable with a slight upward  
43 trend. And you can see 2011 was an exceptional year  
44 for moose in Unit 13 for Federal subsistence hunters  
45 with 80 being harvested.

46  
47 So yes, we'll move on to the caribou.  
48 Again the one big caveat is that it's only -- it's only  
49 halfway over. So we are closed at the moment and will  
50 reopen October 21st for the second half of the

1 subsistence season. And this year at this point we've  
2 issued around 2,700 permits which is slightly up and  
3 that has been a trend over the past five years. And  
4 again I -- we do expect those permits that have been  
5 issued to increase since the season is only halfway  
6 over and they can come in anytime during the season to  
7 get those permit -- or get those tags. So far they've  
8 harvested this year 147 bulls and 51 cows. Only 11  
9 percent of the permits have been reported thus far.  
10 And as you can see for the figure below and it does --  
11 the permits attempted in the caribou harvest actually  
12 this -- the last on the 2012 can be misleading because  
13 again it -- not all permits are accounted for, the  
14 season is not over so we do expect those to be right on  
15 those trend line. And the average harvest is  
16 approximately 400 animals, 283 bulls, 116 cows. So we  
17 -- so basically the harvest is right on par, half of  
18 them have -- half of the harvest -- what we expect the  
19 harvest to be have been harvested and due to the good  
20 numbers this year as stated previously, the spring  
21 estimate  
22 was 46,500. We do not expect limitations on bulls only  
23 for the second season.

24  
25                   The second handout I gave you was just  
26 to kind of let you know that over the past year there  
27 has been an additional block conveyed to the BLM and  
28 it's the -- it's at the upper left-hand corner. It's  
29 basically a -- almost a 35 square mile chunk had been  
30 conveyed. It's just west of Hudson Lake and north of  
31 Klutina Lake. So it'll probably be open mostly for the  
32 moose hunters out there and potentially a rare caribou  
33 that travels that far south because that is south of  
34 Glennallen. Also that horizontal six square -- six by  
35 one mile block is also new, however we do not have 17B  
36 easements that lead to that. So the perspective  
37 hunters would have to obtain the necessary permissions  
38 to go across private or Native lands. And that Mount  
39 Carter Trail is a 17B access so it does allow  
40 subsistence hunters access to that land.

41  
42                   And just to let you know that 29 moose  
43 callers have been deployed this summer or this spring  
44 around the Alphabet Hills to take a look at  
45 survivability and movement patterns of moose. I do  
46 hope to have an update and provide some pictures or  
47 some figures to show you what the results have been  
48 thus far. However, I have to wait until this spring  
49 before I can get you those.

50

1                   That's it. Any questions?  
2  
3                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: There is no access to  
4 those other two blocks that are in back of -- in back  
5 of the lake right there or back of the Tazlina River  
6 off the highway, the other two rectangular blocks, is  
7 there?  
8  
9                   MS. BULLOCK: No, there is no 17B  
10 easements, there may be other trails, but I do believe  
11 it goes through -- there's some private property  
12 that.....  
13  
14                   MS. STICKWAN: What are you talking  
15 about, this one here?  
16  
17                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No, I'm talking about  
18 the two down farther, Gloria, those two right there by  
19 the Tazlina River.  
20  
21                   MS. BULLOCK: We try to make it a point  
22 if there's any 17B access to make sure that they get on  
23 the maps so people will know where they can legally go  
24 to access these Federal hook lands.  
25  
26                   MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.  
27  
28                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes, Judy.  
29  
30                   MS. CAMINER: Just -- just wondering  
31 what the condition of the -- of the road or that Mount  
32 Carter Trail is?  
33  
34                   MS. BULLOCK: From what I understand  
35 it's pretty mucky. So track rigs can definitely on  
36 through there and I believe a colleague in the office  
37 went out there and had to get winched about twice. So  
38 you can do it, but it may take a little bit of effort.  
39  
40                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And the road to the  
41 Mount Carter Trail is not exactly known as a super  
42 highway either.  
43  
44                   MS. BULLOCK: Right, Mr. Chair. With  
45 the high water this year there was several wash out  
46 problems that we had over the season.  
47  
48                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. We went up  
49 there to look at the rose hip population along the  
50 Bremick Craig Road and it's -- you're going to want a

1 good vehicle to drive it is all I've got to say. It's  
2 not exactly -- but there are lots of rose hips right on  
3 the road. But it must have been something else during  
4 the season, I mean, I have never seen rose hips like  
5 what I saw there. It's just -- that must have been one  
6 solid rose patch, it just was gorgeous. I mean, it's  
7 just red with rose hips as far as you -- alongside the  
8 road just like -- man alive, when those were in bloom  
9 they must have been something else. But it's pretty  
10 slippery and it's pretty muddy and it gets pretty deep.

11  
12 Doug.

13  
14 MR. BLOSSOM: Yeah, Mr. Chair. You  
15 have brown and black bear hunting too with -- do you  
16 have any report on what happens there?

17  
18 MS. BULLOCK: Yes, we do have  
19 subsistence black bear and brown bear hunting. It  
20 doesn't hold any advantage over the State hunts and we  
21 don't -- we do not issue a permit for bear hunting. So  
22 I do not have a number on how that hunting went or how  
23 many were harvested.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Doug, I think most of  
26 the seasons up there are three black bear and one brown  
27 bear every year.

28  
29 MR. BLOSSOM: You don't what the number  
30 is that they.....

31  
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I don't know what the  
33 take is, no. Am I right on that, Lee?

34  
35 MR. ADLER: Yes.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If you -- I know what  
38 it is in Unit 11 so I think 13's the same that way.

39  
40 MR. ADLER: You need to get a State  
41 permit to hunt black bear now, but not grizzly.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

44  
45 MR. ADLER: You just have to bring the  
46 hide and skull in to get it sealed.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: To get it tag --  
49 sealed afterwards. You don't even need a permit prior  
50 to taking it for grizzlies.

1 MR. BLOSSOM: You don't need a locking  
2 tag?  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You get a locking tag  
5 when you take your hide in, they'll seal it, but you  
6 don't need it ahead of time, no.  
7  
8 MR. BLOSSOM: Mr. Chair, the reason I  
9 ask is I got a \$275 ticket because I didn't have my  
10 locking tag before I shot my brown bear on the Kenai.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, I believe it.  
13 That's what you get. No, it's.....  
14  
15 Sorry to interrupt you. Go ahead. Do  
16 you have more?  
17  
18 MS. BULLOCK: No, that's pretty much  
19 it.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Anybody have questions  
22 for her?  
23  
24 (No comments)  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So the caribou  
27 hunting's kind of on track, I mean, for this time of  
28 the year with the take that it is right there, that's  
29 pretty normal?  
30  
31 MS. BULLOCK: Yes, sir, Mr. Chair.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And you open back up  
34 next week?  
35  
36 MS. BULLOCK: Yep, next Sunday.  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Next Sunday. Okay.  
39 Gloria.  
40  
41 MS. STICKWAN: Would it be hard for you  
42 to keep track of antler size, have the data for that?  
43  
44 MS. BULLOCK: I have brought that point  
45 up with our public relations person in the office and  
46 also the area biologist there has requested that the  
47 hunt reports have similar to what the State has where  
48 it -- you talk about antler size and -- but nothing --  
49 nothing has been done about that. I asked about  
50 possibly getting the successful hunters and surveying

1 them and giving them an option if they'd like to report  
2 what their moose harvest was to try to get a -- more of  
3 a -- someone -- an age continuum of what's being  
4 harvested out. But I have not -- it's in like infancy  
5 stages and I'd have to find, you know, okay, why am I  
6 -- why am I -- what is the implication, what are we  
7 deciding when we get this. So I have discussed it and  
8 nothing has been done thus far. But I can continue to  
9 pursue that if you'd like.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria.

12

13 MS. STICKWAN: I would like to see this  
14 Council write a letter to the Federal Board because  
15 that does affect our subsistence hunting in that area,  
16 the smaller bulls being taken. The State will shut  
17 down the community hunt earlier because it -- the  
18 Federal bag counts against the season.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But now is the Federal  
21 hunt -- the Federal hunt is strictly a subsistence  
22 hunt, right?

23

24 MS. BULLOCK: That's correct, any bull.  
25 However for the community hunt I do keep in contact  
26 with the area biologist there to report how many bulls  
27 have been harvested in what subunit and they take those  
28 into count with their quota limit and that's when they  
29 shut down those.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Community hunt.

32

33 MS. BULLOCK: They get.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. I could see  
36 where you could just have that as -- have that on the  
37 permit, you know, when they turn the permit back in  
38 that there could just be a line there that says, you  
39 know, how many inch bull it is, spike fork or 42  
40 incher, you know. And it wouldn't -- it wouldn't cost  
41 any more and it wouldn't take much more record keeping  
42 to do that. And I think that would be a good idea,  
43 Gloria, because that would -- that would show what the  
44 impact is.

45

46 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Pete.

49

50 MR. PROBASCO: We've actually made a

1 request. You would think in-season managers would have  
2 the ability on a Federal permit to request the  
3 information they needed to manage the hunt. And we  
4 actually used to think that as well until OMB, Office  
5 of Management and Budget in D.C. got involved and we  
6 actually have to make specific requests and outline why  
7 we need that data. And unfortunately we have not made  
8 that request on antlers. We have now and we'll proceed  
9 with that, but we don't have -- the way you were  
10 implying, we don't have that ability to just write down  
11 what we need, we actually have to make that request and  
12 then it's granted.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thanks for the eye  
15 opener.

16

17 MS. STICKWAN: Why is that, because  
18 seem like that's part of the management, doesn't make  
19 sense.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Pete.

22

23 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. Ms. Stickwan  
24 actually had made that inquiry this summer, you did it  
25 in writing and we responded and because of her inquiry  
26 we felt it was best to get out in front of this and  
27 feel our person that's involved in publishing regs as  
28 well as permits is in the process of doing that.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: For next year?

31

32 MR. PROBASCO: Correct.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: For next year then.

35

36 MS. STICKWAN: But I still would like  
37 to see this Council request that in their letter to the  
38 Federal Board.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That -- we could put  
41 that right in our annual report. So let's remember  
42 that one for our annual report.

43

44 Doug.

45

46 MR. BLOSSOM: Mr. Chair. In 15C the  
47 Federal people are requiring we seal horn, did you have  
48 to get a thing from Washington for that?

49

50 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. Everything

1 -- all permits now are in regulatory guidelines. So if  
2 your permit requires antler reporting for Unit 15 that  
3 has been approved for OMB. For Unit 13 slash 11 or 12,  
4 whatever the management units, that has not been  
5 approved yet, but we're in the process of getting that.  
6 So not all permits are the same from one management  
7 area to the other.

8

9 MR. BLOSSOM: Okay. Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Any other  
12 questions or comments?

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Oh, you  
17 were going to give us something on a guide weren't you,  
18 on hunting guide capacity study?

19

20 MS. BULLOCK: No, I'm -- I.....

21

22 MR. MIKE: Go ahead. Is this Dan  
23 Sharp?

24

25 MR. SHARP: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, Ralph,  
26 this is Dan Sharp with BLM in Anchorage. I was going  
27 to address the guide capacity issue.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. We're ready for  
30 it. Thank you for coming up here.

31

32 MR. SHARP: Okay. I hope you can hear  
33 me all right. On Page 100 is a fairly simple one page  
34 briefing. This is essentially just an update of the  
35 current status of this initiative. But BLM is in the  
36 process of addressing commercial hunting guide special  
37 recreation permit capacity for BLM managed public  
38 lands. BLM is the only Federal agency that has not  
39 undergone this type of analysis and our goal is to  
40 determine the number of guide permits that BLM will  
41 issue to allow guides to operate concessions on BLM  
42 managed lands.

43

44 As you may be aware the State of  
45 Alaska's Big Game Commercial Services Board is also in  
46 the process of allocating guide use areas to in a  
47 fashion recreate what used to be the exclusive guide  
48 use areas, but one -- hopefully this plan will pass  
49 constitutional muster. The State currently has  
50 licensed about 1,500 guides, current estimates are

1 they'll be somewhere in the neighborhood of 400 guide  
2 use areas across the State which will leave maybe 1,000  
3 guides without an exclusive area to operate under. BLM  
4 is somewhat nervous about that given that we don't  
5 have, I guess, the capacity or have not gone through  
6 the analysis to be able to say no. So we're somewhat  
7 moving on a parallel track with Department of Natural  
8 Resources and the Big Game Commercial Services Board to  
9 determine the number of concessions that BLM will allow  
10 to operate. Currently there's only two areas in the  
11 State where BLM has significant social and negative  
12 interactions I guess between subsistence users and  
13 guides that are prominent, that's on the Dalton Highway  
14 corridor and then the Squirrel River area.

15  
16 But our plan right now is to -- we had  
17 a 60 day scoping period to solicit comments with  
18 respect to the range of alternatives that BLM should  
19 consider with respect to this analysis. To date we  
20 received about 16 emails and seven letters and we've  
21 been also presenting this to RACs, we're encouraging  
22 comments to continue to come in beyond the formal  
23 scoping period as we begin to assemble this draft  
24 environmental assessment. But I guess where things  
25 stand now is we'll craft a draft environmental  
26 assessment, my anticipation is that draft will come  
27 before the RAC sometime in the future for comment and  
28 to give RACs the opportunity to address its  
29 applicability and whether we've hit the mark correctly.  
30 I guess just to paraphrase some of the comments that  
31 we've received from RACs so far is encouraging us to  
32 limit the number of guides especially where there are  
33 high value species such as sheep and moose, to make  
34 sure that there's a conservation incentives so that,  
35 you know, too many guides will -- the air of  
36 competitiveness will be diminished if there aren't too  
37 many guides operating in an area. I've certainly heard  
38 the wipe them out and move on philosophy espoused  
39 there, that that seems to be the current status of  
40 affairs if -- without exclusive guide areas. Guides  
41 are sort of -- and that number of guides are -- it's  
42 somewhat out of hand.

43  
44 But again I guess the current status is  
45 that we are still soliciting comments and willing to  
46 take any now or there are addresses and contact  
47 information on the handout, but we're interested in  
48 both positive and negative interactions and aspects of  
49 a guiding operation that the folks are familiar with.  
50 And I guess the future plan is that we'll have a draft

1 EA out sometime in the next meeting or two for the RAC  
2 to comment on.

3

4 And I think that pretty well sums up my  
5 comments. So there if I -- if folks have questions or  
6 comments they'd like to make back.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Yeah,  
9 that's something that I -- we haven't really put on our  
10 table yet, but I was just thinking that that's another  
11 thing that we might want to include in our annual  
12 report, the importance of this project right now that  
13 you're working on because it does have an impact on  
14 subsistence users. So you feel -- I didn't realize  
15 there were that many guides that were going to be left  
16 out if they go to exclusive management areas, but  
17 that's going to make a big impact and it's going to be  
18 definitely some incentive to take it back to court  
19 again like they did the last time.

20

21 So you will be -- you will be getting a  
22 -- you will be sending us something to discuss in our  
23 -- other than this little assessment one right here, in  
24 our -- in one of our RAC meetings then, right?

25

26 MR. SHARP: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I --  
27 the next step is we'll -- BLM will craft an  
28 environmental assessment. Typically through the NEPA  
29 process those will have a range of alternatives  
30 probably from maintaining the status quo to some other  
31 level of, I guess, limiting guide use, special  
32 recreation permits. It'll be unique to specific areas  
33 and as I said we certainly have recognized where we  
34 have issues in some areas already just simply because  
35 of the scattered nature of BLM lands, it's sort of a  
36 checkerboard affair, and it's -- we're sort of a  
37 different set of circumstances than Parks and Refuges  
38 with contiguous or, you know, contiguous borders. So a  
39 lot of the analysis we have to do has to be somewhat in  
40 conjunction with how the State is perceiving these  
41 areas and what species are there and what level of  
42 interest there is. But my anticipation is that they'll  
43 be an environmental assessment draft EA that'll be  
44 available for additional public comment and they'll be  
45 additional consultation opportunities in the future.  
46 But right now we're just trying to get a range -- get a  
47 handle on -- identify where folks perceive problems and  
48 especially with respect to BLM managed lands. And  
49 perhaps some notion of how they perceive this program  
50 being best -- being best established. And again there

1 are some BLM managed lands in your area, some are used  
2 by guides, some aren't. But the anticipation is  
3 there'll be a little bit more of a substantive product  
4 for your consideration in the future.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Well,  
7 that's something we're going to have to consider then  
8 at that time or should probably start thinking about it  
9 now. Anybody.....

10  
11 Gloria.

12  
13 MS. STICKWAN: I was wondering if he  
14 could explain the exclusive area a little bit more.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do you have any  
17 information you could share with us on the exclusive  
18 area idea that the State has?

19  
20 MR. SHARP: They have an extensive  
21 website on the Department of Natural Resources' webpage  
22 and I would encourage folks to look there. It hasn't  
23 been updated recently the last time I looked, but they  
24 are -- they are contingent upon funding and as you're  
25 aware they're treading very carefully and trying to  
26 make sure that they can establish something that will  
27 survive a court challenge. But they do have maps on  
28 their website that show their anticipated number of  
29 guides that they would allow to operate in some of  
30 these areas. And those are -- as you view those maps  
31 they clearly identify State lands. Those don't address  
32 the Federal lands, again the Refuges and Parks and such  
33 have their own processes for allocating guides and  
34 such. But I guess the best thing to look at would be  
35 the map on the DNR webpage and they do have -- I guess  
36 I would consider it a draft number of guide concessions  
37 the State is anticipating giving out.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And correct me if I'm  
40 wrong, those exclusive areas apply only to guides, they  
41 don't apply to any other hunters, subsistence or sport  
42 hunters?

43  
44 MR. SHARP: That's correct. It doesn't  
45 to my knowledge apply to transporters either and that  
46 by and large has been a more significant issue on BLM  
47 managed lands. Guides by and large are fairly good  
48 stewards of the resource in my opinion. Again it's  
49 been sort of out of control for a little bit with the  
50 number of licensed guides and sort of operating, I

1 guess to coin a phrase, willy nilly here. But the  
2 transporter issue is a case in and of itself and BLM  
3 will deal with those in a separate action. They still  
4 have to obtain permits to operate on BLM managed lands.  
5 But you're correct, this would not affect subsistence  
6 users other than the -- perhaps the interactions they  
7 may have when they encounter guides or guide operations  
8 in the field.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria, does that  
11 answer.....

12  
13 (No comment)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Thank you. Any  
16 other questions?

17  
18 (No comments)

19  
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you for that  
21 report and thank you for a heads-up.

22  
23 MR. SHARP: Thanks for the opportunity,  
24 Ralph.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. We now have  
27 National Park Service.

28  
29 MR. VEECH: Good morning, Mr. Chair,  
30 Regional Advisory Council Members. For the record my  
31 name is Eric Veech and I work for Wrangell-St. Elias  
32 National Park. This morning I'll be providing you a  
33 report for both Denali National Park and Wrangell-St.  
34 Elias National Park. And I've only got about three  
35 things that I want to go over, one of which requires  
36 action. So I think I'll start with that first and  
37 that's actually for Denali National Park.

38  
39 As you may know the Southcentral  
40 Regional Advisory Council appoints one seat on the  
41 Denali SRC. The individual that's selected for that  
42 needs to be a local rural resident eligible to harvest  
43 within Denali National Park and Preserve. And then it  
44 -- the individual also must be an AC member or a RAC  
45 member. So that's a pretty small pool of applicants.  
46 In the past you have appointed Jeff Berney to the  
47 Denali SRC. Jeff's appointment expired on November 4th  
48 of 2011, however Jeff would like to continue serving on  
49 Denali's SRC as the Southcentral RAC appointment. Jeff  
50 has attended all of the SRC meetings that occurred

1 during his appointment, he is an active participant in  
2 the SRC meetings and is an excellent spokesperson for  
3 the subsistence users in his area. Mr. Berney is also  
4 an active member of the Nenana Fish and Game Advisory  
5 Committee. And then Jeff moved to Cantwell in the late  
6 1970s and has been an active subsistence user in what  
7 is now the ANILCA additions to Denali National Park.  
8 Jeff's occupational affiliations are as both a  
9 carpenter and a subsistence user.

10

11 Certainly if the Council has someone  
12 else that they would like to nominate that's a  
13 possibility too. We don't have any other names to  
14 suggest or provide at this point though.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So at this point a  
17 motion to reappoint Jeff since it sounds like he's done  
18 a good job would be in order.

19

20 Gloria.

21

22 MS. STICKWAN: I would just like  
23 request that he send us written reports about what's  
24 going on at Denali.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: About what?

27

28 MS. STICKWAN: Written reports because,  
29 you know.....

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: About what's going on  
32 in Denali?

33

34 MS. STICKWAN: At the SRC meeting.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: From the SRC. Do you  
37 want it sent to the Wrangell SRC or do you want it sent  
38 to the RAC?

39

40 MS. STICKWAN: Either one.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Either one. Okay. Or  
43 both.

44

45 MS. STICKWAN: Both.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Both. And that way  
48 you can see the actions that the Wrangell RAC --  
49 SRC.....

50

1 MS. STICKWAN: I talked to people in  
2 Cantwell and they said thought Jeff Berney was a good  
3 person.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: They thought he was a  
6 good person for it. Okay. So a motion is in order for  
7 us to reappoint him if we wish to do so. Do I have a  
8 motion?  
9  
10 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I'll so move, Mr.  
11 Chairman.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved. Do I  
14 get a second?  
15  
16 MR. BLOSSOM: Second.  
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and  
18 seconded that we'll support the reappointment of Jeff  
19 on the Denali SRC. Any discussion?  
20  
21 (No comments)  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria says that from  
24 her report from people at Cantwell he's done a good  
25 job. Any other discussion?  
26  
27 (No comments)  
28  
29 MS. STICKWAN: Question.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Question's called.  
32 All in favor signify by saying aye.  
33  
34 IN UNISON: Aye.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by  
37 saying nay.  
38  
39 (No opposing votes)  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries.  
42  
43 MR. VEECH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The  
44 next item I have is for Wrangell-St. Elias and there  
45 was a handout over here, basically it's a fisheries  
46 report for this season. It's a written report so I  
47 won't go into a lot of discussion, I would just mention  
48 that the sockeye run at Tanada Creek this year was just  
49 a little bit over 20,000 salmon return so a very strong  
50 run to Tanada Creek, we're excited to see that. And

1 also at Long Lake, you know, as of about I think it was  
2 October 1st, there had been 25,756 sockeye salmon that  
3 had returned to Long Lake as well. So, you know, we  
4 talked yesterday that there was some strong returns to  
5 the Copper River this year and we certainly saw that at  
6 both of the weirs that we operate. There's also a  
7 discussion of some burbot abundance work that was done  
8 in Sheep and Grizzly Lakes which Sheep Lake is kind of  
9 in a -- I think in the very headwaters of the Copper  
10 River Drainage, Grizzly Lake is just over the ridge in  
11 the headwaters of the Jacksina Drainage which  
12 ultimately drains into the Tanana. And then there's  
13 also just a short discussion of some subsistence fish  
14 contaminate work that we have started and we've been  
15 out collecting some samples and we have some funding  
16 that in 2013 we'll be able to process those samples and  
17 look for contaminants and I thought earlier with some  
18 of the concerns that were raised about pesticides you  
19 might find that work interesting too. So there'll be  
20 more to report as we get the results from that work.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So this would be  
23 checking fish tissues for mercury, PCBs and things like  
24 that?

25

26 MR. VEECH: Exactly. Mercury and  
27 historically used pesticides actually. There's been in  
28 -- you know, some works that's been done in national  
29 parks, you know, across the United States has shown  
30 that there do seem to be some -- in some parks there  
31 are at least a few sample fish that have elevated  
32 levels of historically used pesticides. So that's  
33 something that we want to look at, you know, in our  
34 Park as well.

35

36 The last thing I have to talk about are  
37 some proposed regulations that will be entered into the  
38 Park compendium this year. I know some of you are  
39 familiar with our Park compendium process, I'm going to  
40 go over that just a little bit. This is not going to  
41 be unique only to Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.  
42 This -- we're going to see this language entered into  
43 Park compendiums essentially for all the ANILCA units  
44 which obviously are in the Alaska region this year.  
45 The purpose of a Park compendium is to provide both the  
46 public and Park employees with a document that lists  
47 special designations, closures, public use limits,  
48 permit requirements and other National Park Service  
49 restrictions. The superintendent's authority to  
50 implement these provisions is found in Title 36, Code

1 of Federal Regulations, 1.5(a). The compendium is  
2 reviewed and updated annually or as needed to ensure  
3 adequate protection of Park resources, provide for  
4 public safety and enjoyment and to address changes in  
5 public use patterns. In Alaska the annual compendium  
6 update process consistently involves public comment and  
7 input. So this is something that we engage in every  
8 year, you know, in the last few years, you know, one  
9 example would be, you know, after the Chakina fire in  
10 2009 in Wrangell-St. Elias we placed a limit on the  
11 harvest of mushrooms that would limit that to, you  
12 know, no more than 10 gallons per day to prevent  
13 commercial users from trying to operate under the  
14 personal use regulations in the Park. So there's a lot  
15 of things that are addressed in there, often it doesn't  
16 really generate much interest in the public, but  
17 typically these regula -- the proposed regulations are  
18 published near the end of the calendar year and they're  
19 out for public input.

20

21                   The regulations we're working on that  
22 you'll see today is what I want to talk about now. And  
23 let me give you a little bit of background and again  
24 this won't be new for most of you, but National Parks  
25 areas are places where natural processes are preserved,  
26 even human use such as fishing and subsistence and  
27 sport hunting. The fundamental goals of wildlife  
28 stewardship on National Park Service lands in Alaska  
29 are to maintain natural processes, provide for  
30 subsistence opportunity and to allow sport hunting  
31 where authorized under ANILCA. Generally natural  
32 processes and natural and healthy populations take  
33 precedence over subsistence which takes precedence over  
34 sport hunting. With the focus on natural processes the  
35 National Park Service prohibits the reduction of one  
36 Native species with the intent of increasing another  
37 harvested species. Intensive management or predator  
38 control for the benefit of prey numbers to support  
39 greater hunting opportunity is not permissible on NPS  
40 lands.

41

42                   NPS concerns that I'm going to discuss  
43 here shortly are in response to additional  
44 liberalizations adopted by the Board of Game last  
45 winter which became effective July 1st of 2012. And  
46 essentially those concerns address brown bear baiting,  
47 liberalized wolf seasons and liberalized coyote  
48 seasons.

49

50                   So the NPS has concerns about

1 authorizing baiting on brown bears on National Park  
2 Service lands for the following reasons. This is a new  
3 practice not allowed by any other wildlife managing  
4 agency anywhere in North America where brown bear  
5 occur; baiting with the intent of increasing ungulate  
6 populations to benefit hunters conflicts with NPS  
7 policy; the National Park Service is opposed to feeding  
8 of bears, the feeding of bears alters natural  
9 behaviors, increases the likelihood of food  
10 conditioning and increases the likelihood the bears  
11 will be killed in the defense of life and property; and  
12 finally food conditioned bears are more likely to  
13 become problem animals.

14  
15                   The concerns with wolf seasons, the  
16 National Park Service will propose that hunters be  
17 precluded from taking denning wolves and/or nursing  
18 pups from May 1st through August 9th. These dates are  
19 consistent with current Federal regulations and prior  
20 State regulations. Harvesting predators with the  
21 expressed intent of increasing ungulate populations to  
22 benefit hunters conflicts with National Park Service  
23 policy and the season expansion in areas where it has  
24 been expanded is intended to increase prey populations  
25 which is a practice that's not allowed in National Park  
26 areas.

27  
28                   And essentially that language is the  
29 same for coyote seasons. So what does this actually  
30 mean in the area that is addressed by your Council.  
31 Essentially in Unit 11 right now State regulations  
32 allow the harvest of coyotes, let's see, through May  
33 25th. And on National Preserve lands where sport  
34 hunting is allowed the compendium -- the proposed  
35 compendium -- the compendium entry will propose pushing  
36 the dates back so that the coyotes -- basically you  
37 would not be able to take denning coyotes or nursing  
38 pups from May 1st to August 9th. So there would be a  
39 window of time there that, you know, essentially it was  
40 allowed under State regulation, but the National Park  
41 Service regulations would preclude that and essentially  
42 close the season on April 30th.

43  
44                   I think I'll stop there and ask if  
45 there's any questions.

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And that would be the  
48 same on wolves?

49  
50                   MR. VEECH: Right. It would. Right

1 now that's -- under State regulations that is when the  
2 wolf season closes anyway for.....

3

4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, it still does?

5

6 MR. VEECH: Yeah.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

9

10 MR. VEECH: So for Unit 11 it closes on  
11 April 30th. This is actually going to be I think a  
12 bigger issue at the Eastern Interior Council meeting  
13 today than it really is. There's -- this is not a huge  
14 impact on the South Central Council. All of these  
15 concerns that I mentioned earlier will affect Unit 12,  
16 but that's, of course, outside of your area.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And is bear hunting --  
19 bear baiting currently allowed in Unit 11 on State  
20 regulations?

21

22 MR. VEECH: Under State regulations you  
23 can bait black bears, but you cannot take brown bears  
24 over a black bear bait station in Unit 11.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So.....

27

28 MR. VEECH: In Unit 12 you could.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So that compendium  
31 doesn't affect us in Unit 11 or 13 either?

32

33 MR. VEECH: Right. It's just going to  
34 affect the coyote season.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any comment on that?

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MR. VEECH; All right. Well, thank you  
41 for your time this morning.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: As a trapper I have no  
44 comment on that other than the fact that there's no  
45 reason to take coyotes when the fur isn't good, you  
46 know.

47

48 Judy.

49

50 MS. CAMINER: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Eric,

1 not to put you on the spot, but last time this Council  
2 heard a really good discussion about the environmental  
3 assessment relating to the use of horns and antlers.  
4 And my understanding is that currently that's awaiting  
5 decision of a selection of which alternative will be  
6 implemented, but if you have any other information for  
7 us on that we'd appreciate it.

8

9 MR. VEECH: You know, and I apologize.  
10 I should have come more prepared to discuss that today.  
11 Barbara would be -- she would be much more up to date  
12 on that. But I do believe that where we're headed with  
13 that is -- I believe it's alternative E, but the --  
14 right now I think the -- the alternative that is  
15 preferred would -- essentially it will leave the  
16 discretion up to the Park Superintendents as to whether  
17 or not to require a permit to collect horns and antlers  
18 which I think we see as a really good compromise based  
19 on public comments that we got, that there were, you  
20 know, certainly some folks that felt like it was  
21 imperative that subsistence users obtain a permit and  
22 then there were also, you know, comments from the  
23 Councils and the SRCs that didn't see the point in a  
24 permit. And so this is going to allow individual  
25 superintendents to have the flexibility to determine  
26 whether or not it's an issue in their specific area and  
27 whether or not a permit is needed.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

30

31 MS. CAMINER: So perhaps at our next  
32 meeting we can just have it on the agenda assuming that  
33 a decision will be made by then.

34

35 Thanks.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Lee.

38

39 MR. ADLER: Eric, I had a question  
40 about sealing and reporting on Dall sheep and grizzlies  
41 shot in the Preserve. Is that -- do you take those to  
42 the Park Service or Fish and Game, I think most people  
43 would take them to the Fish and Game?

44

45 MR. VEECH: That is correct. Yeah,  
46 they would go to Fish and Game.

47

48 MR. ADLER: And brown bear and grizzly  
49 meat that's shot in the Preserve, does that have to be  
50 brought out for consumption?

1 MR. VEECH: No, the users can -- and it  
2 -- I think it may be dependent on the time of year, but  
3 there is -- there's a window of time where you can  
4 harvest simply the hide and the skull.

5  
6 MR. ADLER: Uh-huh. Okay. I just  
7 checked your regulations.  
8 Thank you.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria.

11  
12 MS. STICKWAN: I didn't hear what you  
13 said about brown bear baiting in Unit 12, your -- I  
14 mean, NPS is opposed to it because why?

15  
16 MR. VEECH: Let me go ahead and just  
17 read that to you again here. Essentially it's a new  
18 practice, you know, so in the past while, you know,  
19 black bear baiting has been kind of a longstanding  
20 practice particularly along the McCarthy Road, brown  
21 bear baiting is a new practice and it's not allowed  
22 anywhere by any other wildlife managing agency in North  
23 America where brown bears occur. Baiting with the  
24 intent of increasing ungulate populations to benefit  
25 hunters conflicts with NPS policy and I think probably  
26 the biggest reason is as with other wildlife, you know,  
27 the National Park Service is opposed to feeding of  
28 bears. Feeding of bears alters natural behaviors,  
29 increases the likelihood of food conditioning,  
30 increasing the likelihood that bears will be killed in  
31 defense of life and property and potentially  
32 compromises public safety. And then finally food  
33 conditioned bears are simply more likely to become  
34 problem animals as far as, you know, breaking into camp  
35 and damaging other property.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So basically what  
38 they're saying is that they're not going to allow that  
39 in the Park in Unit 12 where the State does allow it.

40  
41 Anything more for us?

42  
43 MR. VEECH: No, that's it. Thank you  
44 for your time.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Oh, does  
47 that include the Preserve?

48  
49 MR. VEECH: Well, this only affects the  
50 Preserve.....

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I mean, does it affect  
2 both the Preserve and the Park or does it affect the  
3 Preserve at all?

4  
5 MR. VEECH: No, I maybe should have  
6 clarified at the start of the presentation. It only  
7 affects the Preserve because the Preserve is the only  
8 portion of the unit that is open to sport hunting.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

11  
12 MR. VEECH: So these do not have any  
13 affect on Federal subsistence hunting, it simply will  
14 affect sport hunting under State of Alaska hunting  
15 regulations which again is only allowed on the  
16 preserve, not in the Park. You can only engage in  
17 subsistence in the Park.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. And subsistence  
20 are already under Federal regulations that prohibit  
21 this?

22  
23 MR. VEECH: Yes.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Judy.

26  
27 MS. CAMINER: And so this is what you  
28 propose, but I know they'll be a bunch of meetings with  
29 the State, et cetera, et cetera, when might you expect  
30 a final compendium to come out?

31  
32 MR. VEECH: I would anticipate that we  
33 will publish the proposed compendium at the end of the  
34 calendar year. I think that it's typically open for a  
35 30 day comment period and I'm sorry that I didn't come  
36 with that specifically. I believe it'll be a 30 day  
37 comment period so I would anticipate that in early  
38 February it'll be published officially.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: In time for the spring  
41 hunt?

42  
43 MR. VEECH: Yeah. And, you know, when  
44 that becomes available I can send Donald the link and  
45 he can forward that to the Council if you would like to  
46 comment.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Gloria.

49  
50 MS. STICKWAN: I guess I'm confused,

1 he's -- are you saying that it -- you're writing the  
2 compendium to say that it's -- won't be allowed in the  
3 Preserve?

4  
5 MR. VEECH: That's correct. So  
6 essentially the compendium regulations will affect the  
7 Preserve because that's where sport hunting is allowed.  
8 Does that answer your question or.....

9  
10 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

13  
14 MS. CAMINER: So the Park Service is  
15 doing this because the Board of Game and State  
16 regulations which do apply on National Preserve lands  
17 are contrary to principles of the Park Service. So if  
18 this becomes final that will be the rules for the  
19 Preserve?

20  
21 MR. VEECH: That is correct. And these  
22 regulations became effective on July 1st. The  
23 rationale, the justification that was provided to the  
24 Board of Game for those proposals was specifically to  
25 enhance ungulate populations. And so, you know, again  
26 that -- while that may be appropriate on many lands  
27 that are managed by the State of Alaska, we don't  
28 believe that that's appropriate on National Park  
29 Service lands.

30  
31 Thank you.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. And that  
34 takes care of the National Park Service.

35  
36 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, are  
37 we on the phone?

38  
39 MR. CRAWFORD: Yeah, this is Drew  
40 Crawford with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.  
41 I'm the Fishery Biologist with the Federal Subsistence  
42 Liaison Team. I don't have any report for you, but I  
43 will be listening in on your proceedings.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. You have no  
46 specific report to give us then?

47  
48 MR. CRAWFORD: That's correct.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. And Native

1 Village of Eyak. Do we have any other Native villages  
2 to give a report?

3

4 MS. PALAGIUS: Thank you, Council and  
5 Chair. Again I'm Vija Palagius, I'm the new Fishery  
6 Biologist with Native Village of Eyak. I just began my  
7 position two weeks ago, but I worked with the Village  
8 throughout the summer on the fish wheels in the Copper.

9

10 So I'll give you guys a brief overview  
11 of our fishery programs and then I'll touch on our  
12 Copper River moose -- Copper River Delta moose projects  
13 as well. So to begin and sorry, I'll be throwing some  
14 numbers at you, I did print out a few copies, not  
15 enough for the entire Council, but I'll leave them over  
16 there and if anyone wants others I'll print more out  
17 during lunch.

18

19 Okay. So for our Chinook Escapement  
20 Monitoring Project we got the wheels on May 21st and  
21 started fishing. And they're in for a little less than  
22 two months until July 16th. The minimum size fish that  
23 we were tagging is 500 millimeters and down at Bear  
24 Canyon just above Miles Lake we tagged a total of 2,711  
25 fish. We examined up at Canyon Creek near Wood Canyon  
26 1,888 fish of which 153 were tagged at Bear Canyon.  
27 The average length of chinook at Bear was 895  
28 millimeters with the maximum being 1,190 millimeters.  
29 And I could throw out an escapement estimate for you  
30 guys, but we're still cleaning up our data and I'm kind  
31 of wary to do that, but I will say it's pretty -- so  
32 far it looks pretty similar to last year's escapement  
33 estimate which is about 33,000.

34

35 Do you guys have any questions on that  
36 project?

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I have one question.  
39 For the sake of all of us that are out here, can you  
40 convert millimeters to inches?

41

42 MS. PALAGIUS: Yeah, not off the top of  
43 my head, but.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I can convert them  
46 pretty fast if you want me to, but I thought maybe  
47 you'd have them.

48

49 MS. PALAGIUS: Oh, yeah. No. No, not  
50 on me. I mean, I could -- I could jot that down, but

1 then you guys have to.....  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Divide it by two and a  
4 half.  
5 MS. PALAGIUS: So how about this.....  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If you divide it by  
8 two and a half that'll tell you the inches.  
9  
10 MS. PALAGIUS: .....our biggest fish  
11 was about one meter -- well, 1.2 meters so.....  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: About 42 inches.  
14  
15 MR. BLOSSOM: We don't weigh them.  
16  
17 MS. PALAGIUS: No. No, we do have some  
18 aggressions we can do that -- you know, you take the  
19 girth and the length and you get the weight, but we're  
20 not currently set up with scales. We talked about it  
21 this summer when we were tagging these huge fish, but  
22 we -- you know, we don't have them set up. It would be  
23 pretty neat to get a scale set up on a gurney, I don't  
24 think it would be all that difficult, but.....  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria.  
27  
28 MS. STICKWAN: Could you give your  
29 report not in millimeters next time?  
30  
31 MS. PALAGIUS: Yeah. Sorry about that.  
32 I just -- that's kind of how we collect our data. This  
33 is my first RAC meeting so next time I definitely will.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So basically you're  
36 tagging everything over 20 inches and the average.....  
37  
38 MS. PALAGIUS: Yes.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: .....fish was sitting  
41 there at about 30 inches?  
42  
43 MS. PALAGIUS: That sounds about right.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And the biggest fish  
46 was about 42 inches?  
47  
48 MS. PALAGIUS: That sounds about  
49 right. And I will actually be addressing the RAC again  
50 hopefully later today and, you know, maybe during a

1 break I'll go convert those and throw some -- those  
2 ones in inches.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's pretty close,  
5 that's not exact, but that was pretty close.

6

7 MS. PALAGIUS: I'll get those numbers  
8 for you guys later. Any other questions for the  
9 Chinook Escapement Project?

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So you figure  
12 approximately 33,000 is what it looks like at this  
13 time?

14

15 MS. PALAGIUS: That is definitely what  
16 it looks like. We haven't -- you know, we do this  
17 temporary stratified derrick estimators, we haven't run  
18 that and we're still -- and again I just started this  
19 position two weeks ago and, you know, with this and  
20 some other upcoming meetings, data's kind of be  
21 allotted to the weekend for run.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Did everything go  
24 pretty good with the fish wheel this year, did you have  
25 high water problems or debris problems or anything like  
26 that?

27

28 MS. PALAGIUS: Oh, most definitely,  
29 yeah. I don't know if anything was, you know, all that  
30 out of the ordinary for the Copper, you know, it's a  
31 big, powerful system, it gets high water flows, but,  
32 you know, I know initially getting the wheels going was  
33 a bit of a struggle with the snow apocalypse last  
34 summer or last winter. You know, they -- if we had  
35 shut down the wheels at certain times we'd get debris  
36 stuck or the water level was rising so quickly, but I  
37 don't think looking at this year's data versus previous  
38 years it's nothing all that out of the ordinary.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Did you have fish  
41 right at the start?

42

43 MS. PALAGIUS: Yes. Yeah, so pretty  
44 much we got the first wheel out at Bear Canyon after  
45 ice out and, you know, our first large pulse of chinook  
46 came through shortly thereafter. I think we had three  
47 large pulses of chinook and there's that initial one  
48 and then one in June and then kind of a small bump  
49 later on. So yeah, we did have fish right at the  
50 start.

1 Yes.  
2  
3 MS. CAMINER: Well, and again not to  
4 put you on the spot, I'm sure Eric can help if need be,  
5 but why such a great year on the Copper and devastating  
6 almost everywhere else, I mean, it.....  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, it wasn't a  
9 great year on the Copper.  
10  
11 MS. PALAGIUS: Yeah, it.....  
12  
13 MS. CAMINER: .....I mean, with those  
14 kind of numbers coming through?  
15  
16 MS. PALAGIUS: And I think it -- it  
17 definitely -- I don't -- you know, honestly I can't  
18 answer that question. It would be nice, it's the, you  
19 know, million dollar question. But, you know, it's not  
20 as strong of a year as -- you know, as it has been in  
21 the past. In 2006 we were estimating about 65,000 so  
22 double that. So, you know, it's not as strong as it  
23 has been, but, you know, maybe -- yeah, actually.....  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And there was.....  
26  
27 MS. PALAGIUS: .....but I think that  
28 would just be.....  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: .....there was no  
31 commercial fishing inside of barrier islands.....  
32  
33 MS. PALAGIUS: Uh-huh.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: .....for the whole  
36 part of the season. So basically that was the run of  
37 king salmon on the Copper. And that -- like she said  
38 the escapement in the past has been 50 to 60,000 and  
39 this was escapement with basically minimal -- as  
40 minimal commercial fishing on it as you could get. So  
41 it was not a strong run. It was an adequate  
42 escapement, but not a strong run.  
43  
44 MS. CAMINER: But -- yeah, but.....  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria.  
47  
48 MS. STICKWAN: When did you notice the  
49 run was it the early part of June, late part of June  
50 or.....

1 MS. PALAGIUS: I'd have to say about  
2 mid June, mid -- early to mid June, like maybe the  
3 second or third week was our biggest pulse.

4  
5 MS. STICKWAN: When in June?  
6

7 MS. PALAGIUS: About the second to  
8 third week of June I'd say. And that was -- yeah, that  
9 was quite large, a lot of fish coming through.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I was really  
12 interested if you had fish right at the start because I  
13 had friends that operated fish wheels upriver on the  
14 first -- you know, on the first opener. And one of  
15 them had 27 kings first night. So I know that there  
16 were kings up there when it opened and those kings  
17 probably came through before you had your wheels in.

18  
19 MS. PALAGIUS: Yeah. You know, and  
20 it's definitely something -- you know, there's some  
21 predictions for even more snow this winter in Cordova  
22 and so, you know, that's going to be part of our kind  
23 of field strategic planning is get more people out  
24 there or just -- you know, we nail it in, we got to get  
25 these fish wheels -- you know, they seem to -- they  
26 seemed a whole lot kind of -- you know, below Miles  
27 Lake or Inner Lake before the ice comes out, but, you  
28 know, they're ready and they're pushing pretty much  
29 right away. And we saw that when a year the ice was  
30 melting upriver and we were getting some really high  
31 flows we got fewer fish coming through, but then once  
32 that dropped we got, you know, we got another huge  
33 push. And that might have been, you know, a factor of  
34 them just holing up for a longer period of time and not  
35 actually a huge pulse.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I wish you'd -- I wish  
38 you guys could see pictures of what it looked liked out  
39 at Bear's Canyon when they went out to shovel the snow  
40 to get the fish wheels up this spring.

41  
42 MS. PALAGIUS: You saw those?  
43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I saw them.  
45

46 MS. PALAGIUS: Well, I heard 2010 was  
47 actually fairly similar and I saw some photos.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: 2010 was the same way,  
50 the whole place is buried. They're digging tunnels

1 down to the fish wheels.

2

3 MS. PALAGIUS: Well, and -- yeah, that  
4 was pretty fun and interesting because there was also  
5 some field gear like, you know, some piles of lumber  
6 and some essential things that it was like a treasure  
7 hunt, like where is it, where's the garbage. You know,  
8 we're getting out there and probing and.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, that was  
11 something else.

12

13 MS. PALAGIUS: .....they definitely  
14 packed up in a different way this year.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Doug.

17

18 MR. BLOSSOM: Yeah, Mr. Chair. How  
19 much later was the fish wheel put in this year over  
20 other years?

21

22 MS. PALAGIUS: Well, that varies. And  
23 I'm sorry I didn't print out or pass out these copies  
24 because I have, you know, kind of this year's data with  
25 -- along with previous. Do you guys want that right  
26 now, you can share.

27

28 MR. BLOSSOM: We can get it later, just  
29 so you get it out.....

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: He was just wondering  
32 on the average.....

33

34 MS. PALAGIUS: On average.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: .....on the average  
37 when do the -- when do the wheels usually get out?

38

39 MS. PALAGIUS: Well, the earliest we've  
40 ever had them out was May 9th, but the latest was the  
41 22nd. And so I think on average we're about five days  
42 later than we really like to be. There's kind of this  
43 -- this sort of -- you know, I don't know where it  
44 comes from, but goal to get it out by May 15th. And,  
45 you know, that's definitely what we strive for.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's quite an  
48 operation, it's -- the Native Village of Eyak has done  
49 a real good job at setting up a catch and recapture  
50 program and operating it very professionally. The data

1 that they've gotten has been very good. I mean, I  
2 can't -- I can't say anything too good about it because  
3 they've just -- they've really, really done a good job.

4  
5 MS. PALAGIUS: The Chairman is  
6 definitely very impressed with this operation when it  
7 began this year I think.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Any other  
10 questions on the salmon.

11  
12 (No comments)

13  
14 MS. PALAGIUS: Well, I do have one more  
15 salmon project to report on.

16  
17 So this year the Native Village of Eyak  
18 began a two year feasibility study to test the  
19 feasibility of installing Shebret RFID reader arrays on  
20 tributaries to the Copper to study stocks specific run  
21 timing and spawning distribution of -- well, you know,  
22 for this feasibility part of chinook salmon to the  
23 Copper. And so this year is stage one which is just  
24 installing these reader arrays and, you know, for  
25 background these RFID reader arrays pick up pit tagged  
26 fish as they pass by. And so we in collaboration with  
27 ADF&G and BLM installed reader arrays on the Gulkana  
28 where ADF&G operates counting towers. And I think it's  
29 about 12 miles up from the Sourdough put in. So this  
30 is our first year of the project and it's to continue  
31 for two years just to test the feasibility. And that  
32 includes, you know, will these reader arrays be ripped  
33 out of the river when you get ice out or ice flows and  
34 so that's something you just kind of now sit back and  
35 watch. But also are these reader arrays picking up all  
36 the tagged fish that pass over. And so the intention  
37 was to get these arrays in kind of early season to pick  
38 up all the chinook passing through, but due to high  
39 water in late May and June, there were two attempts to  
40 go out, you know, and we got crews out there and it was  
41 just too high to install these reader arrays. So but  
42 we did get them installed on July 1st of this year and  
43 that first night, I think maybe about an hour after we  
44 turned them on we got our first chinook. The reader  
45 arrays were only in for -- until the 30th, so about  
46 nine days, but we picked up a total of 34 tagged  
47 chinook. The average travel time -- and actually for  
48 reference the distance from Bear to the Gulkana arrays  
49 in approximately 190 river miles. And the average  
50 travel time was 53.7 days. And here I'll go back to

1 the empirical which is about a rate of 3.5 miles per  
2 day. Minimum travel time was 41 days which is about  
3 4.6 miles per day and the maximum travel time was 62  
4 days which is about 3.1 miles per day. So as I said,  
5 you know, we've installed these arrays, they're up and  
6 running -- well, they're not running now, but they are  
7 during the summer. Now we're just kind of sit back and  
8 hope that next spring they haven't been ripped out of  
9 the river and we can turn them back on and, you know,  
10 pick up passing chinook. You know, the beauty of this  
11 project is that we can piggy back this off of our  
12 chinook escapement monitoring where we're tagging fish  
13 at Bear Canyon and then, you know, pick them up in some  
14 of the spawning tributaries.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And so just for  
17 everybody's information, the pit tags have an  
18 individual, recognizable identification on them so that  
19 you can tell -- you can tie that tag going across the  
20 array to the same tag that you tagged to the date and  
21 the weight and the size that you tagged at Bear Canyon.  
22 So it's an identification tag per individual fish. And  
23 that's why she could come up with how long it took that  
24 fish to travel that far.

25

26 Gloria.

27

28 MS. STICKWAN: What does it look like,  
29 I don't have any idea of what she's talking about.

30

31 MS. PALAGIUS: I wish I had -- oh,  
32 sorry.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Pretty small, aren't  
35 they.

36

37 MS. PALAGIUS: It's pretty small. I  
38 wish I had brought one because it's actually a unique  
39 design by I think Halprit and NVE that Keith Vandenberg  
40 (ph) helped develop. So these pit tags kind of look  
41 like little electronic grains of rice and they're  
42 typically injected into the fish's body cavity, but,  
43 you know, for our purposes we wanted something that we  
44 can visually detect on these adult salmon. And so  
45 Keith and Halprit developed these NVE pit tags which is  
46 a -- you know, TBR or t-bar pit tag and they're --  
47 these pit tags are kind of enmeshed in this plastic or  
48 polymer solution and then it has a little t-bar  
49 attachment that you inject. The t-bar kind of looks  
50 like the plastic attachment you see on like clothing

1 tags, that kind of thing. And so it's nice because you  
2 can still get that electronic, you know, verified data  
3 that's picked up by reader arrays or a scanner, but you  
4 also can be working the wheels up at Canyon Creek and  
5 see -- like visually see these pit tags.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And they can be  
8 collected?

9  
10 MS. PALAGIUS: And they can be  
11 collected which is great. Yeah, we have a -- we have  
12 year information printed on each tag and so when, you  
13 know, people harvest chinook they can send it back in  
14 if they want to. We send a nice little letter or a t-  
15 shirt back.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Or pick them up out of  
18 bear piles or.....

19  
20 MS. PALAGIUS: Yeah, you know, one day  
21 we can reuse them which is nice because they're about I  
22 think \$4 a tag and that adds up.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now do -- when you  
25 reuse them do you use the same the same T tag or do you  
26 take the pit tag out and put in a new T tag?

27  
28 MS. PALAGIUS: We actually have to send  
29 them back to Halprit and then they'll remesh them  
30 because usually after they've been sent back the  
31 plastic attachment t-bar has been clipped.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Tore off?

34  
35 MS. PALAGIUS: Yeah.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

38  
39 MS. PALAGIUS: Yeah, but it's still  
40 better that way.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

43  
44 MS. PALAGIUS: Yeah.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The T tags have been  
47 around for a long time, every -- everybody's that's had  
48 a chinook salmon has seen those and the nice thing  
49 about those they can be collected on spawning grounds  
50 and out of bear piles and information can be gotten

1 that way. But the thought of tying a radio tag into  
2 it, I never even thought of that, that's pretty neat.

3

4 Judy.

5

6 MS. CAMINER: Well, I was just  
7 wondering what part of the body do you usually put it  
8 on or, you know, where would a person look to see if it  
9 was there?

10

11 MS. PALAGIUS: Yeah, back of dorsal  
12 fin, like third fin ray back, maybe about a millimeter  
13 or half an inch or a centimeter or half inch down.  
14 Yeah. And actually I'll also mention as far as being  
15 able to verify whether or not these reader arrays are  
16 picking up all tagged fish, the way we do that is since  
17 these tags are external we have a technician and also  
18 the ADF&G technicians that are at the counting towers  
19 are kind of visually inspecting chinook for tags. And  
20 that's another thing we're kind of going to develop  
21 more this summer is even when we're down at Bear  
22 Canyon, you know, this is -- we haven't really had this  
23 kind of RFID project in mind and so, you know, we're  
24 tagging whatever side of the dorsal or of the fish  
25 that's convenient, but we're going to try to  
26 consistently tag one side so radio technicians on one  
27 side of the river, they can't see what's going on on  
28 the other side of the fish. And essentially change the  
29 color to make them more spotable.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: They go across the  
32 plate on the Gulkana, don't they, at the counting  
33 tower?

34

35 MS. PALAGIUS: Yeah, they do. They do.

36

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Maybe next year you  
39 can bring a tagging gun and tags and a pit tag here and  
40 then everybody could see exactly what you're talking  
41 about.

42

43 MS. PALAGIUS: Maybe I can even bring a  
44 potato that we can tag or something. I just sent off  
45 materials for a job fair in Fairbanks that two of our  
46 former technicians and current students are going to  
47 and I was looking around for a tag gun, but I think  
48 they're mostly -- they're all at camp. That would have  
49 been a fun thing to include.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Andy.

2

3 MR. McLAUGHLIN: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Just  
4 curious, you said roughly 2,000 tags is what you put  
5 and 35 of them were found at the weir at Gulkana, going  
6 by there. So did -- were any other tags found at other  
7 places, other drainages?

8

9 MS. PALAGIUS: Oh, I'm sure. We just  
10 don't have -- we don't have reader arrays, it's only on  
11 -- on those other systems, it's just on the Gulkana  
12 where we've installed that. We have had some folks  
13 send back tags from different areas, but, you know,  
14 again I just started two weeks ago and I've just gotten  
15 that data in and, you know, some people provided  
16 location and some people just sent a tag in as well.  
17 So, you know.....

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And that wasn't all of  
20 the tags on the Gulkana, that was just what went over  
21 that reader in nine days, that wasn't -- that wasn't  
22 all the tags that they tagged at Bear Canyon that went  
23 to the Gulkana, they just only have -- was it nine days  
24 that the reader was in there?

25

26 MS. PALAGIUS: Nine days. So here  
27 again ideally we would have liked to have these in in  
28 late May, but, you know, the water levels were so high  
29 that we got all the materials and the crew out there to  
30 install it and it just -- it was not feasible, you  
31 know, the water was so high and so turbid you couldn't  
32 even see what you were doing and it wasn't -- those  
33 conditions weren't safe to be in there digging and  
34 jackhammering.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So are these set into  
37 a stone strata on the bottom or are they concreted in  
38 or are they set down in metal, what -- what's keeping  
39 them in the river right now?

40

41 MS. PALAGIUS: Duck bills. So they're  
42 kind of duck bills attached to a bolt -- well, attached  
43 to a cable attached to a bolt. And the reader arrays  
44 themselves are kind of -- they're sort of encompassed  
45 in these like -- they're not pvc, I'm not quite sure  
46 what the material is, but some sort of plastic  
47 material. And what they look like is essentially this  
48 table top, but maybe like a maroon (ph) sort of colored  
49 and you drive about eight to 10 duck bills per that go  
50 about four feet deep.

1                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Into the strata on the  
2 bottom of the river?

3  
4                   MS. PALAGIUS: We dug down so we could  
5 have the reader arrays flush with the stream bed and  
6 the top of them is built or is designed to kind of be a  
7 good structure for algae to colonize and that way  
8 they're kind of less visually obstructive.

9  
10                  CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions  
11 for her on the salmon?

12  
13                  (No comments)

14  
15                  CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Sounds  
16 like you got another good project going. And you're  
17 planning on putting these reader arrays at some of the  
18 other major king salmon streams too?

19  
20                  MS. PALAGIUS: Sure. Yeah. Oh, most  
21 definitely. So this again is just a two year  
22 feasibility study and I think there's going to be a  
23 call for proposals in November and we're hoping --  
24 that's the plan is to expand into other major spawning  
25 tributaries so it can provide some very useful  
26 information on the specific populations of salmon. You  
27 know, right now we're just tagging the chinook, but,  
28 you know, we have the capacity to tag both sockeye and  
29 chinook.

30  
31                  CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And that's what I was  
32 going to say, once you have the arrays in there you  
33 could tag any kind of salmon and get a reader back off  
34 of it?

35  
36                  MS. PALAGIUS: Oh, most definitely.  
37 Yep, you know, I think installing this kind of  
38 infrastructure would be so useful for, you know, salmon  
39 is our kind of focus, you know, for now, but it lends  
40 itself to so many other studies, you know, I was just  
41 actually contacted by someone last week who wanted to  
42 tag juveniles in the Gulkana this summer to study out  
43 migration timing next year. You know, just there's a  
44 lot of potential for gathering really great  
45 information, but also collaborating and getting to know  
46 these systems not just as, you know, single Copper  
47 River unit, but as many different sort of units or  
48 populations and species that make that up.

49  
50                  CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria.

1 MS. STICKWAN: What rivers are you  
2 going to do your fishery project on?

3  
4 MS. PALAGIUS: That is yet to be  
5 determined, you know, so I guess it'll be based on, you  
6 know, what rivers kind of make up the major spawning  
7 populations of salmon in the Copper, but also it's  
8 going to be based on accessibility as well. So, you  
9 know, definitely the Gulkana, there's the Upper Copper,  
10 I think the Tazlina, but, you know, this is all kind of  
11 just speculation at this point. We did -- you know, I  
12 know ADF&G has conducted studies as well, but we did  
13 some radio telemetry years ago and I think that'll  
14 definitely guide future projects.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any other  
17 questions?

18  
19 (No comments)

20  
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And now the moose.

22  
23 MS. PALAGIUS: And now the moose. So  
24 this is -- this project is overseen by John Whistle who  
25 is our new Division Director for Department of  
26 Environment and Natural Resources at NVE. And  
27 unfortunately he was unable to come today because he's  
28 preparing for field work for the moose project. So but  
29 for the Copper River Delta moose projects we have  
30 holding facilities in place to take orphan moose from  
31 the orphan moose project or O&G, and that's out on the  
32 Delta. However, this summer we were unable to obtain  
33 any moose calves from O&G and I think that was  
34 permitting release issue. I wish I could speak more to  
35 it, but, you know, out of my jurisdiction.

36  
37 And then the moose habitat enhancement,  
38 in collaboration with the Forest Service, NVE and the  
39 Forest Service hydroax plots on the Copper River Delta  
40 to enhance moose forage habitat. So specifically the  
41 reason behind it being that after the 1960s earthquake  
42 and the river -- like the delta was uplifted, you got a  
43 kind of progression towards a secondary alder stands  
44 which is not ideal moose forage habitat. So in the  
45 winter they go out and hydroax plots to allow for  
46 willow regrowth. And so last winter no hydroaxing took  
47 place due to the snow apocalypse as we call it or heavy  
48 snow conditions, but John's going out there this week  
49 and the Forest Service is going in on their own  
50 activities to -- you know, they have the plants all

1 designated now, they're just marking it off and they  
2 have the contracts going to get that hydroaxed.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And that's basically  
5 to hydroax alder to replace it with Willow.

6

7 MS. PALAGIUS: Correct. Any questions?

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

12

13 MS. PALAGIUS: Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Now it is noon,  
16 it is break time. We finished our agency reports,  
17 we're going to go back to new business when we come  
18 back and take care of the business Council needs to  
19 take care of and decide on a future meeting and we  
20 should be able to -- I think we should be able to be  
21 out of here by 4:00 o'clock I'm hoping at least by  
22 that. So let's come back at 1:00 o'clock.

23

24 (Off record)

25

26 (On record)

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We're not all here. I  
29 saw Gloria in the other room looking at some of the  
30 displays, there's some pretty neat displays here to  
31 look at. I got taken away with one of them too and  
32 didn't bother -- didn't get in here in time.

33

34 We're going to go on to new business  
35 and the first thing we have is discussion of open  
36 Council application and nomination period and outreach  
37 to increase the number of applicants for Regional  
38 Advisory Council membership. And we were talked to a  
39 little bit about this, about what they had and that  
40 some of the Councils came up short. I think at this  
41 point in time we have no problem on our Council. Does  
42 anybody -- I think this was new business for us, in  
43 other words do we have some ideas as a council how to  
44 increase participation in getting applicants for our  
45 Council, opening -- you know, getting the nomination  
46 period going so that we actually have people to replace  
47 -- sooner or later some of us aren't going to be here.  
48 And we're going to get some young people involved in  
49 this I really think and that's -- I'm glad to see some  
50 of the younger members of the Council sitting here

1 because if the next generation doesn't take over I  
2 don't know what's going to happen. And I know that  
3 it's really been interesting to me because I have seen  
4 from other Councils and other meetings that I've gone  
5 to how much importance a lot of, and I'll use the  
6 probably politically incorrect word of older  
7 generation, how important they view subsistence because  
8 they have seen how it's helped in the past and want to  
9 preserve it for the next generation and the generations  
10 after that. And we need to figure out some way that we  
11 can -- that we can get younger members of the community  
12 involved in this program so that it carries on into the  
13 future.

14

15 Judy.

16

17 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, I agree with  
18 you completely and I'm sure members of our Council who  
19 are affiliated with organizations that work with  
20 younger people can help spread the word. Just seems  
21 like geographically, I mean, we talked about the person  
22 from Cantwell before on the SRC, but we really don't  
23 have much representation from the western part of our  
24 region so perhaps that could be a little bit of a  
25 focus.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If we look at the  
28 western part of our region we'll see that there aren't  
29 very many people that live in the western part of our  
30 region and that's -- and that's part of the problem.  
31 And the other part of the problem is logistics. I know  
32 we had -- we had a couple members from the western part  
33 of the region and it's -- when you live out in that  
34 kind of place it's hard to join into something like  
35 this simply because it's a major thing to come and go.  
36 And that's -- to me that's one of the biggest  
37 advantages we have in Southcentral is the fact that we  
38 actually have a transportation system pretty well that  
39 covers all of the places that we have people coming  
40 from. And that's not true when you start getting out  
41 west and out on the peninsula and everything like that.  
42 But how do we do it.

43

44 Judy.

45

46 MS. CAMINER: Well, okay. Perhaps for  
47 clarification so maybe people along the Railbelt and  
48 along the Parks Highway there, how do we do it, maybe  
49 and Gloria has ties to Cantwell, perhaps we can get the  
50 word that way and maybe I can get in touch with Denali

1 or maybe Dave can help me do this and see if we can get  
2 them to start spreading the word a little bit more too.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Gloria.

5

6 MS. STICKWAN: I do tell them at our  
7 meetings and they've said they've applied, but -- one  
8 person said they applied at least two times and were  
9 never picked so they kind of just gave up.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, one thing you  
12 can't do is you can't give up because there's a limited  
13 amount of spaces available and if your application's  
14 not in there when a space becomes available there's no  
15 -- there isn't any chance. And I notice that's one  
16 thing that we have in this Council as I look around the  
17 table, we have a fair number of people here who haven't  
18 changed out. And so maybe some of us are going to have  
19 to quit so we can get some new blood in here because we  
20 do have -- this has been a -- there's a lot of long  
21 term people on our Council and that's good in one way  
22 and -- because it -- you know, it brings a perspective,  
23 but at the same time it cuts down on the opportunity  
24 for well, somebody like Andy, you know, or some -- a  
25 new person, you know, like that. And I really do think  
26 we need to get some younger people in. So as  
27 individuals encourage your children, you know,  
28 encourage your neighbors and any kind of organization  
29 that you belong to, bring it up and get people that you  
30 know that actually have an interest in subsistence and  
31 subsistence uses and stuff to apply because if we don't  
32 get the younger generation involved in it it's just --  
33 you know, I -- I really think that's what it's going to  
34 take.

35

36 Any other ideas?

37

38 UNIDENTIFIED MALE VOICE: Where's your  
39 kids?

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Where's my kids? One  
42 of them's watching the sheep, one of them's out  
43 catching fish and one of them's.....

44

45 UNIDENTIFIED MALE VOICE: Don't see  
46 them here.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I know, don't -- I've  
49 tried. You know, something I think about it back when  
50 I was in the twenties, I was too busy to go sit in

1 meetings too. But they're going to be 30 one of these  
2 days and then maybe.

3

4 MS. CAMINER: They came when they were  
5 12.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, they came when  
8 they were 12 because I drug them.

9

10 So I just would like a -- you know,  
11 that's a thing on our item right there and I really  
12 think that each one of us needs to take it personally,  
13 take it back to the people you know, take it back to  
14 your relatives. We all know people who are more  
15 involved in this kind of stuff than the people in the  
16 office do. So let's see if we can't make sure that  
17 when it comes times to have some nominations we have  
18 some nominations for our Board.

19

20 Okay. We have Federal Subsistence  
21 Board's annual report reply and I hope everybody has  
22 looked at it, it's on Page, if I remember right, 23,  
23 but I might be wrong on that.

24

25 UNIDENTIFIED MALE VOICE: 48.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: 48. I was thinking of  
28 something else. This was the reply to our last year's  
29 annual letter. And the reply is not on 48, the reply  
30 is later. Right here, the reply is on Page 57. That's  
31 the response that they gave us. And these are the  
32 items that we brought up last time. The King's Bay  
33 moose, basically they're saying that they're going to  
34 -- they're going to do more surveys and their not going  
35 to do anything on it, that there's not enough moose  
36 there. I mean, that's a rough way of putting it.

37

38 The Mentasta Caribou Herd, again  
39 they'll schedule a National Park and Tetlin National  
40 Wildlife Refuge presentation on the information  
41 available on the herd for the winter 2013 meeting. So  
42 next year we're going to hear on that.

43

44 Now the Chisana Caribou Herd we  
45 actually heard what happened and I think we can be  
46 pretty happy with what happened this year in comparison  
47 with what I was afraid of.

48

49 Predator control, we bring that up all  
50 of the time and basically what they've done is they've

1 given us the standard response that are part of the  
2 management programs for the different land use places,  
3 the National Park, BLM and everything. And as you can  
4 see our -- any kind of hopes I think of having any kind  
5 of predator control in a National Park or National  
6 Preserve is totally not -- I mean, we can still bring  
7 up the fact that we consider it something that needs to  
8 be done, but the odds of getting anything done are next  
9 to nothing or less. And part of that is they have a --  
10 they have management policies for those land use areas  
11 that the local managers don't have anything to do with,  
12 they come down from pretty high up.

13

14 The one on opening remote areas for  
15 more subsistence opportunity, the Board's encouraging  
16 the Council to submit proposals of areas that we feel  
17 need to be opened up or could be opened up for  
18 opportunity -- subsistence opportunity. So they put it  
19 back on our plate right there and if anybody has some  
20 suggestions of areas or places that they think need  
21 opened up that are currently closed, those are  
22 something that we can present and remember as a Council  
23 member you can still put a proposal in for the Council  
24 to act on. And so if a person has that that was where  
25 we would -- that's how we would act on something like  
26 that. We're going to need a proposal before us so that  
27 we can put a proposal before them.

28

29 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

32

33 MS. CAMINER: I'm sure Tom's well aware  
34 of it and I think it might have been the one who  
35 brought this up, but I'm sure if you see him maybe you  
36 can remind him that if he has an area in mind.

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If he's got an area in  
39 mind put a proposal in.

40

41 MS. CAMINER: Yes.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And that's something  
44 that -- well, we might as well say that again is the  
45 way to put things on the table so that we have to act  
46 on them is put a proposal in. So if you've got -- and  
47 if -- I'm surprised we only had one proposal this time.  
48 It's interesting because I can remember when we used to  
49 have and so can Greg, we used to have 15 proposals in  
50 front of us and we spent most of the meeting working on

1 proposals. If somebody sees something that they need  
2 done or something that they think needs opened or a  
3 season they need opened or closed or an area or  
4 something put a proposal in, we can't really do  
5 anything without proposals. Because what we do is we  
6 act on proposals -- we don't act on them, we make a  
7 recommendation on them and then forward them to the  
8 Board to act on. And so, you know, as a Council we can  
9 do that and we can remind people out there that if  
10 somebody comes to you and they've got a complaint about  
11 something, they've got a season they'd like to see  
12 opened, a season they'd like to see closed, tell them  
13 put a proposal in, get a proposal on the table because  
14 then we can actually act on it.

15  
16 Deference on special action requests  
17 and this is going back to our Ninilchik thing usually.  
18 I don't know what to say on that one right there, I  
19 hope everybody's read it. Basically what they're  
20 saying in my way of thinking of it is they didn't --  
21 they thought they gave us deference on the things that  
22 they should give us deference on and our request there  
23 didn't meet the standards for deference.

24  
25 Now item seven was the classification  
26 of the Chitina Fishery and that's basically been put  
27 off by the Board of Fish until the 2014/2015 season  
28 which gives both sides time to come up with things to  
29 consider. One thing we can do since it's important in  
30 our area, we could also talk with the other which was  
31 the Eastern Interior which put proposal 55 in and see  
32 if we can come with some kind of consensus that would  
33 be agreeable to both sides.

34  
35 Analysis of goats in Unit 11. Eric, I  
36 saw you nodding your head and basically it was a call  
37 for more information on goats and on the usage of goats  
38 in Unit 11, has anything been started on that?

39  
40 MR. VEECH: Mr. Chair, Regional Council  
41 Members. At this point that is an item that I expect  
42 will be discussed in depth at the Wrangell SRC meeting  
43 which is going to happen October 30th. I would  
44 anticipate that someone from the Kenny Lake community  
45 will submit a proposal for C&T for goats for their  
46 community. You know, it appears from the research that  
47 we've done that Kenny Lake was just simply missed when  
48 there was a determination made for goats.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. And the last

1 one was the summaries for the executive sessions and we  
2 asked for a -- that the Board provide summaries for  
3 that in a more timely fashion and the Board basically  
4 says that currently the practice includes summaries of  
5 executive sessions and press releases following any  
6 Board meeting when applicable. These releases are  
7 issued within a couple of working days of the meeting  
8 and are distributed to a wide distribution list  
9 including your Council Coordinator who should forward  
10 them to you. The news releases are also available on  
11 the OSM website. In other words basically they're  
12 telling us that the results of the executive sessions  
13 are available within a short period of time and if you  
14 want them faster go to the website.

15

16 So those were issues that we brought up  
17 to them. One of the things that we're going to have to  
18 do shortly is we're going to have to -- we're going to  
19 have come up with some more annual report items,  
20 topics, that's number I. So keep in mind anything that  
21 you can see that we need to put into the annual report.  
22 And does anybody have any questions on any of these  
23 summaries, you have it all available in the book, you  
24 can read it, do we need to spend more time on it?

25

26 MR. ADLER: Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mr. Alder.

29

30 MR. ADLER: Just on issue two there on  
31 Page 58, the Mentasta Caribou Herd. It's very short  
32 comments there and it's -- that was really more of an  
33 important subsistence herd than most people realize.  
34 Back in the late '70s through the '80s that's the place  
35 where I hunted caribou every year is you fly into the  
36 Wrangells. And this -- it's not just the Mentasta Herd  
37 as we think of them today up around Tanana and Copper  
38 Lake, the herd was clear down along the front there,  
39 even to the -- including the Chistochina, Chahatna and  
40 Dadina, Nadina, Sanford River and it was a very  
41 important subsistence part. So I'd like to see -- I'd  
42 like to see more caribou in there. And I don't know  
43 how we'd go about that. It's my contention that once  
44 we started keeping the Nelchina Herd down to 35 to  
45 40,000 we kind of kept them into the Talkeetna area. I  
46 think the Mentasta, Chisana and all these little herds  
47 are really offshoots of the Nelchina animals. And when  
48 the herds used to get up to 100,000 or more they would  
49 be pushed out into these areas so it provided good  
50 hunting. But once we started keeping the population

1 down to 35,000 or so there was no reason for the  
2 caribou to go over into the Wrangells. So we lost that  
3 area to hunt. It was a very important subsistence,  
4 Wilson Justin talked about it last fall. And I did  
5 too. And so that's just one of the things and I don't  
6 know, unless the herd expands and goes back into these  
7 areas I don't know that we're going to have a hunting  
8 season. The Park Service shut it down back in the  
9 '90s, I believe, didn't they and you had that study  
10 there where you were collaring them. And so anyway now  
11 we're stuck with hunting caribou along the highway  
12 which doesn't have near the quality. You got all these  
13 hunters and you jump out and shoot, no fun. You fly in  
14 and you camped out and you're the only people around,  
15 well, that's a quality hunt, you know, and I miss that.

16  
17

18 So, I mean, I just want to make these  
19 comments. So I don't know what to do about it.

20  
21

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, if we -- if  
22 we're going to get a presentation on this in the winter  
23 2013 meeting that'll give us opportunity to comment on  
24 it and opportunity to see where it's at at this point  
25 in time. I think, Lee, that's a good thing to keep in  
26 mind. I -- that -- I was thinking of the same thing  
27 when I was thinking of how a couple years ago when we  
28 had the fires up north and the Nelchina Caribou Herd  
29 basically for lack of a better way of putting it was  
30 all the way out to the Lakinaw River in the Chitina  
31 Valley and Willow Creek and Kenny Lake and damned  
32 everyplace because they were pushed there because they  
33 had no other place to go. And back when the herd was  
34 50, 60,000 caribou they went looking for food. I don't  
35 know -- I've always wondering, you know, when I see the  
36 signs up on top of like Hanageta (ph) and that, I  
37 always wondered has -- have -- is there any evidence  
38 that caribou were -- extended that far at one time?

39  
40

MR. VEECH: Not to my knowledge, Mr.  
41 Chair, no.

42  
43

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Lee.

44  
45

MR. ADLER: I did read in one of the  
46 early journals, I don't remember who it was, one of the  
47 early explorers, that they found drift fences in the  
48 Chitina Valley that the Indians -- Natives had put up  
49 to herd the caribou so they could spear them. And  
50 these -- of course, that would have been a long time

1 ago and so there is evidence that there were caribou up  
2 in the Chitina Valley back in the 1800s and early part  
3 of this century. That's the only reference I found to  
4 it.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Well, I've seen  
7 caribou in the Chitina Valley -- evidence of caribou  
8 twice and I've seen caribou twice in the Chitina Valley  
9 in just the years that I've been there. So I know that  
10 they do stray that far, but never any -- you know, a  
11 big herd was -- I think there was like 14 animals in  
12 that one bunch that was there by -- up above Long Lake  
13 that one time. So, I mean, we know that they can go  
14 that far. I think like you that what's going to put  
15 them is just like what's happened with the salmon,  
16 you've got to have enough population pressure to push  
17 pioneers out. And I don't know if we'll ever see that.  
18 But it would be interesting to see what they've got to  
19 say on it in 2011 -- 13.

20  
21 Anybody else on anything that's on this  
22 report?

23  
24 (No comments)

25  
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Lee. Okay.  
27 Our next thing is the Fisheries Monitoring Program  
28 Priority Information Needs. And Karen is going to  
29 present that to us. If you turn to Page 64 you'll see  
30 it.

31  
32 MS. HYER: Good afternoon, Mr.  
33 Chairman, Council Members. I'm going to talk to you  
34 about our priority information needs which is the  
35 precursor to our request for proposals which is the  
36 precursor to our Federal -- our Fisheries Resource  
37 Monitoring Program. And it's been about a year since  
38 we've talked about this. I came before you in 2012 and  
39 we approved the -- what was then the draft Fisheries  
40 Resource Monitoring Program. Every year OSM has money  
41 where we fund research, we fund fisheries proposals  
42 that do research that helps Federal subsistence  
43 managers manage the fisheries. And in 2014 we're going  
44 to have \$4.8 million statewide to fund research  
45 proposals. And what I am looking for today is your  
46 input on what you think is important in your region to  
47 help direct the researchers. And so what we do, we put  
48 out our call is we put out a list of what we consider  
49 our priority information needs and that helps direct  
50 researchers in where our interests are and funding

1 basically. We do accept other proposals that aren't on  
2 the priority information need if a researcher makes a  
3 case that it really is an important information need.  
4 But then at that point it is up to them to make the  
5 case. So I'm coming before you to get your input on  
6 what you feel is important. And I will -- in a minute  
7 I'll go over the list, the draft list, that we've  
8 created. But before I do that I just wanted to remind  
9 that there's a list of activities that the Federal  
10 Board has designated to be outside the scope of the  
11 monitoring plan and those include habitat protection,  
12 mitigation, restoration and enhancement, hatchery  
13 propagation, restoration, enhance and supplementation  
14 and contamination assessments. So those are things  
15 that we won't fund through this program.

16

17 So if you turn to.....

18

19 MS. STICKWAN: What page are you  
20 reading from?

21

22 MS. HYER: Actually that's not in your  
23 document, that's just something that we put out in the  
24 call. But I just wanted to remind the Council because  
25 sometimes those come up and the Federal Board has said  
26 that they won't fund projects related to those issues.

27

28

29 But if you turn to 69 you can see the  
30 list or the draft list that we're going to be working  
31 off of. And I'll just start by reading what we have  
32 down on the list so far. But we have obtaining  
33 reliable estimates of chinook salmon escapement into  
34 the Copper River. Mapping of lifetime and current  
35 subsistence use areas for harvest of salmon and non-  
36 salmon fish species by residents of Ninilchik, Hope and  
37 Cooper Landing. Research should include intensity of  
38 use and use on Federal public lands and waters.  
39 Harvest, use and associated contextual information for  
40 salmon and non-salmon by species in communities of the  
41 Copper River Basin, updating previous research  
42 supported by the monitoring program.

43

44 And then if you look at the bottom of  
45 Page 69 we have some -- we have a section we call multi  
46 regional priority information needs and these would be  
47 needs that possibly extend for more than one -- from  
48 more than one region. And so I'll just go over the  
49 ones that apply to Southcentral here. But changes in  
50 subsistence fishery resources and uses in context of

1 climate change where relevant, including, but not  
2 limited to fishing season, species targeted, fishing  
3 locations, fish quality, harvest methods and means and  
4 methods of preservation. And then we're asking the  
5 investigator to include management implications. And  
6 then the second bullet is develop models based on long  
7 term relationships between ocean conditions and  
8 production for the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska  
9 chinook salmon stocks to better understand and respond  
10 to changes in run abundance. And then the third one  
11 there has to do specifically with the Yukon and the  
12 Kuskokwim so I'll skip that and I'll go to the last one  
13 which is evaluation of conversion factors used to  
14 estimate edible pounds from individual fish and from  
15 unorthodox units such as tubs, sacks and buckets.

16  
17 And so this is -- some of these  
18 priority information needs are ones that were listed in  
19 2012 and we didn't get proposals for. So I'd be  
20 interested in the Council's input as to what they think  
21 should be on this list and anything that they possibly  
22 think should be removed from the list. And even if  
23 it's on the list we don't always receive proposals to  
24 research the subject so I'd like you to keep that in  
25 mind also.

26  
27 But anyway with that I will end my  
28 conversation and I have some input from the Native  
29 Village of Eyak who's done a lot of work on the Copper.  
30 And I -- you might as well give us your input now and  
31 then we'll let the Council discuss.

32  
33 MS. PALAGIUS: Okay. Thank you. Hello  
34 again, Council, Chair. I would like to propose the  
35 addition of a priority information need for the  
36 Southcentral region. First a bit of background. The  
37 Copper River Basin supports subsistence salmon  
38 fisheries that are tremendously valuable culturally and  
39 as a food source to its users. It also supports large  
40 and economically valuable sport and commercial  
41 fisheries as well. Overall management of Copper River  
42 salmon is as complex as any because of multiple user  
43 groups, variation between years in the size and timing  
44 of stocks and difficulties in estimating salmon  
45 abundance because of the physical characteristics of  
46 the drainage. The Copper River is a large, powerful  
47 and turbid glacierally fed system. Management  
48 decisions are mainly based on system wide escapement  
49 goals. Although the Copper River fishery units are  
50 comprised of multiple different spawning populations

1 from different tributaries. There is increasing  
2 evidence that it is the complexity of multiple  
3 independent salmon populations that enhances the  
4 resilience of the overall stock. And there are some --  
5 I gathered some references to that effect if you guys  
6 would take a look at those or want to.

7  
8           Given the region wide concern and  
9 mandate to maintain the health of salmon populations  
10 for subsistence users I believe that more information  
11 is needed on the individual salmon populations that  
12 comprise the Copper River Fishery Unit for effective,  
13 sustainable management. This sort of information will  
14 become particularly critical as the nature of the  
15 Copper River Basin, a predominantly glacierally fed  
16 system, is altered by climate change.

17  
18           For these reasons I would like to  
19 propose to the Council the addition of the following  
20 priority information need for the Southcentral region  
21 to the 20114 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.  
22 And the plan we're proposing is as follows. To develop  
23 a long term monitoring strategy to assess the spawning  
24 distribution and stock specific run timing of salmon in  
25 the Copper River Basin which can be used to identify  
26 long term stock trends particularly in the context of  
27 climate change. And that's -- that is the PIN that I'm  
28 introducing a little bit further.

29  
30           While past and current research and  
31 evaluated the spawning distribution and stock specific  
32 run timing of Copper River salmon the radio telemetry  
33 and aerial surveys, I believe there's still a critical  
34 information gap for the following reasons. One, past  
35 efforts that evaluated the spawning distribution and  
36 stock specific run timing of Copper River salmon while  
37 providing useful information were limited temporally  
38 and spatially. These projects typically only span less  
39 than one complete sockeye or chinook lifecycle and as  
40 such are unable to address the long term variation on a  
41 meaningful time scale. Two, there's a need to develop  
42 new and more accurate methods to assess the multiple  
43 individual populations of Copper River salmon. While  
44 ADF&G currently conducts aerial surveys on select  
45 spawning tributaries to the Copper, the turbid nature  
46 of these glacierally fed systems renders them occluded  
47 and correlation to using other survey methods have been  
48 poor. Three, given the time scale of changes in salmon  
49 population levels and the many biological factors  
50 affecting them such as climate change, there's a need

1 to develop a long term monitoring strategy. While  
2 current basin wide escapement estimates provide  
3 invaluable information for management, they fall short  
4 to address any interannual changes in the size and  
5 timing of individual populations. I believe the  
6 information generated by developing and implementing a  
7 long term monitoring strategy for individual salmon  
8 populations on the Copper River Basin would help guide  
9 management decision. In the scheme of things this  
10 information could be the ounce of prevention that  
11 avoids needing a pound of cure.

12  
13                   Again, Council, I appeal to you to  
14 write a letter a letter of recommendation to the  
15 technical advisory committee for the addition of this  
16 PIN for the Southcentral region's 2014 Fisheries  
17 Resource Monitoring Program.

18  
19                   And if you guys would like I -- I'm  
20 happy to repeat that PIN or the priority information  
21 need.

22  
23                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Now take the  
24 same thing and reduce it to two sentences. So what  
25 actually -- what we're looking at would be a long term  
26 stock assessment on individual stocks, right.....

27  
28                   MS. PALAGIUS: Uh-huh.

29  
30                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: .....am I correct an  
31 what I'm basically reading out of that?

32  
33                   MS. PALAGIUS: Yes.

34  
35                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: A monitoring system of  
36 individual stocks on a long term basis?

37  
38                   MS. PALAGIUS: Yeah.

39  
40                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

41  
42                   MS. PALAGIUS: That is essentially kind  
43 of what -- you know, getting at the stock specific run  
44 timing and spawning distribution.

45  
46                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

47  
48                   MS. PALAGIUS: So you'd think.....

49  
50                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But over a long period

1 of time like.....

2

3 MS. PALAGIUS: Right.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: .....like what we've  
6 had at Long Lake where we've got 20 years of data  
7 coming in.....

8

9 MS. PALAGIUS: Right.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: .....that we can see  
12 up and down.

13

14 MS. PALAGIUS: Right.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But you're talking  
17 individual stocks just like that. Okay.

18

19 MS. PALAGIUS: Right. For, you know,  
20 the different major spawning populations in the  
21 tributaries to the Copper.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh. Even in the  
24 same tributary?

25

26 MS. PALAGIUS: Even within the same  
27 tributary could be multiple, yeah.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And see there's where  
30 we run into problems with this system that we're doing  
31 right here is the long term when you have to have  
32 renewable funding. And so far we've done pretty good  
33 on some of the ones that have been important to us, but  
34 it's hard, you can't commit to a -- what do we commit  
35 to three years and then it's a three year review  
36 usually?

37

38 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, it's actually  
39 -- because we've gone to an every other cycle, the  
40 longest time commitment that's allowed is a four year  
41 cycle at this point.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Four year one. Okay.  
44 Yeah. Where for something like this to be valid what  
45 we need is 20 year. But we can just renew it every  
46 four years if we think that the information that we're  
47 getting back is worthwhile doing. I mean, we keep it  
48 as a priority. So this would be a long term estimate  
49 of both spawning viability and return so you could have  
50 it -- you could be tracking -- you'd be tracking what

1 the escapement is and what the survival rate is really  
2 in a way. And you could see whether the survival's  
3 going up or down for individual stocks. So long term  
4 assessment and identification because you'd be  
5 identifying different stocks that way too, wouldn't  
6 you?

7

8 MS. PALAGIUS: Correct.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Andy.

11

12 MR. McLAUGHLIN: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Are  
13 you including Prince William Sound tributaries into  
14 this Copper River watershed thing, Coghill, Eshamey,  
15 Black Jackpot, is that part of what you're considering  
16 Copper River?

17

18 MS. PALAGIUS: Mr. Chair. Not -- you  
19 know, I don't -- this initial proposal was just focused  
20 on tributaries of the Copper River itself and not  
21 tributaries to Prince William Sound. You know, if  
22 these were to be developed and that were relevant I  
23 don't, you know, see why that would be excluded.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You're proposing a  
26 proposal for the Copper River basically and it's  
27 tributaries?

28

29 MS. PALAGIUS: Yes. Yeah.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's not saying that  
32 the others aren't important, but the -- in prioritizng  
33 what we want to do basically she's -- the proposal  
34 she's suggesting is for the Copper River.

35

36 MS. STICKWAN: You also said something  
37 about climate change?

38

39 MS. PALAGIUS: Well, I think the  
40 benefit of a long term monitoring strategy would be  
41 that you could, you know, then have this baseline data  
42 that you can use in the context of climate change.  
43 And, you know, it is a bit tenuous in a three year  
44 funding cycle, but, you know, hypothetically if it --  
45 if do get a long enough data set, you know, it could be  
46 used as baseline data.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And you could see if  
49 there is any effect of it?

50

1 MS. PALAGIUS: Correct. Correct.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So basically that --  
4 what we would have then if we went along with this we  
5 would say that our priorities for the Southcentral  
6 region would be basically to stock identification and  
7 assessment programs for the Copper River and too what  
8 we would call social programs which are identifying  
9 usage -- people usage, one for the Copper River, one  
10 for the Kenai. And we'd say that's what our priorities  
11 are in seeking proposals. This is not what we're  
12 saying we're going to do, this would say this is what  
13 our priorities -- what we view as priorities now will  
14 somebody come forward with a proposal for those. And  
15 so this is our -- also our opportunity if any of you  
16 feel that there's other priorities that should be  
17 addressed in Southcentral to put them on this right  
18 here so that we can give them to Karen so that when she  
19 goes and seeks proposals they meet what we consider  
20 priorities. And like she said there were some things  
21 that you can't use as priorities, stock enhancement,  
22 mitigation or assessment of chemical contamination and  
23 things like that, but we can always do a cultural one  
24 like this which is to find usage amounts or usage  
25 patterns or anything on that order and we can always do  
26 something that gives us stock assessments that can be  
27 used then for management or to track the health of our  
28 runs. And what -- what's just been suggested was that  
29 we put a long term stock assessment and identification  
30 program in place on the Copper River in order to see  
31 the changes there.

32

33 Gloria.

34

35 MS. STICKWAN: I don't know how to say  
36 this and I don't really know what my thoughts are, but  
37 I was thinking about that chinook symposium next week  
38 when they start coming up with solution -- not  
39 solutions, but the gaps in knowledge and they may come  
40 up with something that we need to be looking at, that  
41 we're not thinking about right now.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

44

45 MS. STICKWAN: And we should put  
46 something in there about that too. I don't know how  
47 you would -- I don't know how you would say it, but the  
48 gaps in knowledge, gaps of the.....

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, that would be

1 very good because we could put that even right under  
2 number 1 where it says obtain reliable estimates of  
3 chinook salmon escapement into the Copper River and any  
4 other -- any other research program that fills gaps in  
5 knowledge identified by the chinook symposium. And  
6 that way we would be covering a little bit farther.

7

8 Karen.

9

10 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman and Council  
11 Members. What I would recommend maybe is not leave  
12 something so open ended because that's hard for our  
13 investigators especially if they don't attend the  
14 chinook symposium, sometimes we have investigators that  
15 are elsewhere doing other things, but it is possible  
16 after the chinook symposium if you go to the chinook  
17 symposium and come up with some ideas you're welcome to  
18 correspond with Donald Mike and we can get them into  
19 the priority information needs maybe a little bit more  
20 direct. This call will not go out until November so  
21 this isn't -- it doesn't absolutely have to be  
22 accomplished right now. This is just my opportunity to  
23 interact with you, but if you have future ideas please  
24 send them our way because we can -- until this is  
25 finalized in November and actually goes out to the  
26 investigators we can include ideas if they come in. So  
27 I'd leave that to you to handle it anyway you want, but  
28 that would be my suggestion.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. And that  
31 would go along, Andy, with what kind of things you were  
32 bringing up. You're looking at the Sound, if you see  
33 something that you can see as a priority that would be  
34 -- that would be part of Southcentral that we could  
35 then bring into this. And it doesn't mean that  
36 anything will be done on it, it just means that it  
37 gives investigators one more area that if they can come  
38 up with a program that meets the qualifications and is  
39 voted in that could then assess something like what you  
40 were talking about.

41

42 Judy.

43

44 MS. CAMINER: Well, I think a couple  
45 things. First of all I think it would be good to have  
46 a -- excuse me, would be good to have a discussion on  
47 the Cook Inlet Task Force meeting next week or not the  
48 task force, but the symposium that's going on. But one  
49 possible problem I see with your suggestion will the  
50 Board or others think well, that was just an individual

1 from the RAC who attended. Perhaps this RAC can  
2 designate one or two people who were planning on going  
3 to that meeting to perhaps produce some comments and  
4 get it back to the RAC so that we can make it a little  
5 bit more official.

6

7 And backing up from that, the very  
8 first sentence you have here talks about a strategic  
9 plan was developed for Prince William Sound, Copper  
10 River, an abbreviated strategic planning process was  
11 employed for Cook Inlet. I wondered what that meant  
12 and, I mean, my first thought for this topic was what  
13 about Cook Inlet salmon.

14

15 MS. HYER: Well, you know, we have the  
16 formal strategic plan that the Office of Subsistence  
17 Management produced and then as far as an abbreviated  
18 plan, I think that that has to do with the biologist  
19 working with experts in the area to come up with this  
20 draft list. I am not aware -- I know that the State  
21 has several management plans, I'm not aware of one that  
22 we've specifically produced for Federal subsistence  
23 management.

24

25 Steve, I'm looking at you because you'd  
26 know more about this than I would.

27

28 MR. FRIED: Yeah. Steve Fried, OSM.  
29 We didn't have a formal strategic planning process for  
30 Cook Inlet. We had one for, I think, Southeast and  
31 Southwest and we got into Prince William Sound and I  
32 think we kind of got to the point where it was become  
33 -- even though they were different areas it was sort of  
34 repetitive, they were kind of expensive to do and just  
35 because of the funding that we had available we  
36 stopped, you know, the formal process. But I think the  
37 abbreviated process is the fact that to get the  
38 information needs we come in front of the Councils, we  
39 ask the designated Federal managers and, you know, we  
40 take other sources from, you know, Alaska Tribes and  
41 subsistence users and try to figure out some kind of a  
42 manageable list of what seems to be the major issues  
43 that have come up and what kind of information we might  
44 need to collect to solve this. I think that's -- it's  
45 just that we didn't have a formal planning process  
46 where we invited people, had meetings and came up with  
47 a plan that we published and put on our website that we  
48 use.

49

50 And the other thing I just wanted to

1 mention there, I think the Department of Fish and Game  
2 already has their take on a gap analysis for chinook  
3 salmon that they put out prior to the meeting next  
4 week. And I know I've seen the preliminary one and  
5 what they're proposing is to take a group of salmon  
6 stocks from maybe 12 different rivers throughout the  
7 State from Southeast up through Yukon, Kusko, you know,  
8 Nushagak, and collect the -- try to collect the same  
9 sort of information from all those populations over  
10 time. And they were talking about things like getting  
11 good population estimates of the escapement, getting  
12 some idea of, you know, juvenile survival, making  
13 working with NOAA to look at some of the marine  
14 survival and, you know, possible problems there. So, I  
15 mean, it's nothing that's really new and, you know,  
16 some out of the box thinking necessarily, but trying to  
17 look at a bunch of different stocks and I think they  
18 were calling them either index stocks, they had a  
19 terminology, but just seeing whether or not all the  
20 stocks were reacting in the same way and trying to  
21 figure out, you know, where -- if they were, was there  
22 a similar place that was, you know, causing a lot of  
23 mortality or, you know, things like that.

24  
25                   So that's all I've seen now, I'm sure  
26 there's going to be something else that comes out of  
27 that symposium hopefully, but that's -- I think that  
28 was the gap analysis I've seen from the Department.  
29 And I don't know what sources they used to get their  
30 information from to decide if there were gaps and it  
31 wasn't available, they didn't provide that in the -- in  
32 that draft, maybe they did in the other one, but it  
33 seems to be at least where the Department of Fish and  
34 Game is coming from on that.

35  
36                   So I don't know if that helps.

37  
38                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Doug.

39  
40                   MR. BLOSSOM: Yeah, Mr. Chair. You --  
41 that second item, your mapping of lifetime and current  
42 subsistence for our area is a waste of time. Pat and  
43 all our people since her did a very good job of mapping  
44 all that. That has all been done. What we need is  
45 exactly what that first one says. The 100 -- just  
46 about 100 percent of the king salmon in the Kasilof  
47 River spawn in Federal land. We need an assessment,  
48 they have a zero assessment of that stock, absolutely  
49 zero. They have never, ever done anything with it.  
50 And because it's I would say close to 100 percent of

1 those fish are on Federal land when they spawn I think  
2 we need that reliable estimate. And I like what you've  
3 done there with your radio tagging and that, that  
4 sounds to me like a real good program.

5

6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Sound to me like.....

7

8 MR. BLOSSOM: So I think we need a  
9 whole lot worse than what we -- this other's already  
10 been done, Pat and her crew did a wonderful job of  
11 mapping all this other.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Greg.

14

15 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Now I want to  
16 take a little talk to that also. I have no problem  
17 with doing studies or promoting on the Copper, but I  
18 like Doug, I feel there's a major gap on the Kenai, on  
19 the Federal side for studies, analyses of the fishing.  
20 We all know that the chinook is a total crash, we know  
21 that the whole set net industry was devastated and shut  
22 down this year in loss. Now what I'm relating to that  
23 in the Federal I personally take home all my kings  
24 caught in my commercial operation because that's the  
25 way I subsist. And, of course, I wasn't able to get  
26 that anymore and a lot of the other people are not. So  
27 they're looking at ways for a meaningful fishery to get  
28 subsistence fish. On the Kenai, you know, you have the  
29 Kenaitzes, you have tribes, you have a lot of  
30 subsistence users. The problem is we do not have a  
31 meaningful way, that's why we fought this fish wheel,  
32 that's why we fought for meaningful ways. Doug is  
33 correct, we've mapped it, we know the uses. The reason  
34 you don't have the uses is because you don't have the  
35 meaningful way to get it. And now we have a real  
36 crisis, we have a complete devastation of king salmon  
37 all over maybe the State. I think there's a lot of  
38 reasons and I could give you a lot of thoughts and a  
39 lot of it starts with the sports fishery, but I won't  
40 say that. But anyway -- did I say that, yeah, I guess  
41 I did.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 MR. ENCELEWSKI: But anyway I really do  
46 think that whatever we could do to do some really --  
47 like Doug says, the Kasilof, those are all Federal fish  
48 that are going up there, kings, they got no -- even  
49 this Kenai debacle, we really need some attention in  
50 our area.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So basically I think  
4 Doug and Greg what you just basically said is you need  
5 the -- you need the same kind of king salmon assessment  
6 on the Kenai as what we've been pushing on the Copper.

7

8 MR. BLOSSOM: Sounds like a good  
9 program.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And a call for  
12 proposals for somebody that could actually do that, you  
13 know, I mean, see that's what -- that's where we've  
14 been fortunate on the Copper is when the call for  
15 proposals went out the Native Village of Eyak decided  
16 to jump in with both feet, spend the money it took and  
17 set up so that they could do that and hire the  
18 expertise it took to do that and the question is if we  
19 got that kind of call would we get the same kind of  
20 response on the Kenai.

21

22 MR. ENCELEWSKI: We could.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We could. The only  
25 way we're going to find out is if we say this is a  
26 priority and we would like to have some proposals in  
27 this area.

28

29 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Sure. We can do that.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

32

33 MS. CAMINER: Well, I guess just to be  
34 as specific as possible, you're certainly talking about  
35 the Kasilof River. Were you also talking about the  
36 Kenai River?

37

38 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I was.

39

40 MS. CAMINER: Okay. So.....

41

42 MR. BLOSSOM: Mr. Chair, the reason I  
43 take Kasilof is they have never done anything to assess  
44 that stock and it's 100 percent spawning on Federal  
45 land. The Kenai you have problems the majority of it  
46 doesn't spawn on Federal land. But if that's still  
47 able to be done it needs to be done real bad. But they  
48 have done no assessment whatsoever on the Kasilof and  
49 that's all Federal lands.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, then that would  
2 be a perfect -- you know, there would be a perfect  
3 thing to recommend for a -- for a call for priority --  
4 for proposals would be to say that you'd like chinook  
5 stock assessment, a long term chinook stock assessment  
6 program for the Kasilof River.

7  
8 MR. BLOSSOM: Yes.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And stock  
11 identification, you know, because like you were talking  
12 about before and they were talking -- they were talking  
13 about king salmon spawning at the mouth of the  
14 Tustumena Lake and you were discussing king salmon that  
15 spawned at the head of Tustumena Lake that nobody even  
16 seems to know anything about.

17  
18 MR. BLOSSOM: Yeah, but even the king  
19 salmon at the mouth of Tustumena Lake is on Federal  
20 land.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

23  
24 MR. BLOSSOM: So that's why I pick  
25 Kasilof over Kenai. Kenai needs it desperately, but  
26 they've done all kinds of phony studies on it, they've  
27 never studied the Kasilof. It's an ideal spot for the  
28 Federal people to move in and we get a proposal and I  
29 like what I hear them saying they do, I think it works.

30  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria.

33  
34 MS. STICKWAN: I was wondering what --  
35 what if -- what's going on with the social scientist  
36 position, can we apply -- get somebody to apply to help  
37 tribes with that or.....

38  
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You mean to apply to  
40 do the work?

41  
42 MS. STICKWAN: To help the tribes with  
43 the -- to develop projects.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, I -- Karen.

46  
47 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council  
48 Members, our most successful projects are cooperative  
49 projects. And Vija can probably tell you a little bit  
50 about how they've implemented those fish wheels, but it

1 has been a cooperative project between the Native  
2 Village of Eyak and a consulting firm. And we have  
3 other projects up in Northern Alaska where we've worked  
4 with the University and the local people.

5  
6 MS. STICKWAN: I was asking about  
7 social scientist position.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: For a social scientist  
10 position?

11  
12 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah. I was wondering  
13 what's going on with that.

14  
15  
16 MS. HYER: A social sci -- your mean  
17 through our partners program?

18  
19 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah.

20  
21 MS. HYER: I think that -- I don't know  
22 if we're having another call for proposals for our  
23 partners program actually quite.....

24  
25 Steve, do you know about that?

26  
27 MR. FRIED: Yeah, I don't think there's  
28 one scheduled for this year. So I'm not -- I don't --  
29 can't recall off the top of my head when the next call  
30 will be. It'll either be another two years instead of  
31 2014 maybe 2015, I'd have to look and I can get back to  
32 you. But not -- not -- there's no partners program  
33 that -- call that I know of coming up for 2014, but  
34 I'll find out.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Does that answer your  
37 question, Gloria?

38  
39 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah, I was just  
40 wondering if we could get somebody help with the Tribes  
41 to apply for these projects and we take the whole  
42 system.....

43  
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: To help the Tribes  
45 come up with a program to apply for the projects, yeah.  
46 What -- is there any kind of help available for that  
47 for helping -- consulting and helping to set up like  
48 what happened to the Native Village of Eyak, to help  
49 set up a project that meets the requirements that it  
50 takes to be a project?

1 MS. HYER: Right. And that's where I  
2 start talking about partnerships because you could form  
3 a partnership. And we have been instrumental in  
4 helping some of these organizations at least introduce  
5 somebody that might be a good partner for you if you  
6 have an interest in a particular project. And so  
7 you're certainly welcome to contact me and I certainly  
8 will help you try to form a partnership with the  
9 University or a Federal agency or State agency. We do  
10 have that. And then they often come alongside and help  
11 write the proposals. Because originally when NVE  
12 envisioned these fish wheels they worked with LGL and  
13 LGL actually helped them write up the proposal. It was  
14 many years ago now, but they submitted it cooperatively.  
15 And I think originally we funded NVE and NGL as  
16 separate entities and now I know all the money goes  
17 through NVE, but they did form a successful partnership  
18 and LGL was instrumental in helping implement the  
19 project at first then as capacity grew at NVE they  
20 slowly took over the project and became the main PIs.  
21 I think originally they weren't even the main PIs on  
22 the proposal. So there is that possibility.

23  
24 MR. FRIED: And just a little bit more,  
25 I mean, it didn't start out as a mark recapture fish  
26 wheel study, it came -- it started out as let's find a  
27 way to assess chinook salmon escapement in the Copper.  
28 And they tried a bunch of things including sonar, I  
29 think they tried test fishery and then they did try --  
30 you know, they looked at -- they finally settled on  
31 this and it's because LGL had an employee that had done  
32 similar studies on big rivers in Canada and was  
33 successful in doing it. So yeah, it was a partnership  
34 between NVE and a consulting firm and at first the  
35 consulting firm took a lot of the technical load  
36 aspects on it and as time went on they basically turned  
37 more and more of the project over to NVE. NVE actually  
38 got into the partners program so then they had a  
39 biologist that helped even more. And so, I mean, this  
40 is kind of one of our big success stories in the  
41 monitoring program is that this is probably one of the  
42 more expensive projects that we fund and it's really --  
43 it's done by NVE, it's not done by a Federal agency or  
44 State agency, I mean, this is the way things -- we like  
45 to see things go.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And it didn't happen  
48 instantly, it was a learning thing on the part of NVE,  
49 they got -- they got the consulting help they needed to  
50 get started and then like you said as they brought

1 experts on board or learned the expertise themselves  
2 they took over more and more of it until now it's their  
3 project. And like you said, it's been a successful  
4 project from the standpoint that it's actually brought  
5 in valid information and it's switched over to now  
6 where it's basically run by the Native Village of Eyak.

7  
8 MR. FRIED: And it's important  
9 information, it's used by both the State and Federal  
10 managers, it's the only estimate of chinook escapement  
11 we have on the Copper River.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

14  
15 MR. FRIED: And we never had that  
16 before.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.

19  
20 MR. FRIED: We used to tack on a --  
21 several thousand fish at the Miles Lake sonar counter  
22 and call it chinook escapement, I think it was.....

23  
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.

25  
26 MR. FRIED: .....15,000 or something.  
27 But we didn't.....

28  
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

30  
31 MR. FRIED: .....know whether or not  
32 that was true or not so yeah, this is a great step  
33 forward.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And so this same thing  
36 is available -- this same thing would be available like  
37 to Ahtna or to Ninilchik for the Kasilof or something  
38 like that if they want to make the step of getting the  
39 expertise to help them get started and to help write  
40 the program and things like that is what you're saying.

41  
42 Gloria.

43  
44 MS. STICKWAN: I just want to get back  
45 to -- I don't know what your name is, but what she said  
46 I support and I would like to see as part of our -- to  
47 be added on as one of our priorities.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You mean on our list  
50 of projects?

1 MS. STICKWAN: Yes.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: A stock assessment  
4 and.....  
5  
6 MS. STICKWAN: Long term.....  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: .....stock  
9 identification long term.....  
10  
11 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: .....right?  
14  
15 MS. STICKWAN: Yes.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. I -- if the  
18 rest of the Council's agreed to that and then maybe we  
19 can talk about yours and we can deal with a couple  
20 priority projects. And then possibly if Andrew has  
21 what he considers something that would be important.  
22  
23 MR. McLAUGHLIN: I can definitely say I  
24 read this and it says for Prince William and Copper  
25 River, well, basically it's just for Copper River and  
26 the Cook Inlet. I would like to see -- I know that  
27 historically for the few villages in Prince William  
28 Sound and False Bay perhaps, as you go out of Whittier  
29 there's multiple tributaries in Prince William Sound  
30 that would be good to monitor and know what's going on  
31 there. Right now people haven't been using it in the  
32 past couple years, but I know that their grandparents  
33 did just knowing all the stories. And this seems kind  
34 of lacking to suit what I think takes priority, but,  
35 you know, because that's reflected by where I'm from.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, basically from  
38 what I'm hearing and correct me if I'm wrong, is we  
39 look at Prince William Sound, we look at Copper River,  
40 we look at Cook Inlet and one of the things that we  
41 need more than anything else is long term stock  
42 assessment and stock identification programs for all of  
43 those areas. Now that just means when we said  
44 something like that all we're saying is that's a  
45 priority to this Council. Somebody has to come up with  
46 a proposal of how they're going to do this. And these  
47 are all areas that we consider important. Now in the  
48 past we've said that -- you know, we've said that the  
49 Copper River was more important, that's how we got  
50 started on that and now we're looking at what's

1 happening on the Kenai. And like you said at this  
2 point in time it's not a big effect on the Sound, but  
3 in the long term it can be an effect on the Sound. So  
4 those are -- those are information things that we as a  
5 Council view as important.

6 Gloria.

7

8 MS. STICKWAN: I still don't want to  
9 discuss the chinook symposium, he said that all these  
10 rivers are the -- they're going to do the study on all  
11 these rivers and they're going to see how the  
12 differences are in the chinook or the -- you know,  
13 whatever, I don't know how to word it, but they're  
14 going to be looking at it and somehow this program  
15 should be monitoring what they're doing and it should  
16 be included in here somewhere or I don't know how --  
17 what to -- how to word it, but it should be a part of  
18 this priority that we keep -- we monitor what they're  
19 -- what they're coming up with. Whatever they -- you  
20 know.....

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think we first need  
23 to find out what they come up with. That's -- you  
24 know, is anybody.....

25

26 MS. STICKWAN: Well, they didn't.....

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: .....planning on going  
29 to the chinook symposium? You are, Gloria?

30

31 MS. STICKWAN: Is OSM going?

32

33 MS. HYER: Yes, OSM has several  
34 biologists that are going.

35

36 MR. FRIED: Yeah, I'm on one of the  
37 panels for one of the sessions. So yeah, we'll be  
38 there.

39

40 MS. STICKWAN: So you don't think  
41 anything will come out of this is that what you said or  
42 anything new?

43

44 MR. FRIED: Oh, I'm not saying  
45 nothing's going to come out of it, I'm just saying  
46 that, you know, Fish and Game has an idea of what  
47 they'd like to see funded and after the symposium maybe  
48 that becomes, you know, the most important thing.  
49 Maybe it doesn't, maybe it gets changed, maybe the  
50 rivers they want to look at and maybe there's some

1 added or taken away, and then there's always the  
2 problem of the funding. So, you know, they're going to  
3 be looking, you know, at getting funding from the  
4 State, they'll probably be looking at us, they'll  
5 probably be looking at NOAA so I think -- I think they  
6 realize to get anything done on such a large scale is  
7 going to have to be a group effort. So.....

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

9

10 MR. FRIED: And I think.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And they're not just  
13 looking at the rivers, they're going to be looking at  
14 ocean conditions and climate conditions and intercept  
15 conditions and all of those kind of things, aren't  
16 they?

17

18 MR. FRIED: They were talking about  
19 coded wiring tagging and mark recapture.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Genetics?

22

23 MR. FRIED: .....and some, you know,  
24 NMFS near shore studies and kind of trying to augment  
25 that. So, you know, and then some things are being  
26 done, some things aren't, some rivers are covered  
27 better, some of them aren't. So yeah, that's what they  
28 were looking at.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, is it going to  
31 be kind of a gathering of what kind of information is  
32 currently being collected and then trying to see how it  
33 correlates with each other?

34

35 MR. FRIED: Well, usually gap analysis  
36 is you have to know what's available and what's been  
37 done and where -- what's missing. That's the gap so  
38 hopefully that's what they're looking at and I think by  
39 having this symposium and getting enough people there  
40 then I guess that would help tell them, you know, where  
41 the gaps are and where they're not and maybe they're  
42 missing something or maybe there's some other aspect  
43 nobody's thought about before that should be covered.  
44 So I don't know, I mean, everybody realizes that this  
45 is a widespread problem with chinook, nobody knows why,  
46 it's not like fish populations -- you know, salmon  
47 population have always gone up and down and up and down  
48 and nobody knows if it's going to be better next year  
49 or in two years. There's some indications that when  
50 conditions are good in the Pacific Northwest for

1 producing salmon and it's poor up here and so you see  
2 that sort of a cycle going on. So it's, you know, just  
3 a lot of questions and now that there's been enough  
4 people that haven't been able to catch fish and they're  
5 sitting on the beach, I think it's reached the point  
6 where the governor decided he at least wanted to try to  
7 do something about it. So and here's a symposium,  
8 maybe they're going to provide some funding.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

11

12 MS. CAMINER: Well, perhaps a couple of  
13 options for getting out of our timing dilemma here.  
14 One could be we add another dot here as one of our  
15 priority information needs being something general  
16 like, you know, depending on the results or the  
17 recommendations coming out of this symposium fund areas  
18 that are appropriate to our mandate. Another option is  
19 after the three or four if you go to this meeting  
20 summarize the key recommendations and, Donald, I don't  
21 know if we can do business this way, but if you send it  
22 out to everybody and we might be able to propose an  
23 item based on that.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, it -- the other  
26 thing is what I'm ask -- going to ask is these priority  
27 items aren't necessarily having to be recognized by the  
28 RAC. The priority items can be recognized by the OSM,  
29 they can be recognized by the Fish and Wildlife  
30 Service. What's it's asking us right now is what we as  
31 a RAC see that we would like added to this as priority  
32 items. If a priority item comes out of this symposium  
33 it's going to be added as a priority item even if it  
34 doesn't come to the RAC, isn't it?

35

36 MR. FRIED: Yeah, that's correct. If  
37 something comes up and we decide that gee, that's  
38 really important and we really need to do that we'll  
39 add it. And the other thing that -- to bring forth to  
40 the RAC is the fact that just because something is not  
41 on this list doesn't mean if somebody puts a good  
42 proposal in and convinces us that it's important, you  
43 know, it's an important topic and an important issue  
44 for Federal subsistence management it won't be funded  
45 because every year, you know, a certain percentage of  
46 projects that are funded aren't -- don't have anything  
47 to do with this list, it's another issue that came up  
48 that.....

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

1 MR. FRIED: .....and sometime people  
2 submit a proposal for something on a list and they say  
3 it is, but, you know, you read the proposal, it's not  
4 very well written or it's not technically feasible or  
5 -- so, I mean, just because it does supposedly address  
6 it doesn't mean it's not getting funded either. So  
7 there's.....

8  
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

10  
11 MR. FRIED: .....it's a pretty long  
12 review process.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's what I was  
15 going to point out is that at this point in time the  
16 fact we put something on or don't put something on  
17 doesn't preclude it from being there or include it in  
18 there because it still has to go through the whole  
19 process and there's a limited amount of funding. But  
20 if we do see something that we as a Council think is a  
21 priority and I -- I'm -- personally I think that what  
22 the folks from the Kenai and everybody's basically said  
23 is what this Council recognizes as a priority is long  
24 term stock assessment and stock identification  
25 programs. And that would apply to any area in  
26 Southcentral. I mean, I look at what they were saying  
27 on the dam yesterday and I'm hoping they come up with  
28 some pretty good stock assessment programs for what's  
29 going on above that dam because in the past that never  
30 was part of the dam building program, you know. So but  
31 I think that that -- I think from what I've heard we  
32 can say that that is a priority of this Council would  
33 be long term stock assessment and stock identification  
34 programs. And whether it's on the Copper or the  
35 Kasilof or Prince William Sound let somebody come up  
36 with a project that they can write up good and present  
37 and if it gets voted in it gets voted in. There's  
38 limited amount of funding that's for sure.

39  
40 What did you say the funding was 2.8  
41 million this year or something like that?

42  
43 MS. HYER: 4.8 statewide.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: 4.8 statewide. And  
46 that wasn't too many years ago we were over 9 million,  
47 wasn't it?

48  
49 MS. HYER: Because it's cumulative at  
50 some point we may have that much money out there for

1 projects that are in the water, but normally our calls  
2 are around 5 million.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Okay.

5

6 MR. FRIED: Yeah, I don't think we've  
7 ever had a call for 9 million, but I think it's been as  
8 much as five -- you know, it's been over 5 million. It  
9 depend -- there's some money that come -- a lot of the  
10 money comes through the Fish and Wildlife Service, but  
11 there's been some money coming from the Forest Service.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

14

15 MR. FRIED: And the Forest Service used  
16 to be able to contribute about \$2 million. And they  
17 were cut. So and their money goes to places that have  
18 National Forest land. And the only place -- Southeast  
19 is almost all National Forest and then you get to  
20 Chugach National Forest. So it's the Tongass and  
21 Chugach.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

24

25 MR. FRIED: They tried to pull back all  
26 their funding just for Southeast and the Forest -- Fish  
27 and Wildlife Service is now funding, you know, the work  
28 in the Copper River because the Forest Service didn't  
29 have any money to put there. So.....

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

32

33 MR. FRIED: .....the funding's gone  
34 down. And I guarantee almost that if we get a large  
35 cut in OSM, I mean, you know, the funding the Council  
36 process, the Board process, is a regulatory process is  
37 our top priority.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

40

41 MR. FRIED: So aside from cutting  
42 positions it's going to be -- you know, people are  
43 going to be looking at the monitoring program and  
44 partners. So.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

47

48 MR. FRIED: .....who knows what's going  
49 to happen in 2014.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria, you had  
2 something you were going to ask.

3  
4 MS. STICKWAN: I just want to say with  
5 all these flooding, you know, that has happened  
6 recently in our area, we had a lot of rivers that --  
7 they're still high and the affect it's going to have on  
8 the eggs and survival of the salmon. Somehow I guess  
9 cold climate -- I don't know if it's still a -- if it's  
10 part of the fisheries monitoring, but we should have  
11 that in there too.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That would be would --  
14 would we consider that climate change or would we just  
15 consider that the aberration of the climate that we've  
16 had in the last couple years. Yeah, I mean, I know  
17 exactly what you're saying because we flushed a bunch  
18 of our streams this year, we flushed a bunch of our  
19 streams in 2006, those all have an affect on salmon  
20 return, but I don't know how we measure that or how we  
21 set up a program to measure that, but.....

22  
23 MS. PALAGIUS: Well, that's I think the  
24 importance of getting, you know, long term monitoring  
25 strategies going and, you know, I kind of focus on the  
26 Copper River, but, you know, for various differences in  
27 Prince William Sound and stuff here on the peninsula.  
28 And so, you know, if you can get a long term baseline  
29 you can, you know, the time scale is so much greater  
30 than anything we're really working on right now, but  
31 you can at least get that going so, you know, in the  
32 future you can look back at that.

33  
34 I'd like to mention as far as the  
35 chinook salmon symposium that even if you can't attend  
36 in person you can teleconference and there's a  
37 webconference. I mean, it's a -- it's not the same as  
38 being there, but, you know, if you guys want to gather  
39 that information.

40  
41 And also one more note. You know, as a  
42 representative for Native Village of Eyak, you know, I  
43 have a vested interest in building our capacity and  
44 focusing on our fisheries projects, but I think we  
45 also share in wanting to help build the capacity around  
46 the region. So, you know, people take on escapement  
47 monitoring projects in other areas, like I encourage,  
48 you know, to communicate with those people, to talk to  
49 us or talk to me and we can bounce ideas around and  
50 kind of talk about our experiences at least as I've

1 learned so far, you know, get some ideas.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Basically you're  
4 saying you're willing to help other people do the same  
5 thing you are?

6

7 MS. PALAGIUS: Yeah. Yep.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

10

11 MS. STICKWAN: Is that what you -- do  
12 you agree with that, that it would be covered?

13

14 MS. PALAGIUS: That what would be  
15 covered?

16

17 MS. STICKWAN: I was asking him.

18

19 MS. PALAGIUS: Oh.

20

21 MR. FRIED: And that would be to NVE,  
22 but, I mean, certainly they're a resource in the  
23 region.

24

25 MS. STICKWAN: I mean, I'm asking about  
26 the long term climate change because I'm sure it is  
27 climate change that's causing all these floods and.....

28

29 MR. FRIED: Well, climate change is in  
30 the call every year we've put it in. That's -- we  
31 either are encouraging people to have studies that  
32 specifically address climate change and they have to  
33 show what sort of management implications, you know,  
34 there are or at least if they're doing some sort of a  
35 long term study try to think of ways where it might be  
36 useful to use that data to look at, you know, climate  
37 change effects. So, I mean, I don't particularly like  
38 that term myself because the climate'[s changing all  
39 the time, but I think what that politically correct  
40 climate change term means is that it's -- the  
41 greenhouse effect from human -- you know, the CO2 and  
42 all the other gasses that are causing global warming.  
43 I guess people don't like to say global warming anymore  
44 when speaking of climate change, but the climate  
45 changes all the time, there's decade changes, there's  
46 yearly changes, el nino, el -- it's kind of hard to  
47 really pick it apart sometimes, but, you know, we  
48 recognize there's some very long term changes. I think  
49 everybody's looking at it, there's less ice in the  
50 Arctic Ocean, there's -- you know, the tundra and the

1 permafrost are melting, Alaska seems to be really be on  
2 the forefront of a lot of these changes. So we're sort  
3 of interested in how to deal with this.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mary Ann.

6

7 MS. MILLS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
8 think, you know, climate change whether it's a cycle or  
9 whether it's manmade or whether it's a combination,  
10 it's occurring. And I think people who have lived here  
11 can see it. And I think -- you know, it -- it's  
12 something that really needs to be addressed and, you  
13 know, maybe, you know, looked into, you know, with your  
14 long term assessments because I know we had a lot of  
15 water here, a lot of our creeks were very, very full.  
16 And I know across state -- statewide that there's over  
17 100 villages that will have to relocate and that  
18 there's over 30 that are in immediate need. So I think  
19 -- you know, especially for the fish that it could be  
20 something, you know, very important. Whether we can do  
21 anything about it or not I -- you know, I'm not sure  
22 about that.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's -- that's what  
25 I would think, Mary Ann, is that we can't do anything  
26 about it, but we can see the change coming and we can  
27 make adjustments in how we manage what's -- what we  
28 have or how things are going. If you talk to a Russian  
29 fishery biologist you'll say they figure everything  
30 goes in cycles and salmon in 100 year cycles basically.  
31 And in that 100 year cycle are 10 year cycles and in  
32 the 100 year cycles there are 1,000 year cycles and if  
33 we all look at it we can recognize those things in the  
34 world around us. We can't change the cycles, but we  
35 can adjust how we react to them and how we make use of  
36 the resources and maintain research. But you're not  
37 going to take the cycle out.

38

39 MS. MILLS: Right.

40

41 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman and Council  
42 Members. I just want to point out a couple of things  
43 in this call. Climate change because it affects more  
44 than one region, we put our climate bullet points down  
45 in the multi regional. And if you look at what we have  
46 down in the multi regional they -- the bullets that we  
47 have currently address subsistence harvest and  
48 resources in the context of climate change. So if you  
49 want something that's outside the actual harvest I'd  
50 recommend maybe a bullet point in this section on

1 climate change. If we're looking at some survival, it  
2 would go in this section.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Water flow and  
5 survival. I mean, because water flow, temperature and  
6 survival because that's what -- one biologist's I was  
7 talking about theory on the king salmon is just the  
8 fact that the temperature in the streams are changing  
9 is affecting the survival rate of the smolt and so  
10 those would be kind of program -- but I think some of  
11 those programs have already been started, the people  
12 are doing water temperature, water -- those kinds of  
13 things. But that would be a direct one rather than  
14 just a social one. I mean, that would be the kind of  
15 information you need would be, you know, on water flow,  
16 temperature and smolt survival in the streams.

17

18 I know, Greg, you need to get going,  
19 we're going to have to -- we're going to have to move  
20 fast to finish it up for you.  
21 This is too interesting.

22

23 Judy.

24

25 MS. CAMINER: We may not be done with  
26 the fisheries parts of it, but I want -- did want to  
27 mention one other thing. I know Doug just made the  
28 comment don't need to do Ninilchik, Hope or Copper  
29 Landing, I'm not going to comment on that, but one idea  
30 might be to look at communities such as Moose Pass or  
31 other communities that were kind of taken out of the  
32 rural classification in the last review that may want  
33 to be included in the next rural determination review.  
34 And so it would be helpful if we don't have it already  
35 to have some of this subsistence use and harvest info  
36 for those communities where we might expect that.

37

38 MR. FRIED: Yeah, it's -- one more  
39 thing especially before Greg leaves. I mean, what I  
40 keep hearing too about the Kenai and Cook Inlet is that  
41 there really aren't very many meaningful Federal  
42 subsistence fisheries, there's not that much Federal  
43 waters. I mean, if you look at the harvest most of  
44 it's coming from, you know, Russian River Falls. And I  
45 know there's been -- there was a lot of discussion when  
46 we first developed the new regulations, but, you know,  
47 there's no reason why somebody couldn't submit a  
48 project on developing a meaningful fishery. I mean,  
49 people are worried about using various gear types, you  
50 know, on the Kenai in Federal waters or on the Kasilof  
51 in Federal waters. I mean, maybe there's a possibility

1 that, you know, one of the rural organizations can get  
2 together with either the Refuge staff or Forest Service  
3 staff and take a look at maybe finding a place, you  
4 know, a time of year where some sort of different gear  
5 type is not being used now can be used with a minimal  
6 impact to fish species other than the one they want to  
7 target. I mean, there's that possibility too.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Greg.

10

11 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, if I may address  
12 that. I mean, you hit the nail right on the head and,  
13 you know, that's one of the deals with the fish wheel.  
14 We haven't been able to make it work, but, you know, we  
15 put quite a bit of effort into it. But I see the  
16 potential, I mean, the Native Tribe, I'm the President  
17 of the Tribe, I'm also the President of the Native  
18 Association there now and we're looking at other means  
19 for development, we'd love to work on some projects.  
20 And I see a possibility of doing some of these studies,  
21 you know, we certainly have the capacity within the  
22 organizations to help for that. But the problem is  
23 it's a political battle to find a meaningful way to  
24 fish. Now if you was able to work with Ninilchik or  
25 whoever had a Federal fishery that we could go, we'll  
26 run a fish wheel, I propose nets because we make nets  
27 work, we know how to make a net work, we go get our  
28 fish, we get the hell out of there and we're done with  
29 it. And but every time you say that a big -- you know,  
30 the whole world comes apart. But at any rate if we  
31 could provide a fishery that was meaningful that we  
32 could go up, the people of the rural community of  
33 Ninilchik go up and fish like you do in the dip net up  
34 in Copper -- I mean, in Cooper Landing, you know, that  
35 would be the best of all worlds. Well, all we want to  
36 do is go get the fish, get the fish for the community  
37 and get out of there. And it's kind of like Dean made  
38 this statement the other day, you know, you give them a  
39 quota even on the educational, there's quotas on our  
40 Federal too. I mean, we take the quota, we're not  
41 going to go over the quota, you know, there's  
42 guidelines. So yeah, we're really looking and I -- you  
43 know, I don't have total control, but a lot of them are  
44 wanting to put proposals for nets back in the Kenai and  
45 Kasilof. And that's a meaningful fishery to us.

46

47 MR. FRIED: Well, then it might be  
48 worth thinking about, you know, I mean, collecting  
49 information to show whether or not nets would be a  
50 feasible tool. I mean, you could go out and look at

1 various sites within Federal public waters, various  
2 times of year, see, you know, what you catch, I mean,  
3 maybe you find out that the bycatch is so bad that you  
4 can't do it, maybe you can find, you know, a month or a  
5 couple of weeks where you can focus on, you know,  
6 sockeye or some other salmon specie is and that's  
7 pretty clean and maybe then that would provide some  
8 backup for putting in a regulatory proposal, you know.  
9 So, I mean, information helps instead of just saying --  
10 you know, putting in a proposal and then people say  
11 well, you can't do that because of this or that, but if  
12 you have information to back up what you want to do, I  
13 mean, it's helpful. And that's part of what the  
14 monitoring program's supposed to do is collect  
15 information to help Federal management. So just  
16 something to think about.

17

18 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Well, just to respond  
19 to that. If we don't have hundreds of years, maybe  
20 thousands of years of informational quirks, but it's a  
21 political thing. So, I mean, it's very -- you know,  
22 it's one of those things that we all know the  
23 efficiency of nets and the bycatch is not that big of a  
24 problem in my estimation, but, you know, if you take a  
25 certain amount and you're amount of there I don't see  
26 where it's a problem, but we know it's a political  
27 nightmare. But we would love to come up with some  
28 method that works. If Ninilchik or other communities  
29 are allowed 2,000 fish why not let them go get them and  
30 get out of there, why not let them go get 100 kings and  
31 get out of there. I mean, that's to me a real  
32 subsistence need, taking care of what the community  
33 needs and so on and so forth.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think what he was  
36 suggesting though is put a proposal in for a  
37 investigative program to come up with the information  
38 to back a proposal to have that kind of a fishery.

39

40 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I appreciate  
41 that.

42

43 MR. FRIED: I think it would be a lot  
44 harder -- well, it would be a lot easier for the Board  
45 to make a decision if they had that kind of information  
46 I would think than just saying, you know, just going  
47 and putting a proposal in and here's gill nets on the  
48 Kenai, you know what happened when we tried to put the  
49 regulations in anyway, it was like -- that got people  
50 really excited. And that's in the Kenai River and this

1 is in the Kasilof. What happens if the net gets loose  
2 and you have ghost fishing, what about catching rainbow  
3 trout, what if people put the net in here and don't  
4 tend it and there's wastage and, I mean, and where you  
5 going to fish where it doesn't interfere with everybody  
6 else, you know. So, I mean, it would help to have some  
7 information. And there haven't been -- until the  
8 Federal program came along there haven't -- subsistence  
9 fishing hasn't been allowed by the State for a long  
10 time in the Kenai and they still don't recognize  
11 subsistence uses on the peninsula for the most part, do  
12 they?

13

14 MR. ENCELEWSKI: No. And you're  
15 absolutely right they don't recognize it. The problem  
16 is is, you know, like you say, it's political. So  
17 yeah, we could work on something, but, you know, the  
18 matter of fact is that the Kenaitzes have an  
19 educational net, Ninilchik has one in State waters.  
20 They work, they're very efficient. We take, we close  
21 when we need to. So they know they work. It's always  
22 this gloom and doom, oh, you're going to take them all,  
23 you're going to lose a net, you're going to do this and  
24 that and that's the problem, it's a political problem.  
25 And it's a -- to me it's kind of a travesty that we  
26 can't come up with something that really works, you  
27 know.

28

29 MR. FRIED; Yeah, well, those are State  
30 waters and they are closer to some of the communities  
31 and that's where people I think would probably rather  
32 fish, but they're not subsistence fisheries, it's an  
33 educational permit, it doesn't have a priority. And I  
34 think that's what people are saying here, that it's not  
35 a subsistence fishery, it's different.

36

37 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Well, I agree and I  
38 mentioned earlier in the day to some of your colleagues  
39 that -- and I know it's not going to happen, but just  
40 take this for instance. If there was a way this  
41 Federal Board, Advisory and the Board could work with  
42 the State, we know it can't happen, but it doesn't  
43 happen on all things, but if we could come up with a  
44 meaningful fishery in State waters, I mean, those fish  
45 are coming by my State waters heading to Federal land  
46 so let me have a shot at them.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Greg.  
49 Thank you for the suggestion right there. I think we  
50 need to move on, I know Gloria had one more question

1 she wanted to ask.

2

3 MS. STICKWAN: No, I just wanted a  
4 recap of everything that we said that would go into  
5 this real fast.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. A recap of  
8 everything that's going into this. The only thing that  
9 I have for sure at this point in time is that we're  
10 going to support long term stock assessment and stock  
11 identification prior -- programs as priorities and not  
12 necessarily on the Copper River, not necessarily on the  
13 Kasilof, not necessarily on Prince William Sound, but  
14 we recognize that that's there. And the other thing we  
15 talked about was the fact that programs that -- that  
16 would assess water flow, temperature and smolt survival  
17 due to I'll use the word climate change for lack of a  
18 better word, and again there what we're going to run  
19 into is we don't have any long term flow charts for  
20 most of our systems and our streams, we don't have any  
21 long term temperature charts. We do have a few,  
22 there's been some -- the Copper River watershed's been  
23 doing some, Copper River Watershed's programs had some  
24 stream clarity and temperature charts, you know,  
25 programs being made in certain places and we could dig  
26 up -- I mean somebody that's going to have a program  
27 could dig up the information that's available and then  
28 come up with a program to extend that so we can see  
29 what kind of a change there is. But I would say that  
30 those are two that we've gone. Have you -- does  
31 somebody have a third one?

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. And then if we  
36 come up with some more remember that anybody can tell --  
37 can give them an idea and they can come up and -- and  
38 they're going to come up with some ideas too.

39

40 Mary Ann.

41

42 MS. MILLS: We also had stock  
43 identification, stock.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, long term stock  
46 assessment and stock identification.

47

48 MS. MILLS: Yes.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Because I think that --

1 I think those are both very important whether it's on  
2 the Kasilof, whether it's on the Copper, whether it's  
3 on what -- you know, someplace in the Sound because  
4 that will give us -- but again the word we've used is  
5 long term and I think that's the thing that's important  
6 which is one of the reasons why we have supported  
7 Tanada and why we have supported Long Lake. Because  
8 they're the only two things we've got in the Copper  
9 River Basin that have a long term -- I mean, we've got  
10 data going back on Long Lake what, almost 30 some  
11 years. And I think Tanada has got to be 20 some, isn't  
12 it?

13

14 MR. FRIED: That's at least 15 now.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: At least 15 on the  
17 Tanada.

18

19 MS. MILLS: I would like to just make  
20 on last comment and, you know, it's on traditional  
21 knowledge or knowledge of our areas and we have people  
22 that have been in this area for a very long time and I  
23 think that even though the State may not think it's as  
24 scientific as they would like to see it, it still is  
25 knowledge and it still is memory from people who have  
26 lived here for a very long time. And it shouldn't be  
27 excluded.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Mary Ann  
32 are you going to leave?

33

34 MS. MILLS: Yes.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do you want to stay  
37 long enough that we could make the date and the meeting  
38 loc -- if you're thinking of leaving and I know Greg  
39 has got to leave early, he's got -- he's still got an  
40 hour I think, but if you're going to leave maybe what  
41 we should do is skip ahead to confirm the date and  
42 location for the winter of 2013 meeting. Have you got  
43 time for that?

44

45 MS. MILLS: Yes. Yes, I do. I  
46 wouldn't normally have to leave early, but our furnace  
47 went out and with this snow we're going to have to deal  
48 with it.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, the snow's going

1 to keep it warm.

2

3                   Okay. Anyhow if it's okay with the  
4 rest of the Council at this point in time we're going  
5 to skip to number 13 which is future meetings and then  
6 we will come back to the rest of these items up here  
7 which are mostly informational and discussions items on  
8 our part. And as you can see we end up doing a lot of  
9 discussing or something to that effect.

10

11                   So let's go Page 108 and see if we  
12 can't come up with a place and location for our next --  
13 for our winter meeting and that's in February and  
14 March. And I'm going to make a suggestion on the place  
15 with the funding and everything that I think we should  
16 probably have that one in Anchorage. And they suggest  
17 that we have it on February 20th and 21st. If that's  
18 okay with everybody, if nobody has a conflict with  
19 that, we can confirm that and then we've taken care of  
20 this item of business. So does anybody see a problem  
21 -- does anybody see a problem with the 20th and 21st of  
22 February? It's after tax day or no, it isn't, it's  
23 before taxes. Well, depends whose taxes.

24

25                   Okay do I have any objections to that,  
26 Anchorage, 20th and 21st?

27

28                   Greg.

29

30                   MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, that should  
31 work.

32

33                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. If there's no  
34 objection let's go on to our fall meeting. And there  
35 in fall we can -- we can pick an outlying place or we  
36 can save money and pick Anchorage, it's up to each one  
37 of us, I mean, it's up to us as a Council. We've  
38 had.....

39

40                   Judy, a suggestion?

41

42                   MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, what we did  
43 last year unless someone has a location right now they  
44 want to suggest, was to wait and see well, either what  
45 proposals, but I don't think we'll have any proposals,  
46 to see where the issues were. So we used Anchorage as  
47 a placeholder for this meeting and then when we saw we  
48 had the fisheries proposal we suggested it be down on  
49 the Kenai. So we might want to do the same thing, say  
50 it'll be in Anchorage and we might change the location

1 sometime between the winter meeting and summertime  
2 based on what our agenda looks like.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And just pick a day  
5 right at this point in time.

6  
7 MS. CAMINER: Yeah. And I don't know  
8 if Tom Carpenter gave you any dates where he's.....

9  
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No.

11  
12 MS. CAMINER: .....good or bad on  
13 because I know he usually has some fall conflicts.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No. Anytime after  
16 hunting season.

17  
18 MS. CAMINER: Right.

19  
20 MR. ENCELEWSKI: 2nd and 3rd of  
21 October.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: 2nd and 3rd of  
24 October. Should we put that down as a tentative at  
25 this point in time?

26  
27 Andy.

28  
29 MR. McLAUGHLIN: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, or  
30 9th and 10th. The further from September the better  
31 for me.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Further from September  
34 the better for you. Further from September the better  
35 for me, but that's okay.

36  
37 MR. ENCELEWSKI: The only reason the  
38 9th and 10th, we got regular Council meetings on the  
39 10th.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. You've got  
42 regular Council meetings. Okay.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Let's just put --  
45 let's just put 2nd and 3rd then.

46  
47 MS. CAMINER: Or 8 or 9.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We could go 8 or 9.

50

1 MS. CAMINER: If that helps people. Is  
2 that better for you? How about everybody else, does 8  
3 or 9 sound good? That puts it at a Tuesday and a  
4 Wednesday which is nice because it gives us a Monday to  
5 travel and a Thursday to get home. So 8 or 9.

6  
7 MS. MILLS: So put down the 8th and  
8 9th.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Put down the 8th and  
11 9th. And what we'll do is we will -- we will leave the  
12 place open -- that's a year from now, we'll leave the  
13 place open at this point in time and we can always fall  
14 back to Anchorage.

15  
16 MR. ADLER: I'd like to say, you know,  
17 it's a year from now, but have it somewhere in the  
18 Copper River.....

19  
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It would be.....

21  
22 MR. ADLER: .....we can find a place  
23 there, I mean, there's a motel, the American Legion's  
24 big enough.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I -- it's time  
27 to go back to Copper River country because we've had  
28 Cantwell, we've had Cordova and now we've had the Kenai  
29 so it's time to go back to the Copper River country.  
30 And if we can come up with the logistics to do it I  
31 think that that would be a good idea.

32  
33 Okay. So let's put down tentatively  
34 Copper River country and that's what we'll look to see  
35 if we can do, but we recognize that if we have to we  
36 can always fall back to -- the other thing by that time  
37 we'll know what the funding is too. We may find out we  
38 all have to eat hot dogs and ride a bicycle.

39  
40 Okay. With that Mary Ann's gone.  
41 Okay. So we're now going to see what we can do with  
42 the rest of this and, Greg, if you've got something you  
43 -- take a look at the stuff that's there, if you see  
44 something that you for sure want to handle before you  
45 go let me know.

46  
47 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Just one item we had  
48 talked about, appointing someone or requesting someone  
49 be appointed to that Kenai -- what was it, Kenai  
50 King.....

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, the Kenai King  
2 Task Force.  
3  
4 MR. ENCELEWSKI: .....Task Force,  
5 someone representing subsistence users.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do we have anybody  
8 from the Council that would volunteer to go to that?  
9  
10 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I'm not volunteering,  
11 but my name's been submitted I think and I don't know,  
12 maybe Doug would too, I don't know.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If possible you would  
15 do the -- either one or the other of you would be  
16 willing to go to that task force? Is that agreeable to  
17 the rest of the Council?  
18  
19 (No comments)  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And then you would be  
22 going as our representatives and as a subsistence  
23 representative to the task force.  
24  
25 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I don't think it'll  
26 happen unless you request it.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And we're going to  
29 have to request it. So we'll write a letter then to  
30 the governor requesting that a member of -- that a  
31 subsistence representative be put on the Kenai King  
32 Salmon Task Force and we will suggest that it could be  
33 somebody off of our RAC. And Donald and I will --  
34 well, actually our Secretary will write the letter and  
35 I'll sign it and we'll get it to the right place, how  
36 does that sound, Judy?  
37  
38 MS. CAMINER: Oh, sounds wonderful.  
39 Does that have to go through the Board as well, Donald,  
40 we'll have to think that through.  
41  
42 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. Yes, it will  
43 have to go through a review process in our office and  
44 it'll have to be signed off by Assistant Regional  
45 Director, Pete Probasco. And we'll try to get this  
46 letter out as soon as we can. So I can work with Judy.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.  
49  
50 MS. CAMINER: That's what I was going

1 to ask. Do you know when the first meeting is  
2 scheduled for, I guess the task force.....

3

4 MR. ENCELEWSKI: 22nd.

5

6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: 22nd of October?

7

8 MR. ENCELEWSKI: That's what I heard.

9

10 MS. CAMINER: No, I mean, but there's  
11 two things going on, right, there's the symposium and  
12 then there's this task force.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right. The 22nd of  
15 September is the symposium, the king salmon symposium.

16

17 MR. ENCELEWSKI: The task force is  
18 around the same time I would think.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, is it. Because it  
21 is something totally different. Well, we can find that  
22 out and you can always sit in the audience for that  
23 probably. Maybe not, on a task force, it might not be  
24 an open meeting. Let's find out.

25

26 Greg.

27

28 MR. ENCELEWSKI: The only thing I know  
29 is that they got everyone else appointed to that task  
30 force except subsistence user.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

33

34 MR. ENCELEWSKI: And I was called by  
35 some people about it.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Will you do us a favor  
38 and find out when it is and let Judy know when it is,  
39 Judy and Donald know when it is and what needs to be  
40 done and whether or not it's an open meeting or a  
41 closed meeting.

42

43 Donald.

44

45 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
46 think if we do send a representative from this Council,  
47 maybe Steve can help us out on this as far as sending a  
48 rep from the Council as far as budget. Will we have  
49 that available for sending a representative from  
50 Southcentral Council?

1 MR. FRIED: It's Steve Fried. I'm not  
2 sure what the date is, I think that was just kind of  
3 hitting my knowledge base here when I was leaving to go  
4 here and I think I was talking to George Pappas and he  
5 was wondering -- he was -- I think we were trying to  
6 get somebody from OSM on that task force, whatever  
7 they're calling it. But I'm not sure what the date is,  
8 I'm assuming it must be a State task force, maybe it  
9 has something to do with the Board of Fish process or --  
10 I don't really know that, but I know that I did  
11 specifically ask as a result of some other Council  
12 meetings Pete Probasco whether or not there was still  
13 money to send Council members to Board of Fish meetings  
14 to participate, you know, particularly in the -- they  
15 have that committee process. And Pete said there would  
16 be funding available to do that so, I mean, if this is  
17 something along those same lines I think -- I think he  
18 would probably be able to find some funding to do that.  
19

20 MS. CAMINER: Is there specific wording  
21 you would like, I mean, other than we want a Federal  
22 subsistence user included, but other info that you  
23 think would be helpful?  
24

25 MR. BLOSSOM: I -- through the Chair.  
26

27 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Well, you just request  
28 that we have a subsistence or two on board. They put  
29 two of everybody else.  
30

31 MR. BLOSSOM: Through the Chair. That  
32 would be my suggestion, Judy, you know, in light of the  
33 importance of this matter and realizing the subsistence  
34 needs of the peninsula that there's a grave oversight  
35 that no representative from the subsistence committee  
36 in -- or community and that we'd like to send some  
37 representatives.  
38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That sounds very good.  
40 I think you guys can work -- I think you can work that  
41 out with no problem at all. And if that's agreeable to  
42 the rest of the Council you can -- I mean, if it turns  
43 out that you can't go as a Council representative you  
44 can still go as a subsistence user. And but we'll  
45 recognize as a Council that we think it's important  
46 that a subsistence user would be or users would be on  
47 that task force. And if we can we would recommend  
48 somebody from our Council.  
49

50 Go ahead.

1 MR. OWEN: Mr. Chairman, Wayne Owen,  
2 Forest Service. We -- Forest Service got an invitation  
3 from ADF&G to be a part of this symposium and the  
4 person we're sending is a subsistence user. So Cal  
5 Casipit, Gustavus, Southeast.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So this isn't just a  
8 Kenai.....  
9 MR. OWEN: This is this chinook salmon  
10 symposium.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. This is the  
13 chinook salmon symposium.  
14  
15 MR. OWEN: Yeah.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We're talking  
18 something different.  
19  
20 MR. OWEN: Okay. Just.....  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We're talking the  
23 Kenai Chinook Task Force.  
24  
25 MR. OWEN: We have not received  
26 anything from ADF&G about that.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.  
29  
30 MR. OWEN: I'm just going through my  
31 mail and seeing what the Regional Forester got.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No, this would be a  
34 different thing. It's not the symposium, this is the  
35 task force.  
36  
37 MR. OWEN: Okay. Thank you.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But that's good that  
40 they're going to have somebody at the symposium from  
41 the subsistence community.  
42  
43 Okay. With that we can get back to our  
44 agenda. And again like I said if you see something on  
45 here, Greg, that you think needs handled.....  
46  
47 MR. ENCELEWSKI: (Indiscernible - away  
48 from microphone).....  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Regulatory

1 cycle review comments and recommendations. Is anybody  
2 going to present us something on this?

3

4 Donald.

5

6 MR. MIKE: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I think  
7 this was an issue that came up at the last Council  
8 meeting and it was presented by Mr. Tom Carpenter and  
9 -- I think -- I believe. So I wasn't at the last  
10 meeting, but maybe Steve can elaborate on the subject  
11 matter.

12

13 MR. FRIED: Yeah, Steve Fried, OSM. I  
14 could sort of give a little bit of history on that.  
15 It's -- I think it was just that the regular --  
16 regulatory cycle window that a lot of the Councils  
17 wanted this fall meeting to be moved later in the year,  
18 out of basically the hunting season period so that  
19 meetings could occur in November. And also they asked  
20 about moving Federal Subsistence Board meetings later  
21 in the year like in April and May to avoid, you know,  
22 overlapping with Board of Fish, Board of Game meetings,  
23 the holiday season, et cetera, et cetera. So I think  
24 that's probably what the issue was and there was a  
25 review and there were some changes made. The fall  
26 meeting window was expanded. You know, it used to be  
27 from September to mid October and then it was moved to  
28 mid October from -- you know, expanded and they added  
29 like three weeks to the window. The effective date for  
30 subsistence fishing regulation was moved from 1 March  
31 to 1 April in 2005. So there was several past things  
32 that tried to do this. And staff actually reviewed the  
33 current cycles even with those past changes and you can  
34 look at -- there's some tables on -- let's see, Table 2  
35 is on -- yeah, just Page 73, both tables are on there.  
36 And they have the change -- some of the changes that  
37 were, you know, suggested and what we probably can do.  
38 And let's see, what is there, there's the past.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And on Page 74 are  
41 some proposed changes.

42

43 MR. FRIED: Yeah, there's -- I guess  
44 that probably is the meat of it on Page 74 on three for  
45 the proposal period. Where was it, Councils meet to  
46 make recommendations. So there was one for, you know,  
47 August, October it's moved to, being moved to August to  
48 early November. So that hopefully will help if that's  
49 done at least for wildlife. And then Federal  
50 Subsistence Board meets and this is for fisheries and

1 they were talking about moving it to April and also  
2 moving wildlife to April. I know there's some problem --  
3 there's not a problem moving wildlife away from  
4 January towards April, but fisheries are having  
5 problems because of when the regulatory year begins.  
6 So and it's not just -- it's not so easy to change the  
7 regulatory year, it's not like OSM can say okay, we're  
8 going to change it. I think there has to be a  
9 regulatory proposal put in and it has to be approved.  
10 So I think if that's the desire they're going to look  
11 into trying to do that. It's just that that's going to  
12 be a hard one -- a harder one to do, it's not  
13 something, you know, automatically that Pete can say  
14 okay, we'll move that. So we're trying to expand --  
15 you know, the meeting window's been expanded, they're  
16 talking now about being able to move the wildlife board  
17 meeting later in the year and we can't really move the  
18 fisheries Federal Subsistence Board meeting any later  
19 until we get the, you know, the effective date of  
20 regulations moved. So I think that's where this  
21 process is now.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Judy.

24

25 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. Thank you and  
26 thank Steve for the summary. Yes, at our last meeting  
27 Tom and others discussed the whole concept of changing  
28 the schedule for two reasons. As Steve said one, just  
29 expand particularly the fall meeting period so it  
30 wouldn't interfere with hunting activities. And then  
31 to avoid travel for people in January when some people  
32 especially from the northern areas, but here too if you  
33 get fogged in or whatnot, it's just harder to get to  
34 Anchorage in January. So I -- and Tom did an excellent  
35 job in July when the Board was meeting to discuss this,  
36 he represented us really well and I think it's very  
37 rewarding to see on this table that the Board and staff  
38 really again listened to what our RAC and others had to  
39 say by making this attempt to change. So I think it  
40 would be really important for us to endorse Table 3,  
41 that we understand it could work perhaps not in this  
42 coming year, but pretty soon for the wildlife cycle and  
43 we would recommend that though it'll be a long process  
44 that OSM and all the agencies work on changing the  
45 regulatory period for fishing so that this timing  
46 process could work for the fisheries cycle as well.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The only question I  
49 have on that is -- I wasn't there for that meeting and  
50 I would have a question of changing the regulatory

1 cycle on fish to July 1st because that's in the middle  
2 of the season. And the idea with the regulatory cycle  
3 being on the 1st of April, it takes effect prior to any  
4 major season in the State opening. And so basically  
5 what we would be doing is we would be starting the  
6 season with last year's regulation or two years ago  
7 regulation, and switching to this year's regulations in  
8 the middle of the season which is not impossible to  
9 handle, you know, I mean, it's totally possible to  
10 handle, but personally I feel that having the -- having  
11 the -- how do you put a booklet out that changes in the  
12 middle of the season, you know.

13

14 MS. CAMINER: Well, just print it up.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Yeah, you can  
17 do that. So anyhow but I'll support this if the rest  
18 of the Council supports this. I just find that --  
19 that's the question that I have right there.

20

21 Gloria.

22

23 MS. STICKWAN: I support not having a  
24 meeting in January, it's really 50 below, it's kind of  
25 dangerous to be driving to Anchorage when it's that  
26 cold.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other comment?

29 Greg.

30

31 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Well, I shouldn't make  
32 this comment, but I'm usually a year behind in my book  
33 so it wouldn't make a.....

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Anyhow a motion  
38 in that -- a motion to that effect would be in order if  
39 somebody wants to make it like Judy.

40

41 MS. CAMINER: Okay. I move that the  
42 Council support the proposed changes to the regulatory  
43 cycle as shown on Table 3. Changes in terms of timing  
44 and that we do request that OSM and others begin the  
45 regulatory process that would change the timing of the  
46 cycle for the effective date of regulations for  
47 fisheries as soon as they can.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do I hear a second?

50

1 MS. STICKWAN: Second.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Seconded by Gloria.  
4 Any discussion?  
5  
6 (No comments)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hearing no discussion  
9 the question's in order.  
10  
11 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Question.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The question's been  
14 called. All in favor signify by saying aye.  
15  
16 IN UNISON: Aye.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by  
19 saying nay.  
20  
21 (No opposing votes)  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries.  
24  
25 Changes to subsistence fishing harvest,  
26 climate change, land water change, parasites, that was  
27 one we missed, and landscape change/disturbance  
28 effects on caribou, changing subsistence harvest  
29 patterns. Both of these I think are discussion items.  
30 I don't know if there was anybody from OSM or Forest  
31 Service who planned on discussing these with us or if  
32 these were just topics that we had on our list of  
33 things that we would like to discuss amongst ourselves.  
34 Some of these we have covered when we were discussing  
35 the priorities for the fisheries monitoring program.  
36 We actually covered the changes to subsistence fishing  
37 harvest due to climate change and water change, but we  
38 didn't touch parasites. But have we got any thoughts  
39 on this area or do we have anybody from an agency that  
40 would like to bring anything to our attention on this?  
41  
42 Donald.  
43  
44 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As  
45 far as landscape changes I sent an email to the folks  
46 in our regional office hoping we have a representative  
47 here to present climate change. And I don't think I  
48 got a follow-up on that.  
49  
50 Thank you.

1                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Well, I  
2 was also thinking of the landscape changes connected  
3 with the -- which we heard yesterday, connected with  
4 the Susitna dam project and we had quite a bit of  
5 discussion on that. Land change disturbance effects on  
6 caribous changing subsistence hunt harvest patterns.  
7 And I think we're going to need some more follow-up on  
8 that as that dam project goes on. I'm going to be real  
9 interested in seeing what they come up with, some kind  
10 of results on that because I think that putting a 40  
11 mile lake in the middle of the calving grounds is going  
12 to have some effect on caribou myself. That's personal  
13 opinion.

14  
15                   Do we have anything else that anybody  
16 else would like to discuss on this because this is for  
17 our discussion, we don't have anybody making a  
18 presentation on it, these are things that -- does  
19 anybody have any concerns that they can identify at  
20 this point in time?

21  
22                   Andy.

23  
24                   MR. McLAUGHLIN: Yeah, more on the  
25 lines of this changes in subsistence fisheries. One  
26 silver salmon was caught for all of Chenega, usually we  
27 get 50 to 100. It kind of goes away from your idea of  
28 the seek to use the cumulative temperature units of --  
29 and the incubation period on the natural hatches, but  
30 something seems to us to be more happening out on the  
31 open ocean.

32  
33                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Well, I'm  
34 hoping some of that comes out with their symposium on  
35 king salmon and some of the studies they do on king  
36 salmon because there's -- there's all kinds of theories  
37 of what can be happening in the ocean, everything from  
38 carbonization to, you know, acidification and whatever  
39 you want to call it, that affect our fish. It's kind  
40 of interesting to me that in the midst of these king  
41 salmon failures and some -- we had run failures on coho  
42 salmon all over Prince William Sound, but we've never  
43 had red salmon come back like they came back this year.  
44 We've never had red salmon come back in the size they  
45 came this year. The start of the season red salmon  
46 averaged eight and a half pounds on the Copper River  
47 Flats, the normal red salmon at the start of the Copper  
48 River season over time has been five and a quarter  
49 pounds. And then they go up to five and a half to six  
50 pounds in the middle of the summer. They started at

1 eight and a half pounds, they went down to eight  
2 pounds. We got out on the Sound the red salmon we  
3 started catching on the Sound, eight and a half to  
4 eight and three-quarter pound average. I mean, when  
5 you start bringing red salmon in that are 12 pounds you  
6 start looking at what are these, you know. I mean, I  
7 had a red salmon come in, I'll -- I didn't weigh it,  
8 but I'd have sworn it was 14 pounds. It looked like a  
9 great big monster king salmon and this -- not king  
10 salmon, but a silver salmon and this was a red salmon.  
11 So in the midst of the failure with I'll say fish that  
12 are piscatorial, king salmon eat fish, silver salmon  
13 eat fish, red salmon eat krill. The red salmon came  
14 back monstrous, the king salmon and silver salmon  
15 either didn't come back or came back small. Our king  
16 salmon were small this year. And even the silvers were  
17 small. So those were the fish eaters and if the fish  
18 eaters didn't -- the fish eaters live on small fish  
19 that live on plankton so they obviously didn't eat the  
20 plankton, the small fish didn't eat the plankton down  
21 so the big fish starved, but there was lots of plankton  
22 out there and the red salmon and the pink salmon, I've  
23 never seen pink salmon like we saw this summer. Pink  
24 salmon came in eight, nine, 10 pound pink salmon. The  
25 average pink salmon was a pound heavier than normal on  
26 Prince William Sound. And those are plankton eaters,  
27 you know. Dog salmon came back fairly salmon and  
28 they're semi plankton eaters, you know, they -- they  
29 eat both. And so do pink salmon. And believe it or  
30 not I caught red salmon with eulachon in their stomach  
31 that were that long. But our other fish that were fish  
32 eaters didn't come back. So something's happening on  
33 the ocean or something's happening with the food stock  
34 or something someplace. And I'm hoping that out of  
35 this -- between the symposium and studies that come up  
36 we can get a -- get a better idea what's going on. But  
37 if anybody saw the red salmon from the Copper River  
38 this year, male red salmon had bellies on them three-  
39 quarters of an inch thick, they looked like king  
40 salmon, you know. And they were fat, you know. So I  
41 talked to people up at Copper Center and they said that  
42 their recovery rate was 25 to 30 percent greater for  
43 the same amount of fish this summer as it was last  
44 year, you know.

45

46 So those are the kinds of changes that  
47 you're talking about, right?

48

49 MR. McLAUGHLIN: Yeah, exactly. Larger  
50 reds, larger humpies. Interesting thing the hatcheries

1 out there in the Sound even their ranched fish that  
2 went away came back at very fewer and mostly humpies,  
3 but they worried about brood stock supply for their  
4 incubators but then the fecundity was so high that they  
5 made up with it for more eggs per fish because they  
6 were the larger.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

9

10 MR. McLAUGHLIN. ....fish. So that  
11 was interesting.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. It was amazing  
14 just -- never saw anything that big in my life for an  
15 average.

16

17 Judy.

18

19 MS. CAMINER: Well, I'm sure this topic  
20 will continue for all of us so maybe for the next  
21 meeting Donald can keep working on some of the folks  
22 and somebody could come over and speak to us and talk  
23 about some of the studies that have been done that back  
24 up some of this information too.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'm hoping somebody  
27 comes and brings us some information as to what they  
28 come up with on the king salmon symposium, the chinook  
29 symposium. It would be nice to have somebody make a  
30 presentation to us on that in the future. And for one  
31 thing just to identify gaps that we might be able to  
32 set priorities for getting information on.

33

34 MS. STICKWAN: And follow-ups on the  
35 Susitna dam.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And on the Susitna  
38 dam. And it's -- yeah, we need to keep following on  
39 that especially what they come up with for information  
40 on everything from fish to caribou.

41

42 MS. BULLOCK: Yeah, I'd like to add  
43 that for the Watana dam site that BLM has submitted  
44 comments on the subsistence research that they're doing  
45 to do an effects analysis because right now they're  
46 doing just a baseline. And with the transmission  
47 corridors there's quite a big chunk of BLM land though  
48 it is State selected at the current moment through both  
49 the Denali and the Chulitna and the inundation zone.  
50 So what the future -- you're talking about changing

1 subsistence harvest patterns, if those are conveyed  
2 back to BLM and then also with the sport hunters in  
3 there, how that would affect subsistence harvest  
4 patterns and how that could also affect the movement  
5 patterns as such. So just to let you know that we have  
6 commented on that and have requested that they do a  
7 analysis not just baseline how subsistence is used  
8 right now, but how it could be effected in the future.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's interesting  
11 because that was one of the things that was brought up  
12 to me on the -- after the meeting yesterday as one of  
13 the impacts that was not even mentioned when they  
14 talked about the dam was the fact that they have to  
15 make an access road into there from one of those places  
16 and that access road once it's an access road, will  
17 become access. And.....

18  
19 MS. BULLOCK: Right.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: .....then also if  
22 you've got a 41 mile lake you've got lots of access by  
23 boat.

24  
25 MS. BULLOCK: Right. And there's a lot  
26 of perspective recreational opportunity for folks in  
27 Fairbanks, people coming in, whether they can do float  
28 trips or hunting trips or boating trips or whatever,  
29 that's all going to affect, you know, sport hunting or  
30 subsistence users that might want to utilize that area  
31 as well for not just game, but also for berries and  
32 wood -- wood products and such.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hard to pick berries  
35 under 200 feet of water.

36  
37 (Laughter)

38  
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Judy.

40  
41 MS. CAMINER: I think it would be  
42 really helpful if you're able to send the BLM comments  
43 to Donald and he can send it to all of us and same with  
44 any of the -- for those who are going to the Cook Inlet  
45 symposium next week, any notes or any conclusions if  
46 you can send them to Donald and then we'll know about  
47 it sooner than next February would be really helpful.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.  
50

1 MS. BULLOCK: Okay. I think we can do  
2 that.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'm glad to see the  
5 BLM is on top of that as far as asking for that kind of  
6 information from the, I'll use the word dam builders, I  
7 don't mean it that badly, but, I mean, but so that it  
8 isn't just the baseline so that they do look at what  
9 future impacts are and I'm glad to see that BLM's on  
10 top of that.

11  
12 Gloria.

13  
14 MS. STICKWAN: I'd like to ask staff to  
15 bring something back from the chinook symposium, there  
16 is some staff there, like could they bring back  
17 something to the Councils.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Is any staff going to  
20 the symposium?

21  
22 MS. CAMINER: Steve is.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Steve, you're going to  
25 the -- that's right, you're going to the symposium.

26  
27 MS. CAMINER: And the Forest Service  
28 person.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

31  
32 MS. BULLOCK: I'm not for sure if  
33 anybody from BLM, but I'm sure our fisheries biologist  
34 will probably go, but I'll check on that and I'll get  
35 comments from you.....

36  
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

38  
39 MS. BULLOCK: .....on catching.....

40  
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Anything with king  
42 salmon and caribou are very important to this Council.

43  
44 Lee.

45  
46 MR. ADLER: When I was in the hall  
47 yesterday one of the -- I think it's a Fish and  
48 Wildlife Service guy, Steve or something, and nobody  
49 mentioned grayling in the talk. And there's quite a  
50 grayling fishery in the Oshetna/Talkeetna River --

1 Susitna River Drainage. And it's not really utilized  
2 much because people aren't there. But all those  
3 streams have good runs of grayling, I know people have  
4 flown in there and fantastic grayling fishing.

5  
6 Another thing is along the Oshetna  
7 River and all those there are a few private cabins, a  
8 couple of them with little air strips that would be  
9 inundated. And all of the ORV trails that the moose  
10 and caribou hunters come in, inundated. Maybe that's  
11 good, I don't know. But so there's a lot of impacts  
12 that we haven't thought about.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: There's a lot impacts  
15 and I hope that they recognize some of them and I hope  
16 it's actually taken into consideration. I have my  
17 doubts because what we're dealing with is fuel prices  
18 on the Railbelt and the electricity for the Railbelt  
19 and the political power in the State of Alaska is on  
20 the Railbelt. And that's what happened all over the  
21 world, that's what happened in Northwestern United  
22 States. So but it's -- hopefully they'll have to look  
23 at the stuff and I don't know if they can mitigate it  
24 in anyway, but at least we'll see what's coming, you  
25 know.

26  
27 Thank you. And I'm glad that you got  
28 the BLM on top of that.

29  
30 Okay. Next thing would be Federal  
31 management, unification of information and Council  
32 involvement. Does anybody have -- who -- was somebody  
33 going to present that to us or was that a question on  
34 our part?

35  
36 Donald.

37  
38 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
39 Earlier this summer I -- we met with Judy Caminer, she  
40 came to our office and discussed this subject item.  
41 There's a lot of agencies within Alaska that have a lot  
42 of various projects going on and Judy approached us and  
43 we're trying to find a way to bring all those issues  
44 together in one document or share it with the Council.  
45 Maybe Judy -- maybe you can explain for the Council's  
46 benefit.

47  
48 MS. CAMINER: Sure. I guess it's a  
49 continuation of what we've just been discussing that  
50 there are projects around the State, there are issues

1 that other RACs deal with that we'd like to know about.  
2 And since most of us have email or Donald has a way to  
3 get in touch with all of us, just to keep us informed  
4 as things occur so that it isn't six months between  
5 getting some of this information. And so we're looking  
6 -- or sending us the press release of the Board met and  
7 here was the decision. You know, those -- that kind of  
8 information sharing, I think KJ was really good at that  
9 and so I'd just like to continue that because we are  
10 interested. And I do want to compliment whoever idea  
11 it was to put the Watana/Susitna dam on the agenda  
12 because it really was informative and I'm glad people  
13 knew about the area so well and could express the  
14 concerns that we now have as a Council about it. So I  
15 thought that was a really good example of bringing us  
16 news that we needed to hear.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Donald.

19

20 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Ms.  
21 Caminer. One idea I can try is, you know, just give a  
22 quarterly report for the Council's benefit, you know,  
23 what's going on in our program and other programs. So  
24 it's just an idea, I'm starting out there.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MS. STICKWAN: Also.....

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: One of the things I  
31 like is just like what she just said and what he said,  
32 you know, Forest Service is going to be or Steve is  
33 going to be at the king salmon symposium, the  
34 information they'd get if they would for -- you know,  
35 if they know that they can forward it to you and it  
36 gets forwarded to us then, you know, then we'll have  
37 access to that. She's talking about the BLM doing  
38 this with the dam people. You know, what -- when they  
39 get their information if they've got something that  
40 they think this Council would be interested in forward  
41 it to you and you'll forward it to us. And that way we  
42 can -- we can get this information from this other  
43 Federal organizations that are digging up the same king  
44 of information we'd like to have dug up.

45

46 Any other comments on that? Judy.

47

48 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, I mean,  
49 Donald, I don't want to and I don't think the Council  
50 wants to impose a quarterly report deadline on you.....

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No.  
2  
3 MS. CAMINER: .....but the other way is  
4 how -- I mean, there's two options, you can as you hear  
5 about things that, you know, Park Service has done this  
6 or here's what's going on and regarding the air force  
7 overflights, you can just send us things as they come  
8 along or maybe once a month call whoever it might be,  
9 the Interagency Staff Committee or your contacts in the  
10 field, any news for Southcentral and then you can send  
11 us that latest info. But you can see from the variety  
12 of topics we're interested in a lot.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Yeah, we don't  
15 need you to put out a newspaper, Donald.....  
16  
17 MS. CAMINER: Right.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: .....it would be nice,  
20 but we don't think we need to add that to your  
21 schedule. But like if she sends you some information  
22 from the BLM forward it to us, you know, just so --  
23 because it -- this Council is interested in a wide  
24 variety of things.  
25  
26 Gloria.  
27  
28 MS. STICKWAN: Website links are good.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Website links, yeah.  
31 For those of you guys that know how to use a computer  
32 that's excellent.  
33  
34 Andy.  
35  
36 MR. McLAUGHLIN: Yeah, Chair. Emails  
37 work great for me. If I just get whatever emails you  
38 got, I review all that stuff, don't.....  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Boy, it's time for me  
41 to quit. I still like snail mail.  
42  
43 Donald.  
44  
45 MR. MIKE: Yeah, if you have email  
46 access or internet access, you know, now is a good time  
47 to provide to me your latest email addresses. I know  
48 some of the Council members, you know, they prefer hard  
49 copies and I'll mail those out.  
50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Some of us  
4 prefer you to make a newspaper and send it to us.  
5 Anyhow, Donald, sorry, we're just teasing you. But no,  
6 it is -- this Council is interested in information from  
7 a wide variety of things and if something looks -- if  
8 something looks interesting from some other Federal  
9 agencies or that you hear, send it on.

10

11 Okay. Overlapping concern with other  
12 Councils or regions. The only one that I can think of  
13 is -- did we ever appoint somebody to go to Kodiak or  
14 was I supposed to do that, to discuss the brown bear?

15

16 MS. CAMINER: Greg.

17

18 MR. ENCELEWSKI: We backed away from  
19 that, didn't we.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We back away, they  
22 dropped the proposal.

23

24 MR. BLOSSOM: We dropped the.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We dropped the  
27 proposal and we just dropped it. And we didn't drop --  
28 I was reading the minutes and it looked to me like we  
29 dropped it until we could have a discussion with them,  
30 but maybe we just dropped it.

31

32 Greg.

33

34 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, the Council kind  
35 of took care of that. We contacted them on our.....

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: One to one?

38

39 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

42

43 MR. ENCELEWSKI: And we resolved it.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Because I was  
46 feeling guilty when I read that, I thought -- was  
47 thinking ut-oh, maybe I was supposed to have found time  
48 to go to Kodiak and I sure haven't.

49

50 Gloria.

1 MS. STICKWAN: The other thing we  
2 talked about -- I don't know how to approach Eastern  
3 Interior about their letter, about the.....  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. On the personal  
6 use.....  
7  
8 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: .....subsistence  
11 priority.  
12  
13 MS. STICKWAN: We could maybe just  
14 write a letter saying we're concerned about it and for  
15 subsistence users and I don't know, just write a  
16 tactful letter to them, I guess.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh. And that it's  
19 very important to the Southcentral subsistence users  
20 that it remains a subsistence use for Southcentral and  
21 personal use for the rest of the State, something to  
22 that effect. Because maybe -- how about if we put that  
23 on Judy and Gloria's plate to come up with a tactful  
24 letter to write to the Eastern Interior to express our  
25 concerns over expanding the personal use fishery into  
26 subsistence fishery.  
27  
28 Do you think the two of you can work on  
29 that together?  
30  
31 (No comments.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Okay. Any  
34 other overlapping concerns, we don't have -- the  
35 Chisana Caribou thing worked out okay. We have now --  
36 we've got the subsistence personal use and we -- and  
37 the brown bear thing is taken care of with Kodiak so at  
38 this point in time I don't know of any other  
39 overlapping concerns.  
40  
41 Okay. Identify annual report topics.  
42 Donald, we're not due to write our annual report letter  
43 until the next meeting, are we?  
44  
45 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, you can provide  
46 those annual report topics and I can draft it for the  
47 Council's review at our next meeting.  
48  
49 Thank you.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: For the Council for  
2 review at our next meeting. Well, two -- we identified  
3 two topics so far today. Does anybody else have any  
4 topics that they would like to see into the annual  
5 report.

6  
7 Gloria.

8  
9 MS. STICKWAN: I don't know if you're  
10 referring to the two topics, but one of them I wanted  
11 to see was and there's that moose data for Unit 13.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We have that. That's  
14 in there, the moose data for Unit 13. And I can't  
15 remember what the other topic was, I know that we  
16 identified two and.....

17  
18 MS. CAMINER: Herbicide.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, and the  
21 herbicides.

22  
23 Judy.

24  
25 MS. CAMINER: I wrote down a few things  
26 which may or may not be for the annual report.  
27 Requesting antler size on the BLM permit.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That was the data for  
30 the moose on 13.

31  
32 MS. CAMINER: Okay. BLM guiding EA.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, okay.

35  
36 MS. CAMINER: Let's see. This is not  
37 for the annual report, but just for the next meeting we  
38 said we would also want a briefing on horns and  
39 antlers. And then the annual report we also mentioned  
40 the Chitina fishery classification, but we can do that  
41 letter in between. I guess -- and I don't know if we'd  
42 want to put this in our annual report, but we did say  
43 that we wanted to get notes from SRC meetings as they  
44 write up the results of those meetings.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We'd like -- yeah, but  
47 I don't know if that's an annual -- I don't think  
48 that's an annual report one.

49  
50 MS. CAMINER: Right. The other thing

1 if I might, Mr. Chair, I was going to mention, I should  
2 have asked it while we were talking about the MOU.  
3 That MOU between the Boards and the Federal Board and  
4 Department of Fish and Game is all about information on  
5 Federal lands. And so I know this would be a big  
6 effort, but seems like perhaps in the interest of  
7 cooperation there could be something similar with  
8 respect to State lands where information would be  
9 shared with the Federal program on hunting and fishing  
10 on State lands.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria.

13  
14 MS. STICKWAN: We had the fisheries  
15 monitoring program, I would like to see more projects  
16 or the Federal Board support projects that have to do  
17 with wildlife as well, not just fisheries, but wildlife  
18 as well.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We can -- we can put  
21 that in the annual report that we feel that a program  
22 similar to the fisheries monitoring program would be  
23 nice to have for some of our wildlife. And I think  
24 that would be a -- that would be an acceptable thing to  
25 put into our annual report, that that would be  
26 something that we as a Council feel is important if  
27 that's what you were thinking as a topic for our annual  
28 report.

29  
30 Judy.

31  
32 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, I think  
33 Gloria's idea is a good one. I think we have commented  
34 on that before and probably going to get a similar  
35 answer in terms of money, but it's a valid concern.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. How about  
38 anything on bears on the Kenai Peninsula for Federal  
39 things that you can think of that would like to have  
40 put in the annual report. You were talking about that  
41 bear survey and everything, do you have anything there  
42 that should go to the Board?

43  
44 MR. BLOSSOM: No, Mr. Chair, I think  
45 we've prodded them very well and their big fight is  
46 just that their study showed there was a lot more bear  
47 than they thought. And somehow they're trying to bring  
48 that figure down to a more reasonable one. Whatever it  
49 is we really don't care because the new man for the  
50 State in our region for wildlife is from Kodiak and he

1 could care less about numbers, he's going to look at  
2 what the people say and I like what he's doing. So no,  
3 I don't think we have any problem right now, I think  
4 it's going well.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Anything else  
7 anybody can think of that at this point in time we can  
8 include in our annual report other than -- we can look  
9 at our last year's annual report and see if there's any  
10 of those that need repeated. A lot of those have been  
11 repeated and we've gotten the same answer back on them.  
12 And maybe it's time that we don't just automatically  
13 put them in again. We could make a pretty short annual  
14 report this year, we've got -- we've had short meetings  
15 and not a lot of controversy.

16  
17 I think -- Greg, I think the idea of  
18 the necessity to come up with a meaningful subsistence  
19 fishery on the Kenai River -- not on the Kenai River,  
20 on the Kenai Peninsula for subsistence users would be  
21 something to put into the annual report myself, you  
22 know.

23  
24 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I mentioned to  
25 Donald fisheries earlier so yeah, I think that would be  
26 appropriate.

27  
28 One other thing, Mr. Chairman, I  
29 thought about and I don't -- I don't know that it would  
30 matter who, but it's a concern and it should be  
31 probably maybe noted in an annual report. I don't know  
32 who sees it or where it goes or what weight, but, you  
33 know, with the funding potential cuts and the cuts and  
34 the 20, 30 percent, it really does impact the ability  
35 to manage subsistence. And it concerns me that it  
36 might get pushed into a bad situation.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, we've brought up  
39 funding considerations before and the problem is the  
40 Board has no control over funding, the Board is given  
41 funding and the funding comes from the top down and it  
42 comes from way at the top down. I mean, we can express  
43 our concerns over funding and at -- I don't think it  
44 hurts to put that into our annual report, but the  
45 persons -- the people who are going to be reading our  
46 annual report are not the people who make the decisions  
47 on funding, they're the people who are impacted by the  
48 funding. But so I don't know how -- but I still don't  
49 think it hurts to put it in.

50

1 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, I guess for  
2 Greg's comment, I mean, certainly there's other  
3 audiences you might want to write to with that concern  
4 outside of the agencies. But also maybe as a  
5 placeholder we should put this schedule of the  
6 regulatory cycle and see how we feel about it the next  
7 meeting, see what progress might have been made because  
8 that was part of our last meeting and again  
9 appreciating the responsiveness.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gloria.

12

13 MS. STICKWAN: We should thank the  
14 Board for them -- their -- listening to our concerns  
15 now more and just appreciate that.

16

17 MS. CAMINER: Right.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, hearing nothing  
20 else I'm sure we can get started on that. And then we  
21 have another chance to look at that at our next meeting  
22 before we have to submit it. So if somebody can come --  
23 if somebody identifies some things that they consider  
24 concern we can bring it up at the next meeting and  
25 still include it in our annual report.

26

27 We have two more things -- well,  
28 actually one thing we've covered pretty good already.  
29 We have -- we have the Council charter review and then  
30 we have the King Salmon Task Force. But I think we've  
31 covered the King Salmon Task Force about four times so  
32 I don't think we need to cover that one again.

33

34 So what do we have on Council charter  
35 review that we need to do at this point in time,  
36 Donald?

37

38 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This  
39 is an opportunity for the Council to review the  
40 charter. If you have any suggested language or strike  
41 language in the existing charter. You'll find it on  
42 Page 77. So this will go through the Federal  
43 Subsistence Board, any of your comments on the charter  
44 that you wish to see changed, the Board will review it  
45 and either accept it or come up with a resolution or  
46 state whether or not they can make those charter's  
47 amended. So this is an opportunity for the Council to  
48 review the charter.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Well, just --

1 Gloria.

2

3 MS. STICKWAN: I just had something  
4 written down, Page number H, Page 78. We don't have  
5 any Federal local advisory committees that I know  
6 about, we should take that out.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, I see what you  
9 mean. We have no Federal advisory committees. So  
10 basically what we do make is we make recommendations  
11 for membership on the SRC, but not on the Federal  
12 advisory committees.

13

14 Donald.

15

16 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. Ms. Stickwan,  
17 what is the question again, number -- you said number  
18 8?

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Page 78. Okay. So  
21 basically what this is saying is that we need a current  
22 charter in order to do business. And the charter has  
23 to be renewed every two years. If you look at 11 on  
24 Page 79, the Council will terminate two years from the  
25 date the charter is filed unless prior to that date  
26 it's renewed in accordance with the provisions of  
27 Section 14 of the FACA. The Council will not meet or  
28 take any action without a valid, current charter. And  
29 that's one of the reasons we need to review this and  
30 redo it.

31

32 And see I don't think we as a Council,  
33 I was looking at the ethics on it, I don't think we as  
34 a Council can write to somebody higher than the Board  
35 and say that funding is -- you know, for funding. I  
36 think that -- I mean, we can write to the President and  
37 say that funding needs to be increased for OSM. That  
38 would be beyond our ethics or beyond our.....

39

40 MS. CAMINER: You could write to  
41 Congress.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Could we write to --  
44 but we couldn't write to Congress as -- we could write  
45 to Congress as an individual, but we couldn't write to  
46 Congress as a RAC. Yeah, we don't give up our  
47 citizenship just because we joined the RAC.

48

49 So what do you think on that H, because  
50 I -- do we need to make any comment on it, are there

1 areas that have Federal local advisory committees that  
2 you know of, Donald?

3

4 MR. MIKE: I don't know of any Federal  
5 local advisory committees, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. So, I mean, we  
8 can recommendations on the establish -- that's the  
9 thing, it says we can make recommendations that one  
10 needs to be established, that's part of our charter,  
11 but it doesn't say we need to make recommendations that  
12 one needs to be established. And if we do decide one  
13 needs to be established we can make recommendations on  
14 the membership on it, but we don't have to make  
15 recommendations on the membership. So we can either  
16 leave that in or like Gloria suggests, we could suggest  
17 that it's stricken as non-applicable. But otherwise we  
18 need to -- we need to have a motion to accept our  
19 charter and then renew our charter.

20

21 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes.

24

25 MS. CAMINER: I will move that we  
26 accept the charter as written and that Donald look into  
27 4h to see if it still applies today.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do I hear a second.

30

31 MR. BLOSSOM: Second.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and  
34 seconded that we accept the charter as written and we  
35 direct Donald to look into 4h to see whether it applies  
36 and whether it can be stricken in the future.

37

38 Discussion?

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hearing none, the  
43 question's in order.

44

45 MS. STICKWAN: Question.

46

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

49

50 IN UNISON: Aye.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by  
2 saying nay.

3  
4 (No opposing votes)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. With that we've  
7 pretty well concluded our business except for closing  
8 comments and the floor is open for closing comments  
9 from anybody on the RAC or after the RAC is done if  
10 there's anybody in the audience that wishes to make  
11 some closing comments we'll accept them also.

12  
13 Greg.

14  
15 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I'll just make one  
16 closing comment that I observed at this meeting that it  
17 was a little different than the usual in that we was  
18 able to have a lot of time for a lot of information and  
19 presentation and we took time to digest it. So that  
20 was good.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So you felt it was a  
23 good meeting?

24  
25 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yes.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other closing  
28 comments? Judy.

29  
30 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. I want to  
31 thank Donald for organizing it, I think things went  
32 really smoothly. I'm very glad that Ninilchik was able  
33 to send several representatives here, that's why we  
34 wanted to meet here, and the presentation with the  
35 photos of the fish wheel were really helpful to us I  
36 thought too.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Doug.

39  
40 MR. BLOSSOM: Mr. Chair, I'm very glad  
41 Donald is back.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Doug. Any  
44 other comments?

45  
46 (No comments)

47  
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I want to thank  
49 everybody on the Council, especially everybody that  
50 stayed to the end despite the -- it got to be a little

1 bit long, but it shouldn't have been long, it was a  
2 short meeting, but it just seemed that way. I think we  
3 had an awful lot of information presented and a lot of  
4 things that were important to this Council and have an  
5 effect on subsistence users in this area. And I really  
6 appreciate the -- I really appreciate the time and  
7 everything that everybody's put in.

8  
9 I also appreciate the -- appreciate the  
10 information we got from the people out in the audience  
11 and the participation that we got from the people out  
12 there. I thought a lot of what was presented this time  
13 was very applicable, very thought provoking.

14  
15 Donald.

16  
17 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. At  
18 our next meeting in February I don't think we have any  
19 regulatory proposal to review, but we have several new  
20 Council members on Southcentral as far as Council  
21 orientation we can either do it at the meeting dates or  
22 we can have an evening session for Council orientation.

23  
24 Mr. Chair.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, let's take a  
27 look at what our meeting load is and if our load is  
28 fairly light let's do it at the meeting dates, if our  
29 load is fairly heavy let's do it in the evening just so  
30 that we can handle our meeting in -- you know, in the  
31 allotted time if that's okay with everybody else.

32  
33 Okay. Any comments from anybody in the  
34 audience?

35  
36 MS. PALAGIUS: (Indiscernible - away  
37 from microphone).....

38  
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And in the future  
40 you'll remember that we're not all scientists that deal  
41 in the metric system.

42  
43 Okay. Okay. With that a motion to  
44 adjourn is in order.

45  
46 MR. ENCELEWSKI: I'll so move.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do I hear a second?

49  
50 MR. BLOSSOM: Second.

1                           CHAIRMAN LOHSE:  Adjourning motions do  
2 not need to be discussed or voted on.  The meeting is  
3 adjourned.

4  
5                           (Off record)

6  
7                           (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
 )ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA )

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter of Computer Matrix, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing transcript contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SOUTHCENTRAL FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II, Pages 170 through 312 taken electronically by our firm on the 16th day of October 2012, beginning at the hour of 9:30 o'clock a.m. at Nome, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 26th day of October 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires:9/16/2014