

00290

1 SOUTHCENTRAL FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL  
2 ADVISORY COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING

3

4

5

VOLUME III

6

7

March 6, 2003

8

Millennium Hotel

9

Anchorage, Alaska

10

8:30 o'clock a.m.

11

12 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

13

14 Ralph Lohse, Chairman

15 Robert Churchill

16 Gilbert Dementi

17 Fred Elvsaaas

18 Fred John

19 Sylvia Lange

20 Susan Wells

21

22 Regional Coordinator, Ann Wilkinson

00291

1

PROCEEDINGS

2

3

(Anchorage, Alaska - 3/6/2003)

4

5

(On record)

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'll call the meeting of the Southcentral Subsistence Regional Advisory Council back in session.

We finished all the proposals last night except for Fisheries Proposal 19, a request to change fish wheel identification on the Copper River. And we're going to have presentation on that right now.

Larry.

MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. My name is Larry Buklis, I'm a fishery biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management. The analysis for Proposal FP03-19 can be found on Page 213 of your Council book.

This proposal for the Upper Copper River district was submitted by the Copper River Native Association during the 2002 regulatory cycle. The proposal requested that fish wheel owners and operators no longer be required to display their names and addresses on fish wheels in the Upper Copper River district. Only fish wheel registration numbers would be required.

The proponent stated that the requirement for signs with names and addresses on fish wheels is unnecessary. The proponent felt that the management agencies have sufficient information already.

This proposal was addressed by the Southcentral Council in the fall of 2001, so over a year ago. A Staff analysis, recommendations and comments were presented to the Federal Subsistence Board in December of 2001. The Board, at that time deferred action, to allow further coordination with the State. Since then, the format of our Federal regulation has been changed for improved clarity. But the content remains as it was.

In the spring of 2002, CRNA submitted a similar proposal to the Alaska Board of Fisheries in the State regulatory process to no longer require, under State regulations, that names and addresses be displayed on fish wheels in the Copper River. At it's February

00292

1 2003 meeting, so just last month in Cordova, the Board of  
2 Fisheries acted to allow owners of fish wheels in the  
3 Glennallen subdistrict to choose to be identified by name  
4 and address, or by Alaska driver's license number or by  
5 Alaska State identification card number. Fish wheel  
6 operators, other than the owner, would still be required  
7 to be identified by name and address on a separate sign.

8

9

10 So to summarize, the State process  
11 received a similar proposal, they acted on it last month  
12 and their regulatory action allows for some flexibility.  
13 Fish wheel owners can now be identified in State  
14 regulation by a sign with their name and address, as it  
15 has been, or by a sign that has their driver's license  
16 number only, or by a sign that has their State ID card  
17 number only. So there is some flexibility on the State  
18 side now.

18

19 The number of fish wheel fishing permits  
20 issued for the Glennallen subdistrict has been on the  
21 order of 750 to 850 permits per year in recent years.  
22 While the number of actual fish wheels out on the river  
23 is on the order of 100. So you can see that fish wheels  
24 are shared. If permit holders in addition to the owner  
25 are associated with the fish wheel, it would not be  
26 possible to assign responsibility among them without a  
27 sign requirement. So if all we had was the fish wheel  
28 gear number, each fish wheel gets a number, one to 100 or  
29 however many wheels there are, if all we have is the gear  
30 number, we wouldn't know from the gear number which of  
31 the associated operators was responsible, without another  
32 sign requirement of some kind.

33

34 An element of State regulation that was  
35 not brought over to Federal regulations in the past but  
36 which may be implicit is that the fish wheel owner is  
37 responsible for the fish wheel, given that multiple users  
38 may share a fish wheel, there is good reason for  
39 explicitly stating owner responsibility for the wheel.

40

41 So when our regulations were brought over  
42 from State regulations, we didn't carry over -- a few  
43 years ago, we didn't carry over the fact that the fish  
44 wheel owner is responsible for the wheel as a unit of  
45 gear.

46

47 Enforcement officers may obtain a listing  
48 of fish wheel owners and associated permit holders from  
49 agency staff before they go out on patrol of the fishery.  
50 Signs displaying names and addresses aide in enforcement

00293

1 but there are local concerns over privacy. However,  
2 there are limitations on how current the agency permit  
3 holder list may be as provided to the enforcement  
4 officers. Permit holders often intend to immediately go  
5 out fishing after they have obtained their permit. And  
6 permits, as described in the analysis, permits are  
7 available from several different offices, State and  
8 Federal.

9

10 The regulation approved by the Board of  
11 Fisheries last month provides flexibility for the fish  
12 wheel owner to continue to display their name and address  
13 on a sign or use the identification numbers, as I  
14 described.

15

16 Fish wheel operators, other than the  
17 owner will continue to be required to display a sign  
18 showing their name and address.

19

20 The approach taken by the Board of  
21 Fisheries is an attempt to find a reasonable balance  
22 between the local desire for confidentiality and the need  
23 to effectively identify fish wheel owners and other  
24 operators for enforcement purposes.

25

26 The proposed regulation, as modified and  
27 shown on Page 217 of your Council book, so that's the  
28 proposed regulation as modified by Staff, would parallel  
29 the State regulation recently enacted by the State Board  
30 of Fish. Our modification on Page 217 also includes that  
31 statement I mentioned about fish wheel owner being  
32 responsible for the wheel, which is already in State  
33 regulation.

34

35 Mr. Chairman, that concludes my review.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Larry. Any  
38 questions for Larry. Mr. Churchill.

39

40 MR. CHURCHILL: Larry, thanks a million.  
41 Can you be a little more expansive about the problems  
42 folks have had with harassment, I mean I'm guessing that  
43 for their requested need for privacy on the fish wheels?

44

45 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman, there may be  
46 other members of the Council or the public could speak  
47 better to this or perhaps the fishery manager on the  
48 Federal or State side, but I don't know of any specific  
49 incidences of harassment. I think what's come through in  
50 discussions with the Council in the past on this, it's

00294

1 perhaps more of a feeling of names and addresses being an  
2 unnecessary public statement as to ownership that the  
3 agency shouldn't have to require. That the agency should  
4 be able to work with numbers and get what they need from  
5 that. I don't know of specific incidences of harassment.  
6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mr. Churchill.

8

9 MR. CHURCHILL: Yeah, I guess we've taken  
10 -- well, there's been an awful lot of concern, I know,  
11 from trapping organizations in this part of the state  
12 over the same types of issues, and I wondered if there  
13 were similar incidences. So, thank you.  
14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mr. Churchill, just as a  
16 little clarification on that, some of the things that  
17 were brought up as potential harassment, but if your name  
18 and address is there somebody can come and look you up  
19 and ask you to use your fish wheel.  
20

21 MR. CHURCHILL: Oh.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And it makes it very  
24 public whose fish wheel it is.  
25

26 MR. CHURCHILL: I see.  
27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And they know just where  
29 to come and find you. And people didn't like having  
30 that.  
31

32 MR. CHURCHILL: I see, okay.  
33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So this way the person  
35 who owns the fish wheel address won't be on it so they  
36 can't come and find him, it just says who's using it  
37 right at the moment.  
38

39 MR. CHURCHILL: A lot like the family  
40 showing up every summer, I see.  
41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Fred.  
43

44 MR. ELVSAAS: Did you say that there's  
45 about 850 fish wheels and it's -- how many fish wheels  
46 did you say there was about?  
47

48 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. I said  
49 there's about 100 fish wheels.  
50

00295

1 MR. ELVSAAS: Oh, 100.

2

3 MR. BUKLIS: And 750 to 850 users that  
4 share wheels.

5

6 MR. ELVSAAS: Okay. But in regards to  
7 the fish wheels themselves, there's about 100?

8

9 MR. BUKLIS: Yes, that's correct.

10

11 MR. ELVSAAS: Yeah, okay. And what's the  
12 difficulty of assigning these a number from one to 100  
13 then?

14

15 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman, that is  
16 currently done. Each fish wheel is assigned a gear  
17 registration number and that allows us to identify the  
18 unit of gear. The other requirement is to identify who's  
19 using the gear. And currently we require name and  
20 address signs. And the proposed modifications would  
21 allow the owner to simply display an identification  
22 number for themselves, and then the current user, if it's  
23 not the owner, would have to hang a sign with their name  
24 and address.

25

26 MR. ELVSAAS: Well, what I'm getting at,  
27 is, you know, to put your driver's license or State ID on  
28 a 12 by 12, who can read it, you know, it's just too  
29 small. So I'm just -- but every fish wheel has to have a  
30 gear number on it, right?

31

32 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. That's  
33 correct, yes.

34

35 MR. ELVSAAS: Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Larry, can I ask you a  
38 question?

39

40 MR. BUKLIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That State  
43 identification card number, that's a State identification  
44 card number for the fish wheel, right?

45

46 MR. BUKLIS: No, Mr. Chairman. That  
47 would be a -- some people carry a State ID card instead  
48 of a driver's license. So they can -- an owner can  
49 choose to put their Alaska driver's license number or  
50 their State of Alaska personal ID card number on the fish

00296

1 wheel. So a fish wheel would have -- even if a fish  
2 wheel is being used only by the owner, a fish wheel would  
3 have two signs; the gear registration number, which all  
4 fish wheels have as a unit of gear, and a driver's  
5 license number sign, a State ID card number or the old  
6 name and address sign, if they want to continue to do  
7 that.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But they will have a  
10 gear registration number also?

11

12 MR. BUKLIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The gear  
13 registration number system will continue.

14

15 And one feature that is helpful here is  
16 that the State is going to continue to manage a unified  
17 gear registration system that has been in place and would  
18 continue. And so if we're in parallel on the signage  
19 requirements, we would all -- whether it's a Federally-  
20 qualified user or a State user, the fish wheel gear  
21 registration would be under the State registration  
22 system. So we'd have just one gear numbering system from  
23 one to 100 or however many wheels there are that year.  
24 We wouldn't diverge and have State and Federally numbered  
25 wheels. This would preserve the unified system in that  
26 way.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Correct me if I'm wrong,  
29 that gear registration number is issued to the owner,  
30 right?

31

32 MR. BUKLIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I think  
33 when you take testimony from the State and perhaps the  
34 manager, they can get into more details. But, yes, the  
35 owner of the wheel is registered with the gear as the  
36 owner. Some wheels, I believe, may be built and kind of  
37 owned by a consortium of people, but I believe one person  
38 needs to be come forward and take responsibility as the  
39 owner, yes.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I guess I'm confused  
42 because if the registration number is the registration  
43 number of the owner and the registration number is on the  
44 fish wheel, then the owner's number is on the fish wheel,  
45 and the owner's registration is on the fish wheel. I  
46 guess I can't see why, if you've already got a  
47 registration number that identifies the owner you need  
48 anything else for the owner. But this is as it's put  
49 forward to us right now.

50

00297

1 Larry.

2

3 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. I think I can  
4 try to address that. By having the Alaska driver's  
5 license number or the State personal identification card  
6 number or the owner's name and address posted on the  
7 sign, that information is universally available to  
8 enforcement staff of the various agencies who might be on  
9 patrol of the river. Gear registration numbers is a  
10 fisheries agency system which the enforcement officers,  
11 for the various agencies, would need to get access to the  
12 fisheries agency, in this case Alaska Department of Fish  
13 and Game records to track the owner down.

14

15 What I'm saying is the gear registration  
16 number is a Fish and Game issued number, the ownership  
17 information behind that number resides at Fish and Game.  
18 Whereas, driver's license number and State ID number or  
19 name and address are immediately identifiable by  
20 enforcement staff, whatever agency they're from.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: One last question and  
23 then I'll shut up. But isn't that -- that number is no  
24 different than the fishery identification number that's  
25 on every commercial fishing vessel in the State of  
26 Alaska, isn't it? I mean it's kept in the same  
27 repository because it's a Fish and Game number, and every  
28 commercial fishing vessel in Alaska is identified with a  
29 registration number, ADF&G number is what it's called.  
30 And we have multiple enforcement units in the commercial  
31 fishery. ADF&G, State Troopers. I would think that that  
32 number would be just as readily accessible as a driver's  
33 license number, because it's just a matter of it's got to  
34 be in the same kind of registry bank, it's in the ADF&G  
35 registry bank.

36

37 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. I think when  
38 the State comments I think they can speak better than I  
39 as to the status of this fish wheel gear number in the  
40 Copper River as compared to an ADF&G number. I don't  
41 believe they reside in, as you say, the same data bank.  
42 I think the Fish and Game fish wheel number system in the  
43 Copper River may be a more locally managed information  
44 set as opposed to the State of Alaska CFEC number and  
45 other such numbers which are literally in a data bank.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Larry. Any  
48 other questions for Larry.

49

50 Fred.

00298

1 MR. JOHN: What about a village owned  
2 fish wheel where everybody owns it there in the village  
3 like -- like Mentasta got a fish wheel, it's under Katie  
4 John's name because it's down there at Batzulnetas, but  
5 everybody take part of it, traditionally it's part of our  
6 sharing and I was wondering, if we go back to individual  
7 that's going into the Western ways, you know, but there's  
8 people that own their own fish wheel, too, even  
9 Chistochina got a village fish wheel, a community fish  
10 wheel.

11  
12 MR. BUKLIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I  
13 believe the cooperatively conducted fish wheels have a  
14 gear registration number like other fish wheels, however,  
15 we required a single person's name and address to be  
16 posted in the past, this kind of fish wheel could also be  
17 identified by a driver's license number or ID card  
18 number.

19  
20 In other words, if in the past we  
21 required a name and address for a person, we could  
22 require only an ID number now.

23  
24 MR. JOHN: Do you have anything, like I  
25 said, cooperative fish wheel that's owned by a village?  
26 Do you have any kind of number you could put on there  
27 beside one person's number? That might be a violation --  
28 arrest, you know, the name on there.

29  
30 I don't want to see my mom go to jail.

31  
32 (Laughter)

33  
34 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. I guess the  
35 spirit of this analysis and recommendation for you to  
36 consider is to take advantage of the movement on the  
37 State side to allow for some flexibility and allow people  
38 to step away from name and address signs and, instead,  
39 post signs with numbers only. And what we've done here  
40 is tried to capture that flexibility.

41  
42 Now, in terms of a village cooperative  
43 fish wheel, if, in the past we -- and others can speak to  
44 the details of cooperative fish wheels, I think the  
45 managers can cover that more thoroughly than I can but,  
46 if, in the past we required a name and address this  
47 registration would allow a number instead.

48  
49 If we required the name with the village  
50 cooperative then I think that name of a cooperative would

00299

1 need to come forward in the future, too, because there  
2 wouldn't be a driver's license for a cooperative.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Any more  
5 questions for Larry.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Larry. Fred,  
10 wait a second, don't run off.

11

12 MR. ELVSAAS: Well, just trying to think,  
13 people want their privacy and they don't want to be  
14 harassed because their name is up on the fish wheel and  
15 so forth.

16

17 I was just thinking if you had something  
18 in a format like this, the gear number posted on the fish  
19 wheel and then each operator would have that number plus  
20 A, B, C and you would have a file with their name,  
21 address, telephone numbers and so forth because you want  
22 to have that if there's an emergency and you need to  
23 contact somebody. Especially if say the third operator  
24 is running the fish wheel but this is the owner. So in  
25 this case 12A would be the owner and anybody that  
26 operated it, you -- the agencies would have instant  
27 access to the phones and so forth and stuff; is that  
28 something that could be considered?

29

30 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Elvsaas.  
31 I think those are good ideas and I think some of those  
32 kinds of things have been discussed. But part of the  
33 problem is the response time of the information.

34

35 As I mentioned, some people intend to  
36 immediately go out fishing using somebody's wheel as soon  
37 as they've gotten their permit, and whether we can get  
38 that information together and available to officers in  
39 time to be current enough is the problem. Because this  
40 is sort of a changing system, a changing situation.  
41 You've got seven to eight, to 850 users and 100 wheels.  
42 So some wheels are being used by a number of people and  
43 it's kind of a fluid situation.

44

45 MR. ELVSAAS: Right.

46

47 MR. BUKLIS: And the current proposal  
48 with modification before you would allow that level of  
49 privacy by the owner but operators, who may operate for  
50 just a few days, would need to hang a name and address

00300

1 sign. And it was felt that that provides immediate  
2 identification for officers regardless of how they're  
3 coming in and out of the fishery. But to have some kind  
4 of numerical system like you proposed or something else,  
5 even for the operators, there wasn't confidence that that  
6 could be done effectively enough to be current enough.

7

8 MR. ELVSAAS: Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Fred. Any  
11 other questions for Larry.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Maybe you can answer  
16 this, and maybe I'll have to get this from Fish and Game.  
17 But in order to receive a permit, do you have to state  
18 which fish wheel you'll be using in order to have an  
19 operator's permit or could you have an operator's permit  
20 and make use of three different friend's fish wheels?

21

22 MR. BUKLIS: I believe they do ask, which  
23 wheel do you intend to use and I believe the State asks  
24 on their fishing permit form, what wheel you were on for  
25 a given day associated with that catch.

26

27 I don't think our Federal permit demands  
28 or requires that you tell us what wheel you caught the  
29 fish on.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any other  
32 questions for Larry.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Larry.  
37 Terry.

38

39 MR. CHURCHILL: We got a two for one.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We get two for the price  
42 of one this morning.

43

44 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
45 The Department supports the intent of the modified  
46 proposal on Pages 217/218 of your meeting book.

47

48 In looking at the language in this  
49 modified proposal comparing it to that of the State  
50 registration which Ann passed out to you a little while

00301

1 ago, we did find some small differences. So we would  
2 recommend that if the Council supports the intent of the  
3 modified proposal in your book, to parallel -- to have  
4 the Federal registration parallel the State registration,  
5 we would recommend that Staff sit down and work out the  
6 specifics so that the language matches.

7  
8 For example, on Page 218 in your book,  
9 Section 27(d) of the Staff recommendation, the  
10 corresponding section in the State regulation references  
11 a wood, metal or plastic plate. The Federal regulation  
12 proposed here has just wood or metal plate.

13  
14 So there are a couple of minor things  
15 like that that we would recommend could be worked out  
16 without taking a lot of your time.

17  
18 Tom Taube, our fishery manager in  
19 Glennallen is here if you have specific questions about  
20 management of this fishery and he could answer those  
21 questions much better than I.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions for Tom --  
24 Mr. Churchill.

25  
26 MR. CHURCHILL: Yeah, Tom, it seems like  
27 there's a real interest to minimize the number of numbers  
28 and systems involved and I've been listening about can  
29 the gear registration number be adequately and timely  
30 accessed by the folks that need to when they're having to  
31 identify, what's your thinking and experience on that?

32  
33 MR. TAUBE: Well, the proposal that was  
34 adopted by the Board of Fisheries was one that our public  
35 safety enforcement staff had put together with just the  
36 identification by the fish wheel registration, that's a  
37 number that's renewed annually, it's not the same number  
38 a say with the vessel so one wheel may have number 2 one  
39 year and maybe 34 the next or something, so it's not  
40 consistent from year to year as neither are the owners  
41 from year to year. And so that list is renewed annually.  
42 And it was felt that by just having the identification  
43 for the owner, most owners register their wheels within  
44 the first month of the fishery so that list would  
45 probably not change too much once you get to mid-June or  
46 so and it would also, by requiring the owner to have  
47 their number on there, if only the owner was using the  
48 wheel and that number was on there they would know that  
49 it was just the owner operating the wheel as opposed to  
50 just having a registration number and no identification

00302

1 on there, it may be the owner using it or it may be --  
2 nobody may be using it and if the wheel was turning then  
3 technically that would be in violation because someone  
4 has to be operating the wheel for it to be fishing. And  
5 so that allowed them the flexibility of knowing if the  
6 owner was using it and with the requirement for the  
7 operator to have their name on there, it would know if  
8 the operator was using it.

9  
10 And with the operators, like that's been  
11 mentioned by Staff here already, that changes daily, and,  
12 you know, someone will go out and fish right away and so  
13 the need of having a name on there is much easier access  
14 than having a list. Generally they'll respond to us  
15 every couple days and get an updated owner list with  
16 authorized users for that.

17  
18 MR. CHURCHILL: Thank you.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Mr.  
21 Churchill.

22  
23 MR. CHURCHILL: Now, are you aware of any  
24 instances of harassment of fish wheel owners? I mean  
25 it's been brought forward that more concern is getting  
26 tracked down and asked to use. But any instances you're  
27 aware of harassment of fish wheel owners?

28  
29 MR. TAUBE: We have had people call our  
30 office asking for a list of fish wheel owners and, you  
31 know, we've denied that, and basically we've told people  
32 that if you know a fish wheel, you know, if it's on  
33 public lands -- generally, most people will come and look  
34 down at the Chitina/McCarthy bridge where there is the  
35 public access there and what we've told people is that,  
36 you know, if you really want to use a wheel then you need  
37 to talk to the owner. So in that case, there probably  
38 are people that approach folks. But there's also people  
39 in that area, in that public area, there's people that  
40 just go up and talk to the owners because, tourists,  
41 whatever, just want to know what's this -- what is this  
42 whole fish wheel thing going on. And, so there are cases  
43 where I expect people have been approached by people  
44 wanting to use the wheel or just wanting information  
45 about the fishery.

46  
47 MR. CHURCHILL: So it's not really  
48 negative harassment, it's just -- I mean, I guess  
49 harassment by definition is negative but it's not trying  
50 to do harm it's more of a, gee, I'd like to use sort of

00303

1 harassment?

2

3 MR. TAUBE: (Nods affirmatively)

4

5 MR. CHURCHILL: Okay, thank you very  
6 much.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gilbert.

9

10 MR. DEMENTI: Do you have any registered  
11 community fish wheel like Fred John said and whose name  
12 does it come under?

13

14 MR. TAUBE: Generally the way the village  
15 fish wheel program works is that, you know, there's a  
16 plan submitted the village that's interested or basically  
17 we provide them paperwork where we need to have a  
18 contact, we need to know who we contact with the village  
19 so that at the end of the season we can get the reports  
20 from them. The village also has to provide a list of  
21 people that will be receiving fish from that wheel  
22 because whoever's receiving fish cannot get their own  
23 permit also, and so they are covered by that village fish  
24 wheel permit. So we ask that we have a contact for that  
25 village fish wheel permit, and that would be the person  
26 that would be on a wheel that was a village fish wheel.

27

28 Sometimes on the village fish wheel it  
29 may be a wheel that other people that have their own  
30 permit use that wheel also. So it's just not strictly a  
31 for use by the village council or whatever entity comes  
32 in requests that village fish wheel permit, there may be  
33 multiple permits there using that.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Fred.

36

37 MR. JOHN: I just wonder how's that  
38 working?

39

40 MR. TAUBE: We get probably two or three  
41 village fish wheel permits each year, Chitina Village,  
42 Chickaloon Village has come, Chistochina has done that  
43 also before. It can -- it basically was a means to  
44 reduce the paperwork so that not everybody would have to  
45 get their own permit, they could be covered by one permit  
46 and it's been now six years we've been going on with the  
47 program. It's generally two or three permits that we  
48 issue a year.

49

50 We've tried to streamline it by, instead

00304

1 of requesting -- originally the first years it went  
2 through there was a plan that the village council had to  
3 provide us and we've just tried to simplify it by, you  
4 know, a record, a log with who's using the wheel and just  
5 like the regular permit where they have to record who  
6 gets the fish and how many fish they get and then that's  
7 provided to us at the end of the season.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Sylvia.

10

11 MS. LANGE: I'm assuming that this  
12 proposal is driven by some enforcement need and what  
13 promoted -- what created that?

14

15 MR. TAUBE: Well, the original proposal  
16 was brought forth because of the evasion of privacy  
17 concern by the users.

18

19 MS. LANGE: Okay.

20

21 MR. TAUBE: What transpired at the Board  
22 of Fisheries meeting was something that was trying to  
23 address that concern and option that enforcement could  
24 also use.

25

26 The rationale behind being able to  
27 contact the owner of the fish wheel is a lot of times  
28 water comes up, wheels may break away or break loose or  
29 we'll get calls about certain wheels and we need to be  
30 able to contact the owner and tell them either that, you  
31 know, we've got a report that their fish wheel's been  
32 washed down stream or something else has happened with  
33 the wheel. And that's what the registration is behind.

34

35 We've also had problems in the past where  
36 people have gone up and come into our office and asked to  
37 use a fish wheel and they don't have permission by the  
38 owner to use that, in the past we just issued the permit.  
39 And about four years ago we started asking the owners for  
40 an authorized user list so that we would not have to  
41 contact the owner every time someone came in to get a fish  
42 wheel permit. And now, we won't issue someone a permit  
43 unless they have the permission of the owner ahead of time  
44 to use that wheel.

45

46 MS. LANGE: I see. Follow up.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes.

49

50 MS. LANGE: Is there any problems -- I'm

00305

1 pretty unfamiliar with the in's and out's of the fish  
2 wheel fishery, were people stealing from the fish wheels?  
3

4 MR. TAUBE: We've had reports of that.  
5 Yeah, there's a whole other issues of just -- with the  
6 fish wheel identification with that. A lot of times this  
7 is happening from private lands where there's trespass  
8 issues involved with people accessing that. A lot of the  
9 fish wheels will have -- you know, they're down private  
10 roads or across private property and they'll have gates  
11 across them and people will cut the gates.  
12

13 And it doesn't seem to have been as much  
14 of a problem since we've had the authorized user list.  
15 In the past, before we had the authorized user list it  
16 was almost like legal stealing because they had a permit  
17 for that wheel but they didn't have the permission to use  
18 that so that's cut that back. But still every year we  
19 get a couple of reports of, you know, fish are missing  
20 from the fish box or something.  
21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Sylvia.  
23

24 MS. LANGE: So would this be an aide in  
25 deterring some theft just because it would be easier to  
26 find out who the user was and is there any anticipation  
27 that it would help in that regard?  
28

29 MR. TAUBE: This is basically for the  
30 identification. This is still the same as what we've had  
31 in the past. The only difference is that the owner does  
32 now no longer have to put their name and address on it.  
33

34 MS. LANGE: I see.  
35

36 MR. TAUBE: So this won't deter theft  
37 from fish wheels.  
38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions,  
40 Sylvia.  
41

42 MS. LANGE: No, thank you.  
43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So if I understand this  
45 proposal right, the owner is the only one that doesn't  
46 have to have his name on the fish wheel, he can get by  
47 with either his name or his driver's license or his  
48 identification number. Any other operator of the fish  
49 wheel that's currently using the fish wheel has to have  
50 his name and address, right?

00306

1 MR. TAUBE: That's correct.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions for  
4 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. You didn't  
9 hear anything that we brought up before that you thought  
10 you could answer, any questions that we asked Larry that  
11 you had a real urge to jump up and tell us where we were  
12 wrong?

13

14 MR. TAUBE: I think we covered those  
15 within this round of questions here.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, thank you.

18

19 MR. HAYNES: Thank you.

20

21 MR. TAUBE: Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Other Federal,  
24 State and tribal agency comments. Eric, you got  
25 something on this?

26

27 MR. VEACH: Mr. Chairman. Regional  
28 Council. Eric Veach, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.  
29 Just a couple of things maybe I could give you a little  
30 insight into some of your questions. Under the Federal,  
31 you know, you had asked, doe a person have to tell us in  
32 advance what wheel they're going to use and when you come  
33 in and get your permit we'll ask which wheel you intend  
34 to use, but as an operator if you change your mind and  
35 decide to use a different wheel in-season, there's  
36 absolutely nothing under fish Federal regulations that  
37 prohibits you from doing that and we just ask that in the  
38 comments that you record which fish wheel you used to  
39 harvest those fish.

40

41 Fred, I think, kind of in your case --  
42 your question, too, was tied to a village wheel and I  
43 think it's, as Larry said, too, there'd probably still be  
44 a need for the village to post an actual name and address  
45 of the village or the tribal council on that wheel, that  
46 there wouldn't be a good way to cover that that I could  
47 think of with a number.

48

49 And I guess really, just kind of the only  
50 other thing I wanted to mention, too, is just kind of the

00307

1 perspective from a Federal manager -- well, let me  
2 explain a little bit of how we register wheels now. When  
3 you come into our office to get your Federal permit you  
4 can register a wheel at the same time and what you're  
5 actually doing when you do that is you're registering  
6 your wheel with ADF&G. So even though that takes place  
7 in our office what we're doing is we get a stack of wheel  
8 numbers from Tom and then at the -- basically at the end  
9 of every week we're faxing that list of fish wheels that  
10 we've registered back up to ADF&G so that -- that it's  
11 combined with their list so you're actually registering  
12 your wheel with ADF&G in our office.

13

14                   And what that's allowed us to do is  
15 maintain one system for the entire river between both  
16 Federal and State users. And while I certainly  
17 understand, you know, kind of the burden that this  
18 imposes on the users and the concerns expressed here, I'd  
19 just -- I'd like to really point out that single system,  
20 I think, is probably going to be less of a burden on the  
21 users and certainly on the managers over the long run.  
22 If we did wind up where we had a separate registration  
23 system for Federal users from State users, there's  
24 certainly a lot of instances that I'm aware of where you  
25 have a wheel that may be owned by a Federally-qualified  
26 user who's fishing under Federal registrations, he has  
27 family or friends from say Anchorage or Fairbanks that  
28 come down and use that same wheel on the weekends and  
29 what we could potentially wind up with would be, if we  
30 had a dual registration process, that same wheel would  
31 have to be registered under both systems for the range of  
32 users who use that wheel to participate because of, you  
33 know, the nature of the users, that they'd have to  
34 participate under those systems which, really, I think is  
35 going to be a real challenge from our standpoint if we  
36 did find ourselves in a situation where we had an  
37 individual wheel registered under both systems.

38

39                   That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

40

41                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Anybody have any  
42 questions for Eric.

43

44                   (No comments)

45

46                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I have just one. If I  
47 understood your comment right, under the Federal system  
48 if you have an operator's permit you can use any wheel,  
49 under the State system, if you have an operator's permit  
50 you have to have said which wheel you're going to be --

00308

1 oops, Taube's shaping his head, so evidently I've got  
2 something wrong here.

3

4 MR. TAUBE: Mr. Chairman, under the State  
5 system, when you get your permit we ask what wheel you're  
6 going to use but you can change that during the season  
7 but what we ask is that you contact us and that way we  
8 can change it on your permit, but on our record part of  
9 -- portion of the permit you can record which fish wheel  
10 you fished from. It's just that we ask that you have  
11 permission to use that other wheel. So by contacting us  
12 and telling us, yeah, I'm switching from wheel 27 to 34,  
13 we can verify that, yes, you do have that owner's  
14 permission to use that wheel.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But that's required to  
17 do prior to using it?

18

19 MR. TAUBE: Right.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So if you're using a  
22 wheel you haven't switched to, you're in violation?

23

24 MR. TAUBE: It's not one that's been  
25 enforced very strictly. If someone chooses to change  
26 that during the weekend when we're not open and they  
27 contact us Monday, you know, as far as I know there's  
28 been nothing that someone's been cited for the permit and  
29 the wheel they're using not matching.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So basically both  
32 of them are the same that way.

33

34 Thank you, Eric, for clearing that up.  
35 Anyone else have questions for Eric before he runs off.

36

37 MS. WELLS: I do.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Susan does.

40

41 MS. WELLS: I don't know if you're the  
42 right one to ask but this is ADL0547442, how does the  
43 name and address of the operator protect the fish wheel  
44 owner. I mean if I put my name and address on Katie's  
45 fish wheel and I'm using it somebody can still come up  
46 and say how can I get a hold of the owner, I want to use  
47 that permit?

48

49 MR. VEACH: That's true. They'd have a  
50 -- but I guess it's kind of a two stage process, they'd

00309

1 have to come to you first and then go to the owner and I  
2 think some of the thought behind this. This was -- I was  
3 involved, at least, a little bit with the discussions at  
4 the Board of Fisheries meeting between some of the  
5 enforcement staff and the proposers of this proposal, it  
6 was actually -- it was the Copper River Native  
7 Association who's proposed it under both the Federal  
8 system and the State system, and the feeling was the  
9 problem with the owners name and address -- you know, in  
10 the past what we've asked is that the owner's name and  
11 address be posted and then in addition to that the  
12 operator's name and address be posted. Well, in the case  
13 of the owner, that means for the entire season the  
14 owner's name and address is on that wheel so it's  
15 available for a long stretch of time for someone to come  
16 and observe that name and address verses an operator,  
17 typically is using it for a shorter amount of time. So a  
18 person has to -- I guess they'd have to act a little  
19 faster, kind of in the scenario that you mentioned,  
20 they'd have to come and they'd have to -- they'd have to  
21 spot your name and address while you were operating that  
22 wheel and then track you down and then get the name of  
23 that owner.

24

MS. WELLS: Follow up.

26

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Susan.

28

29 MS. WELLS: And I guess the Copper River  
30 might be up here to testify on this but they see no  
31 problem with having the operator's name being posted,  
32 there was no issue with them on that?

33

34 MR. VEACH: I -- I'd probably let them  
35 testify to that. I think they certainly saw not having  
36 to post the owner's name and address all season long as a  
37 big improvement over the current system.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions for  
40 Eric.

41

(No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Eric. Any  
45 other State or State or tribal agencies that wish to make  
46 comments.

47

(No comments)

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Fish and Game

00310

1 Advisory Committee comments -- do you want to do that now  
2 or under public comments -- John.

3

4 MR. GOODLATAW: Public.

5

6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. We'll be to you  
7 right in a second then.

8

9 Okay, no Fish and Game Advisory Committee  
10 comments, how about written public comments. Ann.

11

12 MS. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman, there were  
13 no comments written.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No written comments.  
16 Okay, public testimony, I've got Ray Neeley and John  
17 Goodlataw.

18

19 MR. NEELEY: Good morning.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Good morning, Ray.

22

23 MR. GOODLATAW: Good morning.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Good morning, Mr.  
26 Goodlataw.

27

28 MR. NEELEY: Okay. I'm Ray Neeley from  
29 Ahtna CRNA. In regards to Proposal FO03-19.

30

31 Ahtna CRNA supports this proposal with  
32 Staff's recommendation which changes the regulation so  
33 that if you are the owner of the fish wheel you must have  
34 a registration number or Alaska State identification  
35 number.

36

37 The reason why I knocked off the name and  
38 address or the driver's license number is because, you  
39 know, up in there that area you can't watch your wheel  
40 all the time and I really don't want it for the owner or  
41 operator because there was a couple incidents in Gakona  
42 last year that when they didn't have an address on there,  
43 people tend to go up, if they don't like you they'll snip  
44 the cable and your wheel goes down the river. So if I  
45 have a wheel out there that's mine and I let somebody  
46 else use it and they put their name and address on it and  
47 somebody sees that there and they don't like him, they  
48 just snip the cable, and it has happened, in Gakona last  
49 year, there were two wheels.

50



00312

1 you were saying is Ahtna supported the proposal with the  
2 Staff recommendation but personally you do not like the  
3 idea of having the name and address of the operator on  
4 there, right?

5

6 MR. NEELEY: Right. Right.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: He would prefer that on  
9 -- personally prefer that for the operator there would  
10 just be an identification number.

11

12 MR. NEELEY: Because I own a wheel and my  
13 dad owns a wheel.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

16

17 MR. NEELEY: You know, some years I put  
18 it in for him and some years it's mine so.....

19

20 MR. CHURCHILL: Follow up.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mr. Churchill.

23

24 MR. CHURCHILL: I guess, are you saying  
25 then that the owner of the wheel is the one that you feel  
26 needs protection, they're the ones that these incidents  
27 of vandalism have occurred with? But as I understand the  
28 modified is that if I were to ask your permission to use  
29 your fish wheel then I'd be required to identify myself,  
30 do you have a problem with that?

31

32 MR. NEELEY: Not with your address maybe,  
33 just give your driver's license number or something, you  
34 know -- I don't like the address on there.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions for  
37 Ray.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: John.

42

43 MR. GOODLATAW: Tazlina Village supports  
44 Proposal 19 with Staff recommendation which changes the  
45 registration so that if you are the owner of the fish  
46 wheel, you must display your -- you must display on your  
47 fish wheel the registration number and either name and  
48 address, Alaska driver's license or Alaska State  
49 identification number. In addition, if you're an  
50 operator of the fish wheel, you must have your name and

00313

1 address on the fish wheel.

2

3 Now, we look at it this way, we have the  
4 same problem where I'm at in Tazlina.

5

6 We had a wheel here, another one there,  
7 and another one there and on down there, these two here  
8 don't get along so they -- during the night they cut the  
9 wheel off, they know who it is so they have that name and  
10 address on that piece of board. And then they have a  
11 little problem with them, you know, so they cut it off  
12 and let it go.

13

14 So I think like Ray say, it would be  
15 better just identification number. That'll be lesser  
16 hassle, nobody fight with it.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So if I understand  
19 right, John, you feel that this would cut down some of  
20 that kind of harassment where people cut it loose?

21

22 MR. GOODLATAW: Yeah. I mean just the  
23 identification number.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Just the identification  
26 number.

27

28 MR. GOODLATAW: Yeah. Like when we get  
29 permit we get number already. They give us a number on  
30 that piece of plywood.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh. Does anybody  
33 have any questions of Mr. Goodlataw. Susan, did you hold  
34 your hand up.

35

36 MS. WELLS: Well, I'm just wondering if  
37 your people use mostly the Federal permit system or the  
38 State permit system when you go and get your fishing  
39 permit, you'd use the Federal system, right?

40

41 MR. GOODLATAW: Right.

42

43 MR. NEELEY: Do you get your permit from  
44 the National Park Service or Fish and Game?

45

46 MR. GOODLATAW: Yeah.

47

48 MR. NEELEY: The National Park Service.

49

50 MR. GOODLATAW: We get it from the

00314

1 National Park Service.

2

3 MS. WELLS: That helps me, thanks.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Thank you,  
6 John.

7

8 MR. GOODLATAW: Thank you. I'd like to  
9 say on the end -- as soon as this is all over with, I'd  
10 like to consider my public when you deliberate on  
11 wildlife proposal and deferred fishing proposal, thanks  
12 for listening to me.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Ann.

17

18 MS. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman, I misspoke.  
19 Ahtna Incorporated did send in a written comment for this  
20 one that they support the proposal with the Staff  
21 recommendation.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

24

25 MR. NEELEY: Thanks.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. With that a  
28 motion is in order to put the proposal on the table.

29

30 MR. CHURCHILL: I move that we adopt  
31 Proposal 19, FP03-19.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Which one, what page?

34

35 MR. CHURCHILL: 211.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: 211, not 217. You would  
38 do something hard like that -- 217/18?

39

40 MR. CHURCHILL: Yeah, Page 217, 218.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Page 217, 18 in our  
43 book.

44

45 MS. WELLS: I'll second.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Second. Then I don't  
48 need to read this one out loud if we know which page  
49 we're talking from?

50

00315

1 MR. CHURCHILL: True.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Discussion.

4

5 MS. WELLS: Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes, Susan.

8

9 MS. WELLS: If I'm understanding  
10 correctly, the majority, or the fish permits for the  
11 wheels -- for the fish come from the Federal program?

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Eric, Taube, can either  
14 one of you answer that question, I don't know if you  
15 could say a majority either way, but.....

16

17 MR. VEACH: Mr. Chairman, just -- last  
18 year was the first year that we issued Federal permits  
19 for the -- both the Glennallen and Chitina subdistricts  
20 and we issued for the Glennallen subdistrict about 209  
21 permits. Most of those were to folks that use fish wheel  
22 at least some of the time. As Larry mentioned earlier,  
23 there's about 750 to 850 permits between both systems  
24 that utilize fish wheels, so we're probably issuing maybe  
25 a fourth of the fish wheel permits for the Glennallen  
26 subdistrict roughly.

27

28 MS. WELLS: Okay, that helps, thanks.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mr. Taube.

31

32 MR. TAUBE: Federally-qualified users,  
33 Mr. Chairman, about 50 percent with that 200, it's about  
34 400 Federally-qualified users that receive Glennallen  
35 permits and about half of those received Federal permits  
36 this past year.

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So there about 400  
39 Federally-qualified permit holders?

40

41 MR. TAUBE: Based upon addresses, what  
42 I've looked at the data base for.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Based on addresses.

45

46 MR. TAUBE: And it's generally averaged  
47 about 400 users and about half of those got Federal  
48 permits this last year.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So then about 50 percent

00316

1 of the users then are non-Federally-qualified, they're  
2 from other areas?

3

4 MR. TAUBE: That's correct.

5

6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Susan.

7

8 MS. WELLS: And then do I understand that  
9 those are -- the ones that are from other areas may be  
10 the ones that don't have a fish wheel and that's where  
11 the name and address becomes a problem?

12

13 MR. TAUBE: Of the 100 to 125 fish wheels  
14 that are registered, 40 percent of those are used by both  
15 State and Federal users, 40 percent of those are used by  
16 strictly Federal users and 20 percent are used by  
17 strictly State users.

18

19 MS. WELLS: Okay.

20

21 MR. TAUBE: So there's a mix in there of  
22 fish wheel owners and operators that are both State and  
23 Federally-qualified.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Before you get off, I'll  
26 just ask one question, basically this then -- this  
27 proposal as it's supported by Ahtna and Tazlina and all  
28 the testimony we've had would align the two systems so  
29 that basically the same requirements would be in both  
30 systems?

31

32 MR. TAUBE: Mr. Chairman, that's correct.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mr. Churchill.

35

36 MR. CHURCHILL: Yeah, if I remember  
37 right, however, I think Terry testified there were some  
38 subtle differences that would actually provide some more  
39 options with the State that aren't in this. I think  
40 specifically he said that the plaque could be made out of  
41 plastic, wood -- a number -- not just metal but plastic  
42 and wood as well, and I think if it's our intent to move  
43 that direction, we could ask the Staff to link those. It  
44 doesn't appear they're substantial and they would  
45 actually benefit the folks that are supporting it.

46

47 If I understand that correctly.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mr. Taube.

50

00317

1 MR. TAUBE: Mr. Chairman. The specifics  
2 of it would be in 27(b) or (i)(2)(b), where under State  
3 regulations for the operator -- or the owner, that  
4 there's a 12 by 12 plate requirement with one inch high  
5 letters that could be either wood, metal or plastic and  
6 that's not within the modified proposal. And then also  
7 just adding plastic under 27(d) for the operator of the  
8 wheel.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You know, the cleanest  
11 way to do this Mr. Churchill would be if somebody offered  
12 an amendment to add plastic and then we would be done.

13  
14 MR. CHURCHILL: Say I have an idea, I'd  
15 like to offer an amendment....

16  
17 (Laughter)

18  
19 MR. CHURCHILL: ....that we add plastic  
20 in addition to wood and metal on the plate in both  
21 references in this proposal.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do I hear a second.

24  
25 MS. WELLS: Okay, I'll second it.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and  
28 seconded that we add one more option, you can use a wood  
29 plate, a metal plate or a plastic plate.

30  
31 Discussion on that.

32  
33 MR. CHURCHILL: I....

34  
35 MR. ELVSAAS: Question.

36  
37 MR. CHURCHILL: Okay.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Question's been called.  
40 All in favor, signify by saying aye.

41  
42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed, signify by  
45 saying nay.

46  
47 (No opposing votes)

48  
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries. We now  
50 have an amended motion in front of us. It's Proposal 19,

00318

1 Fred, would you like to speak to it?

2

3 MR. JOHN: I just think it's -- a lot of  
4 us in our -- in Federal system, we don't just like to  
5 align ourselves with the State and I'm against this but  
6 it'll pass anyway.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Sylvia.

9

10 MS. LANGE: Yeah, I'm considering another  
11 amendment but I want to know a little more information  
12 before I do that. I was wondering if there's anyone from  
13 enforcement who could clarify if an amendment were put in  
14 here that said for the operator bearing your name,  
15 address or ADL number or State ID number, if that would  
16 cause any undue hardship on enforcement, because we've  
17 had testimony here that having an operator's name and  
18 address has actually created some harassment and some  
19 damage to fish wheels, so I'm wondering if it'd be  
20 possible to include an ADL number as opposed to name and  
21 address for the operator.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Is an amendment you're  
24 offering?

25

26 MS. LANGE: Can we get any additional  
27 information before I -- well, sure.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Can we -- technically we  
30 should put it on the table to discuss it.

31

32 MS. LANGE: I so move.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So moved. Do I have a  
35 second.

36

37 MR. JOHN: What was the amendment, read  
38 it to me?

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: For the operator, they  
41 could use either name and address, ADF&G number or Alaska  
42 -- ADL number or Alaska identification card number.

43

44 MS. LANGE: Alaska driver license.

45

46 MR. JOHN: Either or name and address?

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Either -- either or.  
49 Name and address or ADL number or identification number.

50

00319

1 Is there a second.

2

3 MR. DEMENTI: Does that go for everybody  
4 that's operating the fish wheel?

5

6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That would go for  
7 everybody that's an operator of the fish wheel under the  
8 Federal system.

9

10 MR. ELVSAAS: Isn't that on there  
11 already?

12

13 MS. LANGE: No.

14

15 MS. WELLS: I'll second it for  
16 discussion.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. It's been moved  
19 and seconded for discussion.

20

21 So where it says, in (d):

22

23 If you are a permittee, other than the  
24 owner, a wood, metal or plastic plate at  
25 least 12 inches high by 12 inches wide  
26 bearing your name and address or ADL  
27 number or Alaska identification card  
28 number in letters and numerals at least  
29 one inch high must be attached to the  
30 fish wheel so that the name and address  
31 are plainly visible.

32

33 Is that the amendment you were offering,  
34 Sylvia?

35

36 MS. LANGE: Well, I'd have to change the  
37 wording to, so that the information is plainly visible, I  
38 mean it wouldn't be necessarily just name and address at  
39 that point, so that the name, address or numbers are  
40 plainly visible.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, it says right on  
43 -- it says it's going to be on a metal plate, plastic  
44 plate, at least 12 inches high by 12 inches wide with  
45 letters at least one inches high.

46

47 MS. LANGE: And then it says, must be  
48 attached to the fish wheel so that the name and address  
49 are plainly visible, I would change that to name and  
50 address and numbers.

00320

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, so you'd  
2 change.....

3  
4 MS. LANGE: And/or numbers.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, so we have to  
7 change it in two places then, okay.

8  
9 MS. LANGE: That's correct.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, Susan.

12  
13 MS. WELLS: From the testimony that we  
14 had and the reasons why he stated that he, as an  
15 operator, would prefer having the number, I could support  
16 this. We don't have Ahtna or -- is it Cook Inlet -- or  
17 Copper River.....

18  
19 MR. CHURCHILL: CRNA.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: CRNA.

22  
23 MS. WELLS: .....CRNA that -- you know,  
24 they both supported it as Staff wrote it. I would not  
25 want to muddy the waters with having the two -- you know,  
26 I understand what John's saying, we're kind of mirroring  
27 what the State's doing, pretty soon are we going to have  
28 a Federal system. But this change then, is that going to  
29 cause additional problems? Now, we're going to have some  
30 State users that have names and addresses, some Federals  
31 that have numbers or names and addresses, and the and/or,  
32 can solve that, but is it going to be confusing?

33  
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mr. Churchill.

35  
36 MR. CHURCHILL: Yeah, as I understand  
37 this the drive on this was to make the two systems  
38 identical to reduce confusion and reduce unintentional  
39 violations, and by amending it, although I understand, I  
40 think that's exactly what we're recreating, is two  
41 different systems. And at least the anecdotal stuff I've  
42 heard is these folks that are getting their wheels cut  
43 loose, they're after the owner, that's who they're after.  
44 They're not after the temporary operator. And I --  
45 that's been what I -- at least the anecdotal stuff that's  
46 been shared with me. So I'd be real concerned with  
47 amending this as is.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Fred.

50

00321

1 MR. JOHN: I'd just like to say we do  
2 have a dual system and I think we should keep it that  
3 way. My only concern about this here is that I'll go  
4 with Ahtna, CRNA on this here. The only thing I heard  
5 from Tazlina, and I think is that they don't like the  
6 name and address on there and that is the only one thing  
7 I'm concerned about.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

10  
11 MR. CHURCHILL: Tom.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mr. Taube.

14  
15 MR. TAUBE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The  
16 way this is going right now is what was brought to the  
17 Board of Fisheries in January. And based upon input from  
18 enforcement, the way the recommended proposal stands is  
19 what they could work with. And essentially we'd be  
20 separating, as Mr. Churchill stated, we'd be separating  
21 the two systems.

22  
23 So right now it would probably end up  
24 with a dual registration system. And the enforcement on  
25 the river, currently, is just done by the State, which  
26 they do not enforce Federal regulations, so just adding  
27 that for your information.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Any other  
30 discussion on the amendment. Fred.

31  
32 MR. ELVSAAS: Well, I'm a little bit  
33 concerned. We have people that operate fish wheels that  
34 are concerned about their privacy, they're concerned  
35 about identification, and I see the discussion evolving  
36 around -- we have to do what the State does, I say to  
37 hell with that, we don't have to do what the State does.  
38 And we're going to do all of these things because of  
39 enforcement. And, again, we're talking subsistence,  
40 we're talking about people here and food. And I don't  
41 think that enforcement should be our problem here. I  
42 think the concern is to get rid of the harassment of  
43 these few people that are being harassed because their  
44 names are on fish wheels, is the way I understood the  
45 testimony from this meeting and the last meeting.

46  
47 So I don't have any heartburn about  
48 having a different system than the State does.

49  
50 With that, I'll let it go.

00322

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Fred. Okay,  
2 if I ask Larry -- do you have something you'd like to add  
3 Larry?

4  
5 MR. BUKLIS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, thank  
6 you. There was one aspect I wanted to bring out in  
7 addition to what Tom Taube just said, and that is the  
8 rationale goes beyond just being parallel and keeping a  
9 unified numbering system in place, but my understanding  
10 from the Board process -- State Board process of why they  
11 didn't go as far as recommending is because using  
12 driver's license numbers or State ID numbers for these  
13 other hundreds of operators that share these 100 wheels,  
14 is that, those ID cards may not be current as to the  
15 location, the address of these people. And so it puts  
16 another layer of challenge to track people to go by  
17 numbers, whereas, the name and address requirement for  
18 operators and, again, there's going to be hundreds of  
19 these operators, is a more current piece of information  
20 for enforcement.

21  
22 If they've got to go with identification  
23 card numbers, look at what that says, these people, where  
24 they're located, it adds a layer to enforcement that  
25 wasn't seen as expeditious as it could be. And I guess I  
26 wanted to add the rationale behind the State not going as  
27 far as you're talking about.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think Sylvia's got a  
30 question for you.

31  
32 MS. LANGE: I apologize if you're not the  
33 right person to ask this question. But when they come in  
34 to get their permit, I assume they have to show some ID,  
35 and are they asked, is this current? I know I always am.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: She asked Larry a  
38 question -- can you answer that question -- okay, let's  
39 see if Larry can answer her question.

40  
41 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman, the people  
42 from the State should probably speak directly to what the  
43 Board acted on, but my main point was that they went  
44 through this whole discussion and they felt that this was  
45 a balance between the interest in privacy primarily for  
46 the owners, and the need for enforcement to have readily  
47 available, an ability to track down what the situation is  
48 that's happening.

49  
50 And what you're saying goes back to the

00323

1 permit information that resides back at the Fish and Game  
2 or Park Service office, which goes back to the reason of  
3 not having just the fish wheel gear number up on the  
4 wheel, because enforcement would then need to track the  
5 fisheries agency information. These permits are being  
6 issued from multiple State and Federal offices, and so  
7 when an officer is out on the river, they may not be able  
8 to have as ready of information as is required.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Larry. You  
11 got a question for Larry.

12  
13 MR. DEMENTI: Just a comment. With the  
14 computer system we got the information available right  
15 now and if you got numbers on there all you need to do is  
16 push the numbers and they'll come out and see who's name  
17 is there.

18  
19 So if you put your name in the computer  
20 and who's operating the wheel, all you need to do is just  
21 push the numbers and will come out the names.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Sylvia.

24  
25 MS. LANGE: Yeah, I guess I have sort of  
26 a philosophical difference here more than anything. I  
27 don't -- I mean I don't want to do anything that will  
28 harm the resource and I don't know that this would, so my  
29 problem is with the difference between -- I've testified  
30 before the Board of Fish and I know what the State system  
31 is all about, I know, also, that they have different  
32 criteria which they weigh things. And here we're talking  
33 about, people are going -- I have to agree with what Fred  
34 was saying, we're talking about people who are going out  
35 to get food and they have a concern about their privacy  
36 and I think we have to protect that, and protect and kind  
37 of have a responsibility to allow them to do that in the  
38 least harmful manner to their lifestyle. And if they  
39 feel they're being harassed or in the simple procedure of  
40 gathering food then we should do something to mitigate  
41 that. And I just don't see that this change would create  
42 any undo hardship on the resource itself or the  
43 enforcement.

44  
45 Myself, in the business I'm in in the  
46 fish processing business, we are charged with getting  
47 monies from fishermen because they owe the State for  
48 child support, we get a list that's about 800 individuals  
49 long and we have to maintain that every day and take it  
50 out of their check. We're able to do that with two

00324

1 people in our office and we don't have a very  
2 sophisticated computer system. It can be done and if we  
3 don't do it we have to pay their deadbeat charges, so we  
4 do it.

5  
6 And so anyway, I think it's doable and my  
7 concern is really for the individual and that's why I put  
8 the amendment in.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Sylvia. Mr.  
11 Churchill.

12  
13 MR. CHURCHILL: Yeah, I guess what's  
14 driving my concern is this seems to have been hammered  
15 out between subsistence Staff, Federal, State folks and  
16 everybody at that point has kind of agreed that this  
17 proposal as written would be a positive step. We've had  
18 support from Ahtna, CRNA, Tazlina to say yes. I mean  
19 this is a positive step. And I'm concerned about  
20 disturbing that agreement which appears to be a real  
21 major step towards guarding people's privacy.

22  
23 The other thing in small communities is  
24 most folks know who owns which wheel. I mean if  
25 somebody's really malicious and if I know Ray Neeley, I  
26 know where his fish wheel is and if I've got some real  
27 hard feelings, whether he has his name on that wheel or  
28 not I know which line to cut.

29  
30 But you know, that isn't the type of  
31 harassment that I'm hearing that this is meant to  
32 eliminate. So I'm very -- I understand the privacy issue  
33 because I've dealt with it on trapping issues for a long,  
34 long time, and there's some real malicious folks out  
35 there against trappers, but I'm real hesitant to disturb  
36 what appears to be a product of a process that moves both  
37 Federal and State closer together. I'm real hesitant to  
38 do that.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Anybody else have  
41 anything they want to say. Susan.

42  
43 MS. WELLS: I just wanted to -- Mr.  
44 Churchill mentioned earlier that it was the owners that  
45 the harassment is against, you know, the privacy issue,  
46 the testimony here today was that it could be the  
47 operators, too. If an operator has their name and  
48 address on that fish wheel, the owner's line gets cut if  
49 there's a problem so, that's the.....

50

00325

1 MR. CHURCHILL: I'm not sure that I agree  
2 that the testimony was really that focused on the  
3 individual, short-term operator. We just disagree on  
4 that, that's fine.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I guess I'm going  
7 to have to say that I heard the same thing that Susan  
8 heard and I was under the impression that they were  
9 worried about short-term operators. Philosophically I  
10 support Sylvia's recommendation or amendment right here.  
11 But I know it's taken -- we've worked on this one for a  
12 couple years now and what we basically got is we got a  
13 consensus between CRNA and Ahtna and Fish and Game and  
14 everybody that they can live with this one, nobody really  
15 likes this one but they can live with it. I'd be willing  
16 to give this one as it's written a trial, if we still  
17 have more problems at that point in time, I think the  
18 amendment that Sylvia offered is in order but I'm going  
19 to have to vote against it at this point.

20  
21 MR. CHURCHILL: Call the question.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All in favor of the  
24 amendment, signify by saying aye.

25  
26 MS. LANGE: Aye.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed, signify by  
29 saying nay.

30  
31 IN UNISON: Nay.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion fails, six to  
34 one, but thank you for the amendment. That's what I want  
35 is amendments on the table so we've got something to  
36 discuss rather than just talk.

37  
38 Okay. Mr. Churchill.

39  
40 MR. CHURCHILL: And the other value of  
41 this is these minutes go to the Board and I think it  
42 gives them some of our concerns as a group and I think  
43 those are really valuable to do.

44  
45 MS. WELLS: Mr. Chair.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Susan.

48  
49 MS. WELLS: And I'd like to say that if  
50 the gentleman that testified, if this is an issue this

00326

1 year, that this is an additional proposal that can come  
2 forward and we already have testimony on it and we  
3 already discussed it and I'm sure it's been before all  
4 the different entities so we can give this trial.

5  
6 I would like to call the question on the  
7 original proposal.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Question's been called,  
10 all in favor of the proposal, without the amendment, as  
11 found on Page 217/218, signify by saying aye.

12  
13 IN UNISON: Aye.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed, signify by  
16 saying nay.

17  
18 MR. ELVSAAS: Mr. Chairman.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes, Fred.

21  
22 MR. ELVSAAS: I didn't get to vote, you  
23 said without the amendment, we did pass an amendment.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No, we voted the  
26 amendment down.

27  
28 MR. CHURCHILL: The first amendment, the  
29 plastic.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh.

32  
33 MR. CHURCHILL: He's talking about the  
34 plastic.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, my fault, you're  
37 right. You're right. We did pass the one about plastic.

38  
39 MR. ELVSAAS: So with the one amendment.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: With the one amendment.  
42 With the amendment on plastic.

43  
44 MR. ELVSAAS: With that I'll vote yes.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: With that you'll vote  
47 yes. Should we have a revote on that one.

48  
49 (Council Nods Affirmatively)

50

00327

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All those that support  
2 this proposal with the amendment about plastic being  
3 available for the sign, signify by saying aye.

4  
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed, signify by  
8 saying nay.

9  
10 (No opposing votes)

11  
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries  
13 unanimously.

14  
15 MR. ELVSAAS: Thank you.

16  
17 (Laughter - off record comments)

18  
19 MR. CHURCHILL: Tom, the question was are  
20 you guys going to supply the plastic.

21  
22 (Laughter)

23  
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. That completes  
25 our proposals and it shows how wrong I am. I figured we'd  
26 be long into our reports by this time, I told my wife to  
27 be down here in 15 minutes to watch one of them because I  
28 thought this would be a fast one.

29  
30 Ann.

31  
32 MS. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman, Patty  
33 Brown-Schwalenberg who was going to present one of those  
34 reports, had to leave for a meeting and she won't be back  
35 until directly after lunch and asked if we could be sure  
36 that hers is scheduled for directly after lunch time.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We will do that.

39  
40 MS. WILKINSON: Or sometime thereafter  
41 this afternoon.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And we've had a request,  
44 because Eric has to go for his wife's surgery this  
45 afternoon, that he could come prior to Mike Lambert's and  
46 Mike has agreed to that so we're going to have Eric's  
47 report real quick and then go on to Mike Lambert's.

48  
49 MR. CHURCHILL: We're cooking now.

50

00328

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We are now on reports.

2

3 MR. VEACH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman for  
4 advancing my presentation here, I appreciate it.

5

6 You know, in the interest of time, I'm on  
7 the agenda for both an update on our FIS funded projects  
8 which are the Tanada Creek Weir and the Copper River  
9 steelhead monitoring project and then also for the agency  
10 report, and I might just mention that in our last meeting  
11 in Cordova I was able to give you an update on both of  
12 those FIS funded projects and I think in the interest of  
13 time I'll just kind of reference my presentation last  
14 fall and go on to my agency report here.

15

16 And so what I'd like to mention is,  
17 again, as I mentioned last fall in our -- this was our  
18 first year of issuing Federal permits for the Upper  
19 Copper River district and we had issued 209 permits for  
20 the Glennallen subdistrict and 123 permits for the  
21 Chitina subdistrict, and we've been -- most -- a good  
22 portion of those permits have been returned to us now.  
23 We've had actually 68 permits from the Chitina  
24 subdistrict have been returned to us and we've received  
25 126 permits from the Glennallen subdistrict, so that's  
26 about a 60 percent return for both subdistricts. We have  
27 sent reminder letters out to folks that haven't returned  
28 the permits asking them to get their numbers back into  
29 us.

30

31 But based on the permits that have been  
32 returned, what I've done is I've taken the number of fish  
33 that were harvested for each subdistrict and expanded it  
34 just based on the percentage of permits that were  
35 returned. And so we would estimate that the number of  
36 fish harvested by Federally-qualified users who obtained  
37 their permits from our office would be 801 sockeye salmon  
38 in the Chitina subdistrict and 52 chinook salmon, again,  
39 in the Chitina subdistrict. So, you know, on the one  
40 hand that's good participation, and on the other hand we  
41 can see that the Federal program is harvesting a  
42 relatively small number of the total number of fish that  
43 are harvested in the Chitina subdistrict.

44

45 For the Glennallen subdistrict, if we do  
46 an expansion, the expanded number of fish that were  
47 harvested there we come up with 11,563 sockeye salmon  
48 that were harvested under those Federal permits and 801  
49 chinook salmon that were harvested under those Federal  
50 permits.

00329

1                   And for the Batzulnetas area fishery,  
2 I'll just mention that we have 100 percent return on our  
3 permits up there and there was 208 salmon harvested in  
4 the Batzulnetas fishery this summer so that was -- that  
5 was an improvement over what we saw last year.  
6

7                   Out of those 68 permits that have been  
8 returned so far for the Chitina subdistrict, I just  
9 mention that only 18 of those households actually  
10 reported harvesting any fish and of those permits,  
11 actually there was about four permits that reported using  
12 fish wheels in the Chitina subdistrict to harvest salmon.  
13 Which, as you remember this is the first year that  
14 Federally-qualified users have been able to use fish  
15 wheels in the Chitina subdistrict and of fish wheel  
16 harvest we saw 13 chinook salmon harvested, 144 sockeye  
17 salmon harvested and three coho salmon harvested with  
18 fish wheels in the Chitina subdistrict.  
19

20                   While we're on the topic of the Chitina  
21 subdistrict, I'd just like to mention, too, we've had a  
22 preseason coordination meeting with the State and ADF&G  
23 and, of course Tom here, and our intention really is to  
24 manage the Chitina subdistrict again this year as we did  
25 last summer, which, that would be through periodic  
26 openings that match the open periods that the State has  
27 the fishery open in the Chitina subdistrict.  
28

29                   One other thing I wanted to cover with  
30 you, too, if you remember last fall we dealt with  
31 Proposal 27, which was the ceremonial harvest of fish for  
32 -- it's similar to the wildlife proposal you dealt with  
33 this time for a funeral or mortuary ceremony, and at that  
34 time I think the Council had some concern that they  
35 presented to the Federal Subsistence Board that they'd  
36 like to see for the Copper River, Upper Copper River  
37 district, that folks would actually have a permit in hand  
38 if they were harvesting fish out with a ceremonial  
39 permit, and Ralph that was a concern that you spoke  
40 specifically about at the Federal Board meeting as well.  
41 And so Ms. Gottlieb had asked me to follow-up on that,  
42 and as you know the -- what the Federal Subsistence  
43 Board, the regulation that they passed does not require a  
44 permit to harvest those fish but your concern was that in  
45 the Copper River the folks are used to having a permit in  
46 hand when they go out to harvest fish and also if they  
47 are stopped by an enforcement officer, it's going to make  
48 the process a lot easier if they got a permit that they  
49 can show this enforcement officer versus trying to  
50 explain why they don't have one.



00331

1 FIS for funding, Ralph, I'm sure you're familiar with is  
2 Cliff Collins has been -- he's a private individual who  
3 lives at Long Lake along the McCarthy Road. He's been  
4 operating a weir there at the outlet of Long Lake since  
5 the mid-1970s. And really I think it's probably the  
6 longest running data set of weir data counting salmon in  
7 the Copper River that we have available to us. And  
8 Cliff's now 93 and he's looking for some help in  
9 operating that weir, and so we've -- which I have to  
10 admit I have a lot of respect for -- if I'm still running  
11 weirs at 93 I'll consider life a success, but that's  
12 another proposal that we've submitted to FIS for  
13 consideration for funding, is to seek a little funding to  
14 find someone that could help Cliff to continue to operate  
15 that weir.

16

17 With that I'd be happy to answer any  
18 questions, Mr. Chairman.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, does anybody else  
21 have any questions for Eric.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You might mention how  
26 many fish he counted through that weir this year.

27

28 MR. VEACH: There were over 50,000 fish  
29 that went into Long Lake last year.

30

31 MR. CHURCHILL: That's great.

32

33 MR. VEACH: And it's really fascinating,  
34 I mean this population probably has one of the longest  
35 spawning durations of any sockeye salmon population  
36 anywhere. In fact, I was out there last week and there's  
37 still thousands of live salmon in good shape out at that  
38 lake. It's really an incredible system.

39

40 MR. CHURCHILL: Wow.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Fred.

43

44 MR. JOHN: You guys got a weir up in  
45 Batzulnetas?

46

47 MR. VEACH: I'm sorry, I didn't catch  
48 you.

49

50 MR. JOHN: At Batzulnetas, you guys still

00332

1 got that weir up there?

2

3 MR. VEACH: Yeah, we do, and we're  
4 planning to operate it again this summer.

5

6 MR. JOHN: Okay, thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions for  
9 Eric.

10

(No comments)

12

13 MR. VEACH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Eric. We'll  
16 take a little break while Mike sets his -- everybody can  
17 have a short break while Mike sets his equipment up.

18

(Off record)

20

(On record)

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We ran into some  
24 technical difficulties with our first report so they're  
25 going to try to get them straightened out over lunch hour  
26 and possibly be able to present it to us this afternoon,  
27 if we're not done.

28

29 MR. CHURCHILL: I was going to say it's  
30 too early for lunch but -- no.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And I better wait until  
33 -- I didn't realize Ann wasn't here yet, either, and  
34 Sylvia. We ran into something that I had forgotten and  
35 we can go back and take care of that. I think we should  
36 probably wait for Ann before we do but we can at least  
37 get a report on it.

38

39 Number 11, Subsistence Resource  
40 Commission appointments. We need to appoint somebody to  
41 the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource  
42 Commission. And if I -- this is to replace Fred John  
43 who's moving into a different area, am I correct, Fred?

44

45 MR. JOHN: (Nods affirmatively)

46

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So we can appoint either  
48 somebody from outside the Council or somebody inside the  
49 Council and the only person that's qualified inside the  
50 Council is me, and I'm not up for appointment. So we'll

00333

1 have to see what Barbara has for suggestions.

2

3 MR. CHURCHILL: But just a clarification,  
4 we don't have to limit it to somebody that's on the  
5 Council. If you were on or off, you could still get  
6 appointed?

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

9

10 MR. CHURCHILL: Okay.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But in this case I'm not  
13 up for appointment.

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Barbara.

18

19 MS. CELLARIUS: Barbara Cellarius,  
20 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. As Mr. Lohse said,  
21 Fred John, Jr., chair expired last November and he has  
22 relocated and is no longer within the region. And I have  
23 given -- you should have a handout I gave to Ann, it's a  
24 map and I've given you this map because when we talked  
25 about this at the SRC meeting, SRC members expressed  
26 concern about the geographic distribution of members.

27

28 As you know, the individual being  
29 replaced is from Mentasta. If you look at the map, on  
30 the map.....

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: This one?

33

34 MS. CELLARIUS: Yeah.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

37

38 MS. CELLARIUS: Yeah. I have circled the  
39 names of the communities which are resident zone  
40 communities for the Park and I've put red stars at the  
41 locations where we have SRC members. Each red star  
42 represents one SRC member. So we have one in Dot Lake.  
43 One in Gakona. Three in Tazlina. One on Bear Island,  
44 which is inside the Park about 20 miles east of McCarthy  
45 and two in Yakutat. Thus, the SRC prefers a candidate  
46 who's not from the Tazlina area.

47

48 According to ANILCA, sources for  
49 candidates are the Regional Advisory Council itself or a  
50 local advisory council.

00334

1 Two names came up at the SRC meeting as  
2 possible candidates. Let me also point out that on the  
3 SRC, and thus in discussion was the current Chairman of  
4 the Copper Basin Council. I've spoken to both of the  
5 individuals who I'm going to describe, and each of them  
6 would be willing to serve on the SRC. And I suppose that  
7 a third option would be to wait until the next round of  
8 RAC appointments although I'm not sure the extent to  
9 which this would increase the pool of possible  
10 candidates.

11  
12 So the first name that was suggested was  
13 William Cole Ellis of Nabesna. He lives on the Nabesna  
14 Road, which is in Unit 12. But the SRC members asked  
15 that his name be put forward from this under represented  
16 part of the Park, I will also note that his guiding area,  
17 he's a commercial guide among other things, is Jacksina,  
18 which is in Unit 11.

19  
20 Cole Ellis is the vice chair of the Tok  
21 Cutoff Nabesna Road Fish and Game Advisory Committee. He  
22 has served on the AC for about three years.

23  
24 Now, let me give you a little bit of  
25 context just so that you realize who this individual is.  
26 Cole is the son of Bill Ellis who served as Chair of the  
27 Wrangell-St. Elias SRC in the late 80s and early 1990s.  
28 And I believe he was also on the Southcentral RAC in  
29 1989, if not other years. Cole was born in Anchorage and  
30 moved with his family to Nabesna in 1960. He has been  
31 hunting, fishing and trapping for much of his life. He  
32 home-schools his children in Nabesna. In addition to  
33 being a subsistence user he is a master guide and air  
34 taxi operator. He has served as a board member for the  
35 Alaska Professionals Hunter Association.

36  
37 I have received letters supporting Cole's  
38 appointment to the SRC from both the Paxson and Copper  
39 Basin Advisory Committee's.

40  
41 Now, I have to find my notes on the other  
42 person.

43  
44 The second individual who has been  
45 suggested is Joseph Hart. Joseph Hart resides in Tazlina  
46 and is a Chitina Indian working for his village  
47 corporation, Chitina Native Corporation.

48  
49 He's a Military Veteran having served  
50 more than eight years in the Army on active duty. Since

00335

1 returning from that service in 1996, Mr. Hart has been  
2 actively involved in resource management to include State  
3 and Federal regulatory processes on fish and wildlife.  
4 He recently became a member of the Copper Basin Advisory  
5 Committee. Being a Native, Mr. Hart has a perspective to  
6 the local Native customs and traditions. In the past Mr.  
7 Hart has served on different committees or boards, he was  
8 the Chairman of the Alaska Federation of Natives Land  
9 Committee dealing with State -- dealing with land and  
10 resource issues on a statewide basis.

11

12 Mr. Hart is currently Chairman of his  
13 village Native corporations land committee and also  
14 participates in several regional organizations for the  
15 Copper River Valley discussing a large list of issues and  
16 more importantly seeking solutions. These organizations  
17 include CRNA Subsistence Committee, Copper Valley  
18 Economic Development Council, Copper Valley Chamber of  
19 Commerce, Chitina Native Corporation Land Committee and  
20 the Copper Basin AC.

21

22 And so those are the two possible  
23 candidates that we've come up with that are from under  
24 represented regions of the Park and who are willing to  
25 serve and also meet the qualifications of being on a  
26 local advisory committee or the RAC.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Fred.

29

30 MR. JOHN: Mr. Chairman. Okay, I've  
31 served Mentasta since from the beginning here. And I see  
32 that we have, you know, Federal Yakutat or not Federal  
33 but -- in Chitina area, to me we already got one and we  
34 got quite a few from down river. And I'd like a  
35 subsistence hunter from either Mentasta or the  
36 Chistochina area to represent our area and our views,  
37 we're the northern part and we don't have anybody on the  
38 Council right now.

39

40 And I know Cole Ellis, I don't -- to my  
41 way of thinking he does not have the subsistence  
42 traditional ways that he could represent our area. He's  
43 a big game guide and we always have conflict of interest  
44 with him. And I could say he's a friend, we know him for  
45 a long time.

46

47 So and I....

48

49 MS. CELLARIUS: Mr. Chairman.

50

00336

1 MR. JOHN: .....and I'd like to say that  
2 I'd rather -- I don't mind staying on until we get a  
3 replacement from either Mentasta or Chistochina area,  
4 because we don't have nobody from there that's a  
5 traditional customary subsistence person.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Barbara.

8  
9 MS. CELLARIUS: Mr. Chairman. This is  
10 the real problem that we have when I look at the  
11 membership of the local Fish and Game Advisory Committee.  
12 I recognize the interest of replacing Mr. John with  
13 someone from the region that he's from. The problem is  
14 the list of candidates.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Barbara, can I ask you a  
17 question, did you say that Joe Hart resides in Tazlina?

18  
19 MS. CELLARIUS: Uh-huh.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So we already have three  
22 people from Tazlina and Joe would reside there also?

23  
24 MS. CELLARIUS: You're correct. I hadn't  
25 actually read the little bio that he had given me closely  
26 when I.....

27  
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

29  
30 MS. CELLARIUS: .....so that actually was  
31 news to me.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So while he works for  
34 the Chitina Native Corporation he actually resides in  
35 Tazlina.

36  
37 MR. DEMENTI: Okay.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Was that Gilbert.

40  
41 MR. DEMENTI: Is there a deadline for  
42 your appointments?

43  
44 MS. CELLARIUS: The candidates serve  
45 until they are replaced.

46  
47 MR. DEMENTI: Okay.

48  
49 MS. CELLARIUS: So although there is a  
50 term and Mr. John's term has expired, until he has been

00337

1 replaced he can serve -- he will be a member of the SRC.

2

3 MR. DEMENTI: He can serve?

4

5 MS. CELLARIUS: Yes.

6

7 MR. DEMENTI: Okay, thank you.

8

9 MR. JOHN: Mr. Chairman.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Fred.

12

13 MR. JOHN: I believe there's a lot of  
14 qualified people in Mentasta and Chistochina and I think  
15 I could, you know, go and talk to them myself, but I  
16 don't think a lot of them know about this, you know. And  
17 so that's what I can do.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Barbara, just out of  
20 curiosity, did anybody contact Wilson Justin?

21

22 MS. CELLARIUS: We have spoken to Wilson  
23 about applying for the RAC, I don't know if someone has  
24 spoken to him about trying to get on a local advisory  
25 committee.

26

27 We would certainly be very happy to have  
28 someone like Wilson on the SRC. The problem is the  
29 requirement in ANILCA for the local advisory committee or  
30 the RAC.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So the  
33 requirement is they have to be a member of the local  
34 advisory committee or the RAC?

35

36 MS. CELLARIUS: Yes. It's a local  
37 advisory committee, that language is not real specific.  
38 But the language about the RAC is.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

41

42 MR. DEMENTI: Mr. Chairman.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gilbert.

45

46 MR. DEMENTI: Can they be on an advisory  
47 committee to a Native group? Can they be on that to  
48 qualify for that?

49

50 MS. CELLARIUS: As I said, the language,

00338

1 as I understand it, in ANILCA, says a local advisory  
2 committee. It doesn't specify what local advisory  
3 committee.

4

5 MR. DEMENTI: Thank you.

6

7 MR. ELVSAAS: That was going to be my, if  
8 it was Fish and Game Advisory Committee, that kind of  
9 limits it. But it's not just Fish and Game Advisory  
10 Committee, right?

11

12 MS. CELLARIUS: The language in ANILCA  
13 says a local advisory committee, it does not specify that  
14 it has to be a State Fish and Game Advisory Committee,  
15 that is correct. The candidates that I have put forward  
16 are from the list of these fish and game advisory  
17 committees because that is a very common source. I  
18 actually haven't spoken to Wilson specifically about  
19 whether he would be on another qualifying advisory  
20 committee.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Fred.

23

24 MR. JOHN: They got a -- you know, the  
25 Slana United down there, and they have one in Slana but  
26 there's so much conflict between Slana, that Mentasta  
27 usually don't even.....

28

29 MS. CELLARIUS: Uh-huh.

30

31 MR. JOHN: .....don't even recognize  
32 them.

33

34 MS. CELLARIUS: Uh-huh.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Ann.

37

38 MS. WILKINSON: Excuse me. But ANILCA  
39 refers to, and our regulations refer to Federal advisory  
40 committees and there are none, you know, as we conceive  
41 of this Council having advisory committees like the local  
42 Fish and Game Advisory Committees. Now, we take that,  
43 but it actually refers to Federal and so there are none.  
44 So I would think that any fish and game advisory  
45 committee or, I don't know if some other resource  
46 advisory committee would be sufficient or not.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think the intention is  
49 that they would just not be acting by themselves, they'd  
50 be acting in an advisory committee-type setting where

00339

1 they're dealing with other people and dealing with  
2 resource issues. That's what I would feel -- when you  
3 say advisory committees, that's what I would feel like  
4 the intention is, is that you're dealing with resource  
5 issues in the area.

6

7 MS. LANGE: Would that include a tribal  
8 council or a regional board for a Native corporation,  
9 because they do.....

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I can't say that from a  
12 legal standpoint, we'd have to ask Bill Knauer on that.

13 But personally I would feel that that would be  
14 sufficient. But maybe Bill or Terry has got a comment on  
15 that or somebody.

16

17 MR. KNAUER: Bob would be better, he's  
18 the National Park Service.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, National Park  
21 Service, Bob.

22

23 MR. GERHART: Yeah, this is Bob Gerhart  
24 with the National Park Service. The term, local advisory  
25 committee in the section dealing with the Subsistence  
26 Resource Commissions is speaking to the local advisory  
27 committees that are referenced earlier in Title VIII, and  
28 that is the Fish and Game Advisory Committees.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

31

32 MR. GERHART: So I think the only  
33 stipulation is it has to be a local advisory committee  
34 within the region.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. But it's  
37 basically using -- that terminology refers to local fish  
38 and game advisory committees?

39

40 MR. GERHART: Yes.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Well, we got  
43 three choices. We can put this off and look for more  
44 candidates. We can nominate any one of these candidates.

45 If we put it off and look for another candidate then John  
46 will have to stay on until -- I mean Fred will have to  
47 stay on until another candidate comes forward.

48

49 Can he stay on even if he moves out of  
50 the area, that's the question?

00340

1 MS. CELLARIUS: And I am not competent to  
2 answer that question.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Bob, could you answer  
5 that question for us?

6  
7 MR. GERHART: I'm not sure I can answer it  
8 completely but I'll read the section very clearly. It  
9 says that we shall appoint members, each of whom is a  
10 member of either the Regional Advisory Council or a local  
11 advisory committee member within the region and also  
12 engages in subsistence uses within the Park or Park  
13 Monument.

14  
15 I don't know what it takes to be a member  
16 of a local advisory committee but I would assume that to  
17 be on a local advisory committee you have to be a local  
18 person. So I think if you move out that you would no  
19 longer meet the qualifications of a local advisory  
20 committee but I'm not positive of that.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So then basically then,  
23 if John couldn't be on it and -- I mean Fred couldn't be  
24 on it and we don't appoint somebody we'll just have a  
25 vacant seat there until somebody can be found? Is that  
26 real detrimental or can we put it off to our next  
27 meeting?

28  
29 Fred.

30  
31 MR. JOHN: Well, the last time I was -- I  
32 know a person that was on that Park Service moved to  
33 another area and he was still on there for a long time,  
34 his address and his home number is still in Gulkana. My  
35 address -- I still get my letters in Mentasta and I still  
36 got my voting down there and my registration, I just -- I  
37 haven't changed it yet.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Fred. Bob.

40  
41 MR. CHURCHILL: Yeah, I guess what I'm  
42 hearing is when the appointment's made these things are  
43 critical, and we've made an appointment and Fred's  
44 generously offered to stay on until we can find somebody  
45 that adequately or balances out the geographic  
46 representation, I think we can leave him on until someone  
47 comes forward. At least if I'm understanding what I've  
48 heard correctly. I'd certainly be in favor of that.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Fred.

00341

1 MR. ELVSAAS: Well, yeah, as I understand  
2 what you read there Bob, was that to be appointed, it  
3 doesn't say anything to serve.

4  
5 (Laughter)

6  
7 MR. ELVSAAS: Right.

8  
9 (Laughter)

10  
11 MR. GERHART: You should be a lawyer.

12  
13 (Laughter)

14  
15 MR. ELVSAAS: Well, given that.....

16  
17 MR. CHURCHILL: Let's not hurl insults at  
18 one another.

19  
20 (Laughter)

21  
22 MR. ELVSAAS: He met the qualifications.

23 But I think in this instance we're better off -- I would  
24 recommend that we just have Fred stay on until we find  
25 somebody and hopefully make it no later than our next  
26 meeting.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Barbara, will that cause  
29 hardship on the SRC?

30  
31 MS. CELLARIUS: I mean the problem -- the  
32 problem that could occur is if we -- if the absence of a  
33 member causes a problem with a quorum.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's what I was  
36 wondering. Do you have problems meeting quorums, because  
37 I noticed like Paul Clous is way out there, the guys in  
38 Yakutat there, it seems like it might be hard to get  
39 sufficient people together.

40  
41 MS. CELLARIUS: At the last meeting we  
42 barely had a quorum because some individuals had  
43 obligations during the day and were not able to attend  
44 the entire meeting. So we had a quorum at the beginning  
45 and we periodically lost a quorum. It's hard to know.  
46 Our Yakutat members were at the meeting.

47  
48 The other thing I was going to say is  
49 that we have -- I have the list of the members of the  
50 Copper Basin AC and the Tok Cut Off Nabesna Road AC, and

00342

1 I'm happy to, you know, if you want to look at them, but  
2 there's no one on the list that would meet the criteria  
3 that Mr. John mentioned.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Fred. Anybody wish to  
6 make a motion?

7  
8 MR. ELVSAAS: How many members are on  
9 this committee?

10  
11 MS. CELLARIUS: We have nine members --  
12 or there are nine spots, three appointed by the Governor,  
13 three appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, and  
14 three appointed by the RACs. In our case we have one  
15 each from Southcentral, Eastern Interior and Southeast.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And where? Where was  
18 the last one?

19  
20 MS. CELLARIUS: Southeast.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Southeast, okay. I  
23 thought -- I -- I thought you said Valdez.

24  
25 (Laughter)

26  
27 MS. CELLARIUS: No, Yak -- no, one of our  
28 Yakutat appointees is on the Southeast RAC.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Mr. Churchill.

31  
32 MR. CHURCHILL: Yeah, I'd like to move  
33 that our RAC continue to support Fred John's membership  
34 on this committee until another individual is identified  
35 that meets the requirements that we've discussed. He's  
36 served well. He meets all the qualifications for the  
37 initial appointment and from what we've heard, what's  
38 happening currently doesn't disturb that. So I'd like  
39 that to continue.

40  
41 MR. DEMENTI: Second.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and  
44 seconded. Discussion.

45  
46 MS. WELLS: Call the question.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Question's been called.  
49 All in favor signify by saying aye.

50

00343

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed, signify by  
4 saying nay.

5

6 (No opposing votes)

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries.  
9 Barbara, you got your work cut out for you.

10

11 MR. JOHN: Mr. Chairman.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Fred.

14

15 MR. JOHN: I didn't vote.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I didn't expect you to.  
18 So Fred abstained.

19

20 MR. JOHN: I can't vote for myself.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

25

26 MS. WELLS: Well, that's okay, as long as  
27 you don't vote against yourself.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 MR. CHURCHILL: Well, that would be  
32 interesting.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mike, did you get it  
35 straightened out?

36

37 MR. LAMBERT: Yes, we did. Do you want  
38 to proceed with that or go ahead and go down the list.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: How long does it take?

41

42 MR. LAMBERT: I could do it rather  
43 quickly this time.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. And we have to  
46 put off Patty until this afternoon. She won't be back  
47 until this noon. Maybe while Mike is setting it up could  
48 we have an agency report. Terry, do you have a big  
49 report for us?

50

00344

1 MR. HAYNES: (Shakes head negatively)

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Would you mind doing it  
4 while he sets up?

5

6 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I'll make your  
7 life very easy. I have no report to present to you. I  
8 don't know if Tom -- Tom may want to present some  
9 information. But if you have questions or information  
10 you'd like from the Department, I'd be happy to take  
11 those requests back and get that information for you.  
12 But otherwise, Tom will present you a short report.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Terry, I'd just  
15 like to thank you for the help that you've been at this  
16 meeting. I mean it's been very good, you've presented  
17 very helpful information and I just appreciate you  
18 working with us.

19

20 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
21 always enjoy attending these meetings and we're happy to  
22 help out where we can.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, muchly. Tom,  
25 if you don't mind. You can scoot off to one side and  
26 take your mic with you and then that way you're not  
27 having to talk through Mike.

28

29 MR. TAUBE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
30 There should be a hand out that you received that just  
31 basically summarizes the harvest for the 2002 State  
32 subsistence fisheries and then two news releases within  
33 that that summarize what the Board of Fishery addressed  
34 and passed during their 2003 meeting. And I'll just  
35 briefly walk through these.

36

37 The first table shows the combined  
38 harvest for both the Glennallen and Chitina subdistricts  
39 for 2002 and that's with 84 percent of our Chitina  
40 permits being returned and 90 percent of the Glennallen  
41 subdistricts returned. The total harvest was  
42 approximately 131,000, and that's reported salmon, that's  
43 not estimated in that table.

44

45 Table 2 is estimated salmon harvest. The  
46 first table -- or Table 2 is for the Glennallen  
47 subdistrict for 2002 with 90 percent of the permits  
48 returned and then that number expanded, we had a total  
49 harvest of 56, almost 57,000 salmon, 52,000 of those were  
50 sockeye and 3,700 of those were chinook. Our total

00345

1 permits issued was 1,100 but if you incorporate the  
2 Federal permits that were issued for the Glennallen  
3 subdistrict, that was actually, you know a total of  
4 around 1,300 permits which is the most that we've issued  
5 for that subdistrict.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Tom, can I stop you for  
8 just a second.

9  
10 MR. TAUBE: Sure.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: This number includes the  
13 Federal take here, too, doesn't it?

14  
15 MR. TAUBE: It does not. This is just  
16 the State take. So what Eric presented earlier you would  
17 have to add on.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So we need that other  
20 11,000 added on to this?

21  
22 MR. TAUBE: Right. So it would be  
23 roughly 67,000 salmon that were taken.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

26  
27 MR. TAUBE: Table 3 is summarized in the  
28 Chitina subdistrict. This is with 84 percent of the  
29 permits returned and expanded out upon that. Total  
30 harvest was 86,000 salmon, 82,000 of those were sockeye  
31 and approximately 2,000 were chinook and coho. The  
32 number of permits was only 6,800 and you could see that,  
33 you know, both our participation and harvest drastically  
34 reduced from what we had the last five years.

35  
36 That was probably mainly due with the  
37 land slide that blocked access to the lower portion of  
38 the fishery. A lot of public information had been  
39 distributed about that and I think it just, you know,  
40 deterred people from coming down. Also this past season  
41 the Copper River just seemed to be fluctuating up and  
42 down and so I think fishing success, particularly on  
43 weekends when most of our participants come down wasn't  
44 really good. It was a lot -- a lot of times we had  
45 people come down and say, well, the fish weren't there,  
46 you know. And the few that remained on the early part of  
47 the week also the fish moved in and it just was -- the  
48 dipnetters and the fish didn't meet and I think that was  
49 partly responsible for our reduced harvest.

50

00346

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So you're not talking  
2 about water level, you're talking about fish run?

3

4 MR. TAUBE: Well, that influences fish  
5 timing.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

8

9 MR. TAUBE: The higher the river comes up  
10 it will slow the fish down and generally we use a two  
11 week lag time for our openings early in the season and  
12 extends to three and that's based upon migratory work  
13 that was done back in the '70s. And normally that works.  
14 And this year it wasn't quite the same as it had been in  
15 the past and it just seemed like there was, you know,  
16 either fluctuating temperature levels that caused more  
17 glacial melt or less glacial melt, rainfall and that, it  
18 was just an unusual year for water levels in the Copper  
19 which impacted the run timing on the fish in the upper  
20 river.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So this Table No. 3 is  
23 the dipnet fishery, basically?

24

25 MR. TAUBE: Yes. Yep.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's kind of interesting  
28 how closely it matches 1995.

29

30 MR. TAUBE: Yeah.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I mean it's almost right  
33 on for.....

34

35 MR. TAUBE: Yeah.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: .....for, you know,  
38 percentage difference.....

39

40 MR. TAUBE: Yeah.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: .....but almost right on  
43 for 1995.

44

45 MR. TAUBE: The next pages are -- the  
46 first news releases regarding our changes in the  
47 subsistence or personal use fisheries. I'm sure you all  
48 heard that the Chitina subdistrict is now back to  
49 personal use under the State system. Essentially what  
50 that means to management of the fishery is strictly a

00347

1 name change.

2

3 The Board left it as limits being the  
4 same. For a household of one it's 15 salmon, one of  
5 which can be a king salmon. For a household of two or  
6 more it's 30 salmon, one of which can be a king salmon.  
7 The openings will still be based upon number of fish past  
8 the Miles Lake Sonar. The only difference will be that  
9 now as a personal use fishery, participants will be  
10 required to have a sportfishing license.

11

12 And right now we have not signed another  
13 access contract with Ahtna or Chitina. There's rumblings  
14 in the Legislature that the Legislature may repeal the  
15 fee and if that happens, then our hands are kind of tied  
16 with how we can deal with an access agreement because we  
17 have no fundings then to pay for the access. There's  
18 been nothing presented but apparently the Fairbanks  
19 Legislature are talking that they're going to submit  
20 something. And there was last year but it died before it  
21 was signed off.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Maybe you can't  
24 answer this question but to what advantage to Fairbanks  
25 people would it be to repeal the fee and basically close  
26 the access?

27

28 MR. TAUBE: The State had conducted a  
29 survey of the right-of-way, and what that showed was  
30 approximately from the stretch from O'Brien to Haley  
31 Creek, which now is not accessed because of the land  
32 slide, about 60 percent or more of that river access fell  
33 within the right-of-way. The portion now that goes from  
34 O'Brien Creek up to Chitina, there's only a small portion  
35 of that that's State access. And so the argument that a  
36 lot of the Fairbanks constituents have is that, you know,  
37 we go down with our boats, we don't get out of our boats  
38 so why should we have to pay an access fee when we're not  
39 trespassing.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

42

43 MR. TAUBE: And that's been part of the  
44 grumblings from their part and apparently they have the  
45 ear of their legislators so that's -- right now the whole  
46 fee thing for this season is up in arms.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But if the fee isn't  
49 there, then access will be closed?

50

00348

1 MR. TAUBE: If the fee is not there the  
2 access would only be through where the right-of-way cross  
3 the river.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

6  
7 MR. TAUBE: And then Ahtna and Chitina  
8 would have to -- if they would like to allow access and  
9 collect a fee they would have to do that on their own.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

12  
13 MR. TAUBE: The other changes for our  
14 subsistence and personal use fishery now is just defining  
15 immediately and fishing site. The Board took the wording  
16 and the language, I think, that was in the Cook Inlet  
17 regs and also, I think, what was provided by the Federal  
18 Board for immediately which is basically concealing the  
19 salmon from plain view or transporting the fish from the  
20 fishing site.

21  
22 They did define fishing site, which is  
23 slightly different than what the Federal Board passed,  
24 but it's defined as location where the fish was removed  
25 from the water and became the permit holder's bag limit.

26  
27 And that's really what the changes were  
28 in the subsistence and personal use fisheries. Regarding  
29 sportfisheries, I won't go into that much detail there.

30  
31 The Tonsina River, there had been a bait  
32 restriction, that was lifted based upon information that  
33 we had collected from our radiotelemetry study indicating  
34 that the Tonsina River chinook return was comparable to  
35 what we see in the Klutina and Gulkana and that bait  
36 restriction had been put on when it was thought it was a  
37 much smaller return. So that had opened up. We're  
38 hoping that this will take some of the pressure off of  
39 the Gulkana and Klutina River sport fishery and put it on  
40 the Tonsina. We're not anticipating a large increase in  
41 the sport harvest as a result of that.

42  
43 The only other thing was that within the  
44 Copper River Chinook Management Plan, based upon review  
45 of the escapement goal, there is now a minimum escapement  
46 that we're trying to manage the fisheries, the Copper  
47 River fisheries for of 24,000. Prior to this year it was  
48 28 to 55, there was a range. Now, we have additional  
49 data from telemetry information from our marked recapture  
50 experiment and the staff that was involved with setting

00349

1 the BEG had come up with that 24,000 and the Board did  
2 adopt that change.

3

4 The last thing I have is just briefly  
5 I'll go through the commercial fisheries forecasts for  
6 this season and I'll report basically what the forecasted  
7 harvest is based upon Prince William Sound, Copper River  
8 and Cook Inlet by species.

9

10 For pinks in Prince William Sound the  
11 prediction is a 27 million fish harvest, which is above  
12 the recent 10 year average.

13

14 For chum salmon it's a 5 million harvest.  
15 And this is predicted to be one of the top returns or  
16 within the top three.

17

18 For sockeye which is a combination of  
19 Coghill, Eshamy and Main Bay returns, they're forecasting  
20 a 1 million fish return or 1 million fish harvest, which  
21 includes cost recovery.

22

23 Coho, which is pretty much Solomon Gulch  
24 and Wally Nurmenberg hatchery returns, it's 200,000 is  
25 the predicted harvest.

26

27 For Copper River sockeye, both wild and  
28 hatchery returns, the prediction is 1.4 million for the  
29 harvest, which is just below the 2001/2002 returns.

30

31 For the sockeye Bearing River harvest,  
32 that is 16,000, is the forecasted harvest. For chinook  
33 salmon it's 49,000 is the harvest, anticipated harvest.  
34 And coho, for the Copper, it's 300,000 and 95,000 for the  
35 Bearing for Coho.

36

37 For Cook Inlet -- excuse me.

38

39 MS. LANGE: A question, if I might.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Sylvia.

42

43 MS. LANGE: Of the 27 million pink  
44 harvest, does that include cost recovery?

45

46 MR. TAUBE: Yes, it does.

47

48 MS. LANGE: Okay.

49

50 MR. TAUBE: The cost recovery is 9.7

00350

1 million of that.

2

3 MS. LANGE: Okay.

4

5 MR. TAUBE: For Upper Cook Inlet for  
6 sockeye the predicted harvest is 2.4 million, which is  
7 slightly above average. And for the Lower Cook Inlet  
8 pink harvest it's 1.5 million, which is slightly above  
9 average.

10

11 And that's all I have.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Question, Tom.

14

15 MR. TAUBE: Uh-huh.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So from these two  
18 figures that you just gave us, Lower Cook Inlet only has  
19 pink harvest?

20

21 MR. TAUBE: Yes.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And Upper.....

24

25 MR. TAUBE: Is sockeye.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: .....Cook Inlet only has  
28 sockeye?

29

30 MR. TAUBE: Right. That's what the  
31 forecast is so far.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And there is no king  
34 harvest?

35

36 MR. TAUBE: No.

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. And this is  
39 commercial harvest, this isn't subsistence and sports?

40

41 MR. TAUBE: This is commercial harvest,  
42 yeah.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: This is commercial,  
45 okay. Is that all Tom?

46

47 MR. TAUBE: That's it.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions for  
50 Tom,

00351

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. We'll go on to  
4 our powerpoint presentation then. Thank you Tom. And  
5 thank you also for coming and sharing with us all the  
6 time.

7

8 If you guys want to watch, we can just  
9 move our chairs over here or over there or wherever you'd  
10 like to move them to.

11

12 MR. LAMBERT: Are you ready for me?

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We're all ready for you  
15 Mike.

16

17 MR. LAMBERT: All right. Mr. Chair.  
18 Council. I appreciate the opportunity to come before you  
19 today to present several fisheries projects that the  
20 Native Village of Eyak is involved in on the Copper River  
21 Basin.

22

23 First, I would like to introduce, he kind  
24 of snuck in but Bob Henrich, our tribal council president  
25 is here today from the Native Village of Eyak. He was  
26 busy this week with some other meetings so I'm glad he  
27 was able to make it here today.

28

29 Just to kind of give you some background  
30 on the Copper River Basin, it flows southerly through the  
31 Chugach Alaska mountain range, drains into the Gulf of  
32 Alaska, just east of Prince William Sound. And you can  
33 see in this area right here you got the commercial  
34 fishery which is prevalent in the Copper River Basin.  
35 You got a lot of subsistence, both fish wheel, dip net,  
36 subsistence and personal use fisheries at the mid basin  
37 and all the major tributaries, most of them that have  
38 king salmon have a lot of sport harvesting going on in  
39 the Upper Basin.

40

41 Just to kind of key in to some of where  
42 our three projects are located, the chinook escapement  
43 monitoring project is located in this area and it's down  
44 stream of the subsistence and personal use fisheries.  
45 You can see where the fish wheels and the wood canning  
46 fish wheel is located. And we also got the lower river  
47 test fishery which takes place here in the lower river,  
48 and the eulachon project that I'll talk about today takes  
49 place here around the Delta, the Copper River Delta.

50

00352

1                   The first project I'll discuss with you  
2 today is the Feasibility of Using Fish Wheels for Long-  
3 Term Monitoring of Chinook Salmon Escapement on the  
4 Copper River. This is a partnership between the Native  
5 Village of Eyak, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
6 and LGL-Alaska Research Associates. Of course, this  
7 project is funded by the Federal Office of Subsistence  
8 Management.

9  
10                   The main objectives of this project are  
11 to evaluate the ability of the fish wheel to capture  
12 chinook salmon on the Copper River. Trying to generate  
13 an annual systemwide escapement estimate using  
14 mark/recapture methods and, of course, we're trying to  
15 develop a long-term monitoring program operated by the  
16 Native Village of Eyak.

17  
18                   The methods are fairly straightforward.  
19 First we capture and tag chinook salmon at Baird Canyon  
20 at River kilometer 66, just up stream of Miles Lake. We  
21 resample or examine part of the run at the up stream site  
22 which is Wood Canyon, just down stream of Wood Canyon, at  
23 River kilometer 155. And we use the tag/recapture data  
24 to derive an estimate of total escapement above Baird  
25 Canyon using a pooled Peterson estimate.

26  
27                   Results from our 2001 study, we assembled  
28 two large aluminum fish wheel in Chitina and we floated  
29 them 105 kilometers down stream to Baird Canyon, that was  
30 quite a chore. We captured 914 chinook and 23,000  
31 sockeye, and in our first year we had no recovery effort.  
32 Our main intent was just to see if we could capture  
33 enough king salmon with our fish wheels to even do this  
34 project.

35  
36                   In 2002, this year, this last year, we  
37 reassembled and operated the two fish wheels at Baird  
38 Canyon. We assembled and operated a third fish wheel at  
39 the lower end of Wood Canyon and that was our recapture  
40 wheel that was new to the project. And we were  
41 successful at catching chinook at both sides and we were  
42 able to generate a chinook -- estimate of chinook  
43 escapement.

44  
45                   We got to have some good pictures.

46  
47                   I guess I'd like to elaborate a little  
48 bit on the effort that it took to do this project. This  
49 is an aerial photo looking down stream towards Baird  
50 Canyon, and our fish wheels at Baird Canyon were located

00353

1 just around the corner here and then our cabin or camp  
2 with our cabin is located -- project cabin is located  
3 right here behind this bluff, and I'll show you some  
4 better pictures of that so we can move forward.

5  
6           The environmental conditions were always  
7 a consideration during mobilization. When we first  
8 arrived this year on the project we had four to five feet  
9 of snow and the river was still partially frozen, and  
10 there was also ice jams that formed during break up.  
11 This cabin came in very handy -- our project cabin came  
12 in very handy this year with all that snow and ice and I  
13 suspect that's going to be the case every year. If we  
14 just had tents that would have been kind of a miserable  
15 situation.

16  
17           This photo shows three fish wheel baskets  
18 as part of one of our fish wheels, and the aluminum skiff  
19 that was buried in the snow. Jerry Patton one of our  
20 tribal technicians was helping dig that out.

21  
22           This photo shows the crew launching one  
23 of the pontoon assemblies at Baird Canyon, and you can  
24 see one of them is already somewhat put together already  
25 in the water right there, and you can see how large they  
26 are, fairly good size fish wheels for this kind of work.

27  
28           This is the main fish wheel site used in  
29 2002, which is located at the upper end of Baird Canyon,  
30 and you can see this was a picture taken in 2001 where we  
31 fished just the one wheel at this location that was used  
32 in 2002 in our capture part of the project.

33  
34           Same location at Baird Canyon but in 2002  
35 we fished both wheels, capture wheels in the same spot,  
36 this hole. We fished really well with our fish wheels in  
37 this location so we felt that having both wheels in that  
38 spot would give us more chinook to tag.z

39  
40           This is kind of a prettier view of our  
41 camp site there at Baird Canyon, I showed you the icy  
42 one, but as you can see our camp site kind of located  
43 behind that bluff and kind of surrounded by the  
44 mountains, it's a pretty neat location.

45  
46           In 2002 we added a third recovery fish  
47 wheel to the project. It was fabricated locally in  
48 Cordova and then trucked to Chitina and then floated down  
49 stream below Wood Canyon.

50

00354

1                   It's eventual fishing site was located on  
2 the west bank, which would be the river right of the  
3 Copper River down stream from the mouth of the Haley  
4 Creek. And just around this Wood Canyon -- the lower end  
5 of Wood Canyon, just around the corner and just up a ways  
6 is the beginning of the personal use fishery and the  
7 subsistence fishery in the Chitina subdistrict.

8

9                   And this is the weather port camp that  
10 the crew operated just across from the upper fish wheel,  
11 so -- oh, it got a little high and dry there.

12

13                   Two marking schemes were used on the  
14 project. The majority of the fish received a yellow  
15 spaghetti tag and a ridoperculum punch (ph), and the  
16 remainder received a radio tag and a grey spaghetti tag  
17 as part of another study I won't discuss today but it  
18 was a partnership with the Alaska Department of Fish and  
19 Game in doing distribution surveys in the Upper Basin, so  
20 that's why they were applying radio tags.

21

22                   But this is where that little spaghetti  
23 tag hangs off the fish and then of course, ridoperculum  
24 punch, so.

25

26                   A significant development in 2002 was the  
27 use of escape panels in each of the fish wheel live  
28 tanks. High catches of sockeye in 2001 encourage us to  
29 develop some type of technique to limit the number of  
30 fish handled on the project. The escape panels were also  
31 designed and fabricated in Cordova and consisted of what  
32 you can see here, an aluminum frame with two adjustable  
33 vertical slots, so these were adjustable for size, width.  
34 And we put them in the back end of the fish wheel live  
35 tanks and fish could just swim out from those. And we  
36 estimated -- I want to be clear though that the slots  
37 were narrow enough that they allowed small sockeye to go  
38 out while we retained chinook salmon as part of our  
39 study. But we estimated about 15,000 sockeye, less  
40 sockeye were handled in 2002 and they were only operated  
41 about half the season. So in the first year of the  
42 project I think we caught around 25,000 sockeye and we  
43 just thought that handling that many fish, that there  
44 needed to be a solution to that.

45

46                   And this is just one of the live tanks  
47 and you can see where the slot is that that slipped into  
48 and then the fish just swam out back into the river.

49

50                   In 2002 we captured 1,518 chinook and

00355

1 12,500 sockeye at Baird Canyon, we also caught 676 king  
2 salmon and 3,700 sockeye at Wood Canyon.

3

4 This slide shows the daily catch of  
5 chinook at both sites. You can see that this fish wheel  
6 operated over a time period that appeared to span the  
7 entire length of the chinook run. You can see we got in  
8 just before the run began and we held out to make sure  
9 that we captured all the component of the run at Wood  
10 Canyon. Catches peaked at about 100 fish per day at  
11 Baird Canyon and around 60 fish per day at Wood Canyon.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mike.

14

15 MR. LAMBERT: Yeah.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That 100 to 60, is that  
18 one fish wheel at Woods Canyon and two at Baird Canyon?

19

20 MR. LAMBERT: We had two at Baird Canyon  
21 which is the lower canyon and that's our capture site,  
22 and we had one fish wheel at Wood Canyon which is  
23 our.....

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So that's pretty  
26 comparable, almost.....

27

28 MR. LAMBERT: Yes.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: .....the same amount of  
31 fish per fish wheel?

32

33 MR. LAMBERT: Right. And I'll get into a  
34 little bit about that when I talk about the analysis and  
35 how that affected our study in our first year in  
36 generating an estimate.

37

38 MS. LANGE: One.

39

40 MR. LAMBERT: Sure.

41

42 MS. LANGE: They seem to follow each  
43 other with the exception of that one peak at Baird that  
44 isn't reflected at Wood.....

45

46 MR. LAMBERT: You mean right here?

47

48 MS. LANGE: Between the 10th and 20th of  
49 June.

50

00356

1 MR. LAMBERT: Yeah, it was interesting  
2 because.....

3  
4 MS. LANGE: Was there, like, did the  
5 river shift appreciably or was the water or.....  
6

7 MR. LAMBERT: There may have been some  
8 high flows at that time when the -- you know, I don't  
9 know late May or early June you don't get too many high  
10 flows from glacier run off but it seemed like early in  
11 the season we were doing, like I said, that radio  
12 distribution study by the Alaska Department of Fish and  
13 Game and it seemed like those fish early in the season  
14 took a lot longer. I think it was potentially up to two  
15 to three weeks for those fish to migrate up to Wood  
16 Canyon, whereas later in the season they went through  
17 fairly quickly. So it just seemed like that early part  
18 of the run was a little slower in getting up the Copper  
19 River.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Take more time

22  
23 MR. LAMBERT: Yeah.

24  
25 The estimated chinook salmon abundance  
26 for fish measuring 750 millimeters nose to fork or  
27 greater to the Wood Canyon fish wheel was around 38,893.  
28 And it had a confidence limit between 24,487 up to  
29 61,002. This estimate was based on 1,137 tagged fish  
30 available for recovery, 580 fish were examined for tags  
31 at Canyon Creek and then there was a small number of  
32 tagged fish observed at Canyon Creek which was 16. And  
33 that 16's important to note because I'll comment on that  
34 in a second.

35  
36 That estimate I gave you with the  
37 confidence limit, you can see it had a very large  
38 confidence limit so the precision wasn't very good.  
39 That's one of the concerns with that estimate in 2002.  
40 And there was some probable biases, you know, Sylvia  
41 actually touched on maybe some fish movement and you  
42 touched on, Ralph, the fact that we only had one fish  
43 wheel up at Canyon Creek and so some of the biases was  
44 size select activity of our Canyon Creek fish wheel, we  
45 noticed that the upper wheel seemed to be catching a  
46 little bit larger fish in general than the Baird Canyon  
47 fish wheels, and there was also some variability in the  
48 opportunity to catch those fish being tagged or  
49 recaptured over time so there was a couple flow events  
50 that we noticed that tags that should have been coming

00357

1 through at Wood Canyon we weren't getting them because of  
2 some high flow events and we had to shut the wheel down  
3 because of debris one or two times.

4  
5 But I want to also note that this was the  
6 first year in generating an estimate on the project and  
7 this is only the second year of a three year study and  
8 we're trying to fine-tune that estimate and our staff and  
9 Fish and Wildlife Service Staff and the Alaska Department  
10 of Fish and Game have come up with some ideas to help  
11 narrow the precision of that estimate and make it more  
12 fine-tuned to our needs and also reduce some of the  
13 biases that could occur on the project. And I also might  
14 note that actually these biases are just-- they're  
15 difficult to quantify because of that 16 fish that were  
16 recaptured. We'd like to recapture a lot more fish than  
17 that so that we can play with the numbers and see, you  
18 know, and address some of the biases that we saw in 2002.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mike, while you had a  
21 low precision, you have a fairly good confidence that the  
22 interval will be between those two numbers, don't you?

23  
24 MR. LAMBERT: Yes, that's correct. And I  
25 might add, actually, this study was used at the last  
26 Board of Fish meeting in Cordova. The Native Village of  
27 Eyak had the opportunity to present this information as  
28 part of the proceedings there and I think that they  
29 played a big part in the decision on the management plans  
30 that went into the Copper River. So although this was  
31 the first year generating an estimate on the study, I  
32 think it's already given some credibility on to the  
33 project.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You're right on that,  
36 Mike. I have pretty good confidence that that will be  
37 between the two numbers, while you can't narrow it down,  
38 but even that gives us a lot of information right there,  
39 the fact that it's between those two numbers.

40  
41 MR. LAMBERT: Right.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It may be fairly close  
44 to the center, it may be off to one end or another, but  
45 either way it still puts us in the ball park.

46  
47 MR. LAMBERT: Right. And I do have  
48 another estimate but to try to keep things clear for this  
49 meeting, because of the biases, I only presented the one  
50 that is kind of our estimate. We did have another

00358

1 estimate that took fish greater than 570 millimeters nose  
2 to fork, which would be including a lot smaller fish,  
3 too, and that estimate came around 50,000 but still had  
4 the pretty broad confidence limits. But in all fairness  
5 we need to address the precision and the biases of the  
6 study, you know, as we try to make this project better.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think you're going to  
9 have trouble getting the currents right so that you can  
10 catch the same size fish at both ends because probably  
11 your bias in size just depends on how strong a currents  
12 you've got your fish wheel placed in, stronger current  
13 bigger fish.

14

15 MR. LAMBERT: Right. I haven't actually  
16 mentioned that what we're going to do in 2003 to improve  
17 on the project, and actually it was in the original study  
18 plan to add a fourth fish wheel, a recovery wheel up  
19 there. So we hope to resolve that issue of size activity  
20 and those are some of the changes that we're making to  
21 make the project better in 2003.

22

23 I think the Alaska Department of Fish and  
24 Game and Tom's here, too, and I think they're all hoping  
25 to get involved and we want to make this project work.

26

27 And also besides adding an additional  
28 smaller recovery wheel which would actually key on some  
29 different type of fishing up there on the Upper Copper,  
30 we may actually supplement the recapture with some  
31 dipnetting, too. We'd prefer to stay away from that,  
32 just from handling the fish, but these fish wheels are  
33 very -- somewhat -- they're pretty fish friendly, we've  
34 never had any problems with them, so.....

35

36 I guess in summary I'd just like to -- I  
37 think it's important to point out that the Native Village  
38 of Eyak and its partners have overcome a lot of  
39 significant logistical challenges on this project and you  
40 saw from the pictures. 2002 was the first year of the  
41 recovery effort and we still were able to generate  
42 already a drainagewide estimate of chinook escapement.  
43 And many people didn't think that that could happen, so  
44 just getting to this point is quite an accomplishment for  
45 all the partners involved including Fish and Wildlife  
46 Service and their support.

47

48 And although the estimate this year was  
49 relatively and precise, we've identified ways that we're  
50 going to improve the project in 2003.

00359

1 And that's all I have on that one. Do  
2 you have any additional questions?

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Mike. We'll  
7 go on to the next one.

8

9 MR. LAMBERT: Okay. The second project  
10 I'd like to share with you today is developing a test  
11 fishery on the Lower Copper River. This is also as  
12 partners including Alaska Department of Fish and Game,  
13 Aquacoustics and LGL-Alaska Research Associates and  
14 besides the funding that the Federal Office of  
15 Subsistence Management provides to Native Village of Eyak  
16 for the acoustic component of this, the Alaska Department  
17 of Fish and Game, the Commercial Fisheries Entry  
18 Commission, I guess, funds the Alaska Department of Fish  
19 and Game gillnetting component of this project.

20

21 The objectives of this study are to  
22 characterize the migratory behavior of salmon in the  
23 Lower Copper River. We're also trying to assess the  
24 ethnicity of both the acoustics and the drift gillnetting  
25 to index the abundance of early run salmon and we're also  
26 developing a long-term monitoring program that provides  
27 more timely estimate of salmon escapement that currently  
28 is available.

29

30 This is a map of the lower river -- Lower  
31 Copper River showing test fishing study sites used in  
32 2001 and 2002. It also shows the Miles Lake Sonar Site  
33 and the commercial fishing area. This area is primarily  
34 Mile 27 study site, it's primarily where we're trying to  
35 index salmon moving through the Lower Copper River so  
36 that will be kind of our discussion today. Of course you  
37 have the commercial fishing area down here in the lower  
38 river and this is the Miles Lake Sonar Site which the  
39 Alaska Department of Fish and Game currently uses to  
40 manage for subsistence, sport and escapement numbers on  
41 the Copper River that Tom -- Mr. Taube mentioned earlier.

42

43 This is a picture of the Miles Lake Sonar  
44 Site the Alaska Department of Fish and Game operates.  
45 Both sampling locations are just down stream of the  
46 Million Dollar Bridge, right here is this one. It  
47 doesn't show up as well today on this slide, but you can  
48 see the sampling shack and the sonar's located down in  
49 here. There's also one located on the river, right side  
50 of the river.

00360

1                   This slide shows the Mile 27 Channel  
2 study location where most of the acoustic work and drift  
3 gillnetting took place. It's also referred as Flag Point  
4 Channel in this river, kilometer 16 and this is the area  
5 right in here that all the sampling took place in 2002.  
6

7                   Methods included drift gillnetting from a  
8 skiff which the Alaska Department of Fish and Game did,  
9 Native Village of Eyak did shore-mounted acoustic gear at  
10 Mile 27, which is referred to as Flag Point Channel. We  
11 operated this project over about a three to four week  
12 period and we compared both methods to the Miles Lake  
13 Sonar counts.  
14

15                   These are summarized results from the  
16 gillnetting. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
17 completed 528 standardized drifts between 15 May and 10  
18 June. They captured 418 sockeye and were able to  
19 calculate a catch per unit effort of fishing effort and  
20 came up with an accumulative index of about 6,159 salmon  
21 -- sockeye salmon.  
22

23                   The Native Village of Eyak in 2002  
24 completed a bathymetry survey to identify good sample  
25 location. We sampled from 16 May to 10 June for a total  
26 of about 563 hours of effort and 25,261 salmon were  
27 counted in total.  
28

29                   This is a bathymetric map of the Mile 27  
30 Channel study location. This map of the channel was used  
31 to ensure a sample location that could provide a longer  
32 counting range than what we had in 2001 and we wanted to  
33 verify any changes that may have occurred since the 2001  
34 surveys took place. So you could see that we moved up  
35 the -- this was the sonar site in 2001 and we moved it up  
36 slightly because this was a better bank for sonar  
37 sampling. And I might also mention in 2002 we developed  
38 a wireless ethernet link system between our sampling  
39 location where our stream site equipment took place and  
40 our sampling trailer where the fisheries technicians did  
41 all the data analysis for the project. And the reason  
42 this is important is when you're dealing with sonar you  
43 have a lot computer equipment and technology that needs  
44 to kind of be out of the weather, and for those that know  
45 this area the conditions, the wind blows pretty darn good  
46 and there's sand everywhere and so it's quite a -- it's  
47 not a real field friendly sampling location for our crew  
48 most of the time.  
49

50                   In 2001 they actually set up a weather

00361

1 port right on the bank and it was pretty miserable and  
2 trying to keep the gear and equipment sand proof and  
3 stuff.

4  
5 This is a profile of the river bottom and  
6 the vertical distribution of fish, over range at the  
7 acoustic sampling site. Each of those red specks within  
8 the sonar beam is an individual fish counted during the  
9 sampling period and the acoustic beam sampled out to, you  
10 can see about 25 meters out into the water.

11  
12 In any acoustic work, the cross sectional  
13 profile of the river bottom is typically an important  
14 factor in the success in counting salmon with hydro-  
15 acoustic gear and generally relative continuous and  
16 smooth gradient with no debris is required to effectively  
17 sample fish with sonar. And you can see this is a pretty  
18 good representation of what the slope was on that bank  
19 and it lacked debris and so it was just a really  
20 excellent site for using sonar.

21  
22 I might add that it's also important to  
23 note that fish were detected throughout the insonafide  
24 water column for most of the counter range so throughout  
25 the entire column of the water fish sampled, and fish  
26 showed no clear preference for swimming close to the  
27 river bottom or near shore.

28  
29 I just kind of wanted to show you what it  
30 looked like when you're doing acoustic work, this is  
31 actually distance from the transducer, so you can see the  
32 meters here, up to 20 meters, over time, and when you're  
33 a fisheries technician and you're counting fish initially  
34 on this -- using the sonar software that we have, this is  
35 kind of a moving screen and so you'll see this is what a  
36 fish trap looks like when it crosses in front of the  
37 sonar. I use this example just to show you what it looks  
38 like, but also it was a unique situation when we were out  
39 touring with a group of sonar people that day, the  
40 gillnetting was going on at the same time and we actually  
41 got to see how a fishery reacted on sonar to a gillnet as  
42 it drifted down through the sonar location and you can  
43 see the air bubbles created by the gillnet kind of the  
44 lead weight on the bottom and fish just kind of -- and  
45 all of a sudden it's backing off and then, boom, it got  
46 caught. It was pretty fun to watch, I mean we actually  
47 saw it on the screen. It was pretty neat, and the fish  
48 jumped into the net and everything else.

49  
50 I guess just to summarize the results

00362

1 into some conclusions. Acoustic and drift gillnetting  
2 were effective test fishing tools in the Lower Copper  
3 River, and both actually have the potential to be useful  
4 tools for in-season management. They both, to shorten  
5 the presentation, I took out a bunch of slides in the  
6 results that I thought might be fairly lengthy to try to  
7 explain, but both techniques, the total numbers, when you  
8 compare them daily, they both matched up really well,  
9 both the drift netting and the sonar counts and so they  
10 were very comparable.

11

12           There was also no evidence of fishing  
13 milling in the Mile 27 Channel during the study period.  
14 Eulachon, meaning that fish when they tended to hit the  
15 channel on the main river they just went, you know, and  
16 it may have taken four to five days in length from the  
17 commercial fishery all the way up to the sonar but it was  
18 a continuous movement up through the channel. Eulachon  
19 did not interfere with counting salmon. There was some  
20 concerns with the sonar component of the project that we  
21 wouldn't be able to decipher between eulachon and using  
22 the software that we do and we can create thresholds that  
23 actually separate the eulachon out of the sonar analysis  
24 because it's based on like the bladder, so it's like a  
25 big air bubble, you can separate eulachon from salmon  
26 counts.

27

28           Fish took two to three days early in the  
29 season and closer to one day starting late may to travel  
30 the distance between Mile 27 Channel and the Mile Lake  
31 sonar site. That's kind of key because if the index, if  
32 fish are moving quickly say one to two days from the time  
33 they hit the index site up to Miles Lake sonar, it's  
34 easier to use it as an index in managing the fishery for  
35 subsistence. So that's pretty important that that  
36 occurs. If there was a lot of milling going on it would  
37 make it difficult to use this as an index. So early  
38 results show that it's favorable.

39

40           Based on changes in the indices at the  
41 Mile 27 Channel, both the sonar and the driftnet work, it  
42 appeared that fish took about one to two days to travel  
43 from the 16 kilometers upstream from the commercial  
44 fishery. So once they hit the channel, we actually think  
45 it's more like one day but there was one instance in the  
46 data where it showed it took about two days and I don't  
47 know if that had to do something with the tides, I  
48 haven't looked at that yet. But it may have had  
49 something to do with tides.

50

00363

1                   In 2003 we will, of course, continue to  
2 compare both methods and compare the relative strengths  
3 and weaknesses of them and we'll decide which technique  
4 would be best for the Lower Copper River.

5  
6                   And to kind of hit on that point there,  
7 the reason both these are going on at the same time, is  
8 we thought it would shorten the development stage of this  
9 project if we had both methods going at the same time.  
10 If we had just did the sonar component and it was  
11 successful, people might have thought, well, the driftnet  
12 might have been cheaper or, you know, maybe the sonar's  
13 cheaper, so we did them both at the same time in order to  
14 compare both of them and support which technique would  
15 work best and be most cost efficient.

16  
17                   And kind of a couple management  
18 applications that came out of it this year in 2002, and I  
19 thought it was important to bring up, similar to the  
20 chinook escapement monitoring project where the data was  
21 used in the early stages of the project, so was some of  
22 the data in this test fishery. Daily in-season counts  
23 were produced by our Staff in a timely manner and  
24 provided to the Department of Fish and Game prior to  
25 their commercial fishery openers. And fishery managers  
26 there at the local Cordova office used both those indices  
27 to assist in making management decisions a couple times  
28 in 2002. So it has already been used to some degree in  
29 the Lower Copper River.

30  
31                   That's all I have on that, do you have  
32 any questions on that?

33  
34                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Questions. It looks  
35 like it already shortened the time period commercial  
36 fisheries, sonar test site.....

37  
38                   \*: Yeah. Actually.....

39  
40                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: .....a lot faster than  
41 we thought.

42  
43                   \*: Yes. Yes. There was a lot of  
44 thought going in when we first were developing this  
45 project from the commercial fishery that it took four to  
46 nine days for those fish to move from the commercial  
47 fishery up through there because they thought there was a  
48 lot of milling going on. And -- but at this early stage  
49 in two years of study we haven't seen that, but the  
50 environmental conditions have been fairly cold, dry

00364

1 climate and so the flows have been lower, maybe in higher  
2 flow years that may change. So we'll just have to  
3 continue to keep an eye on that.

4

5 Any other questions?

6

7 I might add, similar to Eric -- what Eric  
8 Veach said earlier, both these projects were three year  
9 projects and last year was the second year of those three  
10 year projects. We'll, of course, be doing those in --  
11 both these in 2003 and both those project went in for  
12 extended funding from 2004 through 2006, and I heard  
13 yesterday that those two projects were passed on, at  
14 least through the Technical Review Team so we'll probably  
15 be putting extensive investigation plans and hoping to  
16 see those get funded for the Copper River.

17

18 Well, lastly, I would like to quickly  
19 give you a brief summary of the project Eulachon  
20 Subsistence Harvest Opportunity on the Copper River.

21

22 This is a partnership, again, with the  
23 Alaska Department of Fish and Game but it's also a  
24 partnership with the Forest Service on the Copper River  
25 Delta. And this is also funded by the Federal Office of  
26 Subsistence Management.

27

28 The purpose of this study was to  
29 determine if sufficient harvest opportunities are  
30 available for eulachon on the Copper River Delta to meet  
31 subsistence needs of Cordova residents. We also  
32 described the age, sex and size referred to as AWL  
33 samples and temporal spacial distributions of spawning  
34 runs to document changes among river systems on the  
35 Delta.

36

37 The objectives for the 2002 were to  
38 survey local streams and traditional harvest areas on a  
39 weekly basis throughout the late winter and spring to  
40 monitor for the presence of eulachon. We also were able  
41 to estimate the harvest of eulachon from each location  
42 where subsistence fishing occurs and the number of days  
43 eulachon were present during that fishery. And also  
44 collected samples per drainage to document age, length,  
45 sex of eulachon to compare temporal changes.

46

47 Methods included weekly presence absence  
48 surveys. Our technicians would drive out once, sometimes  
49 twice a week during the peak time where we expect  
50 eulachon to be present and survey for eulachon to know



00366

1 the Copper River Channel right there at Copper River at  
2 Flag Point Channel near the Mile-27 bridge. Estimated  
3 harvest was around 2,418 kilograms or 5,330 pounds. Age  
4 ranged on those fish from three to five with the majority  
5 being age four fish. And length at age was smaller and  
6 mean weight was smaller for females and that was  
7 significantly different, so there was definitely a length  
8 and size difference between females and males of  
9 eulachon.

10

11 And for 2003, some of the management  
12 implications that we hope to come out of this project is  
13 we hope to determine if existing runs provide ample  
14 harvest opportunity for tribal members and non-tribal  
15 members in that area and we hope to work with the user  
16 groups and the Fish and Wildlife Service and Alaska  
17 Department of Fish and Game to develop a harvest  
18 management plan for the Copper River incorporating those  
19 subsistence needs. So that's what we hope to see come  
20 out of this project.

21

22 I guess that's all I had for you today.  
23 I just would like to thank you again for allowing me to  
24 come and give this presentation on behalf of Native  
25 Village of Eyak, and I'd also like to thank you for your  
26 efforts this week in, not only addressing our fisheries  
27 concerns and opportunities but taking on the wildlife  
28 subsistence needs and meeting those needs for Native  
29 Village of Eyak and Cordova, and I'd just thank you for  
30 that.

31

32 That's all I have.

33

34 MR. CHURCHILL: Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Mike.

37

38 MR. LAMBERT: And I'd be glad to talk  
39 about them later if anybody has other questions that come  
40 up.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Pretty impressive.  
43 Those are awful big fish wheels.

44

45 MR. LAMBERT: But they're fish friendly  
46 fish wheels.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: They're fish friendly  
49 fish wheels?

50

00367

1 MR. LAMBERT: Yes.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: They look like they

4 were.....

5

6 MR. LAMBERT: They're not subsistence

7 fish wheels.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Did you feel like you

10 had any loss in them at all?

11

12 MR. LAMBERT: Do you mean in regards to

13 the excluders?

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: As far as fish being

16 caught. I know when we ran fish wheels for the Fish and

17 Wildlife Service 30-some years ago to do tag and

18 recapture studies we had some loss in our fish wheel, I

19 was just wondering, you know, basically because you

20 caught too many too fast and the tank wouldn't hold them,

21 and I was just wondering if you suffered any loss at all

22 like that.

23

24 MR. LAMBERT: We saw no -- a very minimal

25 tag loss, if not none as far as part of our -- the

26 tagging part of the study. As far as fish, when they

27 enter the fish wheel, they've got very large live wells

28 actually, they're pretty good size. You saw one of them

29 when they were loading it on the board, I mean it's as

30 big as the boat, so densitywise, it's pretty safe on fish

31 but even that, we just thought the excluders to limit the

32 number of fish we handle is certainly better for those

33 fish, and our crew, as far as time and effort, but as

34 those fish come down the slides into those live wells,

35 we've actually got jumper boards around those live wells

36 that prevent the kings and the sockeye from getting out,

37 from jumping out. And if there is loss from that, maybe

38 -- I mean maybe one fish a year could really jump, but I

39 don't think we're losing fish.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You mean that's not a

42 loss of a dead fish, that's just one that managed to make

43 it out and get back in the river?

44

45 MR. LAMBERT: Yeah. I suppose we might

46 get one jump out.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

49

50 MR. LAMBERT: The chances of it are

00368

1 pretty minimal with the way the jumper boards are.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. I wasn't worried

4 about that kind of loss. I mean if they get back in the

5 river they're not lost.

6

7 MR. ELVSAAS: No.

8

9 MR. LAMBERT: Are you asking specifically

10 about mortality?

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's what I was asking

13 about mortality.

14

15 MR. LAMBERT: No -- yeah, that's what I

16 was saying, we had, I think three fish this year that

17 were mortalities and all three of those were code wired

18 tagged fish that we had to collect for the Alaska

19 Department of Fish and Game so there was no mortality on

20 king salmon.

21

22 We did have, when we were putting the

23 excluders in initially, in testing them, initially we had

24 them set up where the back end as the fish exit were flat

25 and what happened is the first time we put them in we had

26 a sockeye gill itself. It started to go through the

27 excluder and then it backed out and it got kind of

28 spooked as it squeezed through there and it tried to back

29 back into the live tank and it gilled itself. So we had

30 two instances of sockeye from that, just in the excluders

31 but we were able to fine tune those and turn them around

32 and actually -- and then they worked slick and we didn't

33 have any problems with those the rest of the time.

34

35 And there's actually been, the

36 consultants, LGL-Alaska Research, who we worked with on

37 this project, they use these fish wheels quite a few

38 different locations, not just in Alaska but in BC, and

39 this invention that Native Village of Eyak was able to

40 come up with actually is probably kind of go kind of

41 national or statewide because there's many projects they

42 have high numbers of pink salmon, that they go into their

43 fish wheels and they don't need to be sampling those and

44 it will even work slicker for pink salmon just because

45 of the size difference.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: One more question.

48 Fred.

49

50 MR. ELVSAAS: I was just wondering on

00369

1 the, like where you had the two fish wheels, were they  
2 side by side or one in front of the other?

3

4 MR. LAMBERT: There was one in front of  
5 the other, yeah.

6

7 MR. ELVSAAS: Did one catch more than the  
8 other that way?

9

10 MR. LAMBERT: Yeah. As those fish ran  
11 along the bank....

12

13 MR. ELVSAAS: Oh, I see.

14

15 MR. LAMBERT: You know, those fish will  
16 tend to hug the bank, especially in that narrow canyon  
17 and they typically would run along the one side and just  
18 as they'd get around that corner they'd dart out and  
19 they'd typically be caught in the first fish wheel. But  
20 ironically the sockeye salmon acted a little different in  
21 that area and so the back wheel seemed to catch kind of a  
22 majority of the sockeye. And I don't know why that was  
23 different. We've talked about putting a sonar there just  
24 to watch those fish and how they react down there to  
25 study that, but just out of our own curiosity to know  
26 what they're doing. But it seems like -- it did help in  
27 separating, as far as densities of king salmon, those  
28 kings are so large that it doesn't take too many of them  
29 to fill up that live tank, so it was kind of nice having  
30 sockeye salmon kind of separated out in that back fish  
31 wheel and we did still catch like around 200 kings in  
32 that back fish wheel also. And the reason we fished them  
33 both there is the other alternative location for that  
34 second fish wheel just wasn't catching the number of  
35 kings that we wanted to catch, even less than 200.

36

37 But we've talked about maybe moving the  
38 fish wheel to some other locations to see if we might  
39 catch more kings with that second wheel.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions for  
42 Mike.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I just had one. If I  
47 understood you right, those were coded wire tagged fish  
48 that you recognized and you took out because they weren't  
49 -- it just didn't happen to be the three that died had  
50 coded wire tags?

00370

1 MR. LAMBERT: No, that's correct.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You recognized them and  
4 took them out?

5

6 MR. LAMBERT: Yep.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And that's what the  
9 mortality was, that you were collecting recognized fish.

10

11 MR. LAMBERT: Correct. They were out of  
12 post clips so we recognized that they had a coded wire  
13 tag in them.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

16

17 MR. LAMBERT: And so.....

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Thank you.

20

21 MR. LAMBERT: You're welcome.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thanks, Mike. It's

24 11:40. I had Cook Inlet Subsistence Fisheries Update by

25 Pat, she has to go to a meeting at 1:30. I figure we're

26 going to take a break at 12:00 and go to 1:30, she

27 requested that maybe she could possibly give hers right

28 now in this 20 minutes and then we can break for lunch.

29

30 (Council Nods Affirmatively)

31

32 MS. PETRIVELLI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

33 and it might not even take 20 minutes. In the 1:30

34 meeting -- there's the little informational sheet in

35 there and I should have put draft on it and I apologize

36 to Jim Fall for not doing that, but we're meeting -- I'm

37 meeting with him at 1:30 and we're finalizing the

38 investigation plan. And there's copies of it on the

39 table and please write draft on it.

40

41 So -- but -- and then the other thing, on

42 the top of the sheet it says new information -- is

43 bolded, because I think the last time we had the draft

44 summary investigation plan in the book -- and so I tried

45 to bold the new things and so I'll just go over how we're

46 updating it because Phase I was just completed recently

47 and we did scoping meetings, and then we're starting

48 Phase II, so I'll go through this sheet with that idea,

49 with the bolded information.

50

00371

1                   So part of Phase II, they've added Liz  
2 Williams and Robert Walker to the team because they'll be  
3 expanding the project. And then they've changed the  
4 budget. And then they've changed the date. It -- we had  
5 initially thought it'd be done December 2003 and now it  
6 will be finished in May 31st, 2004.

7  
8                   The goals of the project are still the  
9 same, gathering information on the community harvest  
10 levels -- or gathering information to determine potential  
11 community harvest levels and use patterns of fin fish on  
12 Federal public lands on the Kenai Peninsula and Western  
13 Cook Inlet, explore the potential effects that the  
14 regulatory closure of subsistence fishing had. Identify  
15 concerns and issues of all users of these resources. And  
16 develop steps for implementation of the Federal  
17 Subsistence Program through a public process.

18  
19                   In Phase I, which we finished, we  
20 developed the preliminary investigation plan and we --  
21 they -- or ADF&G developed the preliminary investigation  
22 plan and then the Subsistence Division began developing  
23 -- creating a GIS data base. Scoping meetings were held  
24 in Cooper Landing, Kenai, Ninilchik and Anchorage.

25  
26                   And then this plan was updated.

27  
28                   Phase II now will begin with the actual  
29 surveying activities of the households. And that -- the  
30 survey instrument was developed, a draft, and that's what  
31 we'll be discussing this afternoon. It will be field  
32 tested in a couple weeks, where they'll take that survey  
33 questionnaire and I might participate in that, and we'll  
34 go and ask sample households and then just see how well  
35 that survey instrument works.

36  
37                   ADF&G has done a number of household  
38 surveys but the one thing that is different about this is  
39 just because it's just dealing with a number of touchy  
40 issues that we addressed before, you know, because of the  
41 regulatory closures and the what if and a whole bunch of  
42 different ways.

43  
44                   Right now they're proposing to survey 322  
45 households in Cooper Landing, Hope, Nikolivis (ph),  
46 Seldovia, Ninilchik, which includes Happy Valley. There  
47 are some other rural areas, the Northfork Road and the  
48 Fox River and we're going to discuss whether -- how much  
49 of those households should be sampled.

50

00372

1                   And then once those surveys are  
2 completed, the timelines on the back, and I guess I could  
3 -- if we look on page -- on the back of that, those  
4 household surveys will be done late March and April, and  
5 then in May there'll be data entry and then a review of  
6 that data and then June and July they'll be drafting the  
7 reports -- the results of those surveys. And then  
8 there'll be a second set of stakeholder meetings from  
9 August to September. And then when those stakeholder  
10 meetings -- we'd be presenting the reports of the surveys  
11 and discussing the -- well, just the results of the  
12 study.

13  
14                   And then that will be -- when those --  
15 that August to September, after that's done, then between  
16 October and December, then there'll be a draft final  
17 report done and that will be presented to the Federal  
18 Subsistence Board at their December meetings.

19  
20                   So -- and then after that draft, final  
21 report is -- well, the draft's reviewed, then from  
22 January to March the complete final report -- or the  
23 final report will be completed.

24  
25                   And so -- and part of this -- the  
26 implications of this is that a year from now like now we  
27 have the fishery proposal period open during this time  
28 period, so a year from now the users of the resources on  
29 the Kenai Peninsula could have the results of this study  
30 available to develop fish proposals or the Council itself  
31 might want to take and use the information based in that  
32 report and develop fish proposals for any other  
33 subsistence fisheries besides the ones based upon  
34 sportfishing currently in place. And then possibly as  
35 those proposals are made and then analyzed, then the next  
36 fall of 2004, you might want to meet on the Kenai  
37 Peninsula and discuss any recommendations for those  
38 proposals at that time.

39  
40                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions for Pat.  
41 Mr. Churchill.

42  
43                   MR. CHURCHILL: Yeah, Pat, in these -- in  
44 the Phase II, how are the households going to be  
45 selected, that you're going to survey?

46  
47                   MS. PETRIVELLI: Pretty much how most of  
48 the household surveys are done, with a -- when they have  
49 the grid -- they just did the '98 ones but -- and just do  
50 a representative sampling of the communities.

00373

1 MR. CHURCHILL: So it will be a random  
2 selection?

3

4 MS. PETRIVELLI: Yes. There's -- there's  
5 still some key interview surveys done, you know, that  
6 have -- particularly for the historical portion of past  
7 use, you know, because you can't randomly find people  
8 that know about past use. But those were done -- in the  
9 first part there was a number of key respondent  
10 interviews and -- and if we find any more of those people  
11 we'll be doing the in-depth surveys. But these random  
12 ones are to look at past -- the use of how people use the  
13 resource. And then we're doing those potential what if  
14 questions, doing the proposed scenarios and then, you  
15 know, doing those what if kind.

16

17 MR. CHURCHILL: And when you do these  
18 surveys in the households, do you differentiate harvest  
19 from use?

20

21 MS. PETRIVELLI: I think in the draft  
22 survey, yes we -- we do because we -- it's following some  
23 of the -- well, the harvest -- how they -- they currently  
24 get it, like if they're keeping out of the commercial  
25 catch, you know, and we're looking at the harvest and  
26 use.

27

28 MR. CHURCHILL: Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions for  
31 Pat.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So basically we can look  
36 forward to having this in 2004 finished?

37

38 MS. PETRIVELLI: If everything goes  
39 according to the schedule.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's what I meant.

44

45 MS. PETRIVELLI: So, yeah -- yeah.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I said, basically we

48 can.....

49

50 MS. PETRIVELLI: Yeah.

00374

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: .....look forward to it,  
2 yes.

3

4 MS. PETRIVELLI: Yeah. Having a draft  
5 final report in December of 2003. And so -- and it's  
6 carrying out all that field work. Because one of the  
7 problems we run into is finding people -- we'd really  
8 like to get it done, March/April, because even the  
9 beginning of April people start scattering.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.

12

13 MS. PETRIVELLI: And it's just difficult  
14 to find people.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions for  
17 Pat.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Pat, thank you. And  
22 with that, we have by my clock we got 11:50, but I think  
23 by everybody else's clock it must be 12 o'clock, isn't  
24 it?

25

26 MR. CHURCHILL: I got five after.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You got five after?

29

30 MR. CHURCHILL: No.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 MS. LANGE: About five minutes ago.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It looks to me like we  
39 shouldn't have too much problem finishing this afternoon  
40 even if we come back at 1:30, so let's take ourselves a  
41 hour and a half lunch break this noon. And the meeting  
42 will reconvene at 1:30.

43

44 (Off record)

45

46 (On record)

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We'll call this meeting  
49 back in session. We're going to start with another one  
50 of our FIS monitoring and TEK project reports, the one by

00375

1 Patty.

2

3 Patty.

4

5 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Good afternoon.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No pretty pictures on

8 our screen, Patty?

9

10 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Uh? What? No.

11

12 MR. CHURCHILL: I've got a flashlight,

13 you could just hand things.

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: No, my report is

18 going to be short, sweet and to the point. First of all

19 I appreciate you inviting me to give a report on our

20 mapping project and for letting me kind of slip into the

21 agenda where I can. I'm trying to figure out where I fit

22 in your three day agenda, is kind of hard, I've been in

23 and out, I'm trying to get other stuff done so I

24 appreciate you taking the time to listen to our report

25 and I appreciate the funding that was provided by the

26 Federal Subsistence Board for this project.

27

28 I'll give you a little bit of background

29 on what we're working no, we're working with each of the

30 communities. And the Chugach Region is developing

31 natural resource plans for each of the tribes, and once

32 those plans are complete we'll be developing an overall

33 regionwide plan which will give more of an ecosystem-type

34 approach to management. But it will also provide a forum

35 for tribes to look at resources of concern that they both

36 use, at areas that they use in common and resolve

37 differences or allocation issues or things like that in

38 cooperation with State and Federal agencies.

39

40 So in relation with that, what we

41 proposed to the Federal Subsistence Board and the

42 Regional Advisory Council recommended for approval was a

43 mapping project, and so we started out with getting a GIS

44 system put in in Anchorage and -- actually it's in Homer

45 in our satellite office in Homer, and we're developing

46 traditional use areas -- or identifying the traditional

47 use areas in each of the communities that will be on the

48 GIS system, and then the subsistence fisheries areas.

49

50 So we've been concentrating, this past

00376

1 year, on Tatitlek, Port Graham, Nanwalek, and so we have  
2 three of the seven villages almost complete. Tatitlek  
3 has been pretty much the leader in the project so far.  
4 They've been working, putting in the most time on it and  
5 the process that we've been using to identify the  
6 subsistence use areas and the fisheries harvest areas is  
7 taking the map into the community and then interviewing  
8 people or having a community meeting, whichever is the  
9 best forum for that tribe and just having people identify  
10 on the map, pointing and saying this is where we -- about  
11 the general area where we go for whatever type of fish it  
12 is. We plan on doing that, extending that beyond this  
13 project, to include marine mammals and deer and goats and  
14 other resources that the communities use.

15  
16           Once that's complete, what we're going to  
17 do is make it available on the web and it will be a  
18 three-tier security system, where there will be one level  
19 of security will be available for the tribe only so  
20 they'll be able to go on to the web site and access  
21 their information and manipulate the data or put in data,  
22 whatever they need to do. The second tier will be  
23 information that tribes can share with each other. And  
24 then the third tier will be information that's for  
25 general public. And access to State and Federal agencies  
26 or people that are just interested in some of the things  
27 that the tribes are doing in the region.

28  
29           We're planning on having a -- we have  
30 developed a contract with GeoNorth and they're the ones  
31 doing the technical aspects of the GIS systems, putting  
32 in the base maps and we're providing them with the data  
33 and they're putting it in the format that it needs to be  
34 in, but in association with that we've also incorporated  
35 a training program so that each village that has a GIS  
36 system will have the training along with their system to  
37 be able to utilize it so it's not just sitting there.  
38 And we've also done some contact with the Bureau of  
39 Indian Affairs and they also have some GIS training and  
40 so we're trying to get as many agencies involved so that  
41 we can take advantage of as many training opportunities  
42 as possible plus setting up our own that are more  
43 tailored to each community.

44  
45           And we're also going to be starting  
46 having regular meetings with the village chiefs in the  
47 villages that are participating in this project so that  
48 they can provide their individual feedback, see that the  
49 traditional knowledge that we're incorporating into these  
50 maps is something that they want to see and that it's

00377

1 information that they're willing to put out there, you  
2 know, on the internet.

3

4                   Eventually what we're hoping to do is  
5 utilize these plans and the maps as a tool for working  
6 closer with the State and Federal agencies on management  
7 projects and issues of concern, so that the State and  
8 Federal agencies will see that we have a handle on the  
9 resources that are out there, how many there are, where  
10 they're at and they'll be, I think, more willing to work  
11 on management concerns and issues with the communities.

12

13                   So that's about it.

14

15                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions for Patty.

16

17                   (No comments)

18

19                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Patty, is that kind of a  
20 three-tiered security thing even feasible in this day and  
21 age? I mean from what I've seen, read and talked it  
22 sounds like anybody that knows what they're doing can  
23 almost get into anything. I mean if you've got it open  
24 for one tier it's no problem for somebody that really  
25 wants to get into the other two tiers.

26

27                   MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Yeah, I don't  
28 know. GeoNorth seems to think that it can be done and so  
29 we're kind of going based upon their expertise. But, I  
30 mean, you're right, there's a lot of things out there  
31 that you just never know and that's why we're starting to  
32 have these meetings with the village chiefs to make sure  
33 that what's put on there, you know, is going to be secure  
34 and it's something that they're comfortable with.

35

36                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

37

38                   MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Yeah, it is an  
39 issue.

40

41                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Because as far as  
42 I was under the impression, that anything that's  
43 connected to the internet is basically not secure if  
44 somebody wants to put enough effort to get into it.

45

46                   MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Yeah.

47

48                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So thank you. So you  
49 are addressing that problem?

50

00378

1 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Yeah. Yeah.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: A simple solution is

4 just keep all that stuff in another computer and keep it

5 off the internet.

6

7 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Yeah. Yeah,

8 that is. And we'll be talking about all those kinds of

9 options.

10

11 So thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

14

15 Okay. We have the Forest Service report

16 coming up next.

17

18 MR. ZEMKE: Good afternoon, Chairman

19 Lohse and Council. My name is Steve Zemke and I'm with

20 the Chugach National Forest and I'd like to give you kind

21 of a short update report on subsistence activities on the

22 Forest.

23

24 I have a couple of things to note, one,

25 I'm not sure if you've heard, we actually have a new

26 Forest supervisor who will be coming on board on March

27 24th, his name is Joe Meade. He's actually currently

28 director of recreational management in Arizona and New

29 Mexico. And he doesn't really have much experience in

30 Alaska but he's an energetic and insightful person and

31 he's really interested in communities and working with

32 Native communities, and probably also, he's had some

33 extensive background that way in Arizona and New Mexico.

34 So one of the things I'd like to do is maybe extend an

35 invitation to anyone on the Council to come in and visit

36 with him at any time after the 24th and I'm sure he would

37 be most willing to meet and discuss issues and

38 opportunities with the Council.

39

40 The other one is we have one subsistence

41 fisheries biologist, Rob Spangler, who has currently

42 accepted another position. He's leaving at the end of

43 this month also. Probably not going to refill that

44 position in any immediate term, kind of given what's

45 going to go on with Kenai determinations and then kind of

46 Western Prince of William Sound, Tim Joyce, will be kind

47 of -- the subsistence biologist in Cordova will be kind

48 of taking over that portion of the program until we make

49 a final decision on kind of what's the disposition of

50 some of these rural issues that are floating around the

00379

1 Kenai Peninsula.

2

3 And last october we kind of gave you an  
4 update on the fishery subsistence kind of programs and  
5 projects so I won't go over those again today and kind of  
6 focus mostly wildlife issues and what's going on. And  
7 actually most of that's already been covered already in  
8 the meeting, like I said, basically the emphasis of the  
9 program there is on mountain goats and moose within  
10 Prince William Sound and Copper River Delta.

11

12 With that being said, I'd probably say  
13 that currently we do have special subsistence harvests  
14 for mountain goats and moose within those areas and the  
15 district's been -- and the Forest's been actively  
16 involved with that.

17

18 On the goat side, in the 2002/2003, as  
19 you've probably heard already, the Federal Subsistence  
20 harvest quota for goats within those six goat management  
21 areas within Prince William Sound was 17 goats. Nine  
22 permits were issued and only one goat was harvested, and  
23 that was actually in goat Unit 249, which is kind of the  
24 western side of entrance into Valdez. Now, the mountain  
25 goat surveys we do in conjunction with that effort -- if  
26 you look at the report we have by each one of the goat  
27 management areas, there's kind of a graph showing the  
28 estimated numbers of animals within the area and then  
29 kind of the harvest rate and then the one thing about  
30 harvest rate looks like it's a lot higher than kind of  
31 what the subsistence harvest rates are, you have to  
32 understand that those are combined State and Federal  
33 harvest recordings.

34

35 But anyway, generally the goat  
36 populations within the Sound are maintaining as stable.

37

38 There is kind of a -- and within goat  
39 Units 249, the one that goat was actually harvested there  
40 shows a slight decline in that area.

41

42 This year, with the light winter  
43 conditions we have it'll be interesting to see where the  
44 goat populations are going to be by the end of this  
45 summer. The harvest survey or the population estimates  
46 are normally done in July and August when the snow levels  
47 are down enough for the aerial counts to be effective and  
48 being able to locate the goats.

49

50 So that's kind of the status on the goat

00380

1 areas.

2

3                   There's also goat harvest areas within  
4 the rest, say, Copper River Delta, there's actually three  
5 in 6(B) and six in 6(A), and those are currently just  
6 managed under the State harvest permit system of one goat  
7 per -- for a harvest permit. And there hasn't been kind  
8 of an -- so far with the local advisory committee within  
9 Cordova to be able to establish kind of a Federal quota,  
10 but as, you know, pressures go on there may be need to  
11 look on those goat populations later on.

12

13                   Kind of off the goat portion and  
14 obviously the big concern within the Cordova area was on  
15 the moose hunt within the Copper River Delta and the new  
16 regulations for the subsistence moose harvest went into  
17 effect in 2002. We had had a Federal season for five  
18 cows, previous to that, but then the 15 bull moose was  
19 added. As you'd heard, the recipients of the permits  
20 were limited to one Federal subsistence permit per  
21 household and no Federal moose permits could be issued to  
22 households that had already drawn a State permit, which  
23 was actually done before the Federal harvest so that  
24 stipulation could be in effect. And then the permits  
25 were distributed through the community in June, 683  
26 residents applied for the 15 bull permits and five cow  
27 permits. And one kind of interesting note is that the 20  
28 moose were harvested -- five and 15 were harvested  
29 between the September 1st and October 31st season which  
30 would be comparable to the State's season, and the  
31 Council, through the recommendation to the Federal Board,  
32 the season had been extended to December 31st to allow  
33 for subsistence harvest but those moose were actually all  
34 collected and captured before that period of time. And  
35 in addition to the 20 Federal permits, drawing permits,  
36 there was also one subsistence permit that was issued to  
37 the Native Village of Eyak for their sobriety ceremony  
38 potlatch and one bull moose was harvested for that permit  
39 also.

40

41                   And kind of in conjunction with some of  
42 discussions that were here, there were two Cordova  
43 residents that did harvest -- or drew permits that used  
44 the designated hunter provision. And one interesting  
45 note then is that that's probably a relatively high  
46 number, and whether we'd see that every year, you know,  
47 it's 10 percent of the total draw permit which would seem  
48 like it's rather high and wouldn't expect that level to  
49 proceed in the future.

50

00381

1                   The aerial -- or the moose counts within  
2 that area show a general trend upwards, the aerial  
3 harvest -- the aerial survey count in 2001/2002 showed an  
4 estimated population of 341 moose. And then the studies  
5 on the calf recruitments within the area have shown  
6 various recruitments from 10 percent to up to 25 percent,  
7 from 1991 it was estimated about 20 percent for this last  
8 year.

9  
10                   In conjunction with that, the District is  
11 probably looking at ways to be able to try to manage the  
12 habitat within the area, maybe in the future to try to be  
13 able to provide habitat conditions, maybe to be able to  
14 support more than the 400 moose target level that's there  
15 currently. And in conjunction with that, the District  
16 and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game have been  
17 doing a study to monitor the animal condition as that  
18 population increases to see whether or not the range is  
19 capable of continuing to produce more animals and there's  
20 also been some mechanical manipulations of the habitat  
21 and there's monitoring efforts going on to try to  
22 determine whether that's effective and then use those  
23 results to potentially look at ways to be able to  
24 increase habitat capability to support more moose so that  
25 there'd be more available for the community of Cordova.

26  
27                   That's kind of the portion of the Cordova  
28 moose.

29  
30                   There's also a small moose population in  
31 King's Bay. The Southcentral's Council has been involved  
32 with that since the mid-1990s, in fact 1997 was the kind  
33 of establishment of the first subsistence moose season  
34 within the area. One of the problems with the herd was  
35 that nobody really knew exactly how large it was and it  
36 was a small isolated population and there's been several  
37 survey -- aerial surveys done in the area since then. In  
38 2002 the aerial survey estimated there were 12 total  
39 animals within the upper watershed with seven of those  
40 being cows, one calf and four adult bulls, so obviously  
41 there's not a large population for harvest.

42  
43                   In 2001, the aerial surveys showed nine  
44 moose counted with six cows and three bulls.

45  
46                   And in 1997 there were 20 moose counted  
47 with 10 cows, two calves and eight bulls.

48  
49                   This spring we haven't been able to -- in  
50 conjunction with ADF&G haven't been able to count,

00382

1 primarily it's either weather conditions or with this low  
2 snow level within the area it's very hard or difficult to  
3 be able to estimate the number of animals so that if --  
4 you know, the count has been put off and off to wait for,  
5 hopefully, some snow levels that would allow for counting  
6 and that hasn't occurred. It still may given -- it still  
7 may occur given proper snow conditions.

8

9           And then one other note, is that, in  
10 2002, the villages reported no harvest and currently  
11 there's an allocation of one bull for --and it's actually  
12 a spiked-fork-50 this year for one -- one for the Village  
13 of Chenega and one for the Village of Tatitlek.

14

15           The other primary subsistence resource  
16 out on the Copper River Delta and Prince William Sound --  
17 well, I guess in Prince William Sound, would be deer and  
18 there is kind of an anomaly right now between the State  
19 and Federal season, the Federal subsistence harvest limit  
20 is actually four and the State limit is currently is now  
21 five. But given those, since you need a harvest permit  
22 for harvesting -- anybody, including residents -- rural  
23 residents can harvest five deer within that area. And  
24 then also the conditions have been relatively mild in the  
25 last few years, the deer population is significantly  
26 trending upwards. The estimate in 2002 was 21 percent  
27 increase and given the lack of snow and easy winter  
28 that's out in the Sound, I guess we would predict  
29 probably maybe a similar increase in numbers for the next  
30 year.

31

32           And I guess that kind of wraps up the  
33 wildlife subsistence portion of things. And always, as  
34 you've seen there's also the scheduled proposed actions.  
35 I haven't handed those out, kind of a reduction in  
36 paperwork, seems like nobody really looks at them or we  
37 haven't had any comments back from them so if anybody  
38 would like one I have some extra copies and I could give  
39 them to you or you could look at the web site and look at  
40 them electronically.

41

42           That's all I have right now.

43

44           CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Just a question, is the  
45 goat hunt out there from Mile 16 to 27, that's a State  
46 hunt not a Federal hunt?

47

48           MR. ZEMKE: That's correct, it's under  
49 State.

50

00383

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's under State  
2 administration.

3  
4 MR. ZEMKE: And I guess if the Council  
5 considers it's a possibility to change that I'm certainly  
6 willing to work with you to craft solutions to that.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And the other question I  
9 had is Tim Joyce the Mayor now?

10  
11 MR. ZEMKE: Yes, among other duties, I  
12 guess that came in -- he's also president of Alaska  
13 Chapter of American Fisheries Society, so he's going to  
14 be a relatively busy person.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So he's going to be a  
17 fairly busy man. Mr. Churchill.

18  
19 MR. CHURCHILL: Yeah, I just wanted to  
20 pass on, I really appreciate the amount of information I  
21 can get through your web site, that's really nice. It  
22 cuts down the storage need at home. That's -- I'm glad  
23 to see you doing so much of that.

24  
25 Thank you.

26  
27 MR. ZEMKE: Certainly, thank you very  
28 much for the comment.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Anybody else have any  
31 questions.

32  
33 (No comments)

34  
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you for the  
36 report. So we're looking at 20, 25 percent more deer  
37 next year than we had last year, which is 50 percent more  
38 than the year before?

39  
40 MR. ZEMKE: There's probably too many.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. With that we go  
43 on to the Office of Subsistence Management, Doug McBride.  
44 And Polly, is she here, or just you? Okay, just you, all  
45 right. You're not as pretty face to look at but you'll  
46 do.

47  
48 MR. MCBRIDE: You're right about that,  
49 Mr. Chairman.

50

00384

1 MR. MCBRIDE: Mr. Chairman. Members of  
2 the Council. My name is Doug McBride. I'm with the  
3 Office of Subsistence Management and within that office  
4 there's a section called Fisheries Information Services,  
5 and I see there's one new Council member that hasn't  
6 heard this before.

7  
8 The purpose of the Fisheries Information  
9 Services is to administer what we call the Fisheries  
10 Resource Monitoring Program and some of the previous  
11 presenters that you heard, Mike Lambert from Eyak, Patty  
12 Brown-Schwalenberg, who was up here just a few minutes  
13 ago, and Eric Veach, they are all investigators in that  
14 program and the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program is  
15 basically the Federal investment in the Subsistence  
16 Fisheries Program. It funds assessment work and harvest  
17 monitoring and TEK work. And the purpose of my  
18 presentation is just to provide a very brief over view of  
19 where we're at with that program right now and to give  
20 you a preview of what will be coming up over the course  
21 of the next year. I don't need to go into a lot of  
22 detail about projects, you just heard three very good  
23 presentations, so I think you've got a pretty good feel  
24 for what the kinds of programs what we're funding and  
25 what kinds of results are coming out of them.

26  
27 The source material for my presentation  
28 is under Tab E. And what I would ask, first of all, is  
29 just to turn to Page 224, which is a graph that we've  
30 seen before but it's -- I think it's pretty useful for  
31 keeping track of just where the money is and where we are  
32 in the process. And what we've got here is just a pretty  
33 simple graph of the finances of the Fisheries Resource  
34 Monitoring Program, and so across the bottom you have the  
35 years since the inception of the program and then the  
36 size of the bar represents how much money was invested  
37 for that particular year so you can see like in 2000 we  
38 started off in the program with about \$2.5 million, and  
39 then projects that were started in 2000, you can see  
40 those black bars get progressively smaller over the  
41 course of -- out to 2002. So we allow projects up to  
42 three years and you can see how that money was spent over  
43 that time frame. And then in 2001 we had the -- what we  
44 think is the -- or what we have is the full weight of the  
45 program, the \$7.25 million, that program started and then  
46 you can see how that played out up until this year, we're  
47 finishing the third year of that commitment in 2003. And  
48 it just goes on across the page here.

49  
50 The part I want you to concentrate on,

00385

1 though, is on the far right, there's that bar, there's  
2 that top part of the bar and it says \$5 million, so for  
3 the upcoming year, in 2004, Federal fiscal year 2004,  
4 virtually all of our prior commitments will be completed.  
5 You can see how the rest of that bar is pretty small. So  
6 most of the prior obligations will be done and we'll have  
7 \$5 million freed up to consider new work.

8

9 And towards that end, we had a call for  
10 proposals that just went out this last November, and then  
11 proposals came in and in fact we got 140 proposals  
12 statewide, in fact, this week it overlapped with a lot of  
13 your meeting, the Interagency Technical Review Committee  
14 met and, of course, the FIS Staff is working real closely  
15 with them, but they went through those proposals and  
16 they've narrowed those proposals down and then a subset  
17 of those proposals are being invited to develop a full  
18 investigation plans, in fact, that word will go out to  
19 the investigators next week and then they'll come back  
20 with investigation plans. The TRC will meet again this  
21 summer, we'll come up with a draft Fisheries Resource  
22 Monitoring Plan that we will then present to you at your  
23 fall meeting.

24

25 I can tell you right now in Southcentral  
26 on the stock, status and trend side of things, which is  
27 the, you know, normal biological assessment-type  
28 programs, along the lines of what Eric Veach spoke to you  
29 about and what Mike Lambert spoke to you about, we've got  
30 150 percent of the available funds were advanced for an  
31 investigation plan and we have a very strong suite of  
32 proposals and projects to look at in the fall. And then  
33 on the harvest monitoring TEK side, if I remember right,  
34 the amount of proposals advanced was roughly the amount  
35 of money available. But again, all those projects will  
36 be developing full investigation plans and we'll be  
37 coming back to you in the fall with that.

38

39 To try to guide us through some of those  
40 decisions that we'll be looking at in six months, if you  
41 just look at the next page on Page 225, again, this is  
42 material that we covered the last time that we met in  
43 Cordova but what we tried to do was to look at the issues  
44 and information needs that this Council identified and  
45 then pose some questions to look at things like, you  
46 know, are our projects to date, have they addressed the  
47 issues and information needs as they've been defined.  
48 Are there gaps in the issues and information needs.  
49 There's another question here, in fact, the second  
50 question speaks to projects that likely have a life

00386

1 longer than three years, you know, long term data sets  
2 and what kind of guidance would we give in terms of which  
3 ones of those projects makes sense to fund for longer  
4 than three years.

5  
6                   We went through all of this this fall and  
7 I won't go back through all these questions but the final  
8 question that we wanted to look at is what was the  
9 performance of the projects to date, because that really  
10 plays into project selection into the future. And that's  
11 what I wanted to go over today and that was also the  
12 purpose of the presentation you've already heard. We  
13 invited investigators that you're real likely to see  
14 again in the future and, you know, be able to look at  
15 project performance and things like that.

16  
17                   So with that, the remainder of what's in  
18 here, in Tab E, is really kind of a project by project  
19 description of the performance and I'm not going to go  
20 through each one of them individually. I'm certainly  
21 available to answer questions, but I thought it might  
22 make sense to just look for a minute at the table on Page  
23 227, because this is just a one page summary of every  
24 project that we have funded to date in Southcentral. And  
25 as you look at that table and go from left to right,  
26 there's just the project number on the left and then  
27 whether it's a stock, status and trends project or a  
28 harvest monitoring TEK project and then the project name,  
29 then the next column over are the investigators so you  
30 can see who all the people are that are actually doing  
31 that project. And then the far right is the money end of  
32 it, so you can see how much the project cost and then how  
33 long the duration of the project was.

34  
35                   And then as you go from top to bottom on  
36 that, the way we organized this table was we tried to do  
37 it by major subject matter, and I thought I'd just real  
38 briefly kind of go over each of those four categories of  
39 projects.

40  
41                   The top quarter of that table is under  
42 the heading of Copper River salmon. And I mean this  
43 won't be any big surprise but I mean this was clearly the  
44 number 1 issue identified by the Council, this is where  
45 the majority of the program has gone, particularly if you  
46 look at from a monetary point of view. And you can see  
47 all the projects that we have funded so far that deal  
48 with Copper River salmon. And from a performance  
49 standpoint, really, without exception, I'm real happy to  
50 report that these projects have performed basically as

00387

1 they were designed and as they were planned out. And  
2 like I say, you heard some of them today you heard about  
3 the Tanada Creek weir from Eric. You heard about the MBE  
4 projects from Mike. And like I say, almost without  
5 exception, in fact, I'd say without exception, these  
6 projects have pretty much performed as they were planned  
7 and some of those projects are -- were huge -- were and  
8 are huge projects and really were feasibility projects.  
9 Like those projects that Mike spoke to you about, the  
10 chinook abundance estimate and then that lower river test  
11 fishery project, we really entered into those in kind of  
12 a research and development mode, it was an open question  
13 whether they were really going to work or not but they  
14 really pretty much are working as they designed.

15

16 So from a performance standpoint, as you  
17 look at those projects in comparison to other projects in  
18 the future, from a performance standpoint they really are  
19 performing as they were originally portrayed to you.

20

21 The next category down -- Mr. Chairman,  
22 do you want me to stop and take questions at each one of  
23 these?

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No. I think you can --  
26 unless anybody else has a question, if you have a  
27 question hold it -- I've.....

28

29 MR. MCBRIDE: Okay.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: .....got a couple of  
32 questions but I'm writing them down.

33

34 MR. MCBRIDE: Okay.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'll just wait until  
37 you're done.

38

39 MR. MCBRIDE: Sure. Okay. The next  
40 category of projects is called Copper River steelhead and  
41 non-salmon, so these are Copper River projects that are  
42 outside of basically the chinook and sockeye projects.

43

44 And there's a couple of kind of groupings  
45 of projects in here. There's several projects that deal  
46 with Copper River steelhead and like I say there's two of  
47 them, there's one that dealt with abundance of spawning  
48 steelhead at the major known spawning areas at Hanageda  
49 and up in the T-Bay drainage and at Dicky Lake, which is  
50 up in the Gulkana and then there's also a project to look

00388

1 at harvest monitoring of the fish wheel fishery in the  
2 Glennallen subdistrict during that last two weeks of May,  
3 which is a fairly recent addition to the fishing season  
4 through Federal regulation.

5  
6 And again, from a performance standpoint,  
7 I would say that those projects are basically working as  
8 they were designed. They will both close out or finish  
9 up this coming year in 2003, and so we'll be looking at  
10 the combined results of those projects and I hope to  
11 bring back to you, like a steelhead performance report  
12 or, you know, results. But, you know, basically I mean I  
13 think what we're finding so far, and this is not  
14 surprising, we've got pretty small stocks of steelhead.  
15 These are the northern most steelhead known anywhere in  
16 the world and -- and those abundance estimates in the  
17 spawning areas are in the low hundreds basically and then  
18 we've got some steelhead being harvested in the fish  
19 wheel fishery, not very many, but like I say, we can look  
20 at both of those things in relation to each other after  
21 we get our 2003 data.

22  
23 But like I say, from a performance  
24 standpoint those projects are working very well.

25  
26 Then we have some -- excuse me, I just  
27 lost my train of thought.

28  
29 We have some Upper Copper River  
30 subsistence fishery evaluation projects and this is kind  
31 of more of a mixed bag from a performance standpoint.  
32 There's one project in there that 01-096, the Upper  
33 Copper salmon species -- subsistence species mapping that  
34 is basically had a lot of inaction on that project, we're  
35 just basically going to close that out and not proceed  
36 with that further and try to recapture some of the money.

37  
38 The other project that is somewhat  
39 similar in nature that project 01-110 is, in fact, on  
40 track to finish this year, that project is being done by  
41 a fair number of partners as you can see and we think  
42 we're going to have some pretty good results on that at  
43 the end of 2003.

44  
45 Then there's also a eulachon harvest  
46 monitoring project on the Copper River Delta. And,  
47 again, there's been some technical difficulties with that  
48 project but I think they're overcoming that. That's an  
49 NVE project. I think they've -- they've figured out  
50 technically what needs to be done with that project and

00389

1 that will be going forward this year and I think we'll  
2 have a pretty good look at eulachon subsistence use on  
3 the Copper River Delta from that project. So the  
4 performance on that looks actually real good to us.

5  
6 Then going down to the next category in  
7 Prince William Sound. We have funded several projects in  
8 Prince William Sound, you heard about one of them earlier  
9 today just a little bit ago from Patty, and it sounds  
10 like that project is coming along as it was designed. We  
11 have finished up the Coghill work on coho and I think  
12 we've got kind of a snapshot of coho escapement in the  
13 Coghill and we're real comfortable with closing that  
14 project out and basically calling that complete.

15  
16 And then just at the last Board meeting,  
17 the Federal Board meeting, we just started this large  
18 project, to look at that one salmon stock in Prince  
19 William Sound, Billy's Hole, which is a small stock of  
20 salmon, sockeye's near Tatitlek and that will be starting  
21 this summer, so we don't have any performance to report  
22 on that, but we have every reason to believe that that  
23 will be successfully implemented this summer.

24  
25 And then really the final category is in  
26 Cook Inlet. Early in the program back in 2000 we funded  
27 a couple of small projects to look at another eulachon  
28 stock in Turnagain Arm and dollies in Cooper Creek which  
29 is a tributary to the Kenai. Both of those projects were  
30 very successfully completed. And then there's the  
31 ongoing project right now of the Cook Inlet subsistence  
32 harvest use. I know Pat spoke to you about that this  
33 morning and that is proceeding basically as it was  
34 planned and designed and we're waiting for the results to  
35 that to take whatever the next step is in Cook Inlet.

36  
37 So with that, Mr. Chairman, that's just  
38 a, like I say, a broad overview of where we're at with  
39 performance and I'd be happy to answer any questions.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions.

42  
43 (No comments)

44  
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I have a couple. When  
46 you talk about new work, that can include ongoing work,  
47 too? I mean that can include new funding of old work,  
48 right?

49  
50 MR. MCBRIDE: Mr. Chairman, that's

00390

1 exactly correct. And so if you go back to that graph on  
2 Page 224, like I say, the way it works is we have \$7.25  
3 million every year and the amount of money available for  
4 new work is the 7.25 million minus any prior obligations.  
5 And then we allow programs up to three years in duration.  
6 So investigators are certainly -- can and are often times  
7 highly encouraged to submit proposals that continue an  
8 existing project. And we clearly have several coming up  
9 in 2004.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And when you say we have  
12 150 percent funding, what you mean is we have projects  
13 submitted that if we had the money it would take 150  
14 percent of what we have?

15

16 MR. MCBRIDE: Mr. Chairman, that's  
17 correct. The whole point of the Technical Review  
18 Committee is to kind of take, you know, this many  
19 projects and at least boil it down to something  
20 reasonable but basically in excess of the amount of money  
21 available so that we -- and we go through a pretty  
22 intensive review process, a public process through this  
23 forum, where we get, you know, the perspective of the  
24 Council to help sort through what the priorities are in  
25 those projects.

26

27 But you're exactly correct, there is more  
28 -- there are more projects on the table than we can  
29 afford to fund.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Which means basically at  
32 the fall meeting what we'll be doing is selecting 100  
33 percent of the projects out of the 150 percent that are  
34 available?

35

36 MR. MCBRIDE: That is correct.

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Doug.

43

44 MR. MCBRIDE: Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Regulatory  
47 coordination protocol writing briefing. Do we have  
48 anybody on that from OSM?

49

50 MS. WILKINSON: Sorry, Mr. Chairman, no

00391

1 we don't. Those are just two things that were included  
2 in your book for you to read.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. And that includes  
5 the State rural determination.....

6  
7 MS. WILKINSON: Right.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: .....ISR report?

10  
11 MS. WILKINSON: Right.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. With that it  
14 looks to me like we go on to the National Park Service.

15  
16 MR. CHURCHILL: Poor Elijah.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Elijah, quit getting in  
19 a hurry.

20  
21 (Laughter)

22  
23 MR. WATERS: We're last.

24  
25 (Laughter)

26  
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That doesn't mean that  
28 you're the least important.

29  
30 (Laughter)

31  
32 MS. LANGE: We save the best for last.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, we save the best  
35 for last. No insult to the Park Service either.

36  
37 MR. TWITCHELL: Good afternoon, Chair,  
38 Council members. Hollis Twitchell. I'm with Denali  
39 National Park. I just have two agenda items or two  
40 topics that I'll mention to you today. And I'm under  
41 strict orders from Gilbert that I'm to keep this brief as  
42 possible, so I'll do that.

43  
44 (Laughter)

45  
46 MR. TWITCHELL: The first topic was the  
47 Cantwell durational residency for the resident zone  
48 communities. And the position of that process now, we  
49 have two Parks that have completed their hunting plan  
50 proposals and consultation and have come to a final

00392

1 recommendation and that's Wrangell's for one year,  
2 durational residency for the resident zones, and then for  
3 Denali, for Cantwell, a three year durational resident  
4 zone requirement.

5  
6 The Park Service met with representatives  
7 from the State and to the Washington office last month to  
8 discuss these proposals and get their insight on what's  
9 the best way to proceed. They had requested that a  
10 briefing statement be prepared along with a letter from  
11 the Regional Director to go back east to the Secretary  
12 and the Park Service administration as well letting them  
13 know what is the status of these proposals. That  
14 briefing statement and letter has been prepared and has  
15 been sent out. The Regional Director, taking into  
16 consideration the comments he received as well as two  
17 other SRCs that are in the process of formalizing hunting  
18 plan proposals, that would be Lake Clark and Aniakchak  
19 Monument, as well as Gates of the Arctic's interest in  
20 reinitiating their proposal of some number of years ago,  
21 the Regional Director has recommended that the Park  
22 Service proceed with rulemaking for these proposals, in  
23 which all the resident zones in Alaska would be  
24 considered for one year durational residency with the  
25 exception of Cantwell, because of the SRCs request for  
26 three years in that particular community.

27  
28 So that recommendation is going forth  
29 through the various representatives, to the east, to the  
30 Secretary, and we're awaiting a decision on that.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hollis, then that  
33 rulemaking will come from the Secretary of the Interior,  
34 that won't be done in the Park Service or by the Federal  
35 Subsistence Board or anything like that?

36  
37 MR. TWITCHELL: The Secretary, will then  
38 direct the Park Service to begin rulemaking process for  
39 those regulatory changes. So it would come down as a  
40 directive from the Secretary to the Park Service to  
41 proceed.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

44  
45 MR. TWITCHELL: So the Director's letter  
46 that was sent up was to inform the Park Service Director  
47 as well as the Secretary of the Interior of these  
48 multiple requests. Two of them currently need a response  
49 from the Secretary because they have proceeded to that  
50 level and two others that are forthcoming with a similar

00393

1 sort of request and to revisit the Gates of the Arctic's  
2 request. So it was to inform of a fairly wide spread  
3 interest around the state from the different SRCs as to  
4 move in this direction.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, Hollis, I still am  
7 lost then. Who will end up doing the final rulemaking?

8  
9 MR. TWITCHELL: The Park Service would  
10 initiate a rulemaking process which would have to go  
11 through the public involvement process as any agency  
12 rulemaking would. After the comments were received from  
13 that period of time then the decision would be made on  
14 how to proceed with -- based on the SRC's proposals and  
15 the comments received.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, thank you.

18  
19 MR. TWITCHELL: The second item has to do  
20 with the Back Country Management Plan that's been going  
21 on in Denali for -- we've been working on it, I think,  
22 for a couple of years now, and it has just proceeded to  
23 the point where the environmental impact statement has  
24 been prepared and was open for public review and comment.  
25 It's a rather lengthy document as most Park Service  
26 environmental impact statements are. It will be open for  
27 comment from now through April. And it's very possible  
28 that that comment may be extended if there's a lot of  
29 controversy that arises from the various alternatives in  
30 the plan and it wouldn't b surprising to me if that  
31 comment period might go longer than April.

32  
33 The important thing for this particular  
34 Council and for the Denali SRC is that the management of  
35 the back country in Denali regarding subsistence was not  
36 covered within this document. The Park Service's  
37 position is that we have a subsistence management plan  
38 that has been developed with our Subsistence Resource  
39 Commission and with Park Staff and that is the instrument  
40 that guides our management of subsistence in Denali.  
41 Where this plan talks about subsistence is where  
42 recreational use has the potential to impact traditional  
43 subsistence use so in that sense there's been involvement  
44 with the SRC through the last several years as we were  
45 proceeding with this recreational Back Country Management  
46 Plan process.

47  
48 The SRC has advanced a couple of areas of  
49 significant issue and one of them involves areas in  
50 Cantwell, on the south side of Denali and it has aspects

00394

1 of highly increasing recreational use of snowmachines in  
2 areas that are traditionally important to Cantwell for  
3 subsistence purposes, and those are primarily in the  
4 drainages of Windy Creek, Cantwell Creek, and Bull River.  
5 And the SRC has made recommendations in the past to limit  
6 the amount of exposure of recreational use in that area  
7 so as to not cause conflicts with traditional subsistence  
8 use. And the recommendations and the preferred  
9 alternative does include those recommendations, keeping  
10 the majority of that area and to subsistence use only in  
11 terms of access by snowmachines with an area right near  
12 the community of Cantwell where it would be a limited  
13 amount of recreational snowmachine access and subsistence  
14 access.

15

16 So that particular proposal has been  
17 incorporated into the plan. The SRC, in their meeting on  
18 the 21st of February, again, expressed those same  
19 concerns that they have in the past, and also restressed  
20 their concerns about three different wildlife species,  
21 moose, in the area around Cantwell; furbearers and their  
22 displacement by increasing snowmachine activity in  
23 concentrated types of use; and also the ptarmigan aspect  
24 of nesting and breeding in late spring.

25

26 And so with those in mind, they passed a  
27 motion and I'll leave this for your record because it's  
28 also copied to you, is that:

29

30 The Commission requests the Park Service  
31 to monitor wildlife impacts particularly  
32 moose, furbearers, ptarmigan and to  
33 evaluate what affects the stress may have  
34 on wildlife populations.

35

36 So that was their motion that was passed.

37

38

39 They also passed a second motion that,  
40 the Commission supported Alternative D in the Draft Back  
41 Country Management Plan with regards to snowmachine  
42 access in that area. They felt that that alternative was  
43 responsive to their concerns of providing some protection  
44 for the traditional Cantwell use drainages.

45

46 There were a number of other actions but  
47 I'll take Gilbert's direction seriously and I'll go ahead  
48 and cease at this point.

49

50 (Laughter)

00395

1                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I hate to see you do  
2 that, Hollis, it's always interesting to find out what's  
3 going on. I just have two questions if nobody else has a  
4 question for Hollis. I can't let him get away without  
5 asking a question.

6  
7                   So basically what I understood is out of  
8 this EIS there's nothing in there that limits either the  
9 quantity or opportunity for subsistence hunters? It  
10 doesn't change any subsistence other than possible  
11 impacts from allowing recreation in an area that might  
12 have subsistence or recreation that's already there,  
13 moving them out?

14  
15                  MR. TWITCHELL: That's correct. There's  
16 no limitations in terms of subsistence use as well. In  
17 some of the back country reporting use, which a number of  
18 the alternatives are wanting to instigate a back country  
19 permitting system, the subsistence use would not be a  
20 compartment within that and so the individual users would  
21 not need to respond for those.

22  
23                  CHAIRMAN LOHSE: They wouldn't have to be  
24 responding to getting permits to go into an area or  
25 something like that?

26  
27                  MR. TWITCHELL: That's correct.

28  
29                  CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. The next question  
30 I have and this is just an opinion, possibly, but the  
31 Board's decision on wolves, what kind of impact has that  
32 on Park and Park management of subsistence wolf trapping  
33 or hunting?

34  
35                  MR. TWITCHELL: Are you referring to the  
36 buffer zones that were established on the outside of the  
37 Park.....

38  
39                  CHAIRMAN LOHSE: By the Board of Game,  
40 yeah.

41  
42                  MR. TWITCHELL: .....to -- yeah. Well,  
43 that's an interesting question. The Board of Game's  
44 actions this last fall did two things. One of them was  
45 they removed the sunset clause for the existing buffer  
46 zone which was in a portion of the townships east of  
47 Healy which is near the wolf Toklat pack range. So that  
48 sunset clause was removed, so that existing buffer zone  
49 was retained.

50

00396

1                   The other proposals to expand that was  
2 not adopted by the Board of Game which would have  
3 extended that existing buffer zone towards Healy to the  
4 Nenana River. So that one went away.

5  
6                   The third proposal was to expand an area  
7 on the eastern flank from Healy south towards Cantwell.  
8 That was modified and amended to create a buffer zone  
9 from Healy down along the power intertie down to the  
10 point where it intersects with Unit 13. That was  
11 approved by the Board. So that excluded the trapping and  
12 hunting under the State's provisions in that corridor  
13 flanking that area. The results is that there's been no  
14 trapping harvest activities in that area.

15  
16                   The Mt. Margaret pack which had a number  
17 of 10 animals this summer, as a result of their pupping  
18 last spring, as of last month still has 10 animals in it.  
19 The Eastfork pack, which had four adults and I can't  
20 remember how many pups now off hand, I think it might  
21 have been four pups, those pups were monitored with the  
22 pack up until the middle part of the summer and then they  
23 disappeared. And it's unknown what happened to those  
24 four pups from that Eastfork pack. So right now, as of  
25 last month, the Eastfork pack is back to their four adult  
26 animals.

27  
28                   So certainly the science and the  
29 documentation that's been there before, natural mortality  
30 is a significant player in terms of these populations,  
31 and that's been playing out very clearly with the  
32 Eastfork pack.

33  
34                   So I guess you can take it from there.

35  
36                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, what I was really  
37 wondering, Hollis, is I know the State closed that  
38 intertie area, that's Federal land, isn't it?

39  
40                   MR. TWITCHELL: No, it's not.

41  
42                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, okay.

43  
44                   MR. TWITCHELL: This is all on State  
45 land.

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, that's State land.  
48 Okay, then I was just wondering if that had also -- if it  
49 was still open to subsistence even if the State had  
50 closed it, but it's not?

00397

1 MR. TWITCHELL: No, this is all on lands  
2 outside of the Park boundary on State lands.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So basically it  
5 didn't change anything in the Park it just changed these  
6 buffer zones?

7  
8 MR. TWITCHELL: That's correct. It had  
9 nothing to do with subsistence, Federal subsistence  
10 within the Park.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All right. Well, that  
13 was my mistake, somehow or another I had gotten the idea  
14 that the intertie part was actually Federal and that the  
15 State had closed it for hunting and I was just wondering  
16 if the Federal still had subsistence, so.....

17  
18 MR. TWITCHELL: No, does not affect it.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So basically from the  
21 Park Service standpoint nothing has changed as far as  
22 subsistence?

23  
24 MR. TWITCHELL: No, it has not.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions.

27  
28 MR. TWITCHELL: I think with the  
29 Governor's new appointments to the Board of Game, this  
30 issue will probably be revisited again in the not too  
31 distant future.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. I think, if I  
34 remember right there's a wolf symposium or something  
35 going on, right now, this afternoon.

36  
37 MR. CHURCHILL: All day.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All day. So, Mr.  
40 Churchill.

41  
42 MR. CHURCHILL: Yeah, Hollis, if we were  
43 to advise the Board of Game regarding this buffer zone,  
44 how would you advise us? What do you think a wise course  
45 of action would be regarding the buffer zone in that  
46 area?

47  
48 MR. TWITCHELL: I think that there will  
49 always be a fairly intense amount of controversy  
50 associated with this particular area.

00398

1                   There is a lot of movement of wolves in  
2 and out of the Park along this eastern flank, eastern and  
3 northeastern flank of the Park. The Windy Pass and Broad  
4 Pass, are just natural corridors in terms of ungulates  
5 that move into that area in the winter and with the  
6 concentration of ungulates that come into this particular  
7 corridor you're going to have predators in there as well.  
8 So you're always going to have a presence, particularly  
9 in the winter, where you have wildlife concentrating  
10 through this corridor because of the environmental  
11 character of that nature -- nature of that character of  
12 area and so they're going to be present. It's going to  
13 be mixed with quite a bit of development from the Parks  
14 Highway, from Healy to McKinley Village to Cantwell and  
15 there's going to be a mix of community and population,  
16 human populations in that area.

17  
18                   So that's going to be there and it's  
19 going to be there for a long, long time. How that's  
20 dealt with in terms of management strategy, I guess I  
21 would say from our position and what the Park Service's  
22 position, has been fairly consistent through the years,  
23 is that, if the State chooses to manage for other values,  
24 such as viewable wildlife or whatever purposes that may  
25 be, and if that's their wish to manage for that in that  
26 area then we certainly would be supportive of that, but  
27 we do not believe that there is a biological need on the  
28 basis of the populations of wolves in the Denali area  
29 that would substantiate or justify a need for a buffer  
30 zone for conservation purposes.

31  
32                   We don't manage in the Park for an  
33 individual animal or an individual pack, we manage on the  
34 basis of the populations. And as such, we believe that  
35 our populations are natural and healthy in terms of the  
36 wolf population. So it's a social decision. And that  
37 decision, we recognize, rests with the Board of Game and  
38 the residents of Alaska, and their wishes certainly would  
39 prevail.

40  
41                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mr. Churchill.

42  
43                   MR. CHURCHILL: Before Gilbert gets back  
44 I'll ask one more.

45  
46                   What do you think the total wolf  
47 population in the Park is? I mean you talked about the  
48 two individual packs, what's your best guesstimate?

49  
50                   MR. TWITCHELL: It really varies from

00399

1 time of year, whether you're doing a summer count or  
2 winter count. Typically we see about 85 to 100 wolves in  
3 the winter, and -- correction, in the winter. In the  
4 springtime and summer, after pupping, those numbers  
5 typically will jump up to anywhere from 120 to 140  
6 wolves, and so there'll be a big fluctuation between the  
7 numbers of wolves, depending on the time of year you do  
8 the surveys.

9

10 MR. CHURCHILL: Is that drop into the  
11 winter natural mortality or do you have the younger  
12 wolves moving out of the Park to establish their own  
13 packs? What do you think drives that drop?

14

15 MR. TWITCHELL: Has been presented  
16 numerous times, natural mortality of wolves being killed  
17 by other wolves is clearly the highest numbers and  
18 percentages of wolf loss that we see and experience.  
19 Wolf loss from being killed by -- being kicked by other  
20 animals certainly an element as well as wolves that have  
21 died in avalanches. They do a lot of sheep hunting up in  
22 our country and they spend a lot of time in the high  
23 country and they pay the price for that as well.

24

25 We see dispersals as another big factor  
26 of the population. The territories are very dynamic but  
27 they're very distinct. There's only so much territory  
28 where packs can function within Denali. We see some  
29 dynamics in terms of moving of that but there's only so  
30 much landscape and so much resources to support wolves  
31 and so there is a lot of out migration and we've seen  
32 dispersals as far as the North Slope, over into Canada,  
33 clear down into the Nushagak near Dillingham and in  
34 various other points around the state. So we know our  
35 wolves disperse out and we also can clearly document that  
36 we've had wolves dispersing into fill territory within  
37 Denali. So it's a two-way gate and it functions both  
38 directions.

39

40 MR. CHURCHILL: Thank you, very much.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And Hollis, it's a  
43 healthy system when it does that because it keeps the  
44 genetics well mixed.

45

46 MR. TWITCHELL: This is true. Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, National Park  
49 Service, do we still have more.

50

00400

1 MS. CELLARIUS: Mr. Chairman. I can't  
2 speak as fast as Eric but I'll try to be brief.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 MS. CELLARIUS: And Hollis has made my  
7 job easier because he's introduced a couple of topics  
8 that are on my list.

9

10 I really won't say anything about  
11 durational residency because we were at the same meeting,  
12 the proposals, the same standpoint in terms of getting it  
13 off of the Regional Director's desk and headed up towards  
14 the Secretary of the Interior.

15

16 We are at a different point in time in  
17 terms of our Back Country Plan, in that, we're just  
18 getting started. We'll be following some other Parks  
19 that are working on that. I will be -- as a subsistence  
20 coordinator, will be involved in -- to the extent that we  
21 can get feedback from subsistence users about potential  
22 user conflicts. I think the same thing with Denali, in  
23 that, we have a subsistence plan but we want to make sure  
24 that the voice of the subsistence user is heard in that  
25 planning effort.

26

27 If Devi was here she might tell you that  
28 in October she hired a cultural anthropologist to be the  
29 subsistence coordinator for the Park but she's not here,  
30 and you've seen my face enough the last couple of days.

31

32 We had a SRC meeting a couple of weeks  
33 ago. Our next SRC meeting will be the 25th and the 26th  
34 of September, most likely in Chitina.

35

36 And I guess the last thing on my list is  
37 that we've moved into our new facilities completely in  
38 Copper Center, the visitor center is open, exhibit hall  
39 and theater will be open when summer comes around. And  
40 we'd like to invite you to come and visit our new  
41 facilities, either individually or collectively. So if  
42 you're in the neighborhood give us a call.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I have one. Do you have  
49 any facilities big enough to hold a meeting like this?

50

00401

1 MS. CELLARIUS: Unfortunately not really.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Not really.

4

5 MS. CELLARIUS: Our theater is not set up  
6 to facilitate this kind of meeting. And our meeting hall  
7 in the headquarter's building are much too small.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, shoot.

10

11 MS. CELLARIUS: So unfortunately, if we  
12 took over the entire visitor's center, perhaps.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, there's probably  
15 not very many visitors this time of the year, so it's a  
16 possibility.

17

18 Any other questions -- no, but I just  
19 thought it would be a nice place to hold the meeting,  
20 it'd be a good kind of environment to hold it in.

21

22 MS. CELLARIUS: We'd love to have you,  
23 but I'm just not quite sure that it would work.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Everybody willing to  
26 give up their office space -- okay, any other questions,  
27 I should quit yakking, Gilbert's already shaking his  
28 head.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, Elij -- unless  
33 there's another National Park Service person here.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 MR. CHURCHILL: He's not getting up until  
38 you call his name, I know that much.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Elijah, we're ready to  
41 hear from you.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I've just been informed  
46 you only have a minute and a half to talk.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No, you don't. I know

00402

1 you can't talk as fast as Eric.

2

3 MR. WATERS: No, Eric's a pretty fast  
4 talker. Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman. Council members.

5

6 The first thing I'd like to do is say  
7 that the BLM will be submitting a proposal to move us up  
8 on the agenda.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 MR. WATERS: What you have in front of  
13 you on Page 1 one here is just a summary of how many  
14 subsistence permits we've issued this year for moose and  
15 caribou and it's pretty much on track with what we  
16 typically issue. Also, I want to point out for the  
17 second year in a row we went to Delta Junction to issue  
18 permits and hold a public meeting, and that was at the  
19 request of the Mayor and also the former Chairman of the  
20 Eastern Interior.

21

22 This year we actually -- we had a Russian  
23 interpreter at that meeting and we consider it a success,  
24 you know, there was over 30 people there and the Russian  
25 interpreter, there was the perception that the Russian  
26 community is some of the violators on that Federal hunt,  
27 so at the request of the Council we're trying to reach  
28 out to them.

29

30 On Page 2, you'll see the prior years's  
31 harvest. The only thing I really want to point out on  
32 Page 2, is if you look there has been a slight increase  
33 in the last two years in the number of moose permits that  
34 we've issued. The reason for that is not because the  
35 community is growing but prior to two years ago, we were  
36 only issuing one moose permit per household. We were  
37 corrected on that, that the regulation actually allows  
38 one per person so rather than doing a bunch of proxy  
39 hunters for the household, we just issue one per person.  
40 So if a family comes in, a family of three they all get a  
41 moose permit.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now, are they allowed to  
44 only take one moose per household?

45

46 MR. WATERS: They are allowed one per  
47 person.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So a family of three  
50 could take three moose then?

00403

1 MR. WATERS: Legally, yes. We haven't  
2 seen that happen. And actually the BLM even considered  
3 putting in a proposal to make it one per household but we  
4 just kind of felt like that should come from either the  
5 community or the Council, not from us.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think you're right on  
8 where it should come from. But up to this last year  
9 everybody just took for granted it was one per household.

10  
11 MR. WATERS: Up until two years ago.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Two years ago, yeah.

14  
15 MR. WATERS: And it was actually one of  
16 the -- some of the Delta Junction people who challenged  
17 us on that, and we dug in and they were right.

18  
19 The second page, or the middle page there  
20 of your handout, this is actually -- I hate to bring up  
21 the Nelchina Caribou again, but this is actually a copy  
22 of the letter that the BLM has sent to ADF&G and also the  
23 Office of Subsistence Management proposing to come up  
24 with an interagency Nelchina Caribou Working Group. You  
25 can read that at your leisure but I just wanted to inform  
26 the Council that we are pursuing this. We actually have  
27 money budgeted for that in 2004 and Taylor, I think,  
28 actually has some money he's wanting to devote to kind of  
29 a preplan or an assessment even this year.

30  
31 And the final thing, which is, actually,  
32 you know, relating to the trails and easements, this is  
33 the green sheet that you have, this is a flier announcing  
34 our public meeting series for our land use plan. We're  
35 redoing the entire, the resource management plan which  
36 would apply to all the lands in our district and also the  
37 Gulkana and Delta Wild and Scenic River plans. And we  
38 hired a person, a public outreach specialists and she has  
39 been very aggressive in setting up this series of public  
40 meetings that you see on the very back page and that's --  
41 I know trails and easements is a big point with the  
42 Council and also the public and this is the chance for  
43 Council members and the public to have their say so in  
44 management of trails and easements. And if you notice  
45 some of these meetings have already been held and the  
46 ones I've attended, that is a major issue at every  
47 meeting that we've had so far, perhaps the biggest issue,  
48 is management of the trails and the easements and ORVs.

49  
50 So I would encourage you to attend those

00404

1 and even for the people who live in Anchorage, Bob,  
2 there's meetings scheduled for Anchorage.

3

4 MR. CHURCHILL: Excellent.

5

6 MR. WATERS: So with that I will take any  
7 questions that you have.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Sylvia.

10

11 MS. LANGE: Going over your schedule for  
12 public meetings, I just have to say the one in Cordova is  
13 extremely badly timed, that's three days before our  
14 traditional opening for the Copper River fishery and  
15 basically the whole town empties.

16

17 MR. WATERS: If you could give me an  
18 alternate date I am certain that we could change that.

19

20 MS. LANGE: Yeah, that week is just  
21 horrendous for public meetings.

22

23 MR. WATERS: Yeah, I'm sure we would  
24 definitely change that.

25

26 MS. LANGE: Okay.

27

28 MR. WATERS: Also I'd like to encourage  
29 the Council to encourage people to come to these  
30 meetings. Some of them we have good turnouts so far and  
31 some of them it's been kind of poor.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Fred.

34

35 MR. JOHN: Elijah, I just want to ask  
36 you, since this is on trail and easement, that little  
37 trail from the highway to Batzulnetas, is there any  
38 progress on it because I got concern about that and I  
39 think Mentasta and probably Chistochina get concerned  
40 about because, you know, when we go down there we start  
41 using side roads and everything and getting stuck in it  
42 and everything. I was wondering -- a few years back we  
43 went back with one of the ladies, I forget which one it  
44 was, we went down to Marikof Place where we could -- you  
45 know, the Park was going to pour some gravel to make it  
46 easier access and put a fence right where the private  
47 land -- to get -- I was wondering what you know about  
48 that?

49

50 MR. WATERS: I actually don't know

00405

1 anything about that, that's not within our jurisdiction.

2

3 MR. JOHN: Uh-huh.

4

5 MR. WATERS: If you remember from the  
6 last meeting I actually had a hand out and went over our  
7 trails and easement's policy and all that and any 17(b)  
8 easement that accessed either Park land or Forest  
9 Service, the BLM transferred administration of that  
10 easement to the appropriate agency. And I'm not even  
11 sure if that was ever under our jurisdiction but if it  
12 was it's over in the Park Service jurisdiction now and we  
13 don't manage that at all.

14

15 MR. JOHN: Okay.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think Barbara has a  
18 comment on that Fred.

19

20 MS. CELLARIUS: I apologize for coming in  
21 on Elijah's report, but we -- there's an ongoing  
22 discussion about what to do with that particular trail.  
23 We had a meeting with some people from Chistochina a  
24 couple days -- or a couple of weeks ago, we've got a  
25 meeting with Mentasta coming up and I believe there's  
26 also planning money -- I think, Devi has a better handle  
27 on the details but there may be some sort of EIS or EA  
28 that's being planned for that trail.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Is that on Park Service  
31 land?

32

33 MS. CELLARIUS: There's some Park Service  
34 land. I think there may be also some private land  
35 involved.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

38

39 MS. CELLARIUS: And that's one of the  
40 problems because if the Park Service puts money into the  
41 trail, then it needs to be a public access trail so there  
42 are a variety of alternatives that are being discussed.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So it's Park  
45 Service, though, not BLM that's involved in it?

46

47 MS. CELLARIUS: Yes, it's Park Service  
48 land in terms of the Federal land.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Barbara.

00406

1 MR. JOHN: Thank you.

2

3 MR. WATERS: I just want to -- oh, I'm

4 sorry.

5

6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Question for you Elijah.

7

8 MR. CHURCHILL: Yeah, Elijah, on this

9 Nelchina Caribou working group, I'm guessing it's your

10 intent to involve both the RACS and the Advisory

11 Committees in that?

12

13 MR. WATERS: Absolutely. I think a lot

14 of -- well, let's see, I think it says that specifically.

15

16 MR. CHURCHILL: I looked, but it's the

17 third day, I must have missed it.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It just says

20 stakeholders.

21

22 MR. WATERS: Okay. But we will definitely

23 be involving those people if this process goes forward.

24 We're committed to it.

25

26 MR. CHURCHILL: Is there any support that

27 you'd find useful from the advisory committees prior to

28 forming it that might be helpful to you?

29

30 MR. WATERS: I don't know. I would

31 certainly -- are you talking about the Regional Advisory

32 Councils or Fish and Game Advisory Boards?

33

34 MR. CHURCHILL: Fish and Game Advisory

35 Committees.

36

37 MR. WATERS: I would certainly be, you

38 know, willing to listen and explore and see if that's the

39 case, certainly. Certainly, you know, we don't want to

40 close communication at any time.

41

42 MR. CHURCHILL: Thanks.

43

44 MR. WATERS: I just want to make one

45 other thing clear about the trails and the easements.

46 And I know I went over this at the last meeting but

47 there's a couple new people, you know, trails and

48 easements there's two different things.

49

50 An easement -- a 17(b) easement is across

00407

1 Native land that accesses public land whether it's State  
2 or Federal public land beyond that. And our jurisdiction  
3 on those only -- are only limited to what's guaranteed by  
4 that public easement. So if the right says that the  
5 public has the right to go across that easement to access  
6 land beyond that, then we can't enforce anything else,  
7 that's private land, and what the land owner allows on  
8 that public easement is completely up to them.

9  
10 So, you know, if there's a trail or if  
11 there's a vehicle that's over the weight limit that  
12 shouldn't be allowed on that trail, with the easement  
13 language, if that's the land owner that's doing that,  
14 then, of course, you know, the BLM has no jurisdiction to  
15 tell that land owner what they can and cannot do and it's  
16 a really fine line that the BLM has to walk on managing  
17 those and that's some of the issues that's being brought  
18 up in this land use plan, is how, you know, how we're  
19 going to address that, how we can work with the land  
20 owners to prevent unauthorized uses, that kind of thing.  
21 And everybody has a stake in that, you know, the public  
22 as well as the land owner.

23

24 MR. JOHN: Mr. Chairman.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes, Fred.

27

28 MR. JOHN: Yeah, we've been, you know,  
29 like Chistochina, they put out a little video on the  
30 trails and everything and we have one in Mentasta and I'm  
31 glad these are coming up. Appreciate that.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Basically if I  
34 understand you right, on 17(B) easement that's accessing  
35 BLM lands, you have no control over what the land owner  
36 does on that easement but do you have any control over  
37 what the non-land owner who is using that easement does  
38 to access your land?

39

40 MR. WATERS: No, we do not. As long as  
41 -- our authority and jurisdiction only goes if something  
42 prevents the public from doing what's guaranteed by that  
43 easement. So if the trail is blocked that's when we  
44 would be getting involved. But as far as if you were to  
45 go do an unauthorized use on that easement, if our ranger  
46 would see you he would assume that you had permission to  
47 do that from the land owner. You know, he can't go  
48 question people about if they have permission to be on  
49 that private property.

50

00408

1 The trail itself is still private  
2 property. The easement, all it does is guarantees the  
3 public the opportunity to use it.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Then who is in charge of  
6 enforcing trespass on an easement?

7  
8 MR. WATERS: The State. The State, the  
9 State Troopers. If there is an unauthorized use on that  
10 trail then the land owner has to call the State  
11 authorities.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Any other  
14 questions.

15  
16 (No comments)

17  
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I have one other  
19 question on that one there, if nobody else does, can the  
20 land owner enforce trespassing?

21  
22 MR. WATERS: I can't answer that  
23 question. I don't know. I'd be -- I mean that would be  
24 like somebody trespassing on your property, I mean I  
25 guess if you're bigger than they are and can threaten you  
26 could probably enforce it.

27  
28 (Laughter)

29  
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Fred.

31  
32 MR. ELVSAAS: On the easements, if  
33 they're easements to access areas you can enforce it if  
34 they stop -- there's no scenic easements and so forth,  
35 but if somebody sets up a camp on an easement or parks or  
36 whatever, the land owner has the right to enforce that.

37  
38 MR. WATERS: Well, certain easements,  
39 there's three types of easements. There's trail  
40 easements, there's site easements and then there's things  
41 like runway easements and different types of easements  
42 allow different types of activities. So for example, a  
43 site easement in a lot of cases they allow you to camp  
44 overnight there, so if there's -- in a lot of cases one  
45 easement will actually be two types. For example, the  
46 Chistochina River trail that Fred mentioned, that's  
47 actually a site easement that allows you to park there  
48 and use that trail, so it's a site easement and a trail  
49 easement.

50

00409

1 Now, that site easement only allows you  
2 to camp for a certain -- for 24 hours in most cases. So  
3 if somebody camped longer than 24 hours then the BLM  
4 would have the authority to, you know, tell that -- ask  
5 that person to move on. But if they're off of that  
6 easement then we don't have the authority to ask them  
7 move on.

8

9 MR. ELVSAAS: That's right. I forgot  
10 about the site easements.

11

12 MR. WATERS: Uh-huh. But on the trails,  
13 most -- you know, you're not allowed to camp on those,  
14 that would be a blockage. And you know, bottom line,  
15 too, there's so many easements and, you know, it would be  
16 darn near impossible to patrol them all. In fact, most  
17 anything we get involved with is because somebody's  
18 reported it, because somebody's trying to access it and  
19 it's blocked, which is really very seldom the case.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions.  
22 Fred.

23

24 MR. JOHN: There's a lot of side  
25 easement, too?

26

27 MR. WATERS: Yeah, exactly. And again,  
28 we are pursuing ways to improve those trails to keep them  
29 from widening and we'll treat those 17(B) easement trails  
30 the same way.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Then you're not in the  
33 same boat as the Park Service, that if you -- well, you  
34 -- well, that's right because your trails are already  
35 open to the public?

36

37 MR. WATERS: Right.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So you can improve the  
40 trail without opening it to the public because it's  
41 already open to the public?

42

43 MR. WATERS: Right. Exactly. Now, I do  
44 want to point out that, you know, most of this trail  
45 work, it's very expensive and for the most part it's kind  
46 of experimental, you know, we don't know what's going to  
47 work so we test it and we evaluate it and do more as we  
48 get more money. And so some of the 17(B) easements are  
49 probably not going to get done right at first because  
50 when we do something on those we want to make sure that

00410

1 it's the right thing, not something that's going to have  
2 to be redone the next year and not something that's going  
3 to make it in worse shape than it was.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Sylvia.

6  
7 MS. LANGE: On 17(B) easements across  
8 Native private land, if the blockage is made by nature,  
9 who is responsible for improving, reopening the access?

10  
11 MR. WATERS: I don't really know who is  
12 responsible but we do it.

13  
14 MS. LANGE: Okay.

15  
16 MR. WATERS: You know, just because. Or  
17 in a lot of cases, the public does it. Say a tree falls  
18 over, you know, the person who comes along with a chain  
19 saw just cuts it out of the way.

20  
21 MS. LANGE: Or a washout. I mean  
22 sometimes they actually disappear.

23  
24 MR. WATERS: Yeah. And we usually -- we  
25 do some of it. We do some if it's brought to our  
26 attention. We'll do some or like I say, a lot of the  
27 times it's the public just does it.

28  
29 MS. LANGE: You know, in our area one of  
30 the problems we have is if a trail washes out, then  
31 another trail gets made.

32  
33 MR. WATERS: Uh-huh.

34  
35 MS. LANGE: And it's no longer on the  
36 public easement right-of-way.

37  
38 MR. WATERS: I would think the managing  
39 agency would have an interest in that. We do. I mean  
40 just because, you know, we just, the BLM as an agency  
41 promotes access and public use so we take a pretty active  
42 interest in that if something is preventing it. And it's  
43 -- some of them are used a lot more than others so if we  
44 didn't do that, some of the high use ones, you know, the  
45 public would let us know about it.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think I know what  
48 Sylvia's asking, and maybe I can ask the question in a  
49 different way. If you have an easement to the lake along  
50 the river bank, is the easement limited to the trail or

00411

1 is the easement to the lake? In other words, the river  
2 bank moves, takes the trail out, is there still an  
3 easement to the lake or does the easement disappear, is  
4 that what your were king of saying, if the river moved  
5 over, took the trail away, you know, and took the trail  
6 away, is there still an easement to that lake or did the  
7 easement go when the river took the trail out?

8

9 MR. WATERS: That's a good question and  
10 the answer is there is a very legal description of that  
11 easement and if the actual trail, in fact, Fred had a  
12 similar question last meeting, you know, that legal --  
13 gosh I need a blank sheet of paper to show but if, you  
14 know, there's a very legal description of where that  
15 trail is or where that easement is, if the actual trail  
16 that's being used is somewhere other than that legal  
17 description then there's three options.

18

19 Thanks.

20

21 If the legal description is this line and  
22 the trail is actually the curved line, then there's three  
23 options on how to make this right. One, you make the  
24 legal description match the trail on the ground. Two,  
25 you make the trail match the legal description. Three,  
26 you relinquish that easement. And all of the -- any of  
27 the easements that are not used or don't access public  
28 lands anymore, have already been relinquished. So it  
29 really leaves us two options, either make it match or,  
30 you know, make the trail match the legal or make the  
31 legal match the trail. And we will attempt to do  
32 whatever is easiest really, which is usually make the  
33 legal match the trail. But if the land owner is not  
34 willing to do that or if there is other environmental  
35 concerns because of that, then we will make the easement  
36 match the legal description.

37

38 And in a case like what you're  
39 describing, if a river reroutes it, then we'd use that  
40 same approach. We would attempt to make a trail around,  
41 you know, to make it legally then if that didn't happen  
42 then we'd, you know, we'd figure out how to get access  
43 back on the legal description of that access.

44

45 To my knowledge that hasn't happened.  
46 It's about to happen on the Klutina River, where the  
47 river's kind of eroding the road.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's about to happen in  
50 front of my house, too.

00412

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gilbert.

4

5 MR. DEMENTI: What if it's on private  
6 land? You can't make a trail without the owner's  
7 permission or buy the land or something.

8

9 MR. WATERS: And that's why I say, if  
10 that happens, we would -- you know, the first option is  
11 usually to make the legal description match the trail  
12 that's on the ground. So we approach the land owner,  
13 explain the situation and then try to work with the land  
14 owner. But in some cases, you know, the land owner might  
15 not want that so then we have no choice but, you know, to  
16 make some kind of trail that fits that legal description.

17

18 We really attempt to work with the land  
19 owners, as the first option.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Which -- Fred, did you  
22 have something you wanted to ask?

23

24 MR. ELVSAAS: Yes. In regards to the  
25 17(B) easements, most of those say the existing trail,  
26 that's when they were imposed, they were to follow the  
27 existing trail, and we have that situation.

28

29 MR. WATERS: Uh-huh.

30

31 MR. ELVSAAS: The trail's wiped out and  
32 there is no existing trail anymore, and you can't move it  
33 over 100 feet, say, well, because the trail washed out,  
34 the river took the trail we're going to move it over here  
35 now, you can't do that.

36

37 MR. WATERS: Right.

38

39 MR. ELVSAAS: That's already been  
40 resolved. The other thing is if a tree falls over the  
41 trail, not just anybody can come by and chain saw that  
42 tree down and -- or cut it open and so forth because it's  
43 a resource of the land owner and without the land owner's  
44 permission you cannot do that, even though it blocks the  
45 trail. Unless the land owner says, yes, you can't touch  
46 it.

47

48 We have this very problem on alder growth  
49 on trails, people say well, we got to cut more alders  
50 because we can't get through the trail, we're staying

00413

1 stay off the trail then. But the best enforcement on  
2 this, we found, was not confrontation with people, a  
3 camera. You start taking pictures and everybody gets  
4 spooky. They know lawyers like pictures. And they work  
5 much better than any gun ever built.

6  
7 That's it.

8  
9 MR. WATERS: If there's alders growing in  
10 a 17(B) easement, it's probably not being used very much.

11  
12 MR. ELVSAAS: Right.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Any other  
15 questions for Elijah.

16  
17 (No comments)

18  
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

20  
21 MR. WATERS: Thank you.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. With that we go  
24 on to Council Review of draft 2002 annual report. Ann.

25  
26 MS. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman, I know that  
27 at a couple of points I stepped out of the room so I'm  
28 not sure, did you do the call for proposals, fishery  
29 proposals?

30  
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No, I didn't do a call  
32 for proposals. As usual I forgot something.

33  
34 Okay, we're going to call for proposals  
35 to change Federal Subsistence fishing regulations. Does  
36 anyone on the Council or in the audience have a proposal  
37 they'd like to put forward?

38  
39 (No comments)

40  
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hearing none. We will  
42 go on to Council Review of draft 2002 annual report.

43 Thank you, Ann. Even with all your instructions before  
44 me I still miss important things like that.

45  
46 MR. CHURCHILL: These are the ones on  
47 Page 243 that we're reviewing; is that correct?

48  
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes, Tab F. Okay,  
50 you'll find the draft on Tab F, would you care for me to

00414

1 read it or should we have Ann read it or should we just  
2 look at it for five minutes?

3

4 MR. JOHN: Look at it.

5

6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Everybody look at  
7 it for five minutes and then if you see anything we need  
8 to bring up that you don't like in the draft.

9

10 MS. WELLS: What page?

11

12 MR. CHURCHILL: Page 243.

13

14 (Pause)

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I couldn't have  
17 written it better myself Ann.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We'll wait for Mr.  
22 Churchill to get back.

23

24 (Off record)

25

26 (On record)

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We're back in session  
29 after our break.

30

31 MR. CHURCHILL: Break, we were working  
32 hard?

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, we were letting  
35 you take a break.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We have in front of us  
40 the draft. Has everybody had a chance to read the draft?

41

42 MR. CHURCHILL: Yes.

43

44 MS. WELLS: Yes, thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Has anybody seen  
47 anything that they would like to add to it or anything  
48 that was not done so professionally that you could do it  
49 better yourself?

50

00415

1 MR. CHURCHILL: I'd like to add.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mr. Churchill.

4

5 MR. CHURCHILL: Just a suggestion, under  
6 predation, we may want to add something about the letter  
7 that we sent to the Board of Game concerning predation,  
8 and it's impact on subsistence users in the Cantwell  
9 area.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. In other words a  
12 little comment to tell them that we did send that letter  
13 to the Board of Game?

14

15 MR. CHURCHILL: Yeah. This was a letter  
16 that we drafted after the Cordova meeting.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

19

20 MR. CHURCHILL: Based on the testimony of  
21 Hollis Twitchell, that there was no biological need and  
22 the low number -- the low success rate of harvest on both  
23 moose and caribou from the Cantwell area residents.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you.

26

27 MS. WELLS: So our concerns, our  
28 Council's concerns have been forwarded to the Board of  
29 Game, and we once again recommend a Board work session on  
30 predation?

31

32 MR. CHURCHILL: And just, I guess, as a  
33 quick report back, I did hand delivery that letter to the  
34 Board of Game on behalf of the RAC.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Bob. Okay,  
37 if there isn't anything else that anybody sees that  
38 they'd like to change in that, then a motion to accept  
39 this draft is in order.

40

41 MR. CHURCHILL: I'd like to move that we  
42 accept the draft report on Pages 243, 244 and 245 of our  
43 Board book.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do I hear a second.

46

47 MS. WELLS: So moved.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Discussion.

50

00416

1 MR. DEMENTI: Question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Question's been called.

4 All in favor signify by saying aye.

5

6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed, signify by  
9 saying nay.

10

11 (No opposing votes)

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries.

14

15 MS. LANGE: Mr. Chairman, I'm going to  
16 abstain since I wasn't present. Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You can still vote on  
19 it, but you can abstain if you wish.

20

21 MS. LANGE: But I wholly support the  
22 letter.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

25

26 MS. LANGE: It looks like a good one.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, with that, we go  
29 on to review and comment on Alaska Board of Fisheries  
30 Proposals, Tab G. Tab 404, 398, and we have to decide  
31 whether we want to make any comments on this and send  
32 them to the Board or not.

33

34 Fred.

35

36 MR. JOHN: Mr. Chairman, I read both of  
37 them and I really haven't anything to say on it.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Fred.

40 Anybody else?

41

42 MR. ELVSAAS: What?

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: He said he's read both  
45 of them and he hasn't anything to say on either one of  
46 them.

47

48 Fred.

49

50 MR. ELVSAAS: I'm not familiar with 404

00417

1 and the problem expressed there and it doesn't sound that  
2 great to me.

3

4 On 398, that's an ongoing activity. It  
5 has been for thousands of years. And I'm surprised they  
6 ever mention anything about it. Because, you know, my  
7 fish camp is right near them and they do their thing,  
8 they don't need us, the State or anybody else, they have  
9 their own ways of doing things and they've done it  
10 forever.

11

12 And I....

13

14 MS. LANGE: I don't understand what....

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: What you're saying is  
17 you don't see a need to establish that because they're  
18 already doing it?

19

20 MR. ELVSAAS: Well, yeah. Yeah, that's  
21 -- but it's all on State tide lands. If anything we  
22 could express support for their proposal. But we can't  
23 act on it.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right. Larry.

26

27 MR. BUKLIS: Mr. Chairman. Just  
28 clarification. As I understand Proposal 398 for the  
29 State Board this would not be in Federal Subsistence  
30 jurisdiction area, it'd be up in the Cook Inlet in State  
31 management area and currently that isn't a subsistence  
32 clan fishery, it's a personal use. So I think by this  
33 language they're trying to have it made as a subsistence  
34 fishery, I assume.

35

36 But in either case it's not within  
37 Federal jurisdiction.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And, Larry, I think  
40 that's true of the next one, too, isn't it?

41

42 MR. BUKLIS: The next one also is outside  
43 Federal Subsistence ANILCA jurisdiction.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Ann.

46

47 MS. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman, the Council  
48 at the Cordova meeting considered looking at these at  
49 this meeting.

50

00418

1 I would like to say about the Tyonek  
2 Advisory Committee proposal. I worked with them for a  
3 number of years, they do not do something without a good  
4 reason. And even though I don't know what their reason  
5 for this is, I would expect they had a good cause for  
6 putting that in, some -- they feel threatened in some  
7 way. Because, you're right, normally they're going to do  
8 what they're going to do.

9  
10 But still, this Council doesn't act on it  
11 because it isn't Federal waters, but if you were inclined  
12 to write a letter of support that's another thing  
13 altogether.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mr. Churchill.

16  
17 MR. CHURCHILL: Well, I have no objection  
18 to supporting 398, I just don't have any knowledge about  
19 it and the member of our RAC that seems most  
20 knowledgeable and I rely on, I'd certainly go with  
21 whatever direction he would advise us to take. I just  
22 don't know anything about this one.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Fred.

25  
26 MR. ELVSAAS: Well, I guess at this point  
27 I would ask that we express support for the Tyonek  
28 proposal. That's the best we can do is give lip service  
29 to it. But we just heard a comment that this is not a  
30 subsistence activity. It is a subsistence -- it's not a  
31 commercial activity, it's not a sport activity, it's been  
32 going on for thousands of years, it's certainly a  
33 subsistence activity. It's just not within our  
34 jurisdiction.

35  
36 So I think it would be appropriate if we  
37 would just express our support for the proposal and just  
38 let it go at that.

39  
40 MS. WELLS: Mr. Chair.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Susan.

43  
44 MS. WELLS: I would just like to offer a  
45 comment that any time State of Alaska, Department of Fish  
46 and Game wants to label anything subsistence I would like  
47 to support it.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Motion's in  
50 order.

00419

1 MS. WELLS: I would make a motion to  
2 write a letter in support of the subsistence clam  
3 fishery.

4  
5 MR. CHURCHILL: Second.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Moved and seconded for  
8 discussion -- moved and seconded for the motion. Bob.

9  
10 MR. CHURCHILL: If I'm understanding  
11 correctly then the Council, based on the input from Fred  
12 would have a letter drafted on our behalf signed and sent  
13 to the Board of Fisheries, is that what we're talking  
14 about, and just mechanics, I certainly am comfortable  
15 with any language that Fred would provide and as  
16 secretary I'd be happy to draft it and then we can send  
17 it; that pretty much is it?

18  
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

20  
21 MR. CHURCHILL: If anybody else would  
22 want to lead in on the letter they'd certainly be  
23 welcome.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: From your standpoint,  
26 this is a subsistence area, so we could just draft it to  
27 the effect that we recognize this as a subsistence area.

28  
29 MR. ELVSAAS: Right. That would be good.

30  
31 MR. CHURCHILL: I would be happy, as  
32 secretary, to work with Fred and put a draft and final  
33 together on behalf of the RAC.

34  
35 MR. DEMENTI: Mr. Chair.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Gilbert.

38  
39 MR. DEMENTI: Are we in the discussion  
40 period here?

41  
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We're in the discussion  
43 period.

44  
45 MR. DEMENTI: Would this State  
46 subsistence, would it have an impact on this -- because  
47 Anchorage could go over there or Fairbanks, and would it  
48 wind up just like the Chitina dipnetting? I'm just  
49 curious.  
50



00421

1 MR. ELVSAAS: No more than I do.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Maybe that's what the  
4 issue is.

5

6 MS. LANGE: To follow up, I think, you  
7 know, it behooves people to recognize what they do, I  
8 mean because the law could change. The State recognition  
9 of subsistence could change and you want to be called  
10 what you are if and when that happens. And granted it  
11 doesn't really kick in in the State system but I would  
12 respect their desire to be called subsistence if that's  
13 what, in fact, they do. And it sounds like they most  
14 definitely do.

15

16 I would strongly support this proposal.

17

18 MR. JOHN: Mr. Chair. I'm a little bit  
19 nervous about this because I really don't know anything  
20 about this, that's for sure. I mean, you know, either  
21 way.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Fred. Ann,  
24 you had something to say.

25

26 MS. WILKINSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. At  
27 some point, I can't remember now when it was, but after  
28 our October meeting I talked to Sherry Wright to find out  
29 whether there could be someone here at this meeting to  
30 look at these proposals with the Council and she had said  
31 that there could be so I thought there would be, which  
32 apparently.....

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: There isn't.

35

36 MS. WILKINSON: .....could and would are  
37 two different things. And for whatever reason I didn't  
38 follow up and I ask your forgiveness for that. But then,  
39 too Peter Merryman, who is the tribal chairman there and  
40 is no the committee, I left messages to talk to him about  
41 it but he's been ill so didn't call back.

42

43 MR. ELVSAAS: What did you say?

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: She said that she tried  
46 to get a hold of the tribal chairman.

47

48 MR. ELVSAAS: Oh.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But he didn't call back.

00422

1 And Sherry Wright was talking about coming to this  
2 meeting but didn't.

3

4 MR. ELVSAAS: She was here yesterday.

5

6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. So we have a  
7 motion on the table.

8

9 MR. ELVSAAS: Question.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Wait a second, Susan,  
12 had her hand up.

13

14 MS. WELLS: I was just going to ask if we  
15 do have a time frame in which to research and find out  
16 about this. When is this going before the Board?

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It goes before the Board  
19 next -- it has to go before the Board next winter,  
20 doesn't it?

21

22 MS. WELLS: Next winter.

23

24 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: In two weeks.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Don't the Board of  
27 Fishery proposals come up in two weeks, okay. Okay. Any  
28 further discussion.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Call for the question.

33

34 MR. ELVSAAS: Question, let's vote.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Question's been called  
37 for. And let me restate the motion, if I'm correct, that  
38 we are voting in favor of sending a letter recognizing  
39 this as a traditional subsistence area. Am I correct,  
40 that was your intention Fred?

41

42 MR. ELVSAAS: That's right.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. All in favor,  
45 signify by saying aye.

46

47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed, signify by  
50 saying nay.

00423

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries.

4

5 MR. CHURCHILL: Abstentions.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And we have a couple

8 abstentions. I think Fred abstained and Gilbert

9 abstained.

10

11 Okay. Proposal 404, do I have a motion

12 to put it on the table for discussion.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hearing none, we'll go

17 on. Okay. With that establish the time and place of our

18 next meeting.

19

20 This is our fall meeting. We had

21 originally talked about having it on the Kenai, but it

22 looks like we're going to need a meeting on the Kenai a

23 year after this in fall, so we need to come up with a

24 place for our fall meeting.

25

26 MR. ELVSAAS: Question.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Fred.

29

30 MR. ELVSAAS: Why are we scheduling a

31 year after?

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Because that's when our

34 Kenai rural determination report will come out and we're

35 going to want to be down there.

36

37 Ann, could you shed some light on what we

38 have going for this fall so far?

39

40 MS. WILKINSON: No.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No, okay.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 MS. WILKINSON: I don't know yet. We

47 haven't finished receiving all the proposals so I don't

48 know how many there will be, fisheries proposals.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We haven't established

00424

1 either a time or a place for our fall one yet, have we?

2

3 MS. WILKINSON: You have established a  
4 time of October 7, 8 and 9.

5

6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, that's what I  
7 thought. October 7, 8 and 9th. Okay, Southcentral,  
8 location to be announced.

9

10 Mr. Churchill.

11

12 MR. CHURCHILL: What about, I mean Copper  
13 Center, they have the hotel there. I think -- I'm not  
14 sure whether it's closed by that time but that might be a  
15 good place to have it.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You just put a load of  
18 guilt on me because I think I said I'd make a phone call  
19 up there and find out but I didn't. Ann.

20

21 MS. WILKINSON: To which hotel do you  
22 refer?

23

24 MR. CHURCHILL: It's the one down on the  
25 way to the center on the bluff overlooking the river.

26

27 MS. WILKINSON: Oh, the Princess hotel?

28

29 MR. CHURCHILL: Is it.

30

31 MS. WILKINSON: I'm not sure. I've been  
32 trying to get a hold of them. They're closed now.

33

34 MR. CHURCHILL: I know they're closed  
35 now. And I know they close but I'm not sure whether it's  
36 October 15th.....

37

38 MS. WILKINSON: Right.

39

40 MR. CHURCHILL: .....or when it is.

41

42 MS. WILKINSON: Right. When I contacted  
43 their 800 number, the person said I would need to call  
44 them back. This was last week and I haven't had a chance  
45 to call them back yet. Sorry.

46

47 MS. WELLS: We could go to Whittier.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any suggestions. Don't  
50 everybody talk at once.

00425

1 MR. CHURCHILL: How about Talkeetna.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Never been there.

4

5 MR. ELVSAAS: No, that's -- that's not a  
6 bad idea, Talkeetna sounds.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Are there facilities?

9

10 MR. CHURCHILL: There's great grouse  
11 hunting that time of year, but yeah they have nice  
12 facilities.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MR. CHURCHILL: I've been to three or  
17 four conferences there, they've been very well done. The  
18 staffs accommodating, the food's good. I mean it is,  
19 it's a very nice place.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Ann.

22

23 MS. WILKINSON: And which hotel is this?

24

25 MR. CHURCHILL: I never remember the  
26 names, but it's the newest one up on the bluff that  
27 overlooks the mountains.

28

29 MS. WILKINSON: Okay. And that hotel has  
30 a meeting room?

31

32 MR. CHURCHILL: Yes.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Is that hotel open all  
35 year-round?

36

37 MR. CHURCHILL: I know it's open in  
38 October.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

41

42 MS. WELLS: What's name of it, it's the  
43 Talkeetna Lodge, isn't it?

44

45 MR. CHURCHILL: Yeah.

46

47 MS. WELLS: I think it's the Talkeetna  
48 Lodge.

49

50 MR. ELVSAAS: Yeah. I think they're

00426

1 planning to close it during the hard months.

2

3 MS. WELLS: Yeah. But if you contact  
4 them now they'll stay open.

5

6 MR. ELVSAAS: Right. Yeah.

7

8 MR. CHURCHILL: The conferences I've been  
9 to have been in October. I think they've been closing a  
10 little bit later than that.

11

12 MR. ELVSAAS: Yeah.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That would be fine with  
15 me, it's up to you guys. Fred.

16

17 MR. ELVSAAS: Yeah, the only comment, you  
18 know, other than Anchorage, our meetings have been  
19 primarily along the eastern part of our district. And,  
20 you know, I don't know what -- we were going to try  
21 Cantwell one time and there was no accommodations, as I  
22 recall, at the time.

23

24 So we're getting a little better balance  
25 with reaching out to the people.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Ann.

28

29 MS. WILKINSON: I know that in the last  
30 three or four years, three years or so it's been mostly  
31 in this area but there were a number of meetings held  
32 down on the Kenai Peninsula in the past.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right. I think what  
35 Fred was getting at is, you know, we've tried to get over  
36 on the western edge and we haven't made it there yet. It  
37 would be nice to hold a meeting within inside of Denali  
38 National Park even if all we could see is the top of the  
39 mountain.

40

41 MR. ELVSAAS: Or the clouds.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Or the clouds, yes.  
44 Talkeetna sounds wonderful -- what -- what were you going  
45 to say Ann?

46

47 MS. WILKINSON: I just had a thought.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, if you had a  
50 thought then it's important -- if it's applicable to

00427

1 this, share it.

2

3 MS. WILKINSON: Well, I was just thinking  
4 I could check with -- where's Hollis -- I could check and  
5 see if there's a place there we could meet at the Park.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That would be fine, too.

8

9 MR. DEMENTI: The Park is out of our  
10 district.

11

12 MS. WILKINSON: Entirely.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, yeah, the Park is,  
15 isn't it.

16

17 MS. WILKINSON: Is it really.

18

19 MR. DEMENTI: There is -- we're right on  
20 the border, if you go to McKinley Village.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

23

24 MR. CHURCHILL: Gilbert, how many rooms  
25 do you have at your house?

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 MS. WELLS: Bring your tent.

30

31 MR. CHURCHILL: Yeah.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 MR. DEMENTI: We just really never had  
36 any meetings there.

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, I think Talkeetna  
39 would be fine, what do you think on that one Fred?

40

41 MR. JOHN: I don't know about Talkeetna,  
42 to me it's too far.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

45

46 MR. DEMENTI: I'd rather meet in  
47 Cantwell.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Well, Cantwell we  
50 ran into problems at that time of the year.

00428

1 MR. CHURCHILL: Just finding a place.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

4

5 MR. DEMENTI: There is accommodations if  
6 you schedule ahead of time.

7

8 MR. JOHN: And the train goes to  
9 Cantwell, too.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Ann.

12

13 MS. WILKINSON: I'll share my experience  
14 with trying to find space for Cantwell -- last time with  
15 Cantwell. Finding meeting space was very easy. The  
16 tribal office said, you know, that was not a problem and  
17 they were very gracious about that. But most of the  
18 lodges and places close the end of September, and so the  
19 only way I could find accommodations was a few people  
20 here, a few people there and it would have been people  
21 scattered over a 40 mile distance. There were some  
22 smaller places close by but people would have had to  
23 share rooms with people they didn't even know and I  
24 didn't know if that would fly.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 MS. WILKINSON: So, you know, it's just a  
29 matter of that one week difference. If they stayed open  
30 in September but they would not in October, they had  
31 plans for things to do, I guess.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You're pretty sure that  
34 the places are open in Talkeetna in October?

35

36 MR. CHURCHILL: I've attended conferences  
37 during that time frame there.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I was there at the  
40 end of September and it was open but I wasn't there in  
41 October.

42

43 MS. WILKINSON: Why don't we ask her to  
44 look at both places.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Ann.

47

48 MS. WILKINSON: What we could do is I'll  
49 just try again for Cantwell. And maybe by starting now  
50 instead of early summer, which is when I tried before in

00429

1 May and June, if I start trying now I might be able to  
2 convince some people, they could make their plans for  
3 later in the year or something. I can try that.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: When you were talking  
6 McKinley Village, you were talking Cantwell, too, weren't  
7 you or were you talking.....

8  
9 MR. DEMENTI: Yeah, it's right on the  
10 border of our district.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Why don't we do  
13 that then and we'll set it for Cantwell with a second  
14 choice of Talkeetna.

15  
16 MS. WELLS: Is there a possibility of  
17 moving the date to September? There's, you know, three  
18 empty days, September 22nd, and that might help to get  
19 into Cantwell easier.

20  
21 MR. CHURCHILL: People are trying to  
22 catch moose at that time of year.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right. I was going to  
25 say that's.....

26  
27 MR. DEMENTI: Moose close September 20th.

28  
29 MS. WELLS: Yes, the 20th.

30  
31 MR. ELVSAAS: Remember at Mentasta Lake  
32 we got there the last day of the season.

33  
34 MS. WELLS: Maybe we could feed us moose.

35  
36 MR. ELVSAAS: Yeah.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Anyhow, what's the  
39 thought of the rest of the Council -- there was objection  
40 to moving it to September before.

41  
42 MS. WELLS: Okay.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I know where I'll be at  
45 that time and it's not going to be sitting in a meeting.

46  
47 (Laughter)

48  
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Elijah knows where I was  
50 on that date last year, and I don't think I'll trade a

00430

1 meeting for it, I'd much prefer a canoe.

2

3 MS. WELLS: That sounds good.

4

5 MR. CHURCHILL: Let's just try. I like  
6 your idea of checking out both Cantwell and Talkeetna and  
7 see what fits and Ann always takes really, really good  
8 care of us so.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We can trust you.  
11 Sylvia, you were going to say something.

12

13 MS. LANGE: I've never been up in that  
14 area other than by small plane, how do you get in there?  
15 I mean I see there's a train, can you drive?

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Drive. You can take a  
18 train from Anchorage, if you want.

19

20 MR. DEMENTI: You can drive.

21

22 MS. LANGE: How frequently does the train  
23 go.

24

25 MR. ELVSAAS: Beautiful highway.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Daily. It's a  
28 beautiful, beautiful highway.

29

30 MS. LANGE: I'd love to take the train,  
31 that sounds like fun.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Just catch a train in  
36 Anchorage is all you have to do.

37

38 MS. LANGE: So daily? The train doesn't  
39 go up daily?

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes.

42

43 MR. CHURCHILL: That time of year, no, I  
44 don't think so, not daily.

45

46 MS. LANGE: So we can get the schedule  
47 though and look into that. It would be a beautiful drive  
48 but how long does it take from Anchorage, about?

49

50 MR. CHURCHILL: To drive to Talkeetna?

00431

1 MS. LANGE: To drive to Cantwell.

2

3 MR. CHURCHILL: To Cantwell? If you  
4 drive with me it doesn't take long.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MS. LANGE: So give myself five hours.

9

10 MR. CHURCHILL: It's 220 miles. It's  
11 almost 220 miles to the mile from Anchorage to Cantwell.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's a beautiful road  
14 and you're driving right towards Mt. McKinley and if the  
15 day is beautiful like when we were there this fall you've  
16 never seen a sight like it.

17

18 MS. LANGE: Yeah.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It was a kodachrome day.  
21 There were people stopped all along the road with their  
22 tripods set up taking pictures right down the road from  
23 McKinley.

24

25 MR. CHURCHILL: And there's good berry-  
26 picking along the way.

27

28 MS. LANGE: Wow. What kind of berries?

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hi bush.

31

32 MR. CHURCHILL: Yeah.

33

34 MS. LANGE: Really.

35

36 MR. ELVSAAS: But the Parks Highway is in  
37 very good shape.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. It's a good drive  
40 and if you have a chance to take the train you'll enjoy  
41 that too.

42

43 The dates are 7th, 8th and 9th of  
44 October.

45

46 MR. CHURCHILL: Yeah.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Does that sound okay to  
49 everybody?

50

00432

1 MR. CHURCHILL: Yep.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: What are you holding  
4 your button, you going to make a motion to adjourn?

5

6 MR. CHURCHILL: No, no, no absolutely --  
7 as a matter of fact, no, it never occurred to me to  
8 adjourn.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. There was one  
15 other thing I was going to bring up, I was going to call  
16 if anybody on the Council had anything that they would  
17 like to put on the table at this time?

18

19 MR. CHURCHILL: Something -- just a  
20 suggestion.

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Go ahead, Fred.

23

24 MR. JOHN: Just a question.

25

26 REPORTER: Microphone, Fred, please.

27

28 MR. JOHN: Okay. Just a question. I'll  
29 be on here until I'm replaced, probably, I'll probably be  
30 there on the next meeting.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Bob.

33

34 MR. CHURCHILL: Just an offer, as Chair  
35 of the Anchorage Advisory Committee I'm going to be  
36 testifying in front of the Board of Game, I've got to be  
37 there, is there anything on behalf of the RAC that I can  
38 take forward for the RAC, I'd be happy to do that.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, boy. Anybody have  
41 anything they'd like to see him take forward.

42

43 Ann.

44

45 MS. WILKINSON: We need to make some  
46 accommodation for the winter 2004 meeting,  
47 February/March.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, we need to go on  
50 to the next one, too.

00433

1 MS. WILKINSON: Even if it's -- yes.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Even if it's tentative?

4

5 MS. WILKINSON: Uh-huh.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Well, then that

8 will give us time to think on this other thing. But I

9 have something else yet that I want to bring up before we

10 adjourn, so, please don't adjourn too fast.

11

12 Okay. Winter meeting, 2004. February

13 16th through March 22nd or 21st -- actually February 18th

14 through March 21st, and there's nobody else on here, is

15 there, yet?

16

17 MS. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman, all those

18 that are marked on there, those are the ones that are

19 already taken.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I'm looking at the

22 one in my book that's blank, so.....

23

24 MS. WILKINSON: There's one in your

25 folder that I gave to you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: There's one in our

28 folder that's got markings on it.

29

30 MS. WILKINSON: Yes.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So we have to change.

33 Well, it looks like about the same week we're in right

34 now.

35

36 MS. WILKINSON: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman.

37 I don't believe our Staff overlaps with any of these.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So our Staff

40 doesn't overlap with any of these then, so we can pick

41 any time that's convenient to everybody here.

42

43 Ann.

44

45 MS. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman, Chuck

46 Ardizzone is part of the Staff for the Seward Peninsula

47 team also so he's unavailable.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think benchmark

50 testing is always the first week in March, isn't it?

00434

1 MS. WELLS: I think so, yeah.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So how about the second  
4 week of March so those of us with kids don't miss  
5 benchmark testing, and if that's okay with everybody,  
6 it's the only one that's blank in here, too.

7

8 MR. CHURCHILL: You bet.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So shall we take it the  
11 9th, 10th and 11th just as general of March.

12

13 MR. CHURCHILL: That's great, no problem  
14 with me.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Anybody see any problem  
17 with that?

18

19 MS. WILKINSON: And is the meeting for  
20 the Kenai?

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No, this would not be  
23 the meeting for the Kenai, this would probably be, more  
24 than likely we'll meet -- the spring meeting, a lot of  
25 times we hold it here, in Anchorage.

26

27 MS. WELLS: Second week in March.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: 9th, 10th, 11th.

30

31 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: The calendar's  
32 wrong.

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, okay, so it's the  
35 8th, 9th and 10th?

36

37 MS. WILKINSON: No, this is the new one.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay, so it's 9th, 10th  
40 and 11th?

41

42 MS. WILKINSON: Yes.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's Tuesday,  
45 Wednesday, Thursday of the first week [sic] in March.  
46 That gives us Monday to travel on.

47

48 MS. WILKINSON: Second week.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And Friday to get home

00435

1 on.

2

3 MS. WELLS: Second week of March.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And that way the Staff  
6 doesn't have to do any overtime on the weekend.

7

8 MS. WELLS: It is the second week in  
9 March.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Second week in March so  
12 we should miss testing.

13

14 MS. WELLS: Or maybe, I won't miss it.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, if they change  
17 testing it's not your fault.

18

19 Okay, now, anything else that we've  
20 missed Ann.

21

22 MS. WILKINSON: I don't believe so.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. I had -- you  
25 know, I asked if there was anything anybody wanted to  
26 bring up and I don't know how or what we can do about it,  
27 but as a Council we were talking about the change of  
28 fisheries habitat from ADF&G to DNR, and is there any way  
29 that we can write a letter saying that we see some  
30 dangers in that because the ADF&G has handled it well,  
31 they have the facilities to handle it and the DNR is  
32 overbooked.

33

34 Fred.

35

36 MR. JOHN: I think we get -- you know, we  
37 get information from the Fish and Game here and I think  
38 it's very vital that we're interested in it.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Can we express  
41 that to the administration or is that out of our  
42 jurisdiction to even express it?

43

44 Ann.

45

46 MS. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman, once before  
47 this Board, this body did a similar thing and I was told  
48 that it's OSM office policy that they do not communicate  
49 with the Legislature as a body, you don't, the Council's  
50 do not.

00436

1                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So we can request  
2 the Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Board to please  
3 forward a letter like that.

4  
5                   (Laughter)

6  
7                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Mr. Churchill.

8  
9                   MR. CHURCHILL: Just -- not for the  
10 record, we've already done that, it will be presented,  
11 we've already sent it to the Governor expressing,  
12 probably the same concerns the RAC has over that  
13 transfer.

14  
15                   If interested, I'd be happy to provide  
16 copies to the RAC of those letters.

17  
18                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That'd be good, thank  
19 you. With that, if there is no other -- okay, Sylvia.

20  
21                   MS. LANGE: I just wanted to say thank  
22 you for making my first meeting very pleasant and, you  
23 know, I've felt very welcome and I appreciate all the  
24 help I've been given, especially from the Staff and  
25 people introducing themselves, it's been great.

26  
27                   Thank you.

28  
29                   MR. ELVSAAS: Welcome aboard.

30  
31                   MR. CHURCHILL: Welcome aboard, you bet.  
32 And with that I'd like to make a motion that we adjourn.

33  
34                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No discussion. All in  
35 favor signify by saying aye.

36  
37                   MR. CHURCHILL: Do we have a second.

38  
39                   (Laughter)

40  
41                   CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The Chair can't second  
42 it so somebody please second it.

43  
44                   MS. WELLS: I will.

45  
46                   MR. ELVSAAS: You can declare it  
47 adjourned.

48  
49                   MR. CHURCHILL: It's been seconded.

50

00437

1  
2 adjourned?

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I can just declare it

3

MR. ELVSAAS: Yeah.

4

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

5

6

MR. CHURCHILL: We're adjourned.

7

8

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We're adjourned.

9

10

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

11

12

00438

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34

C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA            )  
  )ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA                        )

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for  
the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix  
Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

          THAT the foregoing pages numbered 291 through 437  
contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the  
SOUTHCENTRAL FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY  
COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME III, taken electronically by  
Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC on the 6th day of  
March 2003, beginning at the hour of 8:30 o'clock a.m. in  
Anchorage, Alaska;

          THAT the transcript is a true and correct  
transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter  
transcribed by 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 24th day of  
March 2003.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph P. Kolasinski  
Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 04/17/04