

1 KODIAK/ALEUTIANS FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5  
6 VOLUME I

7  
8 Best Western Kodiak Inn  
9 Kodiak, Alaska  
10 February 10, 2015  
11 11:00 a.m.

12  
13  
14  
15 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 16  
17 Speridon Simeonoff (Telephonic)  
18 Melissa Berns  
19 Coral Chernoff  
20 Patrick Holmes  
21 Richard Koso  
22 Sam Rohrer  
23 Thomas Schwantes  
24 Antone Shelikoff (Telephonic)  
25 Rebecca Skinner  
26 Della Trumble  
27  
28 Regional Council Coordinator, Carl Johnson  
29 Karen Deatherage

30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44 Recorded and transcribed by:  
45  
46 Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC  
47 135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2  
48 Anchorage, AK 99501  
49 907-243-0668/sahile@gci.net

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  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Kodiak, Alaska - 2/10/2015)

(On record)

ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: Okay, ladies and gentlemen, we'll call to order the February meeting of the Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory Council, Federal Subsistence for this region. And I'm Pat Holmes, Secretary, and so I'm going to fumble along because I really don't do well at chairing things so I'll ask Rick Koso and then my colleague, Della, to grab me by the chin and bang my head on the table if I get out of line and I'll try and step down if I have a personal comment to make.

So the meeting will please come to order.

And let's see, we'll start with the reading and approval of the minutes. Have folks had a chance to take a look at that.

MS. TRUMBLE: You need people to introduce themselves and then roll call.

MR. KOSO: Yeah, the roll call.

ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: Oh, okay, I got banged on the head already, twice from each side.

(Laughter)

ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: So first off roll call for the members and Antone Shelikoff, are you on line Antone.

MR. SHELIKOFF: Here.

ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: Yeah, Antone's on line. Myself, I'm here.

Rick Koso.

MR. KOSO: Here.

ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: Samuel Rohrer.

MR. ROHRER: Here.

1                   ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: Thomas Schwantes.  
2  
3                   MR. SCHWANTES: Here.  
4  
5                   ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: Coral Chernoff.  
6  
7                   MS. CHERNOFF: Here.  
8  
9                   ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: Rebecca Skinner.  
10  
11                  MS. SKINNER: Here.  
12  
13                  ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: Della Trumble.  
14  
15                  MS. TRUMBLE: Here.  
16  
17                  ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: Mitch Simeonoff  
18 is not here but are you on line, Mitch. He's on  
19 line.....  
20  
21                  MR. SIMEONOFF: I am here.  
22  
23                  ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: .....line is  
24 kind. And the lovely and intelligent Melissa Berns  
25 from Old Harbor.  
26  
27                  MS. BERNS: Here.  
28  
29                  ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: Okay, so then we  
30 have a quorum. And then we will have the invocation  
31 and usually Vince does that or myself.  
32  
33                  And so I guess I would refer you to  
34 this old carving that is based on hieroglyphics and a  
35 painting from Karluk of -- and Fishermen Hakkensen  
36 corrected my pronunciation so Coral correct me, it's  
37 (In Alutiiq), it's an ultimate deity of the -- solar  
38 deity of the Alutiiq people. And I would rather  
39 suspect that there is a similar concept for the  
40 (indiscernible) folks. And so I would ask folks to  
41 reflect on this carving and think about the work that  
42 we're doing and that we're here to try to help all the  
43 people that we represent and to maintain natural  
44 balance in our region.  
45  
46                  And then I would like to suggest that  
47 we bow our heads and repeat the Lords Prayer because  
48 that's something that Vince Tutiakoff, he's a deacon,  
49 in Unalaska, and has left our Council, would usually  
50 do. So shall we have a go.

1 (The Lords Prayer)

2

3 ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: Okay. So I would  
4 like to bring us back to order and I would like to --  
5 we'll just start with Rebecca, and everybody could give  
6 a brief introduction to themselves and their personal  
7 philosophy on subsistence if they wish.

8

9 MS. SKINNER: Rebecca Skinner. I was  
10 born and raised in Kodiak, currently live in Kodiak.

11

12 I guess in growing up, our family was  
13 pretty heavy subsistence -- or we had a heavy  
14 dependence on subsistence and that's something that at  
15 an early age, I think, really developed, or kind of  
16 influences my lifestyle and how I view subsistence and  
17 food resources and kind of connection to the land and  
18 the Kodiak environment.

19

20 And for background, I guess I'm also on  
21 the Borough Assembly for Kodiak and I have a law office  
22 in town.

23

24 MS. BERNS: Hi. Melissa Berns from Old  
25 Harbor. And I just want to apologize for missing the  
26 fall meeting in King Cove. I had other travels that  
27 were really close and I didn't want to get stuck. I  
28 know this weather is always an issue for travel with  
29 these meetings so it's nice to see a lot of people here  
30 today.

31

32 In Old Harbor we've had a pretty  
33 amazing fall and a really mild winter. We had great  
34 salmon harvest. Waterfowl. Deer. Goat. Clams. And  
35 bear hunts. And we have our subsistence bear draw, we  
36 did that at our tribal annual meeting, and so this  
37 spring we'll have those under way. We've got three  
38 individuals that are fairly young, but very, very  
39 excited and going to be going out with some experienced  
40 hunters this spring and so that's something that we're  
41 really excited and looking forward to be able to pass  
42 on those traditions.

43

44 We do have a lot of concern in our  
45 community for the crab stock numbers. Subsistence  
46 harvesting for crab has been really low. I know that a  
47 lot of individuals within our community have gone out  
48 numerous times throughout the entire winter and we  
49 haven't been successful with getting tanner or king  
50 crab and so that's something that is really sticking

1 with us and hopefully can be looked more into.

2

3                                 Anyways, other than that, I'm really  
4 happy to be here, happy to see you all again and look  
5 froward to this meeting.

6

7                                 ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: Thanks, Melissa.  
8 I had my head banged again. We probably will do our  
9 little individual reports a little bit later, and so at  
10 this point we're just doing introductions.

11

12                                 You introduced yourself and gave a  
13 report on what's important down at Old Harbor and  
14 that's -- we'll finish up that a couple more points  
15 down in the agenda, I was kind of reminding that for  
16 the other members beings my forehead's getting a little  
17 soft from corrections of chairing.

18

19                                 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Rick Koso. I'm  
20 originally from King Cove down in the Aleutian  
21 Peninsula, but I'm representing Adak. I've been in  
22 Adak since 2001. Still there. Plan on being there for  
23 awhile.

24

25                                 Thank you.

26

27                                 ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: I'm Pat Holmes.  
28 And I -- I think -- and I don't know how long I've been  
29 on the Council but our former members and the current  
30 ones call me grandpa. And I really believe in  
31 subsistence and anyway pass it on to Chairman Della --  
32 or Della.

33

34                                 MS. TRUMBLE: Good morning. My name is  
35 Della Trumble. I am from King Cove. Happy to be here.  
36 Happy to be on the ground to be honest with you, had a  
37 nice flight in here this morning and a couple attempts  
38 at landing that I could pass on any time.

39

40                                 (Laughter)

41

42                                 MS. TRUMBLE: But, thanks, and I'm  
43 happy to be here this morning.

44

45                                 MR. ROHRER: Good morning. My name is  
46 Sam Rohrer. I was born and raised here in Kodiak, I  
47 make it my home still. I've been on the Council for,  
48 oh, 10 or 12 years now.

49

50                                 Thank you.

1 MR. SCHWANTES: Good morning. My name  
2 is Tom Schwantes. I've been here in Kodiak since 1979  
3 and in Alaska since 1963 and I've been a subsistence  
4 user the entire time and that's why I'm on this Council  
5 because I recognize the importance of the subsistence  
6 uses for the people of Alaska.

7  
8 Thank you.

9  
10 MS. CHERNOFF: Good morning. My name  
11 is Coral Chernoff. I was raised here in Kodiak also.  
12 I am the sister of Rebecca, across the table there.  
13 And so we grew up eating a lot of everything from the  
14 island, hunting, fishing, and so it's pretty ingrained  
15 in us, the importance of subsistence, subsistence  
16 lifestyle. I'm also a -- I do a lot of Native  
17 handicrafts. I've supported myself with my art in  
18 Native handicrafts. I work with guts and skins and  
19 fish skin and everything that I gather I work with and  
20 make Native handicrafts. So it's very important to my  
21 lifestyle also.

22  
23 I'm new to the Board -- or the Council,  
24 and I'm very excited about my future.

25  
26 Thank you.

27  
28 ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: I might add a  
29 little lightly here, when I went to park in front of  
30 Coral's house there I -- I'll do an Iver here and say  
31 that I saw a sea otter trying to splash its way down  
32 the road with a -- with a king crab and he took a look  
33 at Coral's house and immediately took a beeline to the  
34 boat harbor.

35  
36 But, anyway, a little bit of  
37 fabrication.

38  
39 Antone, would you like to introduce  
40 yourself, please.

41  
42 MR. SHELKOFF: Yeah, Antone Shelikoff.  
43 I've been on the Kodiak/Aleutian Subsistence Regional  
44 Advisory Council since February 2010 and I represent  
45 Akutan Alaska.

46  
47 ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: Thanks, Antone.

48  
49 Mitch.

50

1 MR. SIMEONOFF: Mitch Simeonoff,  
2 currently stuck in Akhiok due to weather. I've always  
3 had a high respect for the resources and I wish I could  
4 be there but I guess teleconference will work.

5  
6 Thank you.

7  
8 ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: Okay. So that  
9 introduces everyone.

10  
11 Would you folks like to take a moment  
12 and take.....

13  
14 MS. TRUMBLE: The audience.

15  
16 ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: Oh, the audience,  
17 very important. We'll start in the back and everybody  
18 stand up and briefly introduce yourself, if you would.

19  
20 Thank you.

21  
22 MR. REFT: John Reft, vice Chair Sun'ag  
23 Tribal Council.

24  
25 MR. CROW: Kyle Crow, Kodiak.

26  
27 MR. JACOBSON: Jake Jacobson, Kodiak.

28  
29 MR. ROHRER: Dick Rohrer, Kodiak.

30  
31 MS. INGLES: Palma Ingles, OSM.

32  
33 MS. PETRIVELLI: Pat Petrivelli, BIA  
34 out of Anchorage.

35  
36 MR. CHERVENAK: I'm Paul Chervenak,  
37 Chairman of the Kodiak Fish and Game Advisory  
38 Committee.

39  
40 MR. COBB: McCrea Cobb, Kodiak Refuge,  
41 wildlife biologist.

42  
43 MR. PYLE: Bill Pyle, supervisor,  
44 wildlife biologist, Kodiak Refuge.

45  
46 MR. DAMBERG: Hi. I'm Doug Damberg,  
47 the Refuge manager of Izembek National Wildlife Refuge  
48 in Cold Bay.

49  
50 MS. LOWE: Stacey Lowe, the wildlife

1 biologist at Izembek Refuge.

2

3 MR. TAYLOR: Good morning. I'm Eric  
4 Taylor. I'm with the Fish and Wildlife Service,  
5 Division of Migratory Bird Management out of Anchorage.

6

7 MR. EVANS: Good morning. I'm Tom  
8 Evans. I work as a wildlife biologist with the  
9 Department of Fish and Wildlife Service in subsistence  
10 management.

11

12 MR. FISCHER: Good morning. Julian  
13 Fischer with the Division of Migratory Bird Management  
14 in Anchorage.

15

16 MS. FAIRBANKS: Tina Fairbanks. I'm  
17 with Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association here in  
18 town.

19

20 MS. WOLKOFF: Sharon Wolkoff, Sun'ag  
21 Tribal Council member.

22

23 MR. POLUM: Tyler Polum with Fish and  
24 Game, assistant sportfishery.

25

26 KODIAK DAILY NEWS

27

28 MR. KRON: Tom Kron with OSM.

29

30 MS. HAYDEN: Natasha Hayden with the  
31 Native Village of Afognak Tribal Council.

32

33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Karen Deatherage with  
34 Office of Subsistence Management, Fish and Wildlife  
35 Service and I'm a new Council Coordinator.

36

37 MR. JOHNSON: And Carl Johnson, I'm the  
38 Council Coordination Division Chief with the Office of  
39 Subsistence Management and passing the torch of running  
40 this Council to her.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: Well, thank you  
45 everybody and I appreciate the assistance from Della  
46 and Rick in keeping this moving ahead so let's take a  
47 look at the agenda.

48

49 Are there any items that folks would  
50 like to add.

1 Carl.

2

3 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, thank you, Mr.  
4 Chair. For those of you who have a printed meeting  
5 book, either from our website or one of the bound  
6 versions, ignore the agenda in that meeting book,  
7 instead at the table when you came in, there was a new  
8 updated with February 9, 2015 on the upper left-hand  
9 corner agenda because there's a bunch of additions. So  
10 rather than going through them all and you all having  
11 to pencil and pen them in, we just came out with a  
12 brand new agenda. Council members you'll find that in  
13 the middle of your place mat, and for anybody listening  
14 on line you can find it on the Federal Subsistence  
15 Management Program website. The Kodiak/Aleutians  
16 region page it will say updated draft agenda 2/9/2015.

17

18 So that's kind of the starting point.  
19 But, still, even with that, there are still a couple of  
20 additions. So, Karen, I know that you have an addition  
21 on the tanner crab issue, we have an additional  
22 presentation related to Womens Bay, and that was going  
23 to be put on by -- who was that?

24

25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Oh, Cris -- go on and  
26 I'll get that.

27

28 MR. JOHNSON: Well, we have an  
29 additional presentation specifically related to Womens  
30 Bay tanner crab. In your supplemental materials there  
31 was a scientific paper related to that, so, actually  
32 the individual who was one of the authors of that paper  
33 is going to be presenting that. So that will be in  
34 tandem with what's on the agenda right now for the  
35 State presentation related to crab harvest.

36

37 Additionally, Della had asked to add to  
38 the agenda, a discussion on the proposed marine  
39 sanctuary for the Aleutian Islands, and -- I don't know  
40 if Della has something to say to that. We did attempt  
41 to get somebody to present on that but we couldn't find  
42 a presenter but if the Council would like to add it to  
43 the agenda for a discussion we could still do that, and  
44 I know Della has something to say.

45

46 MS. TRUMBLE: I think an update since  
47 that discussion is -- it's basically been set aside as  
48 not applicable, number 1, because of the process they  
49 were pursuing; and, number 2, I think there was a lot  
50 of public input from the tribes, corporations and many

1 people and organizations within the Aleutians region so  
2 at this point I wouldn't worry about it.

3

4 MR. JOHNSON: All right, thank you,  
5 Della.

6

7 ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: All right,  
8 so.....

9

10 MR. JOHNSON: So then the only addition  
11 that your Council Staff have for you is that additional  
12 presentation on Womens Bay crab and, of course, Chris  
13 Long will be doing that.

14

15 Now, if anybody else has any additions  
16 to make.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: Okay. I do have  
19 a little bit of news on the Aleutians Preserve. I was  
20 chatting with Stanley Mack, the Chairman of the  
21 Aleutians East Borough and he said that it had been  
22 tabled but he said that he had heard some gossip that  
23 there are forces state side that are -- a couple of  
24 senators and what not that are trying to bring that  
25 back up again. So I think that hopefully when it does  
26 come up again we'll discuss it further but it was some  
27 pretty massive changes in deciding preserves that are  
28 for the Aleutians and up the Bering Sea shelf and so it  
29 could have some significant impacts but we'll leave  
30 that one for now.

31

32 Let's see, and then I've got to finish  
33 reading this for a moment and so we'll just take a two  
34 minute.....

35

36 MR. KOSO: Carl.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: .....yes, Carl,  
39 go.

40

41 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
42 Chair. So there's an addition -- in addition to the  
43 subject matter, if you recall -- well, there we go,  
44 last year when we did the discussion on the rural  
45 determination process, we, as a Council, did not  
46 address the issue until after the public meeting, so I  
47 would suggest we follow that format because I know the  
48 Council got a lot of benefit from listening to the  
49 public process before doing their own deliberation. So  
50 I would suggest that we just take the rural

1 determination process review, which right now is under  
2 Old Business, Item A, we just bump that to the first  
3 thing tomorrow morning, just wherever we're at on the  
4 agenda today, I would suggest we just bump that to the  
5 first thing tomorrow morning and then that way we can  
6 address it after the public meeting this evening.

7  
8 Also not on the agenda, but we'll be  
9 having, hopefully calling in tomorrow morning, Orville  
10 Lind, our new Native Liaison, would like to do a  
11 presentation to you, first introducing himself, but  
12 then also he wants to relate to you the Board's action  
13 at its recent meeting on adopting the ANCSA  
14 consultation policy and approving of the tribal  
15 consultation implementation guidelines. You have those  
16 in your supplemental handouts but I'm sure he'll want  
17 to go over those with you over the phone tomorrow. So  
18 hopefully we can just fit him in wherever the schedule  
19 permits.

20  
21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22  
23 ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: Thank you, Carl.  
24 Does anyone have any other comments they'd like to --  
25 items they'd like to add to the agenda.

26  
27 (No comments)

28  
29 ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: Okay, unless I  
30 hear some objection then we'll adopt the modified  
31 agenda as we just so shortly discussed.

32  
33 MS. TRUMBLE: You need a motion.

34  
35 ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: Oh, we need a  
36 motion, a motion to adopt.

37  
38 MR. KOSO: Motion to adopt.

39  
40 MR. SCHWANTES: Second.

41  
42 ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: Okay. We have a  
43 motion to adopt and second, any objection.

44  
45 (No objection)

46  
47 ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: Okay, so then  
48 we'll take that agenda as it is.

49  
50 So our next item that we need to

1 address is the election of officers.  
2  
3 MS. TRUMBLE: Turn it over to Carl.  
4  
5 ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: I beg your  
6 pardon.  
7  
8 MS. TRUMBLE: Turn it over to Carl.  
9  
10 ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: Okay, and we turn  
11 it over to Carl.  
12  
13 Thank you.  
14  
15 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
16 And for the record, for those on line, my name is Carl  
17 Johnson, I'm with the Office of Subsistence Management.  
18 I will take the gavel at this time and assume  
19 chairmanship of the meeting to conduct the first  
20 election of officers.  
21  
22 The table is now open for nominations  
23 for Chair of the Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional  
24 Advisory Council.  
25  
26 MR. KOSO: I nominate Mitch Simeonoff.  
27  
28 MR. JOHNSON: Okay, we have a motion  
29 for Mitch Simeonoff for Chair, any seconds.  
30  
31 MS. TRUMBLE: Second.  
32  
33 MR. JOHNSON: A second -- okay, so now  
34 we have a motion -- we have an approved second the  
35 motion for Mitch as a nominee. All in favor of that  
36 motion, this is just to nominate him, it's not to  
37 approve him, just to have him on the slate of nominees,  
38 say aye.  
39  
40 IN UNISON: Aye.  
41  
42 ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: Okay. Any  
43 opposed say nay.  
44  
45 (No opposing votes)  
46  
47 MR. JOHNSON: Okay, we have a Chair --  
48 Mitch for nominee, any other nominations.  
49  
50 Della.

1 MS. TRUMBLE: I'd like to make a motion  
2 to close nominations for Chair.  
3  
4 MR. ROHRER: I'll second it.  
5  
6 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. We have a motion  
7 and a second to close nominations for Chair. Any  
8 discussion.  
9  
10 (No comments)  
11  
12 MR. JOHNSON: All those in favor of the  
13 motion say aye.  
14  
15 IN UNISON: Aye.  
16  
17 ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: Those opposed say  
18 nay.  
19  
20 (No opposing votes)  
21  
22 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. A motion is to now  
23 have Mitch Simeonoff as your Chair. And since Mitch is  
24 out of the room at the time I will conduct the  
25 nominations, continue, for vice Chair, just so we have  
26 somebody in the room.  
27  
28 The motions are now open for vice  
29 Chair.  
30  
31 Della.  
32  
33 MS. TRUMBLE: Point of order. Mitch, I  
34 am assuming -- we are assuming you're accepting the  
35 position of Chair.  
36  
37 MR. SIMEONOFF: I accept, and I thank  
38 you very much for your confidence.  
39  
40 (Laughter)  
41  
42 MR. JOHNSON: Well, I didn't a hear a  
43 nay vote so.....  
44  
45 (Laughter)  
46  
47 MR. JOHNSON: .....but thank you for  
48 that point of order.  
49  
50 MR. SCHWANTES: I nominate Della

1 Trumble as vice Chair.  
2  
3 MR. JOHNSON: Okay.  
4  
5 MR. ROHRER: Second.  
6  
7 MR. JOHNSON: There's a nomination and  
8 a second for Della Trumble as vice Chair. We'll  
9 just.....  
10  
11 MR. SCHWANTES: I move nominations be  
12 closed.  
13  
14 MR. JOHNSON: And the nominations have  
15 been moved to be closed, any second to that.  
16  
17 ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: Second.  
18  
19 MR. JOHNSON: Seconded. Any  
20 discussion.  
21  
22 ACTING CHAIR HOLMES: Well, I think  
23 Della would be swell, she had been our Chairman in many  
24 years past and really does a good job of representing  
25 folks in her neck of the woods and with her  
26 tremendously busy schedule she does a really good job  
27 of coordinating with the Council when we need to  
28 communicate and so she'd definitely be my selection.  
29  
30 Thank you.  
31  
32 MR. JOHNSON: Any other discussion on  
33 the motion.  
34  
35  
36 (No comments)  
37  
38 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. The motion is to  
39 -- now this is a motion to close nominations so the  
40 motion is to close nominations with the only nominee  
41 being Della Trumble for vice Chair, all in favor say  
42 aye.  
43  
44 IN UNISON: Aye.  
45  
46 MR. JOHNSON: Any opposed say nay.  
47  
48 (No opposing votes)  
49  
50 MR. JOHNSON: Motion carries. Your new

1 vice Chair is Della Trumble and I will now pass the  
2 gavel back over to Della to conduct the rest of the  
3 officer elections.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Carl.  
8 And, Council members, I guess I do accept.

9

10 At this time I'd like to open the floor  
11 for the position of secretary, do I hear a nomination.

12

13 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chair, I nominate  
14 Melissa Berns.

15

16 MR. KOSO: Second.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Got a motion  
19 made and seconded to nominate Melissa Berns. Is there  
20 any other nominations.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MR. SCHWANTES: Motion to close  
25 nominations.

26

27 MR. KOSO: Second.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We have a  
30 motion to close nominations, do I hear -- all in favor  
31 say aye.

32

33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed same  
36 sign.

37

38 (No opposing votes)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Melissa, do you  
41 accept the position as secretary?

42

43 MS. BERNS: Yes.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We have  
46 the Chair, Mitch Simeonoff; myself, Della Trumble as  
47 vice Chair; and Melissa Berns as secretary/treasurer --  
48 and I haven't done this -- or not treasurer, but  
49 secretary -- for awhile, so you'll have to bear with  
50 me, and Carl, and everybody can keep me in line here,

1 Pat can hit me this time.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: With that, I  
6 guess, we'll go ahead and move on.

7

8 Carl.

9

10 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
11 Now as we're going to get started into the business of  
12 the meeting I wanted to remind the Council members and  
13 also remind the public that when you -- if you would  
14 like to speak -- if you're not familiar with how we do  
15 things, you see we have these microphones with this  
16 button, and when the light is red that means you have a  
17 hot mic, so if you want to say anything to the Council  
18 feel free to come up to the table and just push this  
19 button and you can speak into it, that way we have a  
20 nice clear record and that also means everybody who is  
21 listening on the telephone can hear you clearly and the  
22 same goes for Council members. We know it's easy to  
23 forget but it's important so we have a nice clear  
24 record.

25

26 Thank you, Madame Chair.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Carl.  
29 And I guess with that we'll move on.

30

31 The next item on the agenda is review  
32 and approve previous minutes of the meeting, and just  
33 for the record that meeting was held in King Cove  
34 recently this past fall and we were very thankful to be  
35 able to host that meeting. We did have a good turnout,  
36 good community response, and it went very well, and  
37 fortunately people were able to get in and out. It  
38 would have been nice to have them stay longer. So I'd  
39 like to just -- you know, we were happy to have the  
40 Izembek Staff there, and -- very good meeting, we got a  
41 lot of comments, good comments from the community in  
42 regard to it.

43

44 So with that, the minutes of the last  
45 meeting, any comments.

46

47 MR. KOSO: Motion to adopt.

48

49 MR. SCHWANTES: Second.

50

1 MR. HOLMES: I have a couple of  
2 comments, if I may, Ms. Chair -- Madame Chair.

3  
4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

5  
6 MR. HOLMES: I think that, you know,  
7 this is action minutes but there was a couple details  
8 that were left out and a lot of times bureaucrats  
9 picking it up and reading it might not know that little  
10 tiny detail that went with it. And I would suggest  
11 that we add on Page 5 Rick Koso's comments, that he's  
12 mostly concerned about caribou on Adak because, you  
13 know, anyway that's important.

14  
15 On my comments, when I talked to Rick  
16 on the Koso -- Rick about the emperor geese surveys, it  
17 says it discussed my observations from attending the  
18 Subsistence Board meeting and I would suggest that the  
19 transcriber go back to the transcript and pull out  
20 those things because just simply observations, that's  
21 pretty broad. Actually that should be on Page 7 there,  
22 my comments on the rural determination process. And I  
23 guess I could crystalize it and say that going to the  
24 Federal Board meeting it was really rewarding because  
25 they decided to listen to our community and our Council  
26 and all the other Councils and basically flipped the  
27 whole process and we'll be going into that tonight in  
28 great detail and so I was very complimentary about the  
29 fact that the rural determination review was moving  
30 forward in a very positive way.

31  
32 And then Della made a comment on the  
33 cattle on the islands where the Maritime Refuge wishes  
34 to remove them and I thought that her comments that the  
35 cattle belonged to the local residents of Sand Point,  
36 and that they were supplement for meat that was lost to  
37 folks that can't get caribou anymore because they --  
38 because of wolves on the Peninsula and the decline of  
39 the herds, that the cattle were important for folks as  
40 food.

41  
42 And so I'll just leave it at that for  
43 adding those suggestions to the minutes. Thank you,  
44 Mrs. Chair.

45  
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other  
47 comments with regard to the minutes.

48  
49 Rick, any comments.

50

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Mitch and  
4 Antone, you're on line, do you have any comments in  
5 regards to the minutes of September 11th.  
6  
7 MR. SIMEONOFF: Yeah, this is Mitch, I  
8 have no comments at this time, Madame Chair.  
9  
10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, hearing no  
11 other comments, we have a motion to approve the minutes  
12 by Richard Koso and seconded Tom, and Pat did make some  
13 recommended changes. All in favor signify -- oh, call  
14 for question.  
15  
16 MS. BERNS: Question.  
17  
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Question has  
19 been called by Melissa Berns. Signify by saying aye.  
20  
21 IN UNISON: Aye.  
22  
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed same  
24 sign.  
25  
26 (No opposing votes)  
27  
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.  
29  
30 At this time we will begin the Council  
31 member reports and I guess we kind of -- Melissa kind  
32 of gave us a briefing.....  
33  
34 (Laughter)  
35  
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: .....so if you  
37 want to go ahead, maybe, Rebecca, then we'll go this  
38 way.  
39  
40 Thank you.  
41  
42 MS. SKINNER: I wanted to report out on  
43 the North Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting.  
44 I was down in Seattle last week.  
45  
46 Just briefly, the Council had a joint  
47 work session with the IPHC, the International Pacific  
48 Halibut Commission, and it sounded like that was a  
49 fairly historic event. Nobody could remember the last  
50 time those two bodies jointly met. There was a lot of

1 discussion on data, so data collection, use of data,  
2 wanting a common understanding of data and terms  
3 between the two bodies. And the fact that the IPHC  
4 right now doesn't completely consider the under 26 inch  
5 halibut in their model, so that's created a problem  
6 with halibut estimates. And then they have data that  
7 halibut really move quite a bit so they had a map  
8 showing halibut in the Bering Sea, that it migrated all  
9 over pretty much Alaskan waters. And they are working  
10 to upgrade discard mortality rates that were originally  
11 developed in the 1960s and '70s, and, again, this is  
12 going to have a big impact on halibut estimates. And  
13 then a lot of discussion on balancing, on the Council  
14 side, the 10 national standards, so balancing the usage  
15 of halibut as bycatch versus the directed fisheries and  
16 the fact that it's a really tough balancing act that  
17 they're going to have to work through.

18  
19 So that's a very, very brief update on  
20 a week long meeting, so, thank you.

21  
22 MS. BERNS: I guess I'll go backwards.

23  
24 I'm Melissa Berns from Old Harbor  
25 representing the community of Old Harbor, born and  
26 raised there, lived my whole life. Raised a  
27 subsistence lifestyle and I continue to do so now and  
28 share that with my children and with me -- well, I  
29 teach within the school and through the tribe and so  
30 share my knowledge and continue to learn from the  
31 elders and those around me on subsistence practices.

32  
33 So very, very important to me.

34  
35 I already gave my little brief update  
36 there.

37  
38 I just want to emphasize on the crap,  
39 that we continue to struggle with our crab stocks and  
40 that's something that was shared with me by many  
41 community members and a concern for us and hope to --  
42 that there's more studies going into this and I'm very  
43 thankful that commercial fishing is closed for this  
44 season and hopefully our crab stocks can come back up.

45  
46 That's all I have.

47  
48 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I'm Rick Koso. I  
49 represent Adak and the Aleutians.

50

1 I've been in Adak since 2001. Adak is  
2 a little different. We don't have a big population and  
3 it's expensive to get there so we don't get the  
4 problems that a lot of the Kodiak Island area people  
5 do. There's plenty of subsistence, the halibut,  
6 there's plenty of caribou yet still on the island. And  
7 we've been having a lot more hunters showing up on  
8 Adak. This year, this last year was probably the most  
9 I've ever seen. We probably had hunters coming in on  
10 almost every airplane.

11  
12 Caribou used to come down on the north  
13 side, I don't see that happening any more when it  
14 snowed. I think that's due to the concentration of the  
15 hunters. But the south side, being able to get around  
16 there on and off, I was able to still see plenty of  
17 caribou. And I think the count, if I'm not mistaken,  
18 is still up in the 25, 2,600 range, so we're still  
19 doing real well in the caribou. There's been a couple  
20 that's been spotted across on the Kagalaska, the other  
21 island, and Fish and Wildlife is dealing with that  
22 right now. You know, the people of Adak would like to  
23 just see them leave them alone and let them go ahead  
24 and build themselves up a little stock. Caribou is --  
25 having Alaska Airlines come through Adak twice a week,  
26 it's very easy to get a mileage ticket for little money  
27 so we've been getting a lot of people coming through  
28 Adak so it's been keeping the caribou herd, in my mind,  
29 down pretty well.

30  
31 But outside of that, our subsistence  
32 and our fisheries and our birds and our caribou has  
33 been very, very good. Nobody's been having any trouble  
34 getting their subsistence fill. And like I said it's  
35 probably due to our location and we do have -- we're  
36 still plenty full as far as being able to get your  
37 subsistence.

38  
39 We're in the process of creating a  
40 small king crab fishery right now. We've been working  
41 on that for a couple of years. Hopefully we'll do the  
42 survey this summer on that and hopefully we'll have a  
43 small boat fishery in 2016.

44  
45 And I did attend the IPHC meetings in  
46 Canada. It's been kind of historic, I guess, because  
47 it's the first year of the last five years I've been  
48 attending that they never cut us. I think 2B is the  
49 only one -- or 3B is the only one that got cut a little  
50 bit. But everywhere else stayed the same and actually

1 came up in different areas. So the resource is coming  
2 back a little bit. There's been a big push through --  
3 from the Canadians on the trawl bycatch, that's been a  
4 big battle. We had 28 processors there at the meeting  
5 and they were pretty agreeable with us on our, I think,  
6 for the first time on some of our discussions, on this  
7 bycatch. They know if they keep the bycatch going like  
8 it is they're going to be in trouble, you know, that  
9 fishery could be jeopardized. So, anyway, it turned  
10 out very well. We got along very well with the  
11 processors and the fishermen and that was good to see  
12 for the first time in a long time. So the openings,  
13 you know, a little bit different this year, about a  
14 week shorter. But outside of that it was a very good  
15 meeting, and everybody came out pretty happy.

16

17 So, I guess that's about all I have.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 MR. HOLMES: I'm Pat Holmes. Came to  
22 Kodiak in '63, went to college and came back forever,  
23 and I'll probably be racing Tom Schwantes with a  
24 wheelchair at the Senior Center in a few years. And  
25 becoming much more of a consumptive user in that I  
26 can't really get up the mountains as well. And blew my  
27 knee out and had trouble with my skiff this year so I  
28 ended up having the revelation of being on the  
29 receiving side of subsistence and my neighbor gave me a  
30 bunch of salmon when he saw my skiff didn't move.  
31 Another friend gave me some elk. And another  
32 acquaintance gave me a little bit of deer. And so that  
33 broadened up my little forays down to the tide pools  
34 quite a bit for our food and also had -- somebody gave  
35 us a case of canned salmon so it helped balance out all  
36 the years of giving away two-thirds of what I  
37 harvested.

38

39 I'd like to make a comment that I --  
40 with Della's suggestion, put the feelers out to the  
41 local bird watchers and stuff and one of our guides  
42 told me he had sighted 150 emperor geese the first week  
43 in the month, was during the actual survey out west, so  
44 that was incredible to have that many emperor geese  
45 right here in Womens Bay, that just has not happened in  
46 anybody's recent memory.

47

48 I've helped do some brainstorming on  
49 the soupduck questions over in Uyak Bay, and the  
50 Koniag, their resource manager there, is working on a

1 grant and has worked with Nate, the local game  
2 biologist, and also with the Refuge, and with the  
3 schools over in Larsen Bay to start implementing a  
4 program to monitor the ducks over there and I've had a  
5 feeler from someone on a harvest end that as this  
6 develops they might try to help us out on the hunter  
7 surveys, maybe, so hopefully we'll be able to once  
8 again use a Kodiak model, find somebody that can pull  
9 together a little money and get the agencies working  
10 together and community support to try and solve the  
11 declining soupducks over on the west side.

12

13                   And let's see, oh, oh, a really  
14 important thing, and I didn't call you, Tom, several  
15 years ago some of our members were confronted by the  
16 Alaska Fish and Wildlife Protection and advised that  
17 they could not retain grey cod while fishing with the  
18 subsistence halibut permit and the new Sergeant  
19 Nickolson at the local detachment spent some time,  
20 talked to the Lieutenant and they clarified that it is  
21 okay to keep grey cod on a halibut longline when you're  
22 subsistence halibut fishing. You can't keep lingcod or  
23 other fish but you can keep the grey cod. And so that  
24 has been the result of what, Tom, about three years  
25 worth of trying to get it clarified. Because when you  
26 bring a grey cod up, his eyeballs pop out and unless  
27 you had some way to deflate him and take him to the  
28 bottom again, so that's kosher and so that is really,  
29 really swell.

30

31                   And so there's -- like I mentioned I'm  
32 a consumptive hunter now and quite frankly I can't get  
33 to the top of the mountain and unless the critter is  
34 down real close I don't even bother. But in talking to  
35 more frisky folks, the road system has improved a  
36 little bit on deer but has a long ways to go and so  
37 some people are still having difficulty on this end of  
38 the island getting their deer for subsistence.

39

40                   And so with that I'll be quiet, thank  
41 you, Madame Chair.

42

43                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Sam.

44

45                   MR. ROHRER: I don't have too much to  
46 report, just two areas of interest specifically for me.

47

48                   I'm looking forward to getting a little  
49 bit more into discussion of the deer population on the  
50 east side, I know there was some concerns. I missed

1 the fall meeting, unfortunately. But I know it was  
2 discussed quite a bit there so I'm looking forward to  
3 hearing some more discussion at this meeting.

4  
5 But then the other thing I just wanted  
6 to briefly mention, I think the meeting tonight -- I  
7 encourage everyone to come to the meeting tonight that  
8 we'll be discussing rural determination. We do need to  
9 be careful, there's quite a bit of misinformation out  
10 there about it. I was perusing social media last night  
11 and discovered there's some people pretty concerned  
12 about it but they didn't understand. The comment was  
13 didn't we just go through all this like two years ago,  
14 I remember having this whole discussion. So that  
15 discussion was when we were actually fighting for our  
16 rural determination, this discussion is talking about  
17 how rural determination is figured or decided. So,  
18 anyways, I think it's an important meeting tonight and  
19 I hope everyone comes. And I think just in your  
20 discussions, as a Council, and in our discussions with  
21 folks out on the street with folks from our community,  
22 I think it's important that we try to explain, clearly  
23 explain what that process is and that we're not  
24 actually going through a rural determination process,  
25 we're helping to shape how those are done in the  
26 future.

27  
28 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I just have a  
29 couple items.

30  
31 The big things that I'm hearing  
32 concerns about are the deer population on the east side  
33 of the island.

34  
35 Another concern that I've heard quite a  
36 bit about is the crash of the red salmon at Pasagshak  
37 this past summer. That has turned into quite a  
38 subsistence fishery and it was totally shut down this  
39 past year so that concerned a lot of people.

40  
41 And the other thing that has been an  
42 issue and I guess will continue to be for some time is  
43 the emperor geese issue.

44  
45 That's all I have, Madame Chair.

46  
47 MS. CHERNOFF: And as I am really new  
48 to this, I don't really have anything to report on.

49  
50 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Mitch, do you

1 have a report at this time.

2

3 MR. SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Madame  
4 Chair.

5

6 Just a couple of concerns that came out  
7 of Akhiok. This is Mitch Simeonoff. I'm a subsistence  
8 representative for Kodiak and the Aleutians.

9

10 A couple of the concerns that came out  
11 of Akhiok, we have a subsistence river called Upper  
12 Station in Olga Bay. The concern is we had, over the  
13 years the return of salmon has been decreasing and just  
14 a few years ago people used to go up there and get  
15 their subsistence salmon and, you know, set out a net  
16 and an hour later you got your fish but now you got to  
17 make a couple of trips and that salmon stream is like  
18 28 miles away. It takes a lot of fuel for someone to  
19 go up there and not be able to catch fish. But that  
20 salmon stream has been a major salmon stream for years.  
21 The concern is that they want to try to figure out why  
22 the numbers are declining and it's also affecting the  
23 commercial fishery in all of Alitak Bay.

24

25 And the other concern with the low deer  
26 population, a lot of people are going out this year,  
27 and when they used to get two or three now they're  
28 coming back with only one. I don't know, the mild  
29 weather might be part of it because you I see a lot of  
30 deer way up high on the mountain. You got to be a  
31 sportshunter to go after those. You can spend a day or  
32 two looking for a couple deer up on the mountain.

33

34 But those are the two concerns from  
35 here, and I don't have anything else.

36

37 Thank you, Madame Chair.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.  
40 Antone, do you have anything.

41

42 MR. SHELIKOFF: This is Antone. I just  
43 have a short report here.

44

45 One was I couldn't get to the meeting  
46 in person because it was too much of a risk to get to  
47 Dutch Harbor and have my plane cancel and I didn't want  
48 to take that risk.

49

50 But on subjects that matter, we have

1 one calf taken from Akun and we don't know --  
2 (indiscernible) are invasive. And our seaduck  
3 population is good. Mostly because there is hardly any  
4 competition for our seaducks. And emperor geese, in my  
5 opinion, is probably on the increase. And I may have a  
6 few questions if answered during the meeting, if that's  
7 okay, too. But that's all I had.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
12 Antone.

13

14 I guess from King Cove and our area, I  
15 think we all know the weather has been fairly mild, I  
16 don't think any of us have seen weather like this -- I  
17 never have, growing up out there. It's been very mild.  
18 We had the most beautiful hot summer in our whole -- in  
19 my whole life, I think, in King Cove, and a very mild  
20 winter. I thought last winter was mild but we  
21 definitely got it beat this winter.

22

23 You know, there's a lot of concern, I  
24 think right now, not having any snowpack and the impact  
25 that that may have on our creeks. Last summer it was  
26 so hot and dry, you know, there was no water in the  
27 creeks for fish to come up and that, right now, is  
28 starting to be a concern.

29

30 As far as caribou, people were able to  
31 harvest caribou by Tier, from the State, and I do know  
32 and am aware that people have been able to do that.  
33 I'm not aware, though, of anybody that has harvested  
34 under the Federal drawings at this point. I haven't  
35 heard anything.

36

37 But I think the guys are out cod  
38 fishing right now and I know the pollock fishermen are  
39 kind of standing down based on looking at the bycatch  
40 on king salmon to see where that goes in the next few  
41 days.

42

43 And then just as another comment, I  
44 think, I'm very happy to see that we do have a couple  
45 people from Migratory Birds in the audience today.  
46 That's been a discussion from this group for many, many  
47 years, and I'm hopeful that we can start some sort of  
48 process with that and be able to understand where this  
49 Council has been coming from representing people within  
50 our region with regard to emperor geese, but, yes,

1 thank you.

2

3 Carl, what are the plans for breaking  
4 for lunch.

5

6 MR. JOHNSON: Well, Madame Chair, lunch  
7 breaks are at the discretion of the Council. Looking  
8 at the agenda, the Chair's report -- typically what we  
9 do for the Chair's report, whoever attended the Board  
10 meeting kind of goes over what was there, but  
11 unfortunately.....

12

13 MS. YUHAS: We lost you in  
14 teleconference land.

15

16 MR. JOHNSON: Hello. Okay, that's  
17 better. Teleconference is fine, it's the microphone  
18 that isn't.

19

20 So typically it's the person who  
21 attended the Board meeting who let's everybody know  
22 what happened at the Board meeting. Mitch wasn't able  
23 to make it due to a death in the family. So we can  
24 give a brief report on what happened at the Board  
25 meeting, and that would conclude the Chair's report.  
26 And then I would suggest that perhaps maybe if we could  
27 get the public and tribal comment on non-agenda items  
28 done before lunch, and then that way we could break for  
29 lunch after that.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, that  
32 sounds good to me. Do you want to cover the report for  
33 the last meeting then.

34

35 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, certainly.

36

37 So just some quick highlights on what  
38 happened at the last Federal Subsistence Board meeting.  
39 There were no regional proposals from the  
40 Kodiak/Aleutians region that were before the Board.  
41 This was a fisheries regulatory cycle meeting. So the  
42 only proposal that this Council discussed was a  
43 statewide proposal, and that was Proposal FP15-01  
44 related to adding a definition of hooks in Federal  
45 regulations that could include either a barbed or  
46 barbless hook, and that was a proposal submitted by the  
47 Southcentral Council. Because in the absence of  
48 Federal regulations, State regulations govern. There  
49 was no Federal regulation at the time related to hooks.  
50 So when the State passed regulations that required

1 barbless hook only, that prohibited subsistence users  
2 under the Federal Program of using a barbed hook. So  
3 they submitted a proposal. This Council and all of the  
4 other Councils all supported the proposal and in the  
5 end there was a regulation that was adopted that added  
6 definitions of hook to include barbed and barbless hook  
7 to Federal regulations.

8

9                   There were a variety of proposals out  
10 of the Yukon River that related to -- one was related  
11 to gillnet use on the river. A lot of the proposals  
12 were on what's called the consensus agenda, which means  
13 the Regional Advisory Councils agree, the Inter-Agency  
14 Staff Committee agree and the State agrees, and so  
15 those were all adopted without discussion.

16

17                   But I would say probably the biggest  
18 one that's caught a lot of attention is the Federal  
19 Subsistence Board adopting two regulations related to  
20 the use of the gillnet for Federal subsistence users on  
21 the Kenai Peninsula. One was a community gillnet, a  
22 single net for the community of Ninilchik for the  
23 Kasilof River, that was adopted. And that will allow  
24 that community, still maintaining their existing  
25 harvest quota, allow them to add the additional gear  
26 type of gillnet on the Kasilof River if their  
27 operational plan is approved by the in-season manager.  
28 And then, similarly, the Board also passed a regulation  
29 for a community gillnet for Ninilchik, with approval of  
30 operational plan, for the Kenai River, and additional  
31 communities that have customary and traditional use  
32 determinations, Cooper Landing and Hope, are also  
33 eligible for that but they, too, would have to have an  
34 operational plan approved by the Federal Subsistence  
35 Board -- or correction, the in-season manager on that  
36 proposal.

37

38                   The Board approved of some matters  
39 related to ANCSA Corporation consultation and the  
40 tribal implementation guidelines, which you will hear  
41 Orville Lind talk about tomorrow.

42

43                   And those are kind of the highlights.  
44 The Board did set its next work session this June or  
45 July related to some matters. And the Board also put  
46 forward -- heard a briefing on the process and the  
47 rural determination issue which we'll have that public  
48 meeting on tonight and the Council will be addressing  
49 tomorrow.

50

1                                   And those are the highlights, Madame  
2 Chair, thank you.  
3  
4                                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Carl.  
5 Does anybody have any questions for Carl.  
6  
7                                   (No comments)  
8  
9                                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Comments.  
10  
11                                   (No comments)  
12  
13                                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Moving right  
14 along. We do have the public and tribal comment on  
15 non-agenda items. If anybody at this time has anything  
16 they would like to speak to.....  
17  
18                                   MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair.  
19  
20                                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.  
21  
22                                   MR. SCHWANTES: I just want to make a  
23 comment. Sam and I were talking about it earlier, this  
24 will be the first meeting for either one of us when we  
25 haven't had the opportunity to hear from our good  
26 friend, Iver Malutin.  
27  
28                                   MR. HOLMES: Oh, yes.  
29  
30                                   MR. SCHWANTES: And, you know, Iver's  
31 always been at this meeting, he always made a lot of  
32 comments, told a lot of stories, but Iver was a wealth  
33 of information and we're going to miss him.  
34  
35                                   Thanks.  
36  
37                                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.  
38  
39                                   Carl.  
40  
41                                   MR. JOHNSON: I just want to note for  
42 everybody who is here in the room, that if you do want  
43 to come and talk to, present anything to the Council,  
44 or talk to the Council, there's some blue public  
45 testimony slips over there on the table when you first  
46 came in, please feel those out and you can give it  
47 either to me or Karen and we'll make sure that you get  
48 a chance to talk to the Council and that's for anything  
49 that's on any agenda items you want to talk about, or  
50 for this period of the public and tribal comment on

1 non-agenda items, and then of course if there's anybody  
2 on the phone who needs to say anything, just make sure  
3 -- well, we'll keep checking on you and see if you have  
4 anything to add, but if we're missing you just chime in  
5 and let us know.

6

7 Thank you, Madame Chair.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Carl.  
10 And maybe as a point, too, and I forgot this this  
11 morning, when you do speak, to be sure to say your name  
12 for the court reporter.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 Pat, did you have something.

17

18 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Madame Chair. A  
19 thought just came to me. I remember many years ago  
20 when Iver said that I could call him uncle, and that  
21 was the most astounding thing I -- I recall. But I  
22 would like to suggest, and I'd like to volunteer for  
23 it, maybe with some members of our Council, would be to  
24 kind of write up some sort of memorial statement about  
25 Iver and his affect on our Council. I know sometimes  
26 he'd drive Mitch nuts by wanting to talk forever, but  
27 maybe something humorous but also empathetic and then  
28 we could enter that in our minutes of this meeting; if  
29 that would be okay with you Madame Chair.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I don't have --  
32 I mean I think that would be a great idea. I know I  
33 haven't been here personally or physically so to speak  
34 but I was on the line all the time and did hear Iver a  
35 lot and when I did make it to Kodiak many times over  
36 the years, being on this Council, I always enjoyed  
37 hearing from him and I think as we all get older, too,  
38 and our elders that are older, are moving on, it really  
39 makes, I think, the importance of us being able to do,  
40 I think, our roles with this Council to represent the  
41 people that we work here for.

42

43 So is there any other comments.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none, I  
48 think we will go ahead and break for lunch. What time  
49 would you like to return.

50

1 MR. KOSO: 1:00.  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: You think 1:00  
4 o'clock will work for everybody, there's a lot on the  
5 agenda, does that work for everybody.  
6  
7 (Council nods affirmatively)  
8  
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. At this  
10 time motion to recess until 1:00 o'clock.  
11  
12 MR. SIMEONOFF: Okay. I'll call back  
13 in at 1:00, enjoy your lunch.  
14  
15 (Off record)  
16  
17 (On record)  
18  
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right, good  
20 afternoon everybody. We'll go ahead and call the  
21 meeting to order. Just a couple things for -- we may  
22 do some change up on the agenda as we go because we  
23 would like to wait for another member from the  
24 Migratory Birds and we're waiting on that schedule so  
25 we may shift this agenda around a little bit.  
26  
27 And a matter that we also forgot this  
28 morning, we'd like to thank Vince Tutiakoff and Pete  
29 Squartsoff for their past service on this Council. And  
30 I know I've worked with both of them many years off and  
31 on in my participation and many of us have and we will  
32 miss them both.  
33  
34 And I guess with that, I think, is  
35 there anything, Carl, can you think of right now?  
36  
37 MR. JOHNSON: No, Madame Chair, I  
38 believe we're ready to proceed with the agenda.  
39  
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.  
41  
42 The other thing that I didn't -- if  
43 anybody has something that they would like to present  
44 from the public and you have other -- if you need to go  
45 and do other things, just let us know and we'll try to  
46 accommodate you in the schedule.  
47  
48 So with that we'll go ahead and move to  
49 customary and traditional use determination.  
50



1 and traditional use determination process and if we  
2 could allow each Regional Advisory Council to determine  
3 its own process in identifying subsistence users; and  
4 the third one was to require the Boards to defer to the  
5 Regional Advisory Councils recommendations on customary  
6 and traditional use determinations.

7

8                   So the purpose of this analysis is to  
9 better inform the Southeast Council of the possible  
10 effects of the changes, which could change the  
11 determination process, but as part of trying to give  
12 all the Regional Councils information we're including  
13 the briefings for everybody to read.

14

15                   Okay.

16

17                   And with that, that concludes my  
18 briefing.

19

20                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So any questions  
21 or comments at this time.

22

23                   MR. HOLMES: One small question. When  
24 will this come back up again or come back before the  
25 Councils?

26

27                   MS. INGLES: I know they're going to  
28 wait until the end of the RAC cycles and we will be  
29 looking at the feedback that we receive from the RACs,  
30 so I assume we will be working on it over the summer.

31

32                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Sam.

33

34                   MR. ROHRER: Through the Chair. So two  
35 questions.

36

37                   So we do need to provide feedback, this  
38 Council does need to provide feedback on this for this  
39 summer -- for your discussions for this summer; is that  
40 correct?

41

42                   MS. INGLES: If you would like to.

43

44                   MR. ROHRER: Okay. And then the second  
45 question I had was, you listed three proposed options,  
46 but what I missed -- the three proposed options, who  
47 proposed those and are those -- were they recommended  
48 -- just talk a little bit about that, where those  
49 options came from?

50

1 MS. INGLES: Okay. The three options  
2 would go together. And this is what the Southeast  
3 Council had asked the anthropologists to analyze, you  
4 know, what would happen if we were to look at -- one of  
5 the things we're trying to do, is look at this  
6 regionally and realizing that we have differences  
7 between the Regional Councils and so we wanted to be  
8 able to address, you know, what's happening within each  
9 region. So the three things that we addressed within  
10 that briefing, the -- it's a fairly long.....

11

12 MR. ROHRER: Yes.

13

14 MS. INGLES: .....you have it in your  
15 supplemental sheet, is to -- right now we have eight  
16 factors that we have to go through and the Southeast is  
17 thinking that may not be the best way so they just want  
18 to look at other ideas. And so the three things that  
19 they were looking for was to allow -- one of them would  
20 be allow each Regional Advisory Council to determine  
21 its own process to determine subsistence users. And  
22 then the third of that was requiring the Board to refer  
23 to Regional Advisory Councils recommendations. So we  
24 have an analysis of that, what would happen with each  
25 of those three steps.

26

27 MR. ROHRER: And the analysis is in --  
28 I'm looking for those three steps laid out in here with  
29 the analysis, and so.....

30

31 MS. INGLES: Okay. If you look -- if  
32 you look starting Page 3 they've listed how the  
33 proposed Federal regulations could be done.

34

35 So for example if you look under 36 CFR  
36 (a), it says, the Board shall determine which fish  
37 stocks and wildlife populations have been customarily  
38 and traditionally used for subsistence within a  
39 geographic area. So that's where it starts to list  
40 them out and look at it.

41

42 MR. ROHRER: Okay, thank you.

43

44 MS. INGLES: Uh-huh. Any other  
45 questions.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MS. INGLES: All right, thank you.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.  
2  
3 MR. SIMEONOFF: Madame Chair, this is  
4 Mitch.  
5  
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Mitch.  
7  
8 MR. SIMEONOFF: Yeah, I was just  
9 thinking when a tribe establishes customary and  
10 traditional use, I think that's the first thing they  
11 need to establish is their relationship with the  
12 tribes. For instance, if a tribe on the mainland  
13 wanted to establish customary and traditional use on  
14 Kodiak, they would first have to confer with the tribes  
15 and confirm with the tribes that they have been using  
16 an area to establish that customary and traditional  
17 use.  
18  
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Mitch, this is  
20 Della, are you asking that that be added or should we  
21 -- maybe, Carl, talk about this.  
22  
23 MR. SIMEONOFF: Well, it should already  
24 be there. It's not for us or the agencies to grant  
25 customary and traditional use, it's the conferring of  
26 tribes with other tribes. After they establish with  
27 the tribes then we can -- they can bring it to the RACs  
28 for recommendation to the Federal Board.  
29  
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Carl, go ahead  
31 and then Pat.  
32  
33 MR. JOHNSON: I think what Mitch is  
34 talking about is something separate and aside from the  
35 Federal Subsistence Program looking at who has a  
36 customary and traditional use determination. I think  
37 what Mitch is talking about is the custom and courtesy  
38 between tribes when going from your own tribal land to  
39 another, you know, traditional tribal area, you  
40 communicating with the tribe that you're going to about  
41 going into their land and their resources. But that's  
42 a separately issue, culturally, from what we, at the  
43 Federal Subsistence Management Program do, which is to  
44 look at both Native and non-Native rural use of  
45 resources.  
46  
47 Thank you, Madame Chair.  
48  
49 MR. SIMEONOFF: Okay, thank you, Madame  
50 Chair.

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Sam.

2

3 MR. ROHRER: As I look at this, the  
4 eight factors aren't perfect that are currently used  
5 but I have a tremendous amount of concern with their  
6 three ideas on the front page, I mean a tremendous  
7 amount of concern. I can see where there could be a  
8 lot of issues and a lot of abuse there. So I think  
9 that -- I'd like to see our Council, if this is the  
10 appropriate time, have a full discussion about this.

11

12 Yeah, I think that if this is something  
13 that's going to be a recommendation coming from OSM  
14 this summer, I think we need to put a lot of thought  
15 and effort into studying this before -- and most  
16 definitely we need to comment on this.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MR. HOLMES: Well, I just need to read  
21 through this packet seriously evaluate it. I know our  
22 Council, when we've discussed this before, were  
23 empathetic with Bertrand's Council and what they wanted  
24 to achieve, but having most of the fish and critters  
25 and use already done in our region, I think we had  
26 previously stated -- I got to go in the back and see  
27 what our summary was, that we were content with it. So  
28 I'd really like to look at this more in-depth and come  
29 back to it before, I guess, we'd have to do it tomorrow  
30 or -- I don't know, I hate to drag things out but I  
31 guess that's a question, is to do we defer this and  
32 that's everybody's homework tonight.

33

34 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair. This is Pippa  
35 Kenner.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pippa.

38

39 MS. KENNER: Can I put on the list for  
40 comment?

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.

43

44 MS. KENNER: Should I go now?

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, go ahead.

47

48 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
49 Yeah, my name is Pippa Kenner and I work with Palma in  
50 the Anchorage office at the Office of Subsistence

1 Management and I just had a few things that I wanted to  
2 tell you that may guide your discussions.

3

4                   The Southeast Alaska Council has not  
5 made a proposal to change regulations. But they were  
6 told several times that in order for us to answer some  
7 of their questions it needed to come to us in a  
8 proposal format. One of the reasons why they were  
9 asked to do this is because it's such a complicated  
10 subject, it's very difficult to educate, teach and  
11 explain without having a problem in front of you. In  
12 addition to that there are four Councils at this time  
13 that are still working on the review. Your Council, in  
14 2013, had a long discussion and there were people who  
15 felt that aspect of the C&T determination process  
16 weren't ideal but the Council voted to make no change  
17 -- didn't vote, but recommended that no changes be made  
18 to the C&T process. However, we have the Bristol Bay  
19 Council, the Seward Penn Council, the Northwest Arctic  
20 Council and the North Slope Council who continue to  
21 work on it.

22

23                   So this briefing is given to you  
24 because an analysis was done for the Southeast Alaska  
25 Council and it is in front of you, the template, for  
26 you to ask additional questions about aspects of the  
27 C&T determination process that you might be confused  
28 with or not understand. We're presenting this to you  
29 just to give you the information. You can comment on  
30 the C&T process at any time and we really welcome those  
31 comments. But no action is required on -- a proposal  
32 hasn't come to us to change regulation, this is an  
33 exercise just to see what the potential impacts would  
34 be statewide of some of these ideas for change that  
35 have been floated by Council members.

36

37                   Thank you, Madame Chair.

38

39                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
40 Pippa.

41

42                   Carl.

43

44                   MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
45 I think Pippa covered the high points. I was just  
46 going to note that really this briefing is mostly for  
47 the benefit of the Southeast Council as they  
48 contemplate whether or not to submit a formal proposal  
49 but they wanted it shared with all the Councils so you  
50 could continue to dialogue. So this is something that

1 all Councils will have an opportunity to ask questions  
2 about.

3

4 If the Southeast Council does decide to  
5 submit a formal proposal to change our regulations on  
6 C&T determinations, then you would have an opportunity  
7 to comment on that proposal, like you do with any other  
8 proposal that goes before the Federal Subsistence  
9 Board.

10

11 Thank you, Madame Chair.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So for purposes  
14 of process that we don't really need to do anything, is  
15 it appropriate to -- if everybody wanted to look at  
16 this and maybe if they had any comments in regard to it  
17 prior to the closing of this meeting, to bring those  
18 forward so at least Southeast is aware of what those  
19 may be.

20

21 MS. INGLES: We would recommend that  
22 you do that if you would like to and we welcome any  
23 comments that you have. For those of you who have the  
24 briefing in front of you, if you look at Page 27 we do  
25 have it listed as to what your RAC decided the last  
26 time around.

27

28 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, this is  
29 Pippa again.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pippa, if you  
32 could hold on, I got Rebecca and then Pippa.

33

34 MS. KENNER: Yes.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

37

38 MS. SKINNER: For, I guess, for my  
39 benefit since I don't know that I was even in the  
40 audience for the discussion of C&T the last time you  
41 discussed it and I did read the Kodiak section on Page  
42 27, but can somebody kind of summarize or paraphrase,  
43 what were the concerns that this Council had with  
44 Southeast proposal because I don't think I'm  
45 understanding what those -- oh.....

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pippa,  
48 I'll have you go ahead and answer that because you kind  
49 of did a little bit ago.

50

1 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
2 Just thinking a minute, I'm thinking about what the  
3 concerns were. What is written in your packets, what  
4 we have done is offered each of the Councils a look at  
5 what the other Councils thought. So that's what  
6 Appendix A is, it's to bring you up to date on where we  
7 are, what the Councils were asked and what they said.

8  
9 In addition, we have added two other  
10 pieces of information in Appendix A for every Council.

11  
12 One is we pulled out of all the  
13 comments, comments that in some way were specific to  
14 that region. Something that Council members felt made  
15 their region different that they would want a C&T  
16 process to address.

17  
18 The other thing that we identified were  
19 the outstanding issues, concerns and questions that in  
20 us reading through the transcripts we did not see that  
21 those questions had been answered.

22  
23 Then the third thing that's added  
24 underneath each Council is the action the Council has  
25 actually taken.

26  
27 The next step will be to -- for the  
28 Southeast Alaska Council to meet next month and decide  
29 if they're going to submit a proposal to the  
30 Secretaries to modify the C&T determination process.

31  
32 And then other than that we have three  
33 Councils that are still -- excuse me, those four  
34 Councils are outstanding and haven't completed what  
35 we're calling the Secretarial Review of the C&T  
36 process.

37  
38 MS. SKINNER: Thanks.

39  
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Does that answer  
41 your question. Page 26 had voted to keep determination  
42 process as is, is Kodiak/Aleutians, however, they did  
43 note outstanding issues and concerns and there were two  
44 of them on Page 27. And I think if I recall part of  
45 this discussion at some point in time from the regions,  
46 there was some idea for even the regions to set their  
47 own C&T and that was part of that discussion also; is  
48 that correct?

49  
50 MS. INGLES: That is correct, Madame

1 Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

4

5 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I think your  
6 clarification did help. And maybe, Sam, you indicated  
7 you had some concerns based on the front page and I  
8 guess I'm still not clear on what the concerns were so  
9 I'm hoping to get a little clarity on that.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Sam.

12

13 MR. ROHRER: Through the Chair. I  
14 certainly can. I mean I do need to read through it to  
15 refresh my mind on it. I can just briefly, if this is  
16 a good time, or I can talk to Rebecca afterwards at  
17 some point, it's -- I can talk about briefly my  
18 concerns now if you'd like but.....

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think -- what  
21 is the Council -- go ahead, Rebecca.

22

23 MS. SKINNER: If -- I mean I don't  
24 mind, if it's appropriate to have this discussion,  
25 tomorrow, I do -- it does seem -- I mean I know there  
26 was discussion, it sounds like there were concerns, I'm  
27 not quite understanding what they were and I think the  
28 answers to my questions will come more from the actual  
29 Council members but I do see value, you know, for  
30 people that do want to review the briefing again and we  
31 can come back and discuss it tomorrow. But whatever  
32 the discussion is, I guess I'd rather have in the  
33 public forum.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Maybe my  
36 recommendation would be, to some degree at this point,  
37 the plan was maybe to break between 5:00 and the  
38 meeting tonight is at 7:00, if you're available at 5:00  
39 some of the Council members that would like can sit so  
40 they -- especially the new ones, to better understand  
41 what this is and then if you have recommendations, that  
42 we can maybe look at to start to bring forward tomorrow  
43 but to also -- those of us that need to go back through  
44 it more clearly tonight and refresh our memory on it,  
45 so that if we do do anything with it we do it prior to  
46 our meeting ending tomorrow.

47

48 Is that acceptable.

49

50 (Council nods affirmatively)

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.  
2  
3 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. I think  
4 that's a good idea beings we're just kind of ambling  
5 along in our discussion. I think it might be helpful  
6 if the Staff could go on line and pull out the  
7 transcript for that part of the discussions that we had  
8 before. I know that at past 70 my brain doesn't pull  
9 as good on recollections as before. Because I still --  
10 you know, I know lots of folks on the Southeast RAC and  
11 I chatted with them and I don't quite understand why  
12 they think it's necessary but, you know, I'm confident  
13 that if they like it for their region, and I think that  
14 was the summary of my comments when we went through  
15 this before, that it could be done on a regional basis  
16 but I'd like to go back and look at these questions  
17 that are summarized on Page 27 of how would the change  
18 in Federal C&T process impact an area that's mostly  
19 under State management, i.e., that we've been through  
20 it.  
21  
22 And then the other question below  
23 there, to answer that question, too.  
24  
25 So I think if we defer this that'd be  
26 good.  
27  
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good, sounds  
29 like a plan.  
30  
31 Okay, thank you.  
32  
33 MS. INGLES: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
34  
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. On my  
36 agenda, Carl, I had Orville Lind; is that correct --  
37 no.  
38  
39 MR. JOHNSON: No, Madame Chair, he'll  
40 be on the line tomorrow.  
41  
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tomorrow.  
43  
44 MR. JOHNSON: So we may just squeeze  
45 him in as we can tomorrow morning, it just depends on  
46 his availability.  
47  
48 Thank you.  
49  
50 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I hope

1 all of you don't mind us moving around like this. I  
2 hope you're ready to go if your little tag comes up  
3 sooner than you'd like.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: With that, I  
8 guess we'll move on to No. 11, new business. We've got  
9 Refuges proposed rule on hunting; Doug. Doug is with  
10 the Izembek Refuge.

11

12 (Pause)

13

14 MR. SIMEONOFF: Madame Chair, this is  
15 Mitch.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Mitch.

18

19 MR. SIMEONOFF: Yeah, do we have  
20 someone presenting a report, I'm not getting anything.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes. Doug  
23 Damberg is going to present the Refuge's proposed rule  
24 on hunting, and I'm not sure, Mitch, do you have the --  
25 or Antone, do you have that documentation.

26

27 MR. SIMEONOFF: I have something in the  
28 book from Izembek, I don't know if that's the one.

29

30 MR. DAMBERG: That won't be the one.  
31 So in the book is a summary of the proposed rule and a  
32 question and answer sheet. And what we're just handing  
33 out right now and why we have just a short delay, this  
34 is a PowerPoint presentation, we're just handing it out  
35 in paper format for simplicity sake and I'm going to be  
36 working through this and you can kind of follow along  
37 and if you have any questions, feel free at the end to  
38 ask.

39

40 The order of this might be a little bit  
41 different, what I'm going to read than what you have so  
42 let me know if we kind of get off mark or off track.

43

44 Again, my name is Doug Damberg, and I'm  
45 the Refuge manager at Izembek National Wildlife Refuge  
46 and this is Anne Marie LaRosa who's the Refuge manager  
47 at Kodiak Refuge, Steve Delahanty is the Refuge manager  
48 at Alaska Maritime Refuge and he was going to be here  
49 with us but his flight got delayed so you'll see him a  
50 little bit later. But all three of us work with the

1 Refuge system and we're working at Refuges that are in  
2 the area, of course, of the RAC and are available to  
3 answer any specific questions that you may have on the  
4 proposed regulation changes that might be impacted at  
5 each of our stations.

6  
7 I just want to point out that the  
8 packet -- a packet of information was first sent out  
9 to by Carl back in early November and since then  
10 there's been a lot of changes in the proposed  
11 regulations and so you can ignore what you saw before.  
12 The newest information is included in your packet, and,  
13 again that's the summary sheet and it'll be included  
14 also in what we just handed out to you. So it's really  
15 been greatly streamlined, yeah, thanks to a lot of  
16 great input from partners, from tribes and the State  
17 and such and really reduced significantly.

18  
19 I think the main thing that we want to  
20 say today is we want to make sure that you're aware of  
21 the proposed regulations and we really would like your  
22 input and feedback and there's going to be a time for  
23 that as we look forward, but at least we want to make  
24 sure you're aware of this and, hopefully, if you have  
25 any questions or feedback on this you can bring them to  
26 our attention.

27  
28 So just kind of as an overview, the US  
29 Fish and Wildlife Service is considering updating the  
30 regulations governing National Wildlife Refuges in  
31 Alaska to be consistent with our Federal mandates for  
32 managing these Refuges.

33  
34 Why. The US Fish and Wildlife Service  
35 is mandated to conserve fish and wildlife populations  
36 and habitats in their natural diversity and to maintain  
37 biological integrity, diversity and environmental  
38 health on Refuges in Alaska. We are required to  
39 conserve species and habitats on Refuges for the  
40 longterm, benefitting not only the present, but also  
41 future generations of Americans in Alaska, and this  
42 includes the continuation of the subsistence way of  
43 life.

44  
45 ANILCA requires that Federal agencies  
46 manage wildlife consistent with the conservation of  
47 healthy populations of wildlife. The Legislative  
48 history defines this phrase as maintenance of fish and  
49 wildlife resources in their habitats in a condition  
50 which assures stable and continuing natural populations

1 and species mix of plants and animals. We strongly  
2 support the sustainable harvest of fish and wildlife  
3 and manage these activities to ensure consistency with  
4 Refuge purposes, including managing species populations  
5 and habitats in their natural diversity on Refuges in  
6 Alaska.

7  
8 To ensure the Service's regulations are  
9 consistent with these mandates predator reduction  
10 activities with the intent or potential to alter or  
11 manipulate the natural diversity of species populations  
12 or habitats, for example, artificially increasing or  
13 decreasing wildlife populations to provide for more  
14 harvest opportunities would be prohibited on Refuges in  
15 Alaska under the proposed changes. This doesn't mean  
16 the Service will never do predator management  
17 activities but they will, under certain circumstances.

18  
19 So the question is, what are the  
20 specific proposed changes.

21  
22 There's a couple two -- two different  
23 categories of changes.

24  
25 The first is regarding methods and  
26 means for predator harvest on Refuges. And just so you  
27 know this is where there's a short list of about five  
28 different methods and means so you can catch up with  
29 where we're at.

30  
31 MS. LAROSA: Page 3.

32  
33 MR. DAMBERG: Page 3.

34  
35 Okay, and these methods and means,  
36 include, first it's take of bear sows or -- I'm sorry,  
37 take of bear cubs or sows with cubs, and there are some  
38 exceptions in some of the units of Alaska.

39  
40 MS. LAROSA: Wait. Wait. Is everybody  
41 on track so we don't.....

42  
43 MR. HOLMES: No. No.

44  
45 MS. LAROSA: Okay. The handout that we  
46 gave you, Pat, that's the best way to follow along for  
47 now, and that's Page 3.

48  
49 MR. HOLMES: Yeah.

50

1 MS. LAROSA: So on the top it says,  
2 what are the proposed changes and there's five bullets,  
3 that'll be the easiest way. Oh, your's is different.

4  
5 MR. DAMBERG: Okay. Are we all caught  
6 up, Page 3.

7  
8 (Council nods affirmatively)

9  
10 MR. DAMBERG: Okay, I'll start over on  
11 the top of this one.

12  
13 So we've got a couple different -- in  
14 the regulatory changes, the first section deals with  
15 methods and means for predator harvest on Refuges and  
16 it includes five different methods of take.

17  
18 The first is take of bear cubs or sows  
19 with cubs and there are some exceptions allowed for  
20 hunters in some of the units in different parts of the  
21 state.

22  
23 The second is take of bears using traps  
24 or snares.

25  
26 The third is take of brown bears over  
27 bait.

28  
29 Fourth is take of wolves and coyotes  
30 during the denning season.

31  
32 Fifth is take of bears from an aircraft  
33 or on the same day as air travel has occurred.

34  
35 And I'll point out that same day  
36 airborne take of wolves and wolverines is already  
37 prohibited under existing Refuge regulations.

38  
39 A second component of the proposed  
40 changes is to update public participation and Refuge  
41 closure procedures. The reason for this is so we are  
42 consistent with other Federal regulations.

43  
44 Now, I'm on Page 4 if you're following  
45 along.

46  
47 Also to include conservation of natural  
48 biological diversity, biological integrity and  
49 environmental health to the list of closure criteria.  
50 To increase the possible duration of an emergency

1 closure from 30 to 60 days and this is consistent with  
2 the timeframe for emergency special actions under  
3 Federal subsistence regulations.

4  
5                   Next, emergency closures will be  
6 effective upon public notice.

7  
8                   Temporary closure duration would only  
9 be as long as reasonably necessary but it would not  
10 ever exceed five years.

11  
12                   It would require consultation with  
13 State and affected tribes and Native corporations and  
14 provide opportunity for public comment.

15  
16                   And, finally, it would expand the  
17 methods for public notice by adding the use of the  
18 internet or other available methods in addition to  
19 traditional methods such as newspapers, radio, and  
20 signs and such.

21  
22                   So on Page 5, who do these proposed  
23 regulations apply to.

24  
25                   Just checking to make sure everybody's  
26 following along with where I'm at.

27  
28                   (Council nods affirmatively)

29  
30                   MR. DAMBERG: Good. The changes we are  
31 considering under the Refuge hunting and trapping  
32 regulations would apply only to State regulated general  
33 hunting and trapping and intensive management  
34 activities on Alaska National Wildlife Refuges. These  
35 proposed regulations would not apply to Federally-  
36 qualified subsistence users hunting or trapping under  
37 Federal subsistence regulations. Hunting and trapping  
38 of predators would still be allowed on Refuges and most  
39 state of Alaska hunting and trapping regulations,  
40 including harvest limits would still apply.

41  
42                   Okay, on Page 6, and this should be a  
43 map showing the state of Alaska.

44  
45                   The proposed regulations would only  
46 apply on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska, and those  
47 are the areas highlighted in purple on the map. It  
48 would not apply to other Federal, State, private, or  
49 Native lands or waters or even inholdings within  
50 existing Refuges.

1                   We've been asked, why not use some  
2 other process to do this and essentially this is the  
3 process we use to update Refuge regulations on Refuges.  
4 The proposed regulations are relevant to and would  
5 apply on all Alaska Refuges.

6  
7                   We'd prefer to avoid making additional  
8 regulations and have tried through meetings with the  
9 Board of Game and the State to get exceptions for  
10 application of regulations that conflict with our  
11 mandates on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska.

12  
13                   So the next slide I have on Page 8  
14 should be a table that shows the units, the hunt units,  
15 and trying to keep this simplified as possible.....

16  
17                   MS. LAROSA: Turn it over Pat. No.  
18 No. No. Right there.

19  
20                   MR. HOLMES: You don't have anything  
21 for Unit 8, so it's only 10.

22  
23                   MS. LAROSA: Well, Unit -- there's  
24 nothing for Unit 8 because it wouldn't apply to Unit 8,  
25 none of those prohibitive practices are currently  
26 allowed so there's no change for Unit 8.

27  
28                   MR. HOLMES: Well, I'm really -- Madame  
29 Chair, I'm really confused. Because none of these  
30 proposals are legal anywhere in our region on any of  
31 the Refuges. I mean it's already prohibited under  
32 State law, why does the -- why does the Refuge have to  
33 do it too?

34  
35                   MR. DAMBERG: Well, let me -- I can run  
36 these for you. They don't all apply within the units  
37 we have here and in this Kodiak/Aleutians RAC. But  
38 because this is a statewide regulation, they do apply  
39 to some of the Refuges in other areas and at each of  
40 those -- each of the RAC meetings folks will be  
41 presenting this and explaining what the differences are  
42 within each of those jurisdictions.

43  
44                   MS. LAROSA: But, you're right,  
45 Patrick, in Kodiak there's no difference, no change.

46  
47                   MR. HOLMES: No, but what I mean is,  
48 these things are already covered under State law and  
49 they're prohibited except in very few exceptions and so  
50 this is absolutely 100 percent parallel to 30 pages of

1 comments I saw about the National Park Service.  
2 Exactly the same. Has the Refuge decided -- Refuges in  
3 Alaska decided that they were going to adopt the same  
4 program as the National Park Service, and -- and this  
5 is a really important question, because, you know, one  
6 of the reasons why I became a biologist -- I've been  
7 here since statehood, was the deplorable state of fish  
8 and game management in Alaska from your predecessors in  
9 the '50s, they messed it up. I can recall when I got  
10 here you could get 7 bucks for a seal face, wasn't it,  
11 Rick, and five bucks for an eagle head.

12

13 MR. KOSO: Uh-huh.

14

15 MR. HOLMES: The type of things that  
16 have been discussed before our Council out west for  
17 Unit 9D, E is selective removal of individual wolves  
18 that cause a problem, not overall predator control.  
19 And all of this is just a massive outreach about  
20 predator control, just the same as the Park Service.  
21 And why are you folks doing this if there's already a  
22 process that covers it through the State, and at  
23 statehood there was a Federal -- Statehood Act that  
24 said that the Federal agencies would go and manage the  
25 critters, that would be done through the Board of Game  
26 and Fish and Game, and now you folks are changing that.  
27 Under ANILCA it was the same. And the conversations  
28 I've had with elders, I'm not a Native, of folks that  
29 went to AFN, when ANILCA was written, the agreement was  
30 the State would manage the critters and the fish. And  
31 this -- why this change now? I mean why didn't it  
32 happen at ANILCA?

33

34 And, you know, I can't say I know Ted  
35 Stevens personally but I went to school with his second  
36 wife and I knew a whole lot of his handlers and what  
37 you folks are doing is entirely different than what was  
38 proposed when they were putting together ANILCA and I  
39 really would suggest, because I know, you're going to  
40 get suits from the hunters, you're going to get suits  
41 from the tribes, you're going to have suits from  
42 everybody, the State; you should really go back and do  
43 your homework and look at those old things because your  
44 predecessors are gone, the ones that didn't have a  
45 problem with the management of these creatures.

46

47 So I'm sorry to be emotional, I'm just  
48 so perplexed as to why this is happening. I don't  
49 understand the need. Honestly.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. DAMBERG: Okay. Just to briefly  
4 address that.

5

6 The proposed regulations, the proposed  
7 rules are being put in place -- well, of course there's  
8 two parts so the regulatory component or the methods  
9 and means component is put in place largely because of  
10 some of the Board of Game regulation changes that have  
11 occurred over time and the Service has talked with the  
12 Board of Game about what those are and some of those  
13 are in conflict with the mandates that the Fish and  
14 Wildlife Service has to manage on National Wildlife  
15 Refuges and I'm going to outline some of those in a  
16 minute, on where those come from. So it's a reaction  
17 to that.

18

19 But the second part, too, of course, is  
20 to update the public notification procedures and such  
21 that I outlined as well, so the participation and  
22 closure procedures, so that's another part of it.

23

24 You mentioned the Park Service. They  
25 have a similar, but their process has diverged and they  
26 are doing a similar process but covering some different  
27 things and I guess I can't really speak to where  
28 they're at with it. But we've taken a different tract  
29 here with some of our outreach and feedback and  
30 modified our -- where we're at in our proposed rule  
31 based off of a lot of the input we've had. So as I say  
32 it's greatly been pared down over time.

33

34 MS. LAROSA: I will say, Pat, that in  
35 general the Fish and Wildlife Service and the State  
36 Departments of Fish and Game have exactly the same  
37 regulations on National Wildlife Refuge but not always.  
38 I worked in a couple of Refuges in the Lower 48 and by  
39 and large the regulations were exactly the same between  
40 the State and the Fish and Wildlife with a few limited  
41 exceptions, which became part of Refuge regulations.  
42 So it is a process that we -- you know, that we do  
43 under law and it is a part of how we manage fish and  
44 wildlife, and it's generally that we leave that setting  
45 of seasons and limits and methods and means to the  
46 State but not always.

47

48 MR. HOLMES: Well, I -- I'm sorry,  
49 Madame Chair, I'll be quiet.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, go ahead,  
2 you're on a roll.

3  
4 (Laughter)

5  
6 MR. HOLMES: Well, I'm sorry to be  
7 emotional but, you know, there were some things that  
8 were agreed to 60 years ago and they're not agreed to  
9 now and, you know, you're just sort of changing the  
10 rules.

11  
12 You mentioned that there were some  
13 specific things and I really would like those, if you  
14 could give them to me in writing because I'd really  
15 like to see them, your previous comment. And I'm  
16 sorry, at 70, sometimes my brain just goes, but just  
17 because it's done in the states, the Alaska Statehood  
18 Act, a Federal Act define who does what and where and  
19 when and why. And if you look back at that thing, I  
20 studied it in high school at Fairbanks and, you know,  
21 Alaska history there didn't last too long so we did a  
22 whole lot of civics and you need to go back to your  
23 lawyer types or whoever is coming up with this  
24 philosophy and look and see what's way back there,  
25 because this seems to me to be a change and I'm not a  
26 lawyer and, you know, it's not my special thing, but I  
27 just really -- if you have a difference with the way  
28 the Board of Game is managing predator/prey, which  
29 seems to be the thing that's driving this; is this the  
30 problem, because all of these documents here go on and  
31 say with the intent, potential, alter or manipulate  
32 natural diversities of species, population, habitat, by  
33 increasing, decreasing wildlife populations to provide  
34 for more harvest opportunity, that's bad, because of  
35 predator control; is that what I assume? Is that what  
36 you folks are saying?

37  
38 MR. DAMBERG: I don't know if we're  
39 putting a qualifier on it is bad, in the way that  
40 you're saying it but.....

41  
42 MR. HOLMES: You don't agree with it.

43  
44 MR. DAMBERG: Well, what I'm saying  
45 here -- what we're saying is our mandates and the ones  
46 I'll cover in a -- in a little bit are in conflict with  
47 the proposals, or some of the proposals from the Board  
48 of Game.

49  
50 MR. HOLMES: Okay, well, I'll wait

1 until we get to that point, I'm sorry to just fly off  
2 the handle. But, thank you, I'll try to be quiet.

3  
4 MR. DAMBERG: Okay. Well, and just to  
5 reiterate that we want to make sure that you're aware  
6 of the proposal and you have a chance to -- to look at  
7 it and there's going to be an extensive public comment  
8 period and we do want to hear your feedback and  
9 thoughts on this and there's going to be an extended  
10 opportunity for folks to respond and give input on it.  
11 And as I say, too, we've changed this quite a bit in  
12 response to feedback we've received from the State and  
13 from tribes, as well, over time.

14  
15 But getting back to the slide and where  
16 we're at, what I wanted to do is I highlighted five  
17 different methods and means earlier and this slide  
18 shows the actual impact in the Kodiak/Aleutians RAC.  
19 In Units 9 and in Unit 10. Of the five I listed only  
20 two of those in Unit 9 would be affected by the  
21 proposed rule. Unit 9 would include Izembek Refuge,  
22 the Pavlof Unit of Alaska Peninsula Refuge and parts of  
23 Alaska Maritime Refuge.

24  
25 And the first -- the current existing  
26 regulation is brown bears can be harvested over bait  
27 between April 15th to June 30th under State general  
28 hunting regulations. Under the proposed rule, brown  
29 bears would not be able to be harvested over bait in  
30 Unit 9 on Refuge lands.

31  
32 The second change, and this would be  
33 both in the Unit 9 -- units I just listed, but also  
34 Unit 10 on the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge  
35 and that's; wolves and coyotes currently may not be  
36 hunted from July 1st to August 9th under the State  
37 general hunting regulations. Under the proposed rule,  
38 wolves and coyotes would not be hunted from May 1st to  
39 August 9th. That date with the wolf and coyote take is  
40 consistent with Federal subsistence hunting regs in  
41 these areas currently.

42  
43 You'll notice that Unit 8, or Kodiak  
44 Refuge isn't listed because none of these affect Unit  
45 8.

46  
47 So this might address some of your  
48 questions, Pat, of why the Service is proposing these  
49 changes, to ensure -- we're proposing these to ensure  
50 we are managing Refuges in Alaska consistent with our

1 legal mandates to conserve fish, wildlife and their  
2 habitats in their natural diversity and to maintain the  
3 biological diversity, integrity and environmental  
4 health of National Wildlife Refuges. In response to  
5 recent regulations passed through the Board of Game  
6 allowing particular practices for the harvest of  
7 wildlife on Alaska Refuges that have the potential to  
8 artificially increase or decrease wildlife populations  
9 to provide for more harvest opportunity on Alaska  
10 National Wildlife Refuges. In some cases the State has  
11 different goals, purposes and mandates regarding take  
12 of wildlife than the Fish and Wildlife Service does on  
13 National Wildlife Refuges.

14  
15 MR. HOLMES: Could you elaborate  
16 specifically some of.....

17  
18 REPORTER: Pat. Pat.

19  
20 MR. HOLMES: .....what those  
21 differences are.

22  
23 REPORTER: Pat.

24  
25 MR. HOLMES: What differences -- that  
26 some places are different.....

27  
28 REPORTER: Pat.

29  
30 MR. KOSO: Your mic.

31  
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: You need to use  
33 your microphone.

34  
35 REPORTER: Someone put a microphone on.

36  
37 (Laughter)

38  
39 MR. HOLMES: Oh, pardon me. Pardon me,  
40 Madame Chair.

41  
42 You just made a statement that some  
43 places there are differences between the State and the  
44 Feds.

45  
46 MR. DAMBERG: In the mandates, yeah.  
47 And that's actually the next section I was just going  
48 to get into.

49  
50 MR. HOLMES: Okay, splendid, thank you

1 so much.  
2  
3 MR. DAMBERG: Yep, exactly.  
4  
5 And there's several pages and I think  
6 -- are they on 10.....  
7  
8 MS. LAROSA: 10, there's no page  
9 numbers.  
10  
11 MR. DAMBERG: Okay. There's a slide  
12 labeled, after -- I think it comes after the timeline  
13 and it says proposed changes are based on existing  
14 mandates.  
15  
16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Doug, can  
17 we.....  
18  
19 MR. DAMBERG: Yeah, go ahead.  
20  
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Can we back up  
22 just a second here.  
23  
24 Just because I'm sometimes one of those  
25 people that if I can visualize something better when  
26 I'm reading it I can understand it better and I'm not  
27 afraid to say sometimes I don't quite get the picture  
28 and so explain to me and I've gone through this after  
29 my phone call with you, right, we talked last week.  
30  
31 MR. DAMBERG: Uh-huh.  
32  
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: This is 90 and  
34 10. How -- and just using the issue with the wolves  
35 and the caribou a few years ago, what -- this doesn't  
36 make anything any easier, in fact, it makes it even  
37 harder for predator control; is that correct?  
38  
39 MR. ROHRER: Yes. Absolutely.  
40  
41 MR. SCHWANTES: That's your objective,  
42 right.  
43  
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is that the  
45 objective here. I'm really -- this concerns me.  
46  
47 MR. ROHRER: Yes.  
48  
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: You have no idea  
50 how much it concerns me but I think -- just if you can

1 answer that and if anybody has any other questions and  
2 then move on but I think this issue is going to be  
3 worthwhile to have some serious discussion on.

4

5 MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

8

9 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I agree. I think  
10 it's very clear that that's the idea we're going to  
11 eliminate any opportunity for predator control. I mean  
12 it's stated right here, that's one of the things that's  
13 going to happen, there's not going to be -- if this  
14 goes through, there will be no predator control in the  
15 Refuges, the way I read this.

16

17 MR. DAMBERG: Well, the -- the State  
18 seasons that are there would still be in effect. The  
19 bag limits that are currently there for -- this is all  
20 for sporthunting, would all be in effect, so there's  
21 some changes to method and means and that's what I've  
22 outlined, but predator take, predator harvest would  
23 still be lawful on Refuges under the State regulations,  
24 with the exception of these changes that we've  
25 outlined.

26

27 MS. YUHAS: Mr. Chairman.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, go ahead.

30

31 MS. YUHAS: This is Jennifer Yuhas with  
32 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. And just a  
33 point of clarification that not all hunting done under  
34 State permits is sporthunting. Subsistence hunting and  
35 general hunting occur on those general hunting permits.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. I  
40 have a recommendation from a Council member to go  
41 ahead, Doug, and let you finish your presentation  
42 before we attack you.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So with that  
47 we'll move on so Council if you would like to get your  
48 list of questions ready, we'll be ready to go.

49

50 Thanks.

1 MR. DAMBERG: Okay. So just getting to  
2 the proposed -- or sorry, the existing mandates,  
3 there's a couple pages and I think they come after the  
4 timeline and I won't read these verbatim but I'll point  
5 out a couple of these but some of the mandates that  
6 we're following here that are in conflict with some of  
7 the things we've talked about include the missions  
8 statements of the Fish and Wildlife Service and the  
9 National Wildlife Refuge System.

10  
11 And you can read those for yourselves  
12 on that.

13  
14 But also under ANILCA, additional  
15 mandates come directly from ANILCA, and that includes  
16 statement to conserve -- or it includes -- ANILCA has a  
17 requirement to conserve fish and wildlife populations  
18 and habitats in their natural diversity in addition to  
19 providing for continued subsistence use and  
20 recreational opportunities which include hunting.

21  
22 And the Refuge System Administration  
23 Act, as amended by the Improvement Act, also directs us  
24 to manage National Wildlife Refuges, so to ensure that  
25 biological integrity, biological diversity and  
26 environmental health are maintained in addition to  
27 providing compatible recreation opportunities such as  
28 hunting.

29  
30 Included in the packet are some  
31 definitions as well of some of the terms that we've  
32 highlighted.

33  
34 And then, finally, too, just back to  
35 ANILCA, there's a slide in here on Congressional Record  
36 and Congressional Intent when ANILCA was established.  
37 Congressional Udal wrote that natural diversity intent  
38 included to conserve fish and wildlife populations and  
39 habitats in their natural diversity. So that kind of  
40 gets to the why and some of the conflicting mandates  
41 and things that are out there.

42  
43 The timeline for the proposed rule  
44 process.

45  
46 We're currently in a scoping period  
47 that's been in effect since last fall. And in March,  
48 probably mid-March or late-March the proposed rule  
49 would be published and the start of a 60 day comment  
50 period would be open and then sometime in the fall

1 public comments would be compiled and the proposed rule  
2 would be updated. And then whatever the outcome is,  
3 there would be a published final rule sometime likely  
4 early in January of 2016.

5  
6 There's going to be opportunities for  
7 public comment and continued consultation, including  
8 meetings and hearings in different parts of the state.

9  
10 So I guess just in closing, I'd just  
11 like to reiterate that we want to make sure you're  
12 aware of this and would like you to provide some  
13 comment and input. It doesn't have to be now but it  
14 can be through the entire comment period.

15  
16 And so with that I guess we'll open it  
17 up to additional questions.

18  
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Sam.

20  
21 MR. ROHRER: Through the Chair, thank  
22 you.

23  
24 I feel a little bit bad for you guys,  
25 you're seriously in the hot seat and I know you guys  
26 didn't write these pending proposed regs, or I assume  
27 you didn't, but so you'll have to forgive us a little  
28 bit. But I'm going to use the proposed Park Service  
29 regs as a little bit of an example right now because  
30 I've been real involved in that process. And just for  
31 those who aren't aware and those in the audience, the  
32 proposed Park Service regs and these regs, they're not  
33 exactly the same but they're very, very similar and the  
34 intent is the same thing, it's a push back against  
35 actions taken by the State through the Board of Game  
36 for -- what the Federal government is saying is  
37 predator control and the State says, absolutely not,  
38 this isn't predator control.

39  
40 But I just want to point out a couple  
41 of interesting things just so folks can understand how  
42 divisive this is.

43  
44 I don't know if I've ever seen such a  
45 wide variety of groups come together in opposition to  
46 one thing. Think about this. AHTNA Native  
47 Corporation, they have a lot of -- there's a lot of  
48 Park Service lands where they have their lands. You  
49 have AHTNA Native Corporation on one side opposing  
50 these. You have AFN opposing these. Most everyone's

1 familiar with the AOC, the AOC opposes these. How  
2 often have we seen the AOC and AHTNA and AFN on the  
3 same side opposing some regulations. That shows how  
4 divisive this is.

5  
6 There's been -- oh, I've forgotten  
7 their name, the Subsistence Regional, oh, they're the  
8 State regional subsistence councils and I can't --  
9 RSCs, I think are what they're called, anyway, they've  
10 come out in opposition.

11  
12 I haven't seen any Alaska groups in  
13 support of the Park Service proposed regs.

14  
15 Again, just so you're aware these  
16 Refuge regs are following just in line with those Park  
17 Service ones. There's already talk of new Federal  
18 legislation to try to kill the proposed Park Service  
19 regs, there's already discussions of lawsuits. There's  
20 been two different organizations, Alaska based  
21 organizations, talking about that. I mean this is just  
22 -- it's tremendously divisive.

23  
24 The mis-information is astounding. The  
25 State -- you know, part of this is based off of the  
26 whole predator control aspect and the State clearly  
27 refuted the Park Service's position on whether or not  
28 these are predator control regulations and they're not  
29 and the record clearly shows they're not, the Board of  
30 Game's actions clearly show it's not and the Feds just  
31 keep coming back saying, oh, yeah, this is predator  
32 control. It's not. Look at the record.

33  
34 The second thing I want to just point  
35 out. If you look at these proposed changes, going off  
36 of the whole natural diversity discussion and whether  
37 or not it's predator control, look on the back page of  
38 this sheet and they talk about emergency closures,  
39 currently can't exceed 30 days, they're talking going  
40 to 60 days. Two month emergency closures. With no  
41 subsequent hearing. If you look under what's currently  
42 required, if there's an emergency closure it has to be  
43 followed with a subsequent hearing. They're talking  
44 about doing away with that, at least according to the  
45 handout. If you look at the temporary closures,  
46 currently a temporary closure can't go longer than one  
47 year, five years. Five years. Think about that.

48  
49 As far as -- I know where you guys are  
50 coming out from predator control, we totally disagree.

1 Our Council has always disagreed with that and I'm sure  
2 that's not going to change. I know where you're coming  
3 from that, I'm really curious what the problem is  
4 that's trying to be fixed by the emergency closure and  
5 the temporary closure time extensions. That just blows  
6 me away. What problem are we trying to fix that we  
7 need a five year temporary closure that we need to  
8 extend these.

9

10 I could go on and on but in interest of  
11 time and letting other people vent, I'll give someone  
12 else a chance. So you can answer the quest -- I am  
13 curious for an answer on the.....

14

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Time.

15

16 MR. ROHRER: .....on the time deals,  
17 what problem are we trying to address.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 And, again, sorry, you guys are going  
22 to bear the brunt of this, but.....

23

24 MS. LAROSA: What I know, Sam, about  
25 the five year period is this. The temporary closure --  
26 the operative part of that is as long as is necessary  
27 with a maximum of five years. So it does not say that  
28 every temporary closure is going to turn into a five  
29 year period. I'm told that the intent was more like  
30 not to exceed five years. And right now the process is  
31 it's a one year and it can be extended every year but  
32 this was an attempt to say it wouldn't be extended past  
33 five years without turning into a permanent and before  
34 that transition happened there would be lots of  
35 consultation with the public, with the tribes, with the  
36 State, and there would be a process so it wouldn't go  
37 indefinitely as a temporary closure. Rather than  
38 looking at it as an extension of the current temporary  
39 closure the intent -- hang on -- the intent was to  
40 actually put some bounds on temporary closure.

41

42 So that's what I can tell you the  
43 intent is and obviously you don't feel that that's the  
44 intent.

45

46 MR. ROHRER: Well, I get where you're  
47 going with that but, of course, my concern is if it's  
48 being taken advantage of with the one year deal where  
49 you just keep having the one year temporary closures  
50

1 without follow up hearings and what not, what stops you  
2 from doing that as a five year, every five year we just  
3 keep temporarily doing it without going through the  
4 full discussion process. So that's.....

5  
6 MS. LAROSA: That -- that's not how  
7 it's written. At the end of five years there would  
8 have to be an action to make it permanent, not another  
9 temporary five year but.....

10  
11 MR. ROHRER: But that's how it's  
12 currently with the one year deal, correct?

13  
14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, wait.

15  
16 MR. ROHRER: Okay.

17  
18 MS. LAROSA: Okay, anyway.....

19  
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Carl, do you  
21 have anything to clarify on this or.....

22  
23 MR. JOHNSON: I have a request from  
24 participants on the teleconference who don't have the  
25 benefit of seeing who's talking that if you could.....

26  
27 MS. LAROSA: Oh, I'm sorry.

28  
29 MR. JOHNSON: .....identify yourselves  
30 when you're talking so we know who's saying what, you  
31 know, was it a Council member, is it somebody from the  
32 agency, so if you could just each time you come up to  
33 the microphone, if you could say, you know, Carl  
34 Johnson, Office of Subsistence Management, and so on,  
35 that was just what I was trying to get in there.

36  
37 Thank you, all.

38  
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Okay. Do  
40 you feel like your question at this point, do you want  
41 to just hold for a minute or.....

42  
43 MR. ROHRER: No, I'm fine, Della.

44  
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Let's move to  
46 Rebecca for a second and then whoever else wants to  
47 speak to this.

48  
49 MS. SKINNER: Rebecca Skinner, Kodiak  
50 RAC. My question, do you have a chart or a narrative

1 or anything that actually lists out which State goals,  
2 purposes and mandates differ from the Federal goals,  
3 purposes and mandates because you've provided us with  
4 several existing Federal mandates but it's not clear to  
5 me which -- where those disagree or conflict with the  
6 State goals and mandates. So is that somewhere in the  
7 materials that I've just overlooked.

8

9 MR. DAMBERG: No, we don't have that in  
10 the material but it's something we probably could come  
11 up with and get back to you on.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
14 Rebecca. Go ahead.

15

16 MS. SKINNER: Yes, and that would be  
17 helpful. Thank you.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, I thank  
20 you, that is a very good point.

21

22 One of the points I want to make, Doug,  
23 and I realize you definitely are in the hot seat on  
24 this. My first question is, this -- you said that this  
25 doesn't apply to 8 but it does apply to 9 and 10,  
26 statewide, how does this apply?

27

28 MR. DAMBERG: Okay. And this is Doug  
29 from Fish and Wildlife Service.

30

31 What we did is we looked at each of --  
32 so we started off with the five various proposed  
33 methods and means and what I did was looked for each of  
34 the units and compared what is actually being proposed  
35 under the proposed rule here verses what's listed in  
36 the current State regulation for that, just did a quick  
37 cross-check on that, if that answers your question.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm not really  
40 sure it does but.....

41

42 MR. DAMBERG: So we looked at what does  
43 the current State regulation allow.....

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hold on. No,  
46 each of the units statewide, the various units  
47 statewide, how does -- does this apply to all of the  
48 units or is it just 9D and 10?

49

50 MR. DAMBERG: This would apply to all

1 the units statewide, all the National Wildlife Refuges  
2 statewide.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. That  
5 leads into this question.

6

7 When you look into this timeline of  
8 this proposal, or maybe not so much a question, but a  
9 point, and you've got now the scoping period, April --  
10 March/April proposed -- published proposed rule, fall  
11 of '15 review and public comment, January published  
12 final rule. You go over here and we're looking at 30  
13 to 60 days increasing that, we're looking at one year,  
14 12 months to five years and we're looking -- of course  
15 and no limit and no limit, my concern with this and the  
16 major -- I think the impact that it can have,  
17 potentially, is going to be probably great. And I  
18 think more time and more information and education  
19 needs to be done to not push this and publish a rule  
20 and it's a law and this is scary to me, I -- really,  
21 you know, or frightening. I think a lot more people,  
22 and the people in the Aleutians East, and the  
23 Aleutians, I think, need to have more information as a  
24 whole, and I would think that the Kodiak, that it would  
25 impact them if it -- you said it wouldn't impact 8; is  
26 that correct?

27

28 MS. LAROSA: This is Anne Marie from  
29 Kodiak Refuge. It would not impact the methods and  
30 means, are not applicable to -- because they're the  
31 same as the current State, that's what it -- that's  
32 what is intended for -- but all of the -- all of the  
33 regulations to the extent that they're applicable apply  
34 throughout the state on National Wildlife Refuges, it's  
35 just that the State and the Federal regulations would  
36 be the same in Unit 8 so there would be no change.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So that is, I  
39 think my biggest issue and concern at this time. When  
40 I look at this, I don't feel like we've really had  
41 enough time and I think there needs to be a lot more  
42 information out there.

43

44 And I would like to maybe ask, Mitch,  
45 who is the Chair, at this time of the Kodiak/Aleutians  
46 and, you know, his background and knowledge in going to  
47 meetings what his comments are.

48

49 MR. SIMEONOFF: Yeah, I'm having a hard  
50 time following this, you're cutting in and out here,

1 but it's probably due to the weather. Yeah, at this  
2 time it's hard to say right now, okay.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you,  
5 Mitch. And I think what would be helpful is to get  
6 Mitch this information, Carl, if you're able to scan  
7 this and get it to him.

8

9 And then Richard.

10

11 MR. KOSO: Well, I just got one  
12 question, I guess it's on 9D and the Unit 10 on the  
13 wolf, coyote, are you guys pushing back a month early  
14 on the actual closing time. I look at that, like I  
15 said, it'd be predator control for you guys. The  
16 reason, you know, I never seen any reasons why you  
17 would change that from the July 1st to the May 1st  
18 closures on the wolf and coyote.

19

20 9D, you know, that May would be one of  
21 the only times that most of the people down there in  
22 False Pass and the region in that area that they can  
23 actually go out and harvest wolves, the winter time is  
24 very tough down there, as you all know. May the  
25 weather turns nice. If you close that May month down  
26 the people that actually go harvest the wolves and what  
27 not are not going to be able to do it. Their salmon  
28 season starts in June so they're not able to do that  
29 because most of the guys are fishing. So the actual  
30 time that they have for hunting is going to be in May,  
31 and when you close that month of May down you totally  
32 stop, you know, a subsistence hunt or trapping hunting  
33 for the wolves in that area. So I would be -- you  
34 know, I don't see a reason why you guys put it back a  
35 month. It doesn't make any sense to me.

36

37 Thanks.

38

39 MR. DAMBERG: This is Doug with the  
40 Fish and Wildlife Service. Thank you for the comment.  
41 I think that kind of information is helpful as we  
42 evaluate this going forward and kind of hearing inputs  
43 and insights from folks throughout the RAC area.

44

45 MS. LAROSA: This is Anne Marie from  
46 Kodiak Refuge. I think, Richard, and Doug, this points  
47 out a really good point is that when you do make  
48 comments I think the more specific the comments are the  
49 easier it is for us to respond and actually make  
50 changes. When we first started this process there was

1 a same day airborne limitation on all species and we  
2 looked -- we sat in the office in Kodiak Refuge and  
3 said, what does this have to do with hunting, means and  
4 methods and such that go on in Kodiak and we said not  
5 very much, but we said, well, wait a minute, we do hunt  
6 deer that way in Kodiak and we would like to see that  
7 practice continued because that's how we're working  
8 with Fish and Game to manage deer on Kodiak. And so we  
9 gave that feedback back into the process and some of  
10 what you see now reflects that.

11  
12 So I guess my point is we have made  
13 changes, we're likely to continue to make changes and  
14 the more specific you can be about what you feel the  
15 impacts of these proposed regulations are on  
16 subsistence use and when you comment as maybe a general  
17 hunter, those uses, that would be most helpful.

18  
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Are there any  
20 other comments.

21  
22 MR. SCHWANTES: Just one, Madame Chair.

23  
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Tom.

25  
26 MR. SCHWANTES: I guess I have to go  
27 back to what Pat was saying, you know, back when we  
28 became a state, it was agreed upon that the State would  
29 manage fish and wildlife. Quite frankly I -- this  
30 scares me because I see this as the Feds trying to get  
31 a foot in the door to start creating more regulations  
32 and that bothers me.

33  
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.  
35 Anyone else.

36  
37 Pat.

38  
39 MR. HOLMES: I'd like to expand on  
40 perhaps some of our, I think, acknowledged, and  
41 justified paranoia because I reflect back to our  
42 hearing that we had on the EA for Unimak Island and Mr.  
43 Haskett was there and a whole bunch of folks, but it  
44 was advertised, at least what I saw, it was our meeting  
45 and it was going to be an information input to our  
46 Council, when they talked about the EA. But when it  
47 came out on the other end, that was a public meeting  
48 for the whole region. We did have Della contact Tom  
49 Hoblett and folks to -- some of them to listen in, but  
50 Nelson Lagoon, Sand Point, those folks didn't key in on

1 it. And what I'm talking about is what appears in my  
2 mind, and I think generally I'm fairly logical, was the  
3 distortion of that process. And the fellow that was  
4 hired to write the EA, we asked him, well, when this  
5 meeting is finished, we're like 40 minutes from where  
6 we had our meeting to False Pass or Nelson Lagoon or  
7 maybe another 15 to get Sand Point, we asked him, and  
8 he was a retired Deputy Director of Fish and Wildlife  
9 Service, we asked him, are you going to be going to  
10 these communities to discuss this EA and he says, no,  
11 I'm not, I can't, because I have a commitment in  
12 Anchorage for two days, each, to talk to the  
13 conservationists and to talk to the sporthunters. They  
14 scheduled two days for him to do that, zero time to  
15 actually go to the villages that were impacted. And so  
16 that causes us a little bit of grumbling and not  
17 feeling good about positive professional interactions.

18

19 And one of the things, and you can go  
20 back to the transcripts, 2011, and reference Unimak,  
21 Haskett said that he would allow predator control for  
22 subsistence use, he said that, and now you're saying  
23 that it won't be provided to allow for human needs or  
24 for subsistence. He said he could allow that. They  
25 decided not to.

26

27 But part of this, and I really  
28 appreciate you coming to us and talking to us and  
29 getting public input, but what I see is tremendous  
30 changes over time since statehood and getting more  
31 public comment, but from talking to individuals in Fish  
32 and Wildlife Service, and I'm not misquoting them, they  
33 went out on the internet and 65,000 answers came back  
34 in against any action on Unimak and they said, well,  
35 gee, that really outweighs this, so really what Fish  
36 and Wildlife is doing, and this is an emotional  
37 response on my part, is you're talking to us about one  
38 thing and then your other part of your agency is going  
39 down to state-side, to America, to all the tree huggers  
40 that have never spent the time, never eaten a caribou,  
41 don't even know what that means to someone, and as I  
42 mentioned to Anne Marie the other day, it'd be like  
43 going to Santa Fe and telling all the Hispanic people,  
44 you can no longer eat frijoles, you know, and appeal to  
45 everybody else and say, all the frijoles in America are  
46 genetically modified and we, as the government, have  
47 decided you can't have them anymore.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

1 MR. HOLMES: Because -- you know, I'm  
2 making some bizarre comparisons, but, you know, to me  
3 they're valid.

4  
5 Now, the thing on -- and I think a good  
6 part of your argument, and I can understand it, and  
7 I've read over and over in all of these documents,  
8 clarifying the existing Federal mandates for conserving  
9 natural diversity, biological integrity, environmental  
10 health on Refuges in Alaska in relation to predator  
11 harvest. It seems to be what's driving this, that's  
12 what it says here. Predator reduction activities with  
13 the intent of potential to alter or manipulate the  
14 natural diversity of species, populations or habitats,  
15 artificially increasing or decreasing wildlife  
16 populations to provide for more harvest opportunity  
17 would be prohibited on Refuges in Alaska.

18  
19 Well, in my lifetime Fish and Wildlife  
20 Service has done this all the time. The Refuge did it  
21 with fish and game here just last year on the mountain  
22 goats. Increased the harvest to protect the habitat.  
23 And we've done it for deer, elk, moose, bear all over  
24 the state, take it up, take it down, in order to  
25 maintain some reasonable composition of critters to  
26 provide for subsistence and not to mess up the habitat.  
27 And to me, and I really hope all of this comes out in  
28 our record of our meeting and not just in the  
29 transcripts and says Pat raged on about predator  
30 control, is that it's -- oh, bully, I lost it, sorry.

31  
32 Anyway, that the whole point is that  
33 everybody agrees with you and there isn't a problem and  
34 there isn't a need to have regulations, and you folks,  
35 just like the State, adjust animal populations up and  
36 down and for the main user, you can say it's habitat  
37 and environment, that's true, but we all, everyone's  
38 trying to keep things in balance, so that, A, as far as  
39 our Council's concerned, is people that we represent  
40 have food to eat. The frijoles or caribou, take your  
41 pick. And so that's -- that's what I'm saying. And  
42 you're being, Becky, what's the word, duplicity, but,  
43 anyway, making it -- just not laying this out fairly, I  
44 don't know.

45  
46 But I'm sorry, and I like you guys  
47 personally, and I like all your bosses personally.....

48  
49 (Laughter)  
50

1 MR. HOLMES: .....but, you know, the  
2 philosophical approach of taking policy and making it  
3 regulation, because once you get a regulation you can't  
4 change it. It's just like the temporary closures,  
5 right now at a year, if you extend it, don't you have  
6 to have some kind of public input and say, hey, we're  
7 going to extend this another year; justification, and  
8 it's just like Fish and Game EO's on closures, you got  
9 to have a justification to continue something.

10

11 Anyway, I do appreciate you guys taking  
12 notes and that's great and I hope that we can find some  
13 kind of median grounds here because honestly I'm, as a  
14 reasonably intelligent person with seven years of  
15 college, and most of my adult life in Alaska, I just  
16 don't understand the justification, so we'll be  
17 chatting with you some more, I'm sure.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

22 Rebecca.

23

24 MS. SKINNER: This is Rebecca Skinner.

25

26 One of the sentences that Pat read out  
27 was in this white handout question and answer, but it's  
28 in parenthesis, artificially increasing or decreasing  
29 wildlife populations to provide for more harvest  
30 opportunity; and Pat also talked about, it sounds like,  
31 I don't know philosophical or policy shifts within the  
32 Agency, I guess as I listen to this, it -- in my mind  
33 it also relates to the Karluk Lake enrichment project,  
34 and it sounds like there were also -- part of the  
35 tension with that issue right now, it sounds like to  
36 me, there was a shift, perhaps, in Agency approach, or  
37 Agency philosophy so I think there is a higher level of  
38 conversation that if these shifts or changes in thought  
39 are occurring, and they're impacting different things,  
40 whether it's -- and I don't want to call it predator  
41 control because you said that's not what it is, whether  
42 it's that or whether it's enrichment projects, we need  
43 to be aware of that and have dialogue in order to -- I  
44 mean I think we'll be able to work through it,  
45 hopefully, but I think we do need to be aware that  
46 that's happening. So this is useful to have this  
47 dialogue.

48

49 MS. LAROSA: This is Anne Marie from

50 Kodiak.

1                   One thing I wanted to point out,  
2 because, Pat, I am taking notes and I did write about  
3 your comment about making regulations out of policy and  
4 then Rebecca you talked about, you know, some changes  
5 that are apparent.

6  
7                   One thing that happened between  
8 Statehood and ANILCA and now for the Fish and Wildlife  
9 Service is the National Wildlife Refuge System  
10 Improvement Act, which was a law, and that's where a  
11 lot of these mandates came from and it didn't  
12 fundamentally change the way the Fish and Wildlife  
13 Service manages but it did create, it strengthened some  
14 principles for the National Wildlife Refuge Systems.  
15 So that is a law. And so I get your concern, Patrick,  
16 about making, you know, regulations out of policy, but  
17 when we look at how we manage on Refuges now, we do  
18 have to consider that the National Wildlife Refuge  
19 System Administration Act from 1966 was amended in 1997  
20 and it became what the Park Service calls their Organic  
21 Act, this became the Organic Act for the National  
22 Wildlife Refuge System and we're still working through  
23 exactly what that means for us and since 1997 we've,  
24 you know, created and revised some of our policies.

25  
26                   But that is a -- some of this does come  
27 from that law.

28  
29                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: If I may, I do  
30 have a recommendation.

31  
32                   You had stated, you know, this is now  
33 -- you're going through this scoping, tribal and State  
34 consultation outreach, I think this needs a lot more  
35 outreach, education, collaboration and efforts so  
36 everybody is aware of what this is and exactly what it  
37 means. This is too soon to be looking at publishing a  
38 proposed rule next month, having it out there for six  
39 months and it's going to turn around and it's going to  
40 be law. I would look at this from the Kodiak/Aleutians  
41 as this Council making comment right now that this can  
42 have some big implications, that I think we need some  
43 more time to look at it, that we need to discuss it  
44 maybe in a workshop prior to a meeting, and also to  
45 have the input from other agencies as to what their  
46 thoughts or recommendations are. So my recommendation  
47 would be to put off this proposed rule until either the  
48 fall to get more information out, and that concerns me  
49 because I know fishermen fish in the summer, you don't  
50 get a lot of people looking at things and trying to do

1 business. And longer than that if need be. There  
2 needs to be more information out and what those  
3 implications are.

4

5 So my recommendation for this Council  
6 is that we ask that this process be slowed down and  
7 that more effort and time and education be put into  
8 this so we're all better aware of how this is going to  
9 work and what the implications are.

10

11 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

14

15 MR. HOLMES: I was wondering, I would  
16 like to suggest that I -- I can't be as articulate as  
17 you were in your last statement, but if Carl could grab  
18 most of that and I would like to propose that we turn  
19 that into a resolution, and after we have a break we  
20 could come back and on that resolution I'd like to tag  
21 on the end, that a minimum of a year's time and  
22 possibly to be extended at the request of the RACs  
23 around the state, because I'd like to see what their  
24 input is as well.

25

26 Kind of got most of that Carl. You're  
27 a brilliant lawyer you can do it.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That's your last  
32 task, Carl.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Doug.

37

38 MR. DAMBERG: Yeah, and this is Dog  
39 with the Fish and Wildlife Service and just to add that  
40 some of the RACs, I believe, have seen some of this  
41 over the fall but I think all the RACs will be updated  
42 with the same presentation through the late winter,  
43 spring season, so people will be aware of this as well.

44

45 MS. LAROSA: This is Anne Marie. And  
46 there was an intention to, once the regulations are  
47 released, to go have meetings around the state and we  
48 were asked where those meetings should be at so we  
49 would like to continue to work with you about, you  
50 know, specifically what your ideas are for the

1 additional education and outreach.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And I fully  
4 agree that -- this is Della -- that, you know, to have  
5 the information from the other RACs, and maybe even if  
6 there's 'something out there to look at in our fall  
7 meeting, just to -- you know, and between now and then  
8 we can also look and think about this. I think that  
9 will -- if the Council, consensus, it's time to go  
10 ahead with Pat has suggested; do I hear anybody  
11 opposing it.

12

13 (No opposing votes)

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, sounds  
16 good. I think we'll move ahead. And I'd like to thank  
17 both of you, I know this is really hard and there's  
18 times that we do get emotional but it's also very  
19 important to people in the communities that we  
20 represent, so thank you.

21

22 MR. DAMBERG: Thank you, Madame Chair.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Definitely we  
25 will be in touch.

26

27 Why don't we take a five minute break  
28 at this time.

29

30 (Off record)

31

32 (On record)

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, two more  
35 minutes, and let's maybe get started here.

36

37 (Pause)

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, one  
40 minute.

41

42 (Pause)

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, if we can  
45 call the meeting back to order we'll get everybody back  
46 in their seats.

47

48 (Pause)

49

50 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think the next

1 item that we have on our agenda is call for Federal  
2 hunting and trapping regulatory proposals. Tom Evans.

3

4 MR. EVANS: Good afternoon, Madame  
5 Chair, and members of the Council. My name is Tom  
6 Evans and I work as a wildlife biologist for the Office  
7 of Subsistence Management of the Fish and Wildlife  
8 Service.

9

10 Every two years proposals are accepted  
11 to change the management regulations for the harvest of  
12 wildlife on Federal public lands. And I'm going to  
13 present you a brief summary of how to submit proposal  
14 as this is an open wildlife period up through March  
15 25th of this year. Information on how to submit  
16 wildlife regulatory proposals can be found on Page 13  
17 of your book.

18

19 The Federal Subsistence Board is  
20 accepting proposals through March 25th, 2015 to change  
21 Federal regulations for the subsistence harvest of  
22 wildlife on Federal public lands for the 2016/2018  
23 regulatory years, so that would go from July 1st, 2016  
24 to June 30th, 2018. No proposals will be accepted  
25 after that date, being March 25th. The Board will  
26 consider proposals to change Federal hunting and  
27 trapping seasons, harvest limits, methods of harvest  
28 and customary and traditional use determinations on  
29 Federal public lands. Federal public lands include  
30 National Wildlife Refuges, National Parks, Monuments  
31 and Preserves, National Forests, National Wild and  
32 Scenic Rivers, Bureau of Land management Areas that are  
33 not part of the National Conservation System.

34

35 Federal regulations do not apply to the  
36 State of Alaska lands, private lands, or military  
37 lands, Native allotments or selected Federal lands by  
38 the State or Native Corporations.

39

40 Councils may choose to work with OSM  
41 Staff to develop proposals. Proposals addressing these  
42 issues may also be submitted by other individuals and  
43 organizations as well.

44

45 Information to be included on the  
46 proposal is your name and organization, address, phone,  
47 fax, email address. The regulation that you would like  
48 to change including the management unit number and  
49 species. If you know the regulation, quote that. And  
50 if you're preparing a new regulation, state that as

1 well. The regulation as you would like it to see  
2 written. An explanation as to why the regulation  
3 change should be made. A description of the impact of  
4 the change on wildlife populations as well as a  
5 description of the impact on the change to subsistence  
6 uses. And, finally, a description on the effect on  
7 other uses, such as sport or recreational uses that  
8 might occur in the area.

9  
10                   Proposals can be submitted by mail, or  
11 hand delivery to the OSM Management Office. We're  
12 located in the regional office in the Anchorage area.  
13 At the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
14 meeting. Or you can do it on the web, you can go to  
15 the Federal emaking rule portal,  
16 <http://www.regulations.gov> and you can search for the --  
17 if you want to write this down, is FWS-R7-SM-2014-  
18 0062001 and that'll give you the announcement for the  
19 regulations.

20  
21                   If you have any questions, you're  
22 welcome to call us at Office of Subsistence Management  
23 at our 800 number, 1-800-478-1456.

24  
25                   So, that's about it, thank you.

26  
27                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Anybody have any  
28 questions or comments for Tom.

29  
30                   Rick.

31  
32                   MR. KOSO: Yeah, hi, Tom. On those  
33 proposals, if we were to submit a proposal to you on  
34 this subsistence stuff, let's say on game, would that  
35 have to go through the Board of Game to be acted on or  
36 how would that be -- and the final analysis be acted  
37 on?

38  
39                   MR. EVANS: No, it wouldn't go through  
40 the Board of Game. So you'd submit a proposal, we  
41 would get it, as a wildlife biologist for the -- let's  
42 say you did it for the Kodiak region, I would probably  
43 get that proposal, I would do an analysis looking at  
44 the harvest history, the regulatory history and the  
45 biology concerning the proposal, make an OSM  
46 recommendation and then that proposal would go through  
47 some LT review within our own agency, it would also go  
48 the Federal land managers where it pertains to, and  
49 then it would go to the ISC for a recommendation and  
50 then it would finally go to the RACs to be presented at

1 the next meeting, which would happen next spring at  
2 this time -- or not -- fall -- fall meeting, and then  
3 eventually the Federal Subsistence Board would make a  
4 decision and their decision would be either to accept  
5 the proposal or accept it with a modification or reject  
6 it.

7

8

(Pause)

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So just kind of  
11 using Adak, and he said the caribou are State managed,  
12 but the caribou are on Federal lands?

13

14

MR. EVANS: So on Federal -- there's  
15 two sets of regulations, there's State regulations and  
16 there's Federal regulations. On Federal public lands,  
17 you can harvest, you know, caribou under the -- either  
18 -- sometimes both of the regulations, on Federal  
19 managed lands, but for the -- so if you wanted to make  
20 changes on let's say the harvest of caribou on Federal  
21 public lands, let's say increase the harvest, for  
22 example, then you could put in a proposal to that  
23 effect and then we would analyze it and it would go  
24 through the steps that I outlined before and then the  
25 Federal Subsistence Board would make a decision as to  
26 what the final outcome would be.

27

28

MR. KOSO: Thanks, Tom.

29

30

Della, is Steve going to make it  
31 tomorrow or what's the scoop on him, as far as  
32 Kagalaska and the Adak caribou go?

33

34

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Carl.

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

When those -- Steve is trying to get in  
so that's the plan at this point in time, we don't know  
for sure if he's going to be able to make it in but the  
plan is for him to get in and that issue is on the  
agenda. And I just wanted to -- for the benefit of the  
public and for the Council, to just kind of tie into  
this discussion, there are many instances where we have  
both State and Federal regulations applying on Federal  
public lands but where the difference will come in, in  
the case of purpose of this Council is to advise, you  
know, Federal subsistence management for the rural  
priority, so you might have a Federal regulation that

1 allows for an earlier season or a less restrictive, you  
2 know, animal, you know, a three-quarter curl versus a  
3 full curl or, you know, antlerless bull versus an  
4 antlered bull, in which case only the rural priority --  
5 the rural Federal subsistence users can hunt under that  
6 regulation whereas State subsistence users, who could  
7 include somebody like myself from Anchorage, would have  
8 to -- would only be able to hunt under the State  
9 regulations.

10

11 So you may have both regulations  
12 applying over the same land but the Federal regulation  
13 can be different. So in the case of, you know, caribou  
14 that might be on Federal public lands, there could be  
15 both a State and a Federal regulation, but if the  
16 Federal one is different then it applies to those who  
17 are the Federally-qualified subsistence user.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: This is Della.  
20 And maybe to add to that, is that like, I think, Doug,  
21 for caribou in 9D, the Federal subsistence opens August  
22 1st, but the State opens September 1st for caribou; is  
23 that correct, or is it both August 1st.

24

25 MR. KOSO: So, Della, on something like  
26 that then when the Federal opens on a different time  
27 and are unable to hunt on the Federal property and if  
28 the State offers it on a different time, you're only  
29 able to hunt on State property?

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: No, if you -- if  
32 you're hunting under a Federal subsistence permit you  
33 can hunt on Federal lands, only on Federal lands.

34

35 MR. KOSO: Yeah.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And then the  
38 State is under the State jurisdiction.

39

40 So I guess we'll wait until he gets  
41 here, Rick, and you can talk to him if you're going to  
42 do a proposal.

43

44 MR. KOSO: Okay.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Any other  
47 questions for Tom.

48

49 MR. DELAHANTY: Excuse me, this is  
50 Steve Delahanty from Anchorage.

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, go ahead.

2

3 MR. DELAHANTY: Hi. I just wanted to  
4 apologize for my absence, the flights were cancelled  
5 this morning and I do plan to be there in the morning  
6 to discuss Kagalaska and also the cattle issue.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.  
11 We'll be hoping to see you in the morning.

12

13 Okay, moving on, funding opportunity,  
14 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

15

16 MS. INGLES: Good afternoon, again.  
17 For the record my name is Palma Ingles and I'm an  
18 anthropologist in OSM. And you'll notice in your  
19 supplemental packet and also back here on the table we  
20 have a copy of the Federal Subsistence Board news  
21 release that talks about the Fisheries Resource  
22 Monitoring Program and it gives the deadlines. It also  
23 gives the contact information if you have questions on  
24 it. But I have a little bit of information for you.

25

26 The Office of Subsistence Management  
27 Fisheries Monitoring Program has listed their call for  
28 proposals. The call comes out every two years and  
29 provides over \$4 million worth of funding per year to  
30 support research on subsistence related issues. The  
31 purposes of the FRMP, as we call it, is to merge  
32 current science with traditional ecological knowledge,  
33 to fund projects that assist with subsistence  
34 management for regulatory concerns.

35

36 OSM will fund two types of projects.

37

38 The first type that we do is stocks,  
39 status and trends, which we refer to as SST, and that's  
40 typically fish-related projects such as stock  
41 assessments, population estimates, or escapement goals.  
42 Things where we have weirs on rivers, counting fish,  
43 that type of thing.

44

45 The second type of project that we will  
46 fund is the harvest monitoring traditional, ecological  
47 knowledge, which we refer to as HM-TEK, which is  
48 anthropological or social science related projects,  
49 such as how regulations affect subsistence users. And  
50 some of the current projects we have would be doing

1 monitoring studies, where we have people going out -- I  
2 know we have one on the Kuskokwim River around Bethel  
3 area, where we have people going out doing an in-season  
4 survey, you know, asking people at their fish camps,  
5 did you get enough to meet your subsistence needs, that  
6 type of projects.

7  
8 So all of these projects are funded  
9 through cooperative agreements, meaning that they're  
10 working closely with the people at OSM. The  
11 notification is provided through a notice of funding  
12 availability and it's posted on grants.gov and the OSM  
13 website. And as I said, for easy reference, we do have  
14 this sheet on the back table that lists all the places  
15 and who to get in touch with.

16  
17 So that's just a brief update.

18  
19 The current funding cycle closes on  
20 March 11th, 2015.

21  
22 And, I'll answer any questions if I  
23 can.

24  
25 Thank you.

26  
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Does anybody  
28 have any questions for Palma.

29  
30  
31 (No comments)

32  
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.

34  
35 MS. INGLES: Thank you.

36  
37 (Pause)

38  
39 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, while we're  
40 waiting for the next one, I guess I should say to  
41 Palma, I'm a little slow.....

42  
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Turn your mic  
44 on.

45  
46 MR. HOLMES: Little slow, Palma, but  
47 I'd like to thank you folks for doing those projects  
48 because the Buskin River and then the other studies  
49 that you've helped fund for subsistence harvest  
50 monitoring and everything, not only in our region,

1 around the state, are well appreciated, and I think if  
2 you haven't been able to fund those things, folks in  
3 Kodiak wouldn't have a clue of what's going on in the  
4 future for the Buskin River. And since the funding has  
5 been available there it's really made a difference,  
6 because the sportsfish folks can say, hey, well, it  
7 looks like the condition factor is really down on this  
8 age class so two years from now you ought to plan on  
9 getting more gas and going somewhere else. And so I  
10 think -- I just wanted to give you an attagirl, and I  
11 should have done that quicker.

12

13                   Sorry.

14

15                   MS. INGLES: Thank you, Patrick.

16

17                   Let me just add, you're down to one  
18 month, if there is a proposal coming from your region I  
19 would suggest you work together or work with people  
20 that might want to put in a proposal for research. We  
21 never know year to year, unfortunately, how much we  
22 will end up having for the FRMP process but we try to  
23 fund as many projects that meet the mark for what we're  
24 looking for. And we have found it's a great way to do  
25 research and have this information at hand that defends  
26 subsistence uses.

27

28                   Thank you.

29

30                   MR. HOLMES: I just had a thought.  
31 We've had lots of discussions about Womens Bay crab  
32 and the Federal folks, the divers out there have  
33 brought to our attention that a lot of the crab are  
34 being caught in crab pots, that the buoys are cut off  
35 with ice, and I was just thinking, I know the local  
36 Fish and Game has a cooperative venture with their 42-  
37 foot boat and crab pots, and I was just thinking I  
38 might, I don't know, is there any -- no commfish people  
39 here, but it might be an interesting connection for  
40 either NOAA or the Kodiak crab research people or  
41 something through the Subsistence Division to team up  
42 and use that -- what's the buzz word, the community  
43 building approach, and maybe do a little bitty study,  
44 have the high school kids put out five pots or six pots  
45 or Fish and Game could put them out and the kids could  
46 go out and catch and measure crab and maybe learn how  
47 to do a little king crab survey in Womens Bay and they  
48 might be able to come up with some way of doing it  
49 without a lot of money but it could educate the kids  
50 and the agencies could supply a little bit of

1 information to us when we ask, well, how are the crab  
2 doing out there.

3

4 So that's a thought.

5

6 Tom, maybe we should do a little bit of  
7 lobbying and see if we can get somebody to toss in a  
8 little grant seed. Is that a reasonable sort of.....

9

10 MS. INGLES: The.....

11

12 MR. HOLMES: .....approach.

13

14 MS. INGLES: I would have to -- I need  
15 to check with fisheries on that, Carl, you may know, I  
16 mean is that part of our Federal subsistence land,  
17 because I believe, traditionally, we only fund FRMP  
18 projects that are on Federal subsistence lands.

19

20 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Adjacent, or a  
21 nexus.

22

23 MR. JOHNSON: Well, the -- Madame  
24 Chair, Carl Johnson for the record.

25

26 The key word is, there needs to be a  
27 nexus to Federal Subsistence Management. So it not  
28 necessarily is going to have to be on Federal public  
29 lands and waters but there has to be a nexus. And  
30 that's part of the review process. It's kind of like a  
31 regulatory proposal, you submit one and then hope that  
32 you hit the target and it gets accepted. The same  
33 thing with a grant, you know, submit a grant, the idea  
34 is if somebody wants to pursue something they should  
35 submit a proposal and then through the review process  
36 that'll then determine whether or not it's, you know,  
37 something that is within that nexus.

38

39 Thank you, Madame Chair.

40

41 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, it is. It's the  
42 only waters on this end of the island with any kind of  
43 a population of king crab left, and it's Federal waters  
44 because it's on the Coast Guard Base.

45

46 MS. INGLES: I would encourage you to  
47 look at.....

48

49 MR. HOLMES: So I'll see if I can find  
50 somebody to try a proposal.

1 MS. INGLES: .....doing a proposal.  
2  
3 MR. HOLMES: It'd be fun to see if it'd  
4 work.  
5  
6 Thank you.  
7  
8 MS. INGLES: Thank you.  
9  
10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.  
11  
12 MS. WOLKOFF: Can I make a suggestion  
13 also.  
14  
15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm sorry, can  
16 you repeat that.  
17  
18 MS. WOLKOFF: My name is Sharon  
19 Wolkoff, Sun'aq. And maybe along with the Womens Bay  
20 idea with the high school kids, they can do a sea otter  
21 count because I think the sea otters out there are  
22 getting, you know, populated and that could be a reason  
23 why the king crab population is going down, too. Maybe  
24 we could get some sea otter hunts going out there also  
25 along with getting the ghost pots out.  
26  
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Pat's  
28 taking notes on that. Rebecca, did you have a comment  
29 or a question.  
30  
31 MS. SKINNER: I have a question. Where  
32 can I find this RACs priorities for the funding?  
33  
34 MS. INGLES: Carl.  
35  
36 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, Madame Chair, Carl  
37 Johnson.  
38  
39 The fisheries folks in connection with  
40 anthropology developed that for all of the regions and  
41 it's one of the things they have to do to kind of set  
42 the ground work for this funding cycle, so we'll make  
43 sure to get the final draft of that for this region  
44 sent out to the Council so you can have that.  
45  
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Does  
47 anybody else on line have any questions or comments for  
48 Palma.  
49  
50 (No comments)

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, hearing  
2 none, thank you, Palma.  
3  
4 MS. INGLES: Thank you.  
5  
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Moving  
7 along, Carl, review and approve FY2014 annual report.  
8  
9 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, thank you, Madame  
10 Chair. Carl Johnson, for the record.  
11  
12 In your supplemental materials there --  
13 well, Page 18 is kind of the overview of what annual  
14 reports should look like, the content for the annual  
15 reports. You did discuss the items you wanted to have  
16 for your fiscal year 2014 annual report at your last  
17 meeting. The draft of that is provided to you in your  
18 supplemental materials.  
19  
20 And so currently there are four items  
21 on that.  
22  
23 First. Emperor geese.  
24  
25 Second. Dual management of caribou  
26 populations.  
27  
28 Third. Deer on Kodiak National  
29 Wildlife Refuge.  
30  
31 Fourth. Seaduck mortality in Uyak Bay.  
32  
33 And, hopefully, everybody's had a  
34 chance to find their draft annual report.  
35  
36 (Pause)  
37  
38 MR. JOHNSON: Do you have any extras to  
39 hand out.  
40  
41 MS. DEATHERAGE: Uh-huh. There's some  
42 here some.....  
43  
44 MR. JOHNSON: All right, we'll get a --  
45 raise your hand and we'll get extra copies to those who  
46 can't find it in their supplement.  
47  
48 (Pause)  
49  
50 MR. KOSO: I got the annual report here

1 but I can't see where you're reading.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.

4

5 MR. JOHNSON: Oh, well, that's -- what  
6 you're looking at is just kind of a general overview of  
7 what should be in the annual reports; what I'm talking  
8 about was in your blue supplemental folder on the  
9 right-hand side, a draft annual report.

10

11 (Pause)

12

13 MR. JOHNSON: But, anyway, for the  
14 benefit of the public, so one of the things that  
15 Section .805 of ANILCA does, is it asks the Regional  
16 Advisory Councils every year to provide an annual  
17 report to the Federal Subsistence Board on subsistence  
18 matters in their region. And, generally, we look at  
19 this as an opportunity for the Councils to provide  
20 input to the Federal Subsistence Board on matters our  
21 side of the regulatory process that affect subsistence  
22 fish and wildlife resources and subsistence users in  
23 their region. Because Section .805, says a fairly  
24 broad license for the Council's to be a public forum  
25 for discussing subsistence uses that are important in  
26 their region.

27

28 (Pause)

29

30 MR. JOHNSON: And so now everybody has  
31 before them the draft annual report. Again, if you --  
32 well, I'll just kind of give a quick overview on the  
33 first issue, the emperor geese issue.

34

35 If you'll recall at your last meeting  
36 you adopted a resolution referring to a couple of  
37 things related to the survey and also how the surveys  
38 are conducted for emperor geese, what can be done to  
39 improve those and then also the 80,000 threshold, as  
40 required, in order for their to be an authorization for  
41 a subsistence harvest.

42

43 So this emperor geese subject in the  
44 annual report refers to that, and we'll copy a -- a  
45 copy of your resolution will be attached to this. And  
46 then it urges the Fish and Wildlife Service to  
47 communicate these concerns to the Migratory Birds  
48 Program.

49

50 The second issue. The dual management

1 of the caribou populations.

2

3                   Basically this urges the State and the  
4 Federal managers to cooperate and do some cooperative  
5 management of that herd.

6

7                   And then, third, deer on Kodiak Refuge.  
8 Referring to the drop -- the population of Sitka black-  
9 tail deer and wanting to bring the issue to the  
10 attention of the Board under one specific provision of  
11 Section .805 that this is a subsistence need for a  
12 particular wildlife population in this region.

13

14                   Then lastly the seaduck mortality in  
15 Uyak Bay issue. Referring -- this was in a previous  
16 annual report, referring to that, and then inviting the  
17 Migratory Bird Program and the Alaska Migratory Bird  
18 Co-Management Council to explore coordinated research  
19 with Koniag Corporation and then Koniag has research  
20 biologists that might be able to assist and figure out  
21 what's going on out in Larsen Bay.

22

23                   And that's just kind of a quick  
24 overview of the annual report.

25

26                   If the Council would like to add  
27 anything or change anything on this annual report, now  
28 is the time for that, so this would be your final  
29 opportunity to approve of this for submission to the  
30 Federal Subsistence Board.

31

32                   Thank you, Madame Chair.

33

34                   MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair.

35

36                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

37

38                   MR. SCHWANTES: If it's possible I'd  
39 like to hear before we -- before we approve this, we've  
40 discussed, you know, the deer population. I'd like to  
41 hear from our local biologists before we agree to move  
42 this on. Maybe we want to change that.

43

44                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Sam.

45

46                   MR. ROHRER: Through the Chair. Also  
47 as I look on this, our number 2 concern on here is dual  
48 management of caribou populations which directly  
49 discusses the taking of wolves and the predatory impact  
50 of wolves, which incidently ties in directly with the

1 new proposed Refuge regs. So it would be nice to -- I  
2 think number 2 needs some work and we need to include a  
3 discussion of those proposed regs. They just tie --  
4 they go hand in hand with that.

5  
6 Thank you.

7  
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. I  
9 agree. Maybe the recommendation is that we hold off on  
10 this Carl until we're close to being adjourned so we  
11 can add to it as we need prior to adjournment.

12  
13 MR. JOHNSON: That's fine, Madame  
14 Chair. Carl Johnson again.

15  
16 I think it's important for us to do  
17 everything we can during this meeting to get a good  
18 product out so that's definitely not a problem.

19  
20 We have to remember to make sure to  
21 address it before we leave, because if you'll recall it  
22 was actually when we were in King Cove towards the end  
23 of a very long day we almost adjourned without even  
24 discussing this and we almost forgot it so we want to  
25 make sure to avoid that problem again this time.

26  
27 Thank you.

28  
29 MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair.

30  
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom, and then  
32 Pat.

33  
34 MR. SCHWANTES: I would move that we  
35 put that off until just before adjournment and discuss  
36 it just before adjournment and take care of it at that  
37 point.

38  
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We have a motion  
40 by Tom, a second.

41  
42 MR. HOLMES: Could I have discussion.

43  
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

45  
46 MR. HOLMES: I agree with Tom, Madame  
47 Chair. I'd like to make two small comments for Carl,  
48 in case I forget them.

49  
50 Dual management of caribou populations,

1 towards the end, middle of the second sentence it says;  
2 and possible predatory impacts; just drop possible.  
3 That's just -- we don't need that.

4  
5 And I would suggest on four, on seaduck  
6 mortality in Uyak Bay, it says in the previous annual  
7 report, and then I'd just stick in and prior year  
8 meetings discussions the Council has expressed concern.

9  
10 So add prior meeting Council to the  
11 seaduck, first sentence.

12  
13 And drop possible in the dual  
14 management.

15  
16 Thank you.

17  
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. First of  
19 all, we do have a motion, Pat, are you going to second  
20 the motion.

21  
22 MR. HOLMES: Oh, yes, I second the  
23 motion. Beg your pardon, Madame.

24  
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And  
26 then you do have this discussion.

27  
28 So anything else.

29  
30 (No comments)

31  
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none,  
33 all in favor of moving this toward the end of our  
34 meeting say aye.

35  
36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37  
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same  
39 sign.

40  
41 (No opposing votes)

42  
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.

44  
45 Okay, let's make sure we do that.

46  
47 Okay, Carl, I do believe we'll move on  
48 with charter revisions.

49  
50 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, thank you, Madame

1 Chair. Carl Johnson.

2

3                   So as this Council is governed by the  
4 Federal Advisory Committee Act, one of the things that  
5 law, which we refer to as FACA, requires, is that when  
6 a Council is established, an Advisory Committee, like  
7 yourself, it's established in accordance with a charter  
8 and then that charter is renewed every two years. So  
9 your current charter is set to expire in December 2nd  
10 of this year and, as such, you guys need to take a  
11 formal action to approve of the charter with any  
12 revisions. And so at the beginning -- your draft  
13 charter begins on Page 14 of your meeting book. And if  
14 you go to Page 16 you're going to see some highlighted  
15 language.

16

17                   Now, there's two sets of highlighted  
18 language, the second set relates to an issue you  
19 discussed at your fall meeting and that is some  
20 recommended changes on how to change the nominations  
21 and appointment process to avoid some problems we've  
22 had with delayed appointments in recent years. So, for  
23 example, moving from a three year to four year  
24 appointment terms; to provide for a formal alternate  
25 appointments; and also to provide for carryover terms,  
26 which would allow, in the event of a delay in an  
27 appointment reappointing somebody to the Council, that  
28 Council member could continue to serve for an  
29 additional 120 days, which would get us through the  
30 winter meeting cycle because appointment letters are  
31 supposed to issue on December the 3rd. So if the  
32 carryover term lasted for 120 days that would at least  
33 get you through your winter meeting cycle and then  
34 hopefully by then whatever delays have been caught up  
35 and the appointment letters can issue.

36

37                   So these are all things that you had  
38 approved for inclusion of your charter during your last  
39 meeting cycle.

40

41                   The first highlighted item you can see  
42 there relates to what FACA refers to as a membership  
43 balance plan. All of the charters currently for the  
44 Regional Advisory Councils have a membership balance  
45 plan that relates to a goal of having 70 percent  
46 subsistence users and 30 percent commercial/sport users  
47 on the Council. But this highlighted language relates  
48 to another part in your specific membership balance  
49 plan that previously existed in your charter and that  
50 relates to geographical balance. A desire to have a

1 certain number of members on your Council serving from  
2 -- who live in the Kodiak Archipelago, a certain number  
3 from the Alaska Peninsula and then also a certain  
4 number from the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands. And  
5 that language was removed, not by this Council, but it  
6 was removed in the 2011 charter, so I put it in here  
7 for the Council's consideration as to whether or not  
8 they would like to have that language reinstated, if  
9 having that geographic balance is something that the  
10 Council desires and values.

11  
12 So those are the main items for your  
13 consideration on this agenda item.

14  
15 Thank you, Madame Chair.

16  
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Carl.  
18 Is there any comments.

19  
20 Rebecca.

21  
22 MS. SKINNER: I have a question. So  
23 who removed and why was it removed?

24  
25 MR. JOHNSON: So the who would be  
26 somebody in Washington DC. The why I have not been  
27 able to get an answer on that. I pointed out that it  
28 was removed and that it's part of this Council's  
29 membership balance plan which FACA requires there to be  
30 in a charter, but I still have not been able to get an  
31 answer as to the wy.

32  
33 MS. SKINNER: Just a follow up, is that  
34 -- should we expect that the charter will be modified  
35 by people in DC, is that common, or is that something  
36 we should expect on an ongoing basis?

37  
38 MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair, yes,  
39 Carl Johnson again. Unfortunately that does happen.  
40 And for example there were several things that I caught  
41 that were changed in DC without consultation with our  
42 Program in the 2011, specifically in the 2011 charter  
43 renewals that were fairly inexplicable and we got some  
44 explanations on some of them, but not very good  
45 explanations on the others. That is unfortunately a  
46 part of working with the Federal bureaucracy, there are  
47 some things that are changed that -- that we don't know  
48 about but we do try to find answers when we can.

49  
50 MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair.

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

2

3 MR. SCHWANTES: Through the Chair. I'd  
4 certainly like to see that balance that's in there.  
5 However, one of my concerns is, if we are not getting  
6 people from those regions to apply, if we have this in  
7 here, is that going to prevent us from filling the  
8 quorum that we have, or the number of people on the  
9 Board.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Carl.

12

13 MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair.  
14 Excellent question, Tom. And that's why you see it  
15 states, for geographic membership balance, it is the  
16 goal to seat four members. So what that is, is it's an  
17 expression of you, the Council's desire, that we at OSM  
18 do the best that we can to do outreach in those areas  
19 that would increase applicants from those regions that  
20 are under represented. So a communication of your  
21 desire to let us, you know, let us know, of what you  
22 would like to see regarding our outreach. At least  
23 that's the way I would look at it.

24

25 Again, with the 70/30 balance between  
26 subsistence and commercial/sport users, again, that is  
27 stated as a goal, not as a mandate. Because as you  
28 noted, correctly, Tom, it's sometimes very difficult to  
29 get applications from some areas simply because some  
30 folks might not think that the -- you know, since  
31 there's no Federal subsistence management in their  
32 area, what's the point. But I think what we try to do  
33 is to let people know that this Council is a voice for  
34 subsistence users in the entire region and their use of  
35 the resources, whether they're fish and wildlife or  
36 marine mammal or whatever, at least we can get people  
37 connected through you to different agencies to express  
38 concerns.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Carl.  
43 If you look at the makeup of our Board right now,  
44 there's three from the Aleutians and seven from the  
45 Kodiak region and I am aware of people from the Eastern  
46 Aleutians who have put their name in for this cycle and  
47 they did not -- they were not accepted. So it is a  
48 concern to me when I look at this, not saying from one  
49 region to the other, because I know both regions work  
50 pretty closely to support each other and have in the

1 past and I believe will continue to do so, but it is a  
2 concern when you're looking at the Aleutians, from the  
3 Peninsula, all the way to out west and then the  
4 Pribilofs, it's a large area. And the more eyes and  
5 ears and people that you have to speak for you on  
6 issues is beneficial.

7  
8                   The other issue, I think, you know  
9 you've got the President and his executive order and  
10 the issue of consultation, not only, I think, with this  
11 group that should have happened with the Interior  
12 Office when these decisions were made, but to other  
13 tribes or people that the -- the regions that it  
14 impacts. So my recommend is to go back with this and  
15 say this is important and this is why and to emphasize  
16 the issue with the consultation because I think that's  
17 important.

18  
19                   Pat.

20  
21                   MR. HOLMES: Well, Madame Chair, while  
22 Carl was chatting I recall a comment a meeting or two  
23 ago that Carl made that our Council can also provide  
24 nominations or input to OSM and say, you know, here's  
25 some good people and -- and we can do that, right, or  
26 not?

27  
28                   MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair.

29  
30                   Typically the Regional Advisory  
31 Councils, themselves, would not nominate somebody, but  
32 what you could, as an individual, you could nominate  
33 somebody, you could submit it. Because the application  
34 forms are actually the application/nomination form. So  
35 you could nominate somebody who you think would be a  
36 good candidate, obviously consulting with them, so that  
37 they're not caught off guard. Tribes can nominate  
38 someone. Native organizations. Sport hunting  
39 associations. Anybody can nominate somebody, it's just  
40 a very under utilized part of the process.

41  
42                   MR. HOLMES: What I might suggest, and  
43 I don't know if we could do this without being in an  
44 official meeting, but it might be productive for us to  
45 -- if we could do it at lunch or, you know, we're not  
46 -- we're going to have a hard time getting through our  
47 schedule, but just maybe brainstorm or send emails to  
48 our Chair person to you or something, because I was  
49 just thinking of folks out, you know, with vince  
50 leaving, we don't have another Aleutians person and I

1 was thinking folks that I had worked with out there  
2 before like Suzie Goldoff or Larry Dirks, you know,  
3 those are a couple of people that have broad experience  
4 in different governmental types of things and are avid  
5 users, maybe we could put together kind of a wish list  
6 or folks that we think are good, maybe that Devine kid  
7 there in Sand Point, but, you know, just kind of  
8 brainstorm on who we know in other parts of our region  
9 that might -- Tom Hoblett, I tried to get him but he's  
10 cod fishing.

11

(Microphone drops on ground)

12

13  
14 MR. HOLMES: But, anyway, Tom Hoblett  
15 is cod fishing but he would be another person to  
16 include in a possible contact list and then the members  
17 of our Council that know those people could suggest to  
18 them that they would apply and then in that case we're  
19 sort of not necessarily bureaucratically nominating  
20 them but we're giving a little more impetus than just  
21 what comes out in the paper in Dutch Harbor.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think, Carl,  
24 also can this be added to our Council's letter, what  
25 we're saving for the last, the annual report?

26

27 MR. JOHNSON: Certainly. First through  
28 the Chair, back to Patrick. I encourage you to follow  
29 that process in the future but the application period  
30 for this year's application cycle is closed and we  
31 have, I think, six or so applicants from this region  
32 moving forward. That's the other thing, too, it's a  
33 long process, it takes around 14 to 15 months to  
34 complete from the beginning to the end.

35

36 So definitely in the future moving  
37 forward I encourage you to do that.

38

39 And then back to Della's question. We  
40 can certainly add to the annual report an expression of  
41 the Council's desire that this membership balance plan  
42 be approved for its charter. And one of the things we  
43 do when we transmit the charters to DC for approval is  
44 we have a transmittal memorandum which sets forth  
45 justifications for changes that are made to the  
46 charters. So there I would indicate that for the  
47 Kodiak/Aleutians charter, this is part of their  
48 membership balance plan as required by FACA.

49

50 MR. HOLMES: I assume that we're

1 probably forbidden by some Federal law for our Council  
2 to know who's in the pipeline.

3

4 MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair. Yes  
5 that would be the Privacy Act. The Privacy Act  
6 requires us to not disclose who's applying and we have  
7 a very confidential process from beginning to the end.  
8 And there are certain aspects of it that are so  
9 confidential we're not even allowed to know about it,  
10 that is, whether or not -- why people are approved or  
11 disapproved in DC for the final appointments.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

14

15 MR. SCHWANTES: I guess what I mean is  
16 I'd like to see this language put back in. Do we need  
17 a motion to do that, to have it put back in here, what  
18 do we need to do here?

19

20 MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair. Carl,  
21 again. Yes, a motion from the Council to submit these  
22 changes to their charter would be preferred.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom, go ahead.

29

30 MR. SCHWANTES: I'd make a motion that  
31 we include this language and send it forward requesting  
32 that it be put back in this document.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Do we have a  
35 second.

36

37 MR. KOSO: Second.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Call for  
40 question.

41

42 MR. HOLMES: Discussion.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Discussion. Any  
45 more discussion, I guess, before I call the question.  
46 Moving the clock real fast here.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

1 MR. KOSO: Question.  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Question's been  
4 called, all in favor signify by saying aye.  
5  
6 IN UNISON: Aye.  
7  
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same  
9 sign.  
10  
11 (No opposing votes)  
12  
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm assuming,  
14 Mitch and Antone, that you're good with this.  
15  
16 MR. SHELIKOFF: Yes, this is Antone.  
17  
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, we'll move  
19 on.  
20  
21 MR. SIMEONOFF: Yes, from Mitch.  
22  
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right,  
24 moving on. Agency reports. You have a limit of 15  
25 minutes, unless approved in advance.  
26  
27 We have tribal governments at this time  
28 on the list. Is there anybody here that would like to  
29 speak.  
30  
31 (No comments)  
32  
33 MR. SCHWANTES: Della.  
34  
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.  
36  
37 MR. SCHWANTES: I just got a question,  
38 did that motion include both of those different  
39 statements.  
40  
41 MR. JOHNSON: (Nods affirmatively)  
42  
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Okay,  
44 what about Native organizations.  
45  
46 (No comments)  
47  
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.  
49  
50 MR. HOLMES: I think John Reft left.

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We will  
2 again ask in the morning.  
3  
4 All right.  
5  
6 US Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska  
7 Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. Steve is not here  
8 but he'll be here in the morning.  
9  
10 So, Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge.  
11  
12 MR. COBB: Good afternoon Council. My  
13 name is McCrea Cobb. I'm a wildlife biologist at  
14 Kodiak Refuge and I will be going through our Federal  
15 subsistence activity report between September and  
16 December of last year. It's on Page 65; starting on  
17 Page 65 of your handouts.  
18  
19 Can you hear me okay.  
20  
21 MS. LAROSA: Can the people on the  
22 phone hear?  
23  
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Maybe get  
25 closer.  
26  
27 REPORTER: Hold on, let me just  
28 reattach this cord.  
29  
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah.  
31  
32 MS. SKINNER: Can Mitch hear.  
33  
34 REPORTER: There you go.  
35  
36 MR. COBB: Okay. So going through the  
37 report here -- okay.  
38  
39 REPORTER: Okay, go ahead.  
40  
41 MS. LAROSA: Oh, there you go.  
42  
43 MR. COBB: I think that's better.  
44  
45 Now, I'm probably a little loud.  
46  
47 (Laughter)  
48  
49 MR. COBB: Going through the report  
50 starting out, we give a brief summary of the

1 subsistence permit summary for this period and most  
2 recent season 2014/15 was still in progress as of  
3 writing this report so the data aren't complete but you  
4 can see on Page 65, Table 1 that we had approximately  
5 the same number of people apply for designated deer  
6 permits this season as we did past season. And that  
7 was about double what we had the previous year before  
8 that, that was when we had the hard winter. So people  
9 are out there as they were last year trying to get  
10 their deer.

11  
12 We have three permits for subsistence  
13 bear within the different villages. As of today we  
14 don't have any bear that have been harvested under  
15 that.

16  
17 And we had six people attempt to  
18 harvest an elk under Federal subsistence regulations  
19 and one successful harvest this year.

20  
21 We do resource research as well as  
22 inventory monitoring for brown bears, and our two major  
23 inventorying monitoring projects to assess population  
24 abundance are an intensive aerial survey which we  
25 conduct in conjunction with Alaska Department of Fish  
26 and Game. In 2014 we intended to survey two areas, one  
27 centered on an area encompassed by Treasure and Red  
28 Lakes and another encompassing the Sturgeon River  
29 drainage. Unfortunately early leaf-out, as you recall,  
30 from a warm and mild spring prevented sighting bears  
31 from the air so we were unable to carry out this survey  
32 in 2014. However, we will attempt to survey again in  
33 late May of 2015.

34  
35 We also conduct brown bear stream  
36 surveys every summer and this is along a network of  
37 streams in Southwest Kodiak Island. So the purpose of  
38 this survey is to monitor bear attendance along streams  
39 and gather composition data of the population and we've  
40 conducted surveys from mid-July through mid-September,  
41 16 surveys total this past summer. Results were -- we  
42 found substantially fewer bears, 15 bears per survey  
43 average compared to the annual average between 1985 and  
44 2005 period, which was 85 bears per survey.

45  
46 Research of bear habitat use in the  
47 same region indicated that bear use of streams was  
48 limited after berries ripened in mid to late July and  
49 so we think that probably what happened is the early  
50 and highly productive berry crop this past year

1 contributed to this unusual pattern.

2

3                   And I won't go into any more detail but  
4 there's quite a bit of detail in our report on that.

5

6                   Bear harvest data which we got from  
7 Alaska Department of Fish and Game within the Refuge  
8 boundary was 104 bears, sport harvest accounted for 101  
9 bears, which is 79 males and 22 females.

10

11                   Sport harvest within the Refuge  
12 accounted for 62 percent of the total sport harvest on  
13 the Archipelago.

14

15                   We conduct research on brown bear and  
16 an ongoing project that has been going on since 2012,  
17 Federal Kodiak brown bear sockeye salmon foraging  
18 ecology on Southwest Kodiak Island, and there's a  
19 number of goals associated with that study. Which is a  
20 collaborative effort between the Refuge, USGS and the  
21 University of Montana Flathead Lake Biological Station.

22

23                   First, our goals are to characterize  
24 the spacial temporal variations of salmon runs in 11  
25 streams using a new approach which relies on a time  
26 lapse camera system.

27

28                   Secondly, we want to determine how  
29 salmon abundance, run timing and energy levels affect  
30 how bears use them as a food source.

31

32                   And, thirdly, we want to understand the  
33 physical and biological characteristics of salmon runs  
34 that trigger how bears move and travel among streams.

35

36                   And, finally, we want to understand the  
37 physical characteristics of salmon foraging sites for  
38 bears.

39

40                   So this past summer we monitored salmon  
41 abundance and bear density at 11 streams using these  
42 camera systems between late May and September and  
43 Figure 1 shows some of these results. We calculated  
44 total escapement using a calibration from the time  
45 lapse camera to estimate spawning escapement.  
46 Estimated total escapement in the 11 streams was about  
47 half a million salmon. We also measured morphology of  
48 the streams, such as width and depth and substrate size  
49 and these data will be then examined along with GPS  
50 collar data from bears in that same area.

1 Moving along.

2

3 In 2012, the Refuge initiated a new  
4 effort to try to get a handle on how many Sitka black-  
5 tail deer we have on Kodiak or at least develop an  
6 indices of change, annual change in abundance. We  
7 started this in 2012 with an aerial survey of the  
8 Aliulik Peninsula and since that time we've conducted  
9 surveys in 2013 within the same region, and then  
10 expanded the same method, refined it and repeated the  
11 survey this past summer in Aliulik, Olga Flats area and  
12 Ayakulik River drainage. Figure 3 shows, on Page 69,  
13 the area where we surveyed for deer, so this includes  
14 relatively flat open habitats in Southern Kodiak  
15 Island. It's an aerial transect that uses a -- it's  
16 called a distance sampling approach with a double  
17 observer to correct the number of deer we're seeing for  
18 estimating how many we missed, which then allows you to  
19 estimate total deer abundance and generated density of  
20 deer within that area.

21

22 So we found that deer density has  
23 increased approximately 62 percent with the Aliulik  
24 Peninsula area between 2012, that first year that we  
25 surveyed there and 2014 indicating that deer abundances  
26 are rebounding from the large die off of deer that we  
27 had a number of years -- 2011/2012. How this relates  
28 to deer abundance prior to that winter we're unclear of  
29 because the survey didn't start until 2012.

30

31 We also, since 2011, ADF&G monitors  
32 hunter harvest through a reporting system. They've  
33 switched to an online reporting system, through which  
34 we've so far unable to include Kodiak specific  
35 questions such as whether deer were harvested on Refuge  
36 or on Federal land, and this is something we had gotten  
37 data on before this switched to an online system. So  
38 we're working right now with ADF&G to try to get this  
39 information and understand a little bit better about  
40 how many deer are harvested within the Refuge itself.

41

42 But to-date subsistence users reported  
43 lower hunter effort in 2014 compared to previous  
44 seasons and we basically guess that's likely due to  
45 increased deer abundance. And as I mentioned earlier,  
46 45 Federal subsistence designated deer permits were  
47 allocated, just about the same number as the previous  
48 year.

49

50 We rely on ADF&G's efforts to track

1 abundances of elk. They may be talking about this a  
2 little bit later, but their efforts which include radio  
3 collaring elk and then conducting surveys show that the  
4 Waterfall Herd, which is on Refuge lands, in the  
5 vicinity of Refuge lands on Afognak Island likely  
6 increased from about 60 to 80 elk between 2013 and  
7 2014. Three elk were harvested from that herd. One  
8 was a bull and two cows, and of these was a bull  
9 harvested under the Federal subsistence season.

10  
11 This past summer we successfully  
12 completed the first survey of sea otter abundance  
13 across Kodiak Archipelago since 2004. We were able to  
14 get non-Refuge funding for this effort and I completed  
15 the aerial survey which lasted about four weeks. Page  
16 70 shows the map with the tract line where we flew. It  
17 was a replication of efforts of 2004. We did the exact  
18 same method, which is a method that's employed across  
19 Alaska for estimating sea otter abundance. Spent over  
20 120 hours in the plane surveying a wide range of areas  
21 and using a method, again, I'm happy to talk about it  
22 in more detail, but it also corrects for sightability,  
23 those sea otters that are present, but unaccounted for,  
24 we might have missed either because we didn't see them  
25 or they're under water. The results of the survey  
26 showed -- estimated that we had 13,274 otters, plus or  
27 minus 3,694 across the Kodiak Archipelago. Compared to  
28 the last survey, which was in 2004, the abundance  
29 estimate in 2004 was 11,005 otters, plus or minus,  
30 4,190, so the average is up slightly, however, if you  
31 include confidence, it's not statistically different.  
32 And, again, previous survey in 1989 was pretty similar  
33 to what we saw this survey. So we're working on a  
34 report, which details this effort and goes into more  
35 detail about the changes, potential changes in the  
36 distribution of otters. Although the otter distr --  
37 abundance overall is the same it appears that the  
38 relative distribution of sea otters across the  
39 Archipelago has shifted, so we're likely seeing more  
40 otters on the east side of Kodiak Island and the north  
41 side of Kodiak Island, potentially the same or less on  
42 northern Afognak and Shuyak area. The report will be  
43 ready and available to the Council soon.

44  
45 We work with Marine Mammals Management  
46 in Anchorage to identify cause and mortality, so we  
47 helped them collect some data on any sea otters that  
48 are dead and reported to us and we also serve as  
49 marking and tagging representatives for qualified  
50 Natives that harvest sea otters.

1                   This past summer we conducted a coastal  
2 waterbird survey which focused on near shore marine  
3 birds. The results of that are in Table 2. This is  
4 the same method that we've been following for a number  
5 of years now, basing out of our Refuge research vessel,  
6 it's a water -- it's a boat base survey that covers  
7 approximately 1,600 kilometers of shoreline, 102  
8 transects and the results show that the most commonly  
9 encountered species are what you would expect, black-  
10 legged kittiwakes and a number of others.

11  
12                   Table 2 and 3 go into detail.

13  
14                   We're also doing bird research notably  
15 a study on Kittlitz's murrelet which continued this  
16 past summer. It's been ongoing since 2008. This is a  
17 study focused on their nesting ecology. Most notable  
18 result, which I believe we discussed at the last  
19 meeting was we found Kittlitz's murrelet nestlings  
20 dying of paralytic shellfish poisoning, which was the  
21 first time this has been reported, and there's a paper  
22 published -- co-authored by one of our Refuge  
23 biologists that goes into detail.

24  
25                   The fisheries data come from Alaska  
26 Department of Fish and Game, but in terms of  
27 subsistence focus, the early sockeye salmon run  
28 returning to the Karluk met escapement goals for the  
29 third consecutive year. In contrast chinook salmon  
30 escapements for Karluk River and the Aliulik --  
31 Ayakulik, excuse me, River, did not meet their  
32 respective lower escapement goals. Residents of Karluk  
33 and Larsen Bay who participated in subsistence reported  
34 good catch per unit effort for sockeye and were able to  
35 meet their subsistence harvest needs. In northern area  
36 Kodiak, areas open for Federal subsistence near Afognak  
37 River and Buskin, same escapement was lower in 2013  
38 than -- or sorry, it was lower in 2014 than 2013 but  
39 within the escapement goal and at the Buskin River 2014  
40 sockeye escapement exceeded escapement goal.

41  
42                   Just we continue to do a number of  
43 efforts for education and outreach. Tonya Lee's our  
44 point of contact for that and with that we've also  
45 visited villages to talk about the proposed changes to  
46 harvest regulations. We've conducted outreach to  
47 Native tribes regarding possible regulatory changes.  
48 We've done hunter outreach visiting villages to talk  
49 about subsistence -- Federal subsistence harvest  
50 regulation oppor -- or Federal subsistence

1 opportunities, the regulations and what's available,  
2 any changes to sport harvest that may be of concern or  
3 interest. And Tonya Lee's been involved in a number of  
4 education projects in the villages, including one that  
5 uses a remote camera to take photos of wildlife for  
6 learning more about ecology in the schools and she's  
7 done rural school outreach visiting Old Harbor, Akhiok  
8 and other schools along with our law enforcement  
9 officer.

10

11 I think I'll leave it at that and thank  
12 you.

13

14 MS. LAROSA: Madame Chair. This is  
15 Anne Marie LaRosa. So my topic will be, on the agenda,  
16 is the Karluk Lake nutrient enrichment project and this  
17 is just an update on the process.

18

19 But before I do that I wanted to thank  
20 McCrea for his service, this will be his last  
21 subsistence meeting. He's taken a position in  
22 Anchorage with our inventory and monitoring program so  
23 you might still see his name and you might still see  
24 him but not very regularly and not in this capacity so  
25 we thank McCrea for his service and for his assistance  
26 in inventory and monitoring subsistence species and for  
27 the great outreach work that he does with Tonya Lee.

28

29 Unfortunately, I'm sad to say that his  
30 position is falling victim to our work force planning  
31 and will not be replaced. So his duties related to  
32 subsistence will be divided among our other Staff  
33 members. So we're going from four wildlife biologists  
34 to three on Kodiak. But doesn't mean that you would  
35 see less service in terms of our relationship and  
36 communication with the Council, but I think you  
37 probably will see some diminished capacity in terms of  
38 our ability to inventory and monitor species.

39

40 So thanks to McCrea for all of his  
41 work.

42

43 So, Karluk Lake. As many of you know  
44 that live in Kodiak, the years between 2008 and 2011  
45 saw reduced runs, severely reduced runs of sockeye in  
46 the western side of the island. In response to that  
47 KRAA submitted a proposal to the Refuge for a nutrient  
48 enrichment of Karluk Lake and since we've received the  
49 proposal we've been working through a process, an  
50 environmental assessment which came out last fall, or

1 last December, and was available for 60 days of public  
2 comment. That process comment period was extended for  
3 one week and it just closed this past Monday. We also  
4 had an open house in Kodiak. About 30 people attended  
5 that open house, we had really good conversations  
6 about, you know, how people felt about the proposal and  
7 the alternatives, of which there were four in the  
8 environmental assessment. Continue the current  
9 management, which in NEPA terms is called the no action  
10 alternative, KRAA's proposal for a nutrient enrichment,  
11 the potential to stock fish in the lake and then the  
12 potential to combine nutrient enrichment in stocking.  
13 So those were the four alternatives that were examined  
14 in the EA. We've received -- I haven't seen all the  
15 comments because some of them have gone to Anchorage  
16 and I haven't gotten them back from there but maybe on  
17 the order of 15 to 20 comments from fishermen and other  
18 folks and I'm going through the comments now and  
19 collating and kind of organizing and will be responding  
20 to the comments and coming up with a decision here in  
21 hopefully the next month or so. So we'll have a  
22 decision document and we'll also have a compatibility  
23 determination which is a requirement by law that we  
24 have to have to permit uses on National Wildlife  
25 Refuges.

26

27 So that's where we are in the process.  
28 You have a question and answer sheet that we gave out  
29 throughout the public comment period for your  
30 information. I also contacted the tribes in Karluk and  
31 Larsen Bay and offered to come give a presentation to  
32 them and consult with them and that didn't happen. So  
33 we did not hear from Karluk and Larsen Bay. But we did  
34 hear from Old Harbor and a few other folks.

35

36 So I don't know if you all have any  
37 questions.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think maybe  
40 just for some sort of process order, do you want to  
41 start with Tom and then go to you and then Pat.

42

43 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I just have one  
44 question. On your deer survey, you know, one of the  
45 things we're hearing is about east side deer  
46 populations. And I noticed that you're not doing any  
47 surveys on the east side; is there a reason for that, I  
48 mean just because of the terrain or what?

49

50 MR. COBB: This is McCrea, through the

1 Chair. Thank you, Tom. Yes, that's the main reason.  
2 We wanted to sort of start, as you would say, with the  
3 low hanging fruit and see whether or not this method  
4 worked and under ideal habitat, open flat, grassy  
5 terrain like the Aliulik Peninsula. It did. And so  
6 we've expanded it from there to Olga Flats and then  
7 Ayakulik and it appears to be working there as well  
8 giving us good estimates. So it's a -- rather than  
9 diving right in to a full island wide effort, we're  
10 expanding it out from there. And we're looking at  
11 adapting a method for other habitat types, most  
12 notably, mountainous terrain. There's recently  
13 published work on estimating dall sheep abundances  
14 using a similar method in mountainous terrain and so  
15 we're considering following that approach to include  
16 mountainous terrain as well. One of the current  
17 limitations is that, as you know, the deer move up and  
18 down the hills and when that happens during the spring  
19 varies depending on the spring conditions and so we  
20 want to be able to get body assumption that we missed  
21 deer that are in the hills versus the ones that have  
22 moved down, the timing, so we're looking at improving  
23 it.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Sam.

28

29 MR. ROHRER: Yes, through the Chair.  
30 Just a question, not to keep beating a dead horse, but  
31 on the proposed regs, so I'm thinking about how the  
32 language from the pending proposed Refuge regs for  
33 managing for natural diversity, how does that tie in --  
34 or how do you -- I know that's what you're looking at,  
35 part of what you're taking into account with the EA,  
36 for the Karluk fertilization project, but can you just  
37 give us any idea of like your preliminary, what you're  
38 coming up with, how do those two things work together?  
39 How do you reconcile those, or how do you intend to  
40 reconcile those two ideas? Does that -- so managing  
41 for natural diversity, if that's the mandate, how that  
42 is weighing in on your decision for the EA with  
43 fertilization of Karluk Lake?

44

45 MS. LAROSA: So with Karluk Lake we're  
46 looking at what the historical population has been and  
47 what the -- what elements play into that and working  
48 with Fish and Game's escapements and past data, so  
49 right now that's kind of what we're looking at in terms  
50 of trying to come up with how the system functions more

1 or less naturally, understanding that Fish and Game's  
2 escapement management is a management activity.

3

4 Does that answer your question.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MR. ROHRER: Yeah, it partially does.  
9 Yeah, let me -- it partially does, I kind of have some  
10 follow up questions but I'll let someone else go for  
11 now.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

14

15 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. Marie.  
16 McCrea, sorry you're leaving. What would happen if we  
17 were to write a nice nasty letter to your new boss  
18 saying that you're just totally, totally incompetent  
19 and we really need you here.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 MS. LAROSA: I tried that.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 MR. HOLMES: Oh, shucks.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 MR. COBB: You'd have to get in line.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 MR. HOLMES: Well, okay, you should  
36 have let us know earlier. I mean it's hard enough to  
37 get anybody here to study deer and I appreciate -- and  
38 other critters, and I really appreciate your desire in  
39 trying to get a little bit of science into what's an  
40 art. I think probably, I don't know what Nate's budget  
41 is on deer but I remember VanDale's was about 400 bucks  
42 a year for research so it's good that somebody at least  
43 can make some attempt to see what's going on. I'll be  
44 quite excited to see adaptation of sheep on the  
45 mountains and just like my comments on sea otters,  
46 check and see which way the wind's blowing when you get  
47 to do that, so I'm sorry you're leaving us.

48

49 And I was wondering on the otters, you  
50 know, the numbers, populations pretty much hanging in

1 there and I like the fact that you include your  
2 confidence intervals around that because that really  
3 helps a person understand what's going on because you  
4 can look at the plain numbers and think, oh, wow, and I  
5 appreciate that since you've come to try to build that  
6 into your reports because it just helps a lot.

7

8 But it doesn't look like you saw many  
9 on the east side of the island, on the otters, and  
10 that's tough to do that much flying. I remember my  
11 buns getting awful sore counting fish but -- but what  
12 do you account for not being able to see them on the  
13 east side, do you think they were hiding out or does  
14 these little dots just reflect something else on that  
15 Figure 4.

16

17 MR. COBB: McCrea, through the Chair.  
18 Thanks, Pat, good question.

19

20 Yeah, and that is something that struck  
21 me is we did not see a lot of sea otters on the east  
22 side. There were a few on the south end off of Olga  
23 that aren't represented in this map, which was a  
24 surprise as well. Quite a bit off shore. But what you  
25 see here for the east side is what we saw. We surveyed  
26 a long time and did not see any sea otters. It  
27 appeared to be good sea otter habitat to me. Previous  
28 surveys had not seen sea otters in the east side  
29 either. We had reports that sea otters were sort of  
30 moving into some of those areas and I know that there's  
31 a number of people within the villages on the east side  
32 that do harvest sea otters, so there's some harvest  
33 that goes on. But in terms of what's limiting the  
34 movement of sea otters on the east side, I have some  
35 theories but it's a I don't know.

36

37 MR. HOLMES: So it can't be Ms. Berns  
38 turning out 500,000 mittens or anything.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 MS. BERNS: Yeah. This is Melissa  
43 Berns from Old Harbor. Yeah, I make a lot of hats.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 MS. BERNS: I'm also a tagger too, and  
48 within the last five months I have tagged about five  
49 otters within the -- that were harvested in the east  
50 side. We value our shellfish and we value our crab and

1 clam beds and I know locals, as soon as they're seen,  
2 they're gone, so, yeah, they're harvested.

3

4 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, if I can --  
5 I got a couple other things.

6

7 I was really hoping at this meeting we  
8 could get a little bit of an update on harlequins. I  
9 know you didn't survey them this year, you did your  
10 east side survey of bay ducks and it looks like your  
11 population of harlequins is fairly stable on the east  
12 side but it would be really good, you know, if you  
13 could just do a little Excel table and email it to us  
14 so we could see what's going on over at Uyak for 2013  
15 because I think -- was there a survey in '13 of the  
16 west side, because I know you kind of changed your  
17 sampling plan but I think you did one then and we were  
18 going to get a report but I think something happened  
19 and we didn't get it.

20

21 MS. LAROSA: We surveyed.....

22

23 MR. HOLMES: Uyak Bay is.....

24

25 MS. LAROSA: .....did we survey Uyak  
26 Bay in 2013, I wasn't here for.....

27

28 MR. SIMEONOFF: Madame Chair, this is  
29 Mitch.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Mitch.

32

33 MR. SIMEONOFF: I have a question. I  
34 I'm also a tagger here in Akhiok and we do have  
35 opportunities to take the skiffs and we -- I know we've  
36 seen over 50 sea otters out in the Cape Alitak area and  
37 recently we've had about 20 inside the bay here, a  
38 little bay called Ken's Bay, and that's awfully close  
39 to our clams and beds, we noticed there's a lot of sea  
40 otter out there. I have a question on the fish, Upper  
41 Station, has there been any preliminary studies or  
42 observations made in the Upper Station Drainage? The  
43 return of the salmon at Upper Station, the sockeye  
44 salmon has dropped so drastically that it's affecting  
45 the fishery and the subsistence harvest in the whole  
46 Alitak Bay district. I don't know who to direct that  
47 question to but if someone there could provide some  
48 observations or an answer.

49

50 MR. COBB: This is McCrea, through the

1 Chair. Mitch, are you asking about salmon abundances  
2 or sea otter.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Salmon.

5

6 MR. SIMEONOFF: Well, my observations  
7 as a tagger I've observed quite a few sea otters from  
8 Cape Alitak, out there where the lighthouse is and on  
9 into Lazy Bay and Ken's Bay, there's another light off  
10 of that Alitak and Lazy Bay entrance there. There's a  
11 lot of people here that when we go out there halibut  
12 fishing or cod jigging, you know, there's a good  
13 observation of sea otters in the area and I've seen sea  
14 otters all the way up by Alpine Cove in Deadman Bay so  
15 we know they're out there. We kind of like more  
16 information on harvestability to the hunters out here  
17 who are kind of reluctant to hunt them because they  
18 don't quite understand the rules yet. But I kind of  
19 explained to them that they can harvest them and they  
20 just need to let Fish and Wildlife know that they've  
21 been harvesting them and let me know so that I can tag  
22 them and collect teeth and the skull.

23

24 But my real question was the drastic  
25 decline of returning salmon to the Upper Station River  
26 drainage. Has there been any studies or observations  
27 to that decline in salmon up there?

28

29 MS. LAROSA: This is Anne Marie. I  
30 think James Jackson from Fish and Game will be on the  
31 agenda later and he'll probably address Fish and Game's  
32 work on monitoring the fish in that area. We have been  
33 talking with Fish and Game and KRAA and we're working  
34 on a proposal for the Resource Monitoring proposals on  
35 the Olga Bay fisheries from various points of view and  
36 trying to get a handle on what's happening there so  
37 that'll be a proposal that will go into that Resource  
38 Monitoring call for proposals.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

41

42 MR. SIMEONOFF: Okay.

43

44 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. Mitch, I  
45 think probably we'll get some answers from James  
46 but.....

47

48 (Microphone drops on ground)

49

50 (Laughter)

1 MR. HOLMES: .....hey, you know, just  
2 because I'm old and get charlie horses and kick this  
3 thing off the table.....

4  
5 (Laughter)

6  
7 MR. HOLMES: .....anyway, Mitch,  
8 they're taping down my speaker because I've kicked it  
9 off the table three times. But there's a young gal  
10 that does the research there for Fish and Game,  
11 MaryBeth Lowan and I'll give her a call and ask her to  
12 call you because she has been working on trying to get  
13 a funding proposal to start some work there on Upper  
14 Station and so I just thought I'd pass that on to you,  
15 that they are trying to figure out what the heck's  
16 going on. And hopefully my speaker will stay on the  
17 table, if I don't kick it off. It's got five pieces of  
18 duct tape on it.

19  
20 (Laughter)

21  
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right.  
23 Melissa.....

24  
25 MR. SIMEONOFF: Never have enough duct  
26 tape.

27  
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, he's only  
29 knocked it off about six times, he's actually knocked  
30 mine off once so I'm almost afraid to sit by him  
31 anymore.

32  
33 (Laughter)

34  
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: But that's Pat.

36  
37 (Laughter)

38  
39 MR. HOLMES: I have one more thing for  
40 the Refuge. I had to try to see what was going on, I  
41 forgot to ask you, Marie, about, you know, the comments  
42 that have come in and who said what and I was able to  
43 get a packet from Tina Fairbanks at KRAA and read  
44 through their 42 pages of comments and so I won't go  
45 over those, but I did want to pass on something from my  
46 experience in the past and a couple of things that got  
47 left in the discussion.

48  
49 And there's a comment in there saying  
50 that there wasn't follow up research on the last

1 enrichment program. And as I recall at that time we  
2 had a change of Governors and that whole division that  
3 was doing the enrichment and the lake limnology and  
4 everything, that whole division was cut out. And so  
5 it's not a lack of effort, it just went away.

6  
7 But one of the things I did notice, I  
8 never did any real study or did confidence levels on it  
9 because I was stationed in the Aleutians at the time,  
10 was that, when they did do the last round of  
11 fertilization the first things that seemed to respond,  
12 like two years before the sockeye, were the chinook.  
13 And my guess is, is that the chinook par and smolt  
14 holding in the river really spun off on that extra  
15 nutrient, a lot more fry drifting out of the mouth and  
16 so I think, and I might be totally wrong, because  
17 that's, what, 30 years ago or something, but I think  
18 you'll find that that effort did give a bump to the  
19 chinook. And so that's a potential positive aspect to  
20 things. And that, at least, from what I've read in  
21 here, you know, they're looking at a short-term effort,  
22 not a really long-term sustained type of thing, and  
23 probably back when they submitted their proposal a  
24 couple of years ago, you know, it would have been quite  
25 a change so I know that's going to be a topical thing  
26 but you probably got plenty of comments from the  
27 fishermen and other folks in town. And, you know, I  
28 think getting a relatively sustainable level of sockeye  
29 there for subsistence as well as commercial fisheries  
30 is a good thing. And I think, particularly, the  
31 approach of just doing it on a selective basis when  
32 there's a down cycle, maybe now we're going into an up  
33 cycle and it isn't needed, I don't know, I'm not  
34 involved in that anymore.

35  
36 But when you do do your summary I'd  
37 sure appreciate taking a look at it because I just  
38 always like to know what's going on. And I appreciate  
39 that.

40  
41 Best wishes to you on your new job and  
42 thanks for all your hard work up to date here.

43  
44 And if you want to come back, we can  
45 work it out, let us know, we'll write some letters for  
46 you.

47  
48 (Laughter)

49  
50 MS. LAROSA: This is Anne Marie. I

1 think the good news is, is McCrea is going to be  
2 working for the Refuge Program in Anchorage in the  
3 inventory and monitoring program so we'll try to  
4 squeeze blood out of a turnip and see if we can get him  
5 back here to do something, but it won't be the same I  
6 can promise you that.

7

8 MR. HOLMES: One last thing, I like to  
9 do my normal thing and compliment Tonya on her outreach  
10 program because like when you started your job, I  
11 suggested if you wanted to know who was who in the  
12 villages, ask Tonya, because she is just an exceptional  
13 young lady, being of Alutiiq background, and Kodiak  
14 background, and I wish every Refuge had a half a dozen  
15 people that grew up in that area. I know  
16 philosophically that's not great down in the states  
17 because you get too many rednecks, but it really.....

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MR. HOLMES: .....helps, I think, in  
22 the broader run of things, to encourage those  
23 communications with rural folks and so, thank you very  
24 much.

25

26 MS. LAROSA: I'd just like to make a  
27 quick comment about that.

28

29 A couple of weeks ago I went and  
30 attended the ANSEP, the Alaska Native Science and  
31 Engineering Program banquet, which was incredibly  
32 inspirational to see some of those young people that  
33 have, you know, been brought along through middle  
34 school, high school and college, many of them graduated  
35 and are now working in -- and a lot of them on the  
36 engineering side in industry, I think the program now  
37 is kind of heavily weighted, in terms of interest,  
38 towards industry, but there is the whole science  
39 background and we would really like to get more young  
40 people into the program and it's the Refuge's goal to  
41 try to be recruiting, you know, even at the middle  
42 school level in Kodiak and around here. So I'd like to  
43 have some outreach about the program to the schools and  
44 the folks in the villages and see if we could get some  
45 kids interested, you know, at that level and build from  
46 the bottom up. It won't happen next year or the  
47 following year, but when my hair's a little greyer,  
48 maybe there'll be more people like Tonya working for  
49 the Refuge.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. I  
2 think Michelle Yetchenof, I don't know if you had the  
3 chance to meet her up there but I think she's working  
4 on her doctorate for that program and she's actually  
5 from King Cove, and she pushes our young kids and tries  
6 to recruit them at every opportunity she gets. So I  
7 think it's really important.

8  
9 Michelle -- not, Michelle -- I'm  
10 starting to get really tired.

11  
12 (Laughter)

13  
14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Melissa.

15  
16 MS. BERNS: No, I didn't have a  
17 comment.

18  
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

20  
21 MS. SKINNER: No, I'm good.

22  
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Mitch, did you  
24 have anything else for the Kodiak Refuge.

25  
26 MR. SIMEONOFF: Well, I'd just like to  
27 reiterate a little bit about the declining salmon in  
28 the Olga Bay area. You know, it's very important to  
29 the subsistence users in Akhiok. You know, we have --  
30 well, there was a time when there were like eight  
31 salmon streams that were very well in producing salmon  
32 and now we're down to two, the Dog Salmon River and the  
33 Upper Station. The Upper Station is seriously  
34 declining. We had Chip Cove, (indiscernible) Creek at  
35 the entrance to Olga Bay, Horse Marine, Dog Salmon,  
36 Akalura and Silver Salmon, all those river systems used  
37 to have weirs -- salmon -- fish counting weirs. The  
38 last place that had a weir was the Akalura. They took  
39 that out because there was just hardly any fish  
40 returning. This is a serious concern that we're not  
41 managing these systems to keep a sustainable return, it  
42 seems like we're just managing for lower numbers and  
43 allowing them to decline beyond recovery. It's serious  
44 and I hope we do something about them.

45  
46 Thank you.

47  
48 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

49  
50 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

1 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, this is Pat.  
2 Mitch. I think that that's a really good point and you  
3 mentioned it at our meeting out at King Cove, and I  
4 think that's one of the things we forgot in our letter  
5 that we're revising. So I think we'll try to get in a  
6 letter in there expressing concern of our Council on  
7 the decline of Upper Station sockeye and then hopefully  
8 that'll help some folks get some research money to try  
9 to figure out what's going on and correct the problem.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral, I think I  
12 missed you in the beginning, we started with Tom, do  
13 you have any comments for the Refuge Staff.

14

15 MS. CHERNOFF: This is Coral. I guess  
16 when I was reading over this I was a little concerned  
17 that the numbers were low for three years and we seem  
18 to feel like we need to fix that. Three years seems  
19 like kind of a short period of time to be looking at  
20 numbers to decide, and since then numbers have been  
21 increasing and I know last year the return was pretty  
22 high, I believe, like it was the highest since I don't  
23 know how long.

24

25 But I guess that's one thing that  
26 concerned me is that your need to fix a problem that,  
27 to me, didn't seem to quite be there yet, and then now  
28 hearing Mitch talk about these levels of salmon down on  
29 the south end, I don't know how long that issue's been  
30 going on because I'm not familiar with any of that  
31 information, but why we're not addressing that, but we  
32 seem to be addressing this Karluk salmon thing. That  
33 doesn't seem to be an issue at this point.

34

35 MS. LAROSA: It is and we are. I think  
36 it just was brought to our attention a little bit later  
37 than the Karluk. But we have been talking about it  
38 just this last year and the attempt to put in this  
39 proposal to get more information about the system,  
40 because I think there was -- because it's not as big of  
41 a system, maybe there wasn't as much effort in terms of  
42 monitoring and so we don't have quite as much  
43 information as we've had at Karluk and, of course, you  
44 can never have too much information. And so I think we  
45 are focusing on Olga Bay now and trying to look at that  
46 problem, but thank you for your comment.

47

48 This is Anne Marie from the Refuge.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Is there

1 any more questions.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick, do you  
6 have anything.

7

8 MR. KOSO: I'm from the Aleutians.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I'd like  
13 to thank both of you, Anne Marie, and McCrea, I guess I  
14 -- I don't know that I really have met you, I heard you  
15 on the phone all the time because I haven't made it to  
16 Kodiak in the past few years, but did recognize your  
17 voice. But, yeah, we thank you for your work that  
18 you've done here on behalf of Kodiak/Aleutians and we  
19 wish you luck moving forward.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MR. COBB: Thank you. I've enjoyed  
24 working for you guys.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Since we're  
27 going to go until 5:30 and then come back at 7:00,  
28 we'll take a 10 minute break and then get ready for  
29 Izembek, is that okay with everybody.

30

31 MR. HOLMES: Sounds like a plan.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. All  
34 right, sounds good.

35

36 (Off record)

37

38 (On record)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: If we could make  
41 it back to our seats, I'd sure appreciate it.

42

43 (Pause)

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We'll  
46 call this meeting back to order. We have the Izembek  
47 Refuge Staff up on the agenda.

48

49 Doug.

50

1 MR. DAMBERG: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
2 Again, my name is Doug Damberg. I'm the Refuge manager  
3 at Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. And we appreciate  
4 the opportunity to present what's gone on at Izembek on  
5 some survey and outreach and other activities over the  
6 last six months. Stacey Lowe is our wildlife  
7 biologist, who most of you have met and she's put  
8 together the report and going to give you an update,  
9 so, here's Stacey.

10  
11 MS. LOWE: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
12 Again, I'm Stacey Lowe.

13  
14 Thank you.

15  
16 (Laughter)

17  
18 MS. LOWE: The Izembek wildlife  
19 biologist at Izembek Refuge. We traveled here from Cold  
20 Bay and we're happy to be here to give you the report.

21  
22 So to start off with the caribou, in  
23 Unit 9D on the Southern Alaska Peninsula. For the 2014  
24 and 2015 State and Federal subsistence hunts, were both  
25 opened in Unit 9D with a total harvest goal of 40  
26 caribou. For the Federal subsistence hunt, 20 permits  
27 were allocated to five communities giving out four  
28 permits each. The Federal hunt is a sport season and  
29 it's open from August 10th to September 20th and  
30 November 15th to March 31st in 2015, so there's still a  
31 couple weeks left in the season. As of last week  
32 there's only been one Federal subsistence caribou  
33 that's been reported as harvested. I know several  
34 under the State system that have been harvested but  
35 we've only had one under the Federal subsistence permit  
36 so far.

37  
38 In collaboration with the Alaska Fish  
39 and Game, the caribou herd composition survey was  
40 conducted in October of 2014. A total of 884 caribou  
41 were surveyed and the survey yielded an increase in the  
42 calf per 100 cow ratio and that number was 45 calves  
43 per 100 cows from 40 per 100 cows in 2013. That's also  
44 depicted in the graph in Figure 1. The bull ratio  
45 declined slightly to 45 per 100 cows, down from 50 per  
46 100 cows in the previous year. However, this still  
47 remains well above the management objective of 35 bulls  
48 per 100 cows.

49  
50 On Unimak Island the composition count

1 was also conducted in October. A total of 127 caribou  
2 were surveyed. And the survey yielded an increase in  
3 the calf per 100 cow ratio, 22 calves per 100 cows, up  
4 from 19 per 100 cows in the previous year. The bull  
5 ratio also increased to 15 per 100 cows from 10 per 100  
6 cows in the previous years. And those numbers are  
7 depicted in Figure 2.

8

9 After the printing of this report we  
10 have made two attempts, in addition to the competition  
11 survey, to try to do a total population count on the  
12 island. The first was made starting in late October  
13 and early November and we only surveyed approximately  
14 40 percent of the island and this yielded a total of  
15 145 caribou and that includes 121 adults and 24 calves.  
16 We attempted it again in the last week of January 2015,  
17 just a couple weeks ago, and we covered approximately  
18 80 percent of the island and this yielded a count of  
19 230 caribou. So that should be considered a minimum  
20 population count, not a total census since we didn't  
21 cover the entire island. And we're still waiting to  
22 attempt the winter count for the SAP herd, I forgot to  
23 mention that previously.

24

25 For the waterfowl. The index of  
26 productivity for the Pacific brant was conducted in the  
27 fall using our ground based observations and that's  
28 detailed in this paragraph. I won't read through all  
29 of it but our results did yield -- we classified 49,978  
30 brant and the number here reported in the written  
31 document is 16.9 percent, however this was a typo and  
32 it should say 14.3 percent. So I'd just like to bring  
33 that to your attention so you can correct that in your  
34 notes. In 2013 the sample population contained 17.9  
35 percent, so it's a little bit of a lower percentage.  
36 The long-term average, this survey's been conducted for  
37 over 50 years, since 1963, and the long-term average is  
38 22.2 percent.

39

40 Simultaneously while we're conducting  
41 the brant age ratio counts we also try to collect data  
42 on the emperor goose using the lagoon and, again, I  
43 won't read through all the details in this paragraph  
44 but we did survey a total of 1,497 geese. And this  
45 population contained 24 percent juveniles which is  
46 slightly lower than what we found the previous year,  
47 however, I would note that this is a much smaller  
48 survey compared with the brant. As you notice we only  
49 surveyed approximately 1,500 geese.

50

1                   Last fall we also initiated a stream  
2 water temperature monitoring program on the Refuge.  
3 This temperature monitoring study was established to  
4 obtain information on the current conditions and  
5 provide continual monitoring of water temperature in  
6 streams that are utilized by salmon on the Refuge. So  
7 last fall we were able to deploy 25 of these water  
8 temperature sensors throughout the Refuge and these  
9 sensors are going to collect the temperature recording  
10 once every hour for up to five years. Our plan is to  
11 service these stations on an annual basis to not only  
12 obtain the data but make sure that they're still  
13 functioning.

14  
15                   In addition, last summer we were also  
16 able to conduct an inventory of the Sitka spruce trees  
17 that are located on and near the Refuge. We were able  
18 to collect location data, including latitude and  
19 longitude coordinates and size measurements on each of  
20 the trees. These trees are non-Native to the area,  
21 they were planted during the military presence since  
22 approximately 1944 and our survey did yield upwards of  
23 740 trees and we hope to have the report out on that  
24 before the fall meeting.

25  
26                   Last fall, Izembek Refuge also  
27 continued working in cooperation with the USGS  
28 scientists to collect Avian influenza and blood  
29 parasite samples from hunter harvested waterfowl during  
30 September and October. This year we collected nearly  
31 1,000 samples and we're happy to report that they did  
32 not contain any Avian influenza, all the samples have  
33 been processed so far.

34  
35                   Also in the fall we worked with the  
36 USGS scientists to start a new study where they're  
37 looking to collect the primary feathers from juvenile  
38 Pacific black brant. Again, these are all birds that  
39 were harvested by hunters. And they're seeking to  
40 determine the breeding origin for juvenile brant that  
41 use Izembek Lagoon in the fall. They're utilizing  
42 stable isotope techniques to measure the amount of  
43 hydrogen in the feathers and this varies by geographic  
44 location. The current speculation is that a greater  
45 portion of the annual production of brant is coming  
46 from breeding areas in the Arctic rather than in  
47 Western Alaska, where brant production has  
48 traditionally occurred. We were able to collect 99  
49 samples this fall and we anticipate the results of this  
50 analysis should be completed in the spring and we look

1 forward to collecting additional samples in the  
2 upcoming fall season.

3

4                   So last year we also completed the  
5 construction of three new kiosks on the Refuge. And  
6 each kiosk features an educational display about the  
7 history and origins of Izembek Refuge and information  
8 about the wildlife and habitats found on the Refuge.  
9 The new kiosks are located at the entrance of the  
10 Refuge near city airport, at the end of Outer Marker  
11 Road, overlooking Izembek Lagoon, and on Frosty Creek  
12 Road near first bridge. There's a picture of one of  
13 the kiosks included in the report.

14

15                   Last fall we had the great opportunity  
16 while we were in King Cove for the RAC meeting, Doug  
17 and myself were able to visit with the students at the  
18 King Cove school and we presented them with a program  
19 describing the biological studies that take place on  
20 the Refuge. The presentation included information  
21 about the careers of a Refuge manager and a wildlife  
22 biologist and all the students had a great opportunity  
23 to examine a couple of the wildlife specimens that we  
24 brought with us. The students were also given the  
25 opportunity to ask us questions about the Refuge,  
26 wildlife and biological studies, and I think the  
27 program was enjoyed by all.

28

29                   We also went out in October to each of  
30 the schools, Cold Bay, False Pass and King Cove and we  
31 worked with Kelly Modla, she's a Refuge law enforcement  
32 officer from the Kenai Refuge, and she helped us put on  
33 an amazing program where we talked to kids, some  
34 archery skills through an indoor program. You can read  
35 about that. There's quite a few details in the report  
36 there.

37

38                   We were able to reach out to over 90  
39 students and it was a really fun program, I know the  
40 kids really enjoyed learning this primitive skill.

41

42                   I also wanted to report that last year  
43 we saw the completion of three Master students that all  
44 completed their research at our Refuge. Two of those  
45 students were from UAA and were doing their work on the  
46 Unimak caribou nutrition project and I believe there  
47 should have been a DVD supplied to everybody with each  
48 of the students masters thesis on the DVD and I look  
49 forward to having you guys review those, I think you'll  
50 find it very informative.

1                   We are still waiting on the winter scat  
2 analysis, which will complete the research from the UAA  
3 folks and we look forward to talking about that with  
4 you in the fall so we can talk about the thesis at that  
5 point, too, and the results.

6  
7                   The third thesis was completed by Sarah  
8 Winterkoff from Notre Dame University and she was  
9 looking at examining the influence of marine drive  
10 nutrient subsidies on streams and lakes on Izembek  
11 Refuge and her thesis is also included on that DVD.

12  
13                   At the last meeting there was an  
14 inquiring regarding the tundra swan hunting that  
15 occurred on Izembek Refuge at one point in time. I did  
16 a little investigating and followup on this and I just  
17 wanted to report to you that what I found out was that  
18 the swan hunting has been closed historically due to  
19 the smaller population size and that most of these  
20 birds are non-migratory. It was briefly opened in  
21 2004, in which two swans were harvested. And this was  
22 the artifact to a change in the Migratory Bird Treaty  
23 Act during that time of the amendment to legalize the  
24 spring waterfowl harvest under the Treaty, and the  
25 intention was not to open the season and a proposal was  
26 submitted to the AMBCC to close subsistence harvest of  
27 that population. A further attempt was made to open  
28 hunting on just the -- specifically the Pavlof area  
29 just north of the Refuge where those birds are  
30 migratory, however, my understanding from talking to  
31 folks is that Fish and Game did not want to split the  
32 game management unit regulations within the same unit,  
33 due to confusion over the two populations. So that's  
34 what I found out. And if anybody has any further  
35 questions I'm happy to look into that some more.

36  
37                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Does anybody  
38 have any questions.

39  
40                   MR. KOSO: Yeah, on your survey on your  
41 emperor geese there, I noticed that Doug mentioned that  
42 you had like 50,000 brant that were staying year-round,  
43 do those actually leave in April and go up and nest or  
44 are you concerned that they might just hang around  
45 Izembek or Cold Bay here.

46  
47                   MS. LOWE: What he meant is the 50,000  
48 overwintered this year, and I'm not sure but I think  
49 the Migratory Bird folks might be reporting on that.  
50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think we'll  
2 have the Migratory Birds in the morning.  
3  
4 MR. DAMBERG: Yeah, but it is  
5 noteworthy -- this is Doug Damberg with the Refuge,  
6 it's noteworthy because that's the highest number of  
7 brant that have overwintered ever recorded at Izembek  
8 Lagoon in that area so -- and that number has gone up  
9 for quite a while now, it's just been going up higher  
10 and higher so it might be reflective of some of the  
11 changing conditions and such that are there.  
12  
13 MR. HOLMES: Are you -- I'm sorry.  
14  
15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think Tom had  
16 a question first Pat.  
17  
18 MR. SCHWANTES: I don't really have a  
19 question, I have a comment.  
20  
21 Again, I'd like to compliment you, what  
22 a breath of fresh air compared to what we're used to  
23 getting from the Refuge. You know, I've sat on this  
24 Council for a number of years and most of what we've  
25 gotten from Izembek is a bunch of excuses and, you  
26 know, last fall was the first time we met with you  
27 folks and, again, I can't express our appreciation for  
28 what you're doing, for the information you're providing  
29 us.  
30  
31 Thank you.  
32  
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.  
34  
35 MR. HOLMES: Oh, I lost that part,  
36 maybe it will come back to me.  
37  
38 (Laughter)  
39  
40 MR. HOLMES: My blood sugar was down so  
41 that's why I gave you the bribe, Carl, don't put that  
42 in the notes.  
43  
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Rick, then  
45 Rebecca.  
46  
47 MR. KOSO: Yeah, on that emperor goose  
48 survey you done locally, that had nothing to do with  
49 this report, the overall survey on the emperor goose,  
50 we'll probably be consulting with the bird people, I

1 guess, here tomorrow.

2

3 MS. LOWE: This is Stacey Lowe with  
4 Fish and Wildlife. That's correct, that's just a local  
5 index that we use to keep track of what's going on on  
6 the Refuge, it's not included in the index provided to  
7 the Flyaway Council.

8

9 MR. HOLMES: Okay, back again, I  
10 remembered.

11

12 First off, I want to compliment you  
13 folks because when we went down to King Cove, we were  
14 wandering around and then I saw Stacey and I thought,  
15 okay, who's what's her name, oh, yeah, that's the gal  
16 that sent us the information, and then I met her boss  
17 and they were both wandering around in civilian  
18 clothes, no name tags or anything, just like regular  
19 folks, and I thought, wow, this is really swell, this  
20 is not intimidating in the least. We had some  
21 wonderful talks and discussions. And every person I  
22 suggested to these young folks as a possible contact in  
23 the village they had already talked to, and I thought  
24 this is good. I think they'll make some progress here.

25

26 I wanted to give you a couple of  
27 thoughts, or questions, on the caribou and, you know,  
28 before we've asked -- because the other Refuges try to  
29 focus on the calving period but then Stacey updated us  
30 that on Unimak with its low numbers, seeing from Lem  
31 that it's just really hard to find them any time of the  
32 year, you might want to inquire a tad bit with Fish and  
33 Game, Commercial Fisheries, just have a chat with them,  
34 and see when they're flying stream surveys. I don't  
35 know if you can do it because obviously they often have  
36 their own criteria but perhaps they might be able to  
37 give you a head's up on when they're seeing the  
38 caribou, particularly on the north side because they  
39 always survey that, the south side, the volcanos screw  
40 up the salmon creeks and don't do a lot there, but that  
41 might be another area of interaction.

42

43 You might, if you get stuck here in  
44 town, toodle out to the Coast Guard Base, I'll make a  
45 note and see if I can find who's who out there anymore,  
46 but back in the dark ages I got a lot of support from  
47 the Coast Guard for doing plane of opportunity or  
48 helicopter of opportunity and now they've got machines  
49 based at Cold Bay for the crab seasons and they --  
50 obviously their budgets are cut too but they like to be

1 able to justify helping other agencies and so you might  
2 be able to, you know, if you had your backpack by the  
3 door, let them know, that, gee it'd sure be nice if you  
4 were doing a training exercise to go to Scotch Cap if  
5 you might want to go over to the north end of the  
6 island so we could kind of look at the caribou because  
7 that Federal Subsistence Council is always beating on  
8 you. But that's another potential.

9  
10 But one really key one is go back and  
11 look at the transcripts from when we were meeting in  
12 Cold Bay and had the EA, 2011/2012, but look in there  
13 because I was able to get a comment, I believe from  
14 Haskett, that your Refuge would have a priority for  
15 airplanes and pilots to get your surveys done for  
16 Unimak. And we were as positive as we could be, but  
17 there has been so many times when the prior manager,  
18 for some reason or the other, would come up, the pilot  
19 was -- the plane needed a hundred hour, or whatever,  
20 and the surveys didn't get done, just logistically and  
21 administratively, and so he did give our Council a  
22 solid commitment that you guys would have a priority.  
23 So just get that out and, you know, just stick it in  
24 your little file for when you're doing your budget  
25 chats and stuff and it might be handy, handy thing.

26  
27 So anyway that's basically all my  
28 comments and if I got something else I'll give you a  
29 call.

30  
31 Thank you so much.

32  
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.  
34 Rebecca.

35  
36 MS. SKINNER: This is Rebecca Skinner.  
37 Just to help me understand how you use the data, in  
38 looking at the brant graph and the emperor goose graph,  
39 can you explain or give me some background, why do you  
40 use the three year average, so from the data, what is  
41 that telling you comparing the three year average to  
42 the -- just, I guess, the current year is what you're  
43 doing?

44  
45 MS. LOWE: Yes. So the data for the  
46 brant is supplied to the Pacific Flyaway Council to  
47 help determine productivity for the year and the three  
48 year average -- I'm trying to think of the best way to  
49 explain. It's more utilized as an index to kind of  
50 smooth over any errors.

1 MS. SKINNER: Is there a particular  
2 reason why three years and not two years or five years,  
3 is there a biological reason or an ecological reason;  
4 that would be important for me to better understand the  
5 data as presented?  
6

7 MS. LOWE: I'm not sure relative to --  
8 I'm sorry, this is Stacey Lowe with Fish and Wildlife.  
9 I'm not sure relative to this survey why that was  
10 selected. That was the way it was done before I got  
11 there and that's probably why we've kept doing it for  
12 now but I assure you we'll look into that and make sure  
13 that that is the time period we want to average over.  
14

15 MS. SKINNER: Okay.  
16  
17

18 MR. SHELIKOFF: Mr. Chairman.  
19  
20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, do you have  
22 an answer.....  
23

24 MR. HOLMES: I think the management  
25 plan on emperor geese, for sure, I don't know on the  
26 other critters, is based on a three year running  
27 average so that's probably why when we get to the -- to  
28 chatting with the Migratory Birds people there's a  
29 question that relates to that, where 2013 is missing  
30 and how do you get a three average out of two surveys.  
31 But one thing I would suggest that would be  
32 informative, maybe you could have on your graphs, if  
33 you could -- I don't know, play with Excel or  
34 something, but maybe get a standard error or something  
35 around your estimates on a separate thing so that, you  
36 know, you can say, wow, gee, in the last three years  
37 that's a really tight estimate and it's doing really  
38 well whereas back when so and so was out there they  
39 just were pretty -- and if that's possible, that would  
40 be informative to just get a sort of feel for how your  
41 program is going and how solid the estimates are, if  
42 that's possible.  
43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Did I  
45 hear a question on line from someone.  
46

47 MR. SHELIKOFF: Yeah, I got a question  
48 here, Antone from Akutan.  
49

50 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

1 MR. SHELIKOFF: Okay. On the  
2 monitoring of black brant, do any of the black brant  
3 immigrate to Russia.  
4  
5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Stacey, did  
6 you.....  
7  
8 MS. LOWE: I'm sorry.  
9  
10 MR. SHELIKOFF: Stacey.  
11  
12 MS. LOWE: Yes, Antone, this is Stacey  
13 Lowe.  
14  
15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: He was wondering  
16 about the migration in Russia.  
17  
18 MR. DAMBERG: If there's any Russian  
19 birds.  
20  
21 MS. LOWE: Yeah, I'm not sure if I  
22 understand the question. Are you asking how many of  
23 the birds?  
24  
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: He's asking if  
26 you're aware of any that do.  
27  
28 MR. SHELIKOFF: The black brant, at any  
29 time, migrate to Russia.  
30  
31 MS. LOWE: Yes, I don't know how many  
32 though.  
33  
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Antone.  
35  
36 MR. SHELIKOFF: But they do, right, is  
37 that what you're saying?  
38  
39 MR. DAMBERG: Yeah, Antone, this is  
40 Doug. I don't think we really have any data on that,  
41 especially with like, for example, Avian influenza, we  
42 pay attention to things that may move back and forth  
43 between the Russia area and the Aleutians that could go  
44 down to the Lower 48, so we're paying attention to  
45 movement but we don't really have any data that's  
46 showing at this point birds move back and forth but we  
47 assume that there is some back and forth with some of  
48 these species.  
49  
50 We can look into it and see if there's

1 something in our historic, in our databases that might  
2 tell us a little bit more.

3  
4 MR. SHELIKOFF: All right, thank you. I  
5 was just questioning that point because in the emperor  
6 geese presentation it was mentioned there so that's why  
7 I'm asking.

8  
9 Thanks.

10  
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,  
12 Antone.

13  
14 I have a couple questions, I guess  
15 starting with the caribou. There was a study that --  
16 and I'm trying to remember if there was any report on  
17 it and I can't, in looking at Unit 10 on Unimak on the  
18 nutrition, what was the result of that, was there a  
19 report on that?

20  
21 MS. LOWE: This is Stacey Lowe with  
22 Fish and Wildlife Service. Yes, on the DVD that Carl  
23 supplied, it's not a report, there's two Masters thesis  
24 that were a product of that project and we're still  
25 awaiting -- the university is still analyzing the data  
26 from the winter scat so the thesis only covers the  
27 summer and fall and spring samples and when the winter  
28 analysis is done then there will be a final report, but  
29 as of now those are the only two written products from  
30 that project.

31  
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.

33  
34 The other thing, on the Pacific brant,  
35 you have -- conduct -- your ground based counts  
36 conducted in Izembek Lagoon and in adjacent areas each  
37 fall when the birds are staging for migration, but you  
38 also state that a total of 49,978 brant are classified  
39 this year as adult or juvenile, but you also use that  
40 number of 49,000 of brant that winter in Izembek -- in  
41 the region -- am I hearing -- getting the right.....

42  
43 MS. LOWE: Yeah, I think I understand.  
44 This is Stacey Lowe with Fish and Wildlife. I think I  
45 understand the confusion.

46  
47 The number written in the report here,  
48 the 49,978 is the number of brant that we observed  
49 through the scopes that we classified as adults or  
50 juveniles, what we were talking about previously was

1 there was approximately 51,000 brant that were counted  
2 in an aerial survey and that's conducted by the  
3 Migratory Bird Program. I assume -- I don't know, for  
4 sure but that might be part of their report later on.

5  
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And what was the  
7 number that you said basically now are usually in that  
8 area year-round.

9  
10 MS. LOWE: Well, what we were referring  
11 to was that that's the highest number that's ever been  
12 found during the wintertime in Izembek Lagoon.

13  
14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So are the  
15 numbers or surveys at a point in time if they're  
16 migrating, is there another number somewhere?

17  
18 MS. LOWE: Yes. In the fall the  
19 Migratory Bird Program also conducts a total population  
20 count and I believe that's also part of their report,  
21 yeah, yeah -- so, no, the 49,000 is just a sample, it's  
22 not the total number of birds at all, no.

23  
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That's what I  
25 was trying to get to in a roundabout way.

26  
27 (Laughter)

28  
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And the other  
30 things is, last summer in King Cove, you know, I know  
31 both Cold Bay and King Cove and the region as a whole  
32 had some extremely beautiful weather. It was hot. The  
33 temperatures where up, you know, it was beautiful. But  
34 we noticed in the creeks that it was real -- pretty  
35 scary because there was no water and I'm wondering how  
36 that was in Cold Bay and then on the Refuge.

37  
38 MS. LOWE: We didn't do any surveys. I  
39 don't have any real quantitative analysis on that but  
40 just from observing through other surveys we did notice  
41 a lot of the upper reaches of some of the streams were  
42 completely dry down to the gravel, numerous ponds and  
43 the small lakes were, you know, at about probably at 50  
44 to 60 percent of their normal capacity you could tell  
45 just from the drying out but we definitely observed the  
46 same patterns over there.

47  
48 MR. DAMBERG: And I'll add to it,  
49 that's one reason we're so interested in the water  
50 temperature study that Stacey talked about and it's

1 highlighted in here, is just to get a real good  
2 baseline of water temperature and what's going on in  
3 our drainages here so that we can kind of track things  
4 going forward, we just don't have good hard data on it  
5 but we do have a lot of that anecdotal data that says  
6 things are warming up and that there is less water  
7 right now, at least in this current cycle.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So we'll at some  
10 point be able to see -- I think the other concern is  
11 that there is no snow pact, period.

12

13 Rick.

14

15 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I got a question. I  
16 guess it would be -- I guess it's a statement, I guess.  
17 I think we had a subsistence brant hunt this year,  
18 wasn't it, from August 1st to August 31st; is that  
19 still ongoing every year and maybe you could give me,  
20 if I'm not mistaken, is the total count of the brant up  
21 around 140,000 or am I -- is that a number that's in my  
22 head for some reason?

23

24 MS. LOWE: I don't have the exact  
25 number but from the fall survey my understanding is  
26 they found close to around 170,000 black brant and my  
27 understanding is that the subsistence season remains  
28 open.

29

30 MR. KOSO: Is that subsistence season  
31 then, is that on a quota basis per day harvest or is it  
32 just open to subsistence, as many as they wanted to  
33 get? Because I know we had some problems in Cold Bay  
34 with one of the guides there a few years back when they  
35 first opened up that subsistence hunt, when they went  
36 out and shot 130 or some brant there. So I don't think  
37 we've had that problem since then, that I'm aware of.  
38 But it is very nice to be able to have that subsistence  
39 hunt. I know a lot of people from King Cove come over  
40 to do that so it's still great and I hope it continues.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think Nancy  
43 was at the Refuge at the time and I don't know if  
44 neither one of your or.....

45

46 MR. DAMBERG: Yeah, I've heard there  
47 was kind of an egregious case at one point of over-bag,  
48 so to speak, although technically it wasn't, but it  
49 raised some concerns, but at this point the subsistence  
50 season is still on and it's -- I guess the spring,

1 there's some regs that come out that guide it but we  
2 don't actually set those at Izembek, it's set at the  
3 Mig Bird, at the higher level.

4  
5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Do we  
6 have any other questions.

7  
8 (No comments)

9  
10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'd like to  
11 thank both of you again for your good work and your  
12 outreach and efforts to work with everybody. And as  
13 Tom said, we very much appreciate, I think, both in  
14 Kodiak and Izembek, and, thank you.

15  
16 MR. DAMBERG: Thank you, Madame Chair  
17 and everybody else.

18  
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We do  
20 have a little bit of time. We do have Migratory Birds  
21 for tomorrow. Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge  
22 is tomorrow. We can possibly maybe go to ADF&G, is  
23 there someone for Buskin River.

24  
25 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
26 This is Jennifer Yuhas, the State's Federal subsistence  
27 liaison team leader and we spoke to our Staff here  
28 close to the end of the day and everyone has gone as  
29 they were originally planning to go in the morning.  
30 When we looked.....

31  
32 MR. POLUM: I'm here to.....

33  
34 (Laughter)

35  
36 MS. YUHAS: .....at your agenda we just  
37 didn't expect you to move so quickly through all your  
38 agenda items, you were very expedient today, and  
39 they.....

40  
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, but we have  
42 Tyler.....

43  
44 (Laughter)

45  
46 MS. YUHAS: .....we didn't think they'd  
47 actually get to the reports for Fish and Game so we let  
48 them go.

49  
50 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. But we

1 apparently have somebody here.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. POLUM: Jennifer, I'm here to give  
6 the Buskin River Report.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We're  
9 going to go ahead and do the Buskin River sockeye  
10 project update with Tyler, how's that.

11

12 MR. POLUM: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
13 My name is Tyler Polum and for those of you who don't  
14 know me I'm the assistant area biologist with Sportfish  
15 Department of Fish and Game here in Kodiak. Myself and  
16 Don Tracy manage the Buskin River sockeye stock  
17 assessment project that's funded through OSM, and I'll  
18 just give you an update on the project as I did last  
19 fall and several meetings before that.

20

21 Hopefully you got a copy of the update  
22 to the RAC that we give twice a year, there's one that  
23 says it's updated through August 31st, which is the end  
24 of the project and I won't go through everything but  
25 I'll just kind of hit the highlights. It's really  
26 similar to what you saw in, I think it was September I  
27 think was the last meeting, it's really similar to that  
28 one, but there is -- we did get our age composition  
29 completed and added that in there as well as a few  
30 other things.

31

32 So I'll just give you the quick  
33 highlights and if you have any questions feel free to  
34 ask.

35

36 The project, for those of you who may  
37 not be familiar, was first funded through the Office of  
38 Subsistence Management in 2000 and we're currently in a  
39 four year funding cycle that was renewed last year in  
40 2014 and will be funded through 2017 and it seeks to  
41 annually assess the sockeye returns to Buskin Lake and  
42 Lake Louise right here in town. And we also -- the  
43 Department also assesses the harvest of Buskin sockeye  
44 both in the sport and subsistence fishery, but those  
45 are through the Commercial Fisheries Division and  
46 Sportfish Division separately. And we don't have --  
47 due to the way that those programs run of the harvest  
48 assessments, we don't have any of the 2014 numbers  
49 because they tend to run about a year behind. Not all  
50 of the subsistence permits have been returned yet, and

1 our statewide harvest survey doesn't get published  
2 until, typically the summer following the season, so we  
3 should have those numbers by the fall 2015 meeting for  
4 you. And, typically, for those who aren't familiar,  
5 there's little commercial fisheries effort for sockeye  
6 in front of the Buskin. Occasionally there's a couple  
7 that are intercepted when people make a set for pinks,  
8 but that's typically in Womens Bay rather than in front  
9 of the Buskin.

10  
11 So I'll give you the 2013 harvest just  
12 so you're up to date. I believe I gave those in the  
13 September meeting. But the 2013 subsistence harvest of  
14 Buskin sockeye was 6,083 fish, which is about double  
15 the five year average of about 3,300 fish so the last  
16 two summers have been really good fishing out in front  
17 of Buskin and both those years subsistence has been --  
18 or in the last several years, anyway, subsistence has  
19 been -- the markers have been moved right up to the  
20 mouth of the river so there's been lots of opportunity,  
21 pretty much as many fish as people are willing to put  
22 in the effort for. And there's about 300 permits that  
23 were returned that fished in the Buskin area in 2013  
24 and about 75 -- or about almost 90 percent of those  
25 fish reported were sockeye so that was the dominant  
26 species. But typically it's about 75 percent of the  
27 species caught are sockeye, you know, over the five  
28 year average. And also over half of the permits  
29 returned on the Island fishing Buskin in 2013, which is  
30 pretty much on par for the course so typically about  
31 half the subsistence effort occurs right in front of  
32 Buskin.

33  
34 So the escapement goal there for -- we  
35 have an escapement goal at Buskin Lake, which is five  
36 to 8,000 fish. There's a tributary called Lake Louise  
37 that has a small sockeye run as well. We don't have an  
38 escapement goal for that. And in 2014 we counted  
39 almost 14,000 sockeye through Buskin Lake weir, so  
40 that's a pretty good return, that was even after  
41 increasing the sportfish bag limit to five a day and  
42 the subsistence markers moved right up to the mouth.  
43 So there's a pretty substantial run this year as in  
44 2013 as well.

45  
46 The five year average at the weir is  
47 about 11,000 fish so it was even above that.

48  
49 At Lake Louise we counted about 900  
50 fish, a little over 900 fish, which is below the 10

1 year average of about 1,400. And this run typically  
2 has a much later run timing than Buskin Lake. It's  
3 typically the -- the fish return in August pretty near  
4 their spawning -- whereas the Buskin Lake fish are  
5 primarily a June run.

6

7                   As I mentioned before the subsistence  
8 fishery was liberalized on June 19th and the  
9 sportfishery was liberalized on June 12th to provide  
10 more opportunity to harvest those fish.

11

12                   We also sampled about 350 sockeye at  
13 Buskin Lake, which that's the -- the new information  
14 that I mentioned earlier that we have since the last  
15 meeting. Something interesting about that was this  
16 typically those -- these are age one-three and two-  
17 three fish, which are five and six year old fish and  
18 this year we got an almost even split between one-two,  
19 one-three, two-two, and two-three which is pretty much  
20 the whole gamut of age classes that we see on the  
21 Buskin so there's -- which actually basically means  
22 that there were more younger fish than normal.

23

24                   We also sampled about 150 fish at Lake  
25 Louise and these are typically younger and smaller fish  
26 than Buskin and they're typically a one-two and two-two  
27 fish but this year we saw older fish at Lake Louise,  
28 they were mostly aged one-three and two-two, which is  
29 interesting. We saw older fish at Lake Louise and  
30 younger fish at Buskin.

31

32                   We also sample sockeye caught in the  
33 subsistence fishery and interview subsistence users  
34 when we're able to document where they're from, where  
35 they typically fish and in any areas that they  
36 occasionally fish. In the subsistence fishery we saw  
37 the ages were similar to Buskin which is typical, what  
38 happens is the difference is that we usually sample  
39 larger fish and older fish in the subsistence fishery  
40 since it's a gillnet fishery and they typically harvest  
41 larger and older fish. The age classes were  
42 predominately one-three, two-two and two-three fish  
43 which was similar to Buskin except that they were fewer  
44 age one-two, which are the four year old fish, but that  
45 makes sense since those fish typically are not caught  
46 in the gillnets because they're typically smaller fish.

47

48                   The subsistence harvest is historically  
49 about -- takes about 20 percent of the total Buskin  
50 run, that's pretty standard. This year, you know, it

1 remains to be seen this year if that's the case or not  
2 with the larger run that we had. But it makes up the  
3 largest user group on the Buskin run by a lot.

4

5                   And we'll have the 2014 harvest for  
6 both sport and subsistence fishing in the fall meeting  
7 for you guys.

8

9                   As for the interviews that we conducted  
10 with subsistence users, we interviewed 26  
11 permitholders. They were all from Kodiak. 20 of them  
12 historically fished Buskin and six of them historically  
13 fished other places. But all but four fished in  
14 multiple areas, not just solely on the Buskin, there  
15 was only four that fished Buskin as their only  
16 subsistence area.

17

18                   We also have an internship program that  
19 we -- we annually hire two interns to work with our  
20 Buskin weir crew from the beginning of June through the  
21 end of July. This year we had one intern, we hired two  
22 but only one was able to stay so we hired a local high  
23 school student who worked with our Buskin weir crew  
24 through the end of July. In total we've actually hired  
25 22 of these interns and 17 of them have actually  
26 returned to work for the Department in the past so it's  
27 actually been a highly successful program for us and  
28 it's really done a great job of providing future  
29 employees for the Department. And the basic goal of it  
30 is to get local subsistence users into a fisheries  
31 related career where they can learn what it takes to  
32 manage the fisheries and learn more about the resource  
33 and several of these students, actually quite a few of  
34 them have planned to go into some sort of science  
35 related field and several of them actually completed  
36 fisheries related degrees as a result of this  
37 internship.

38

39                   The other part of outreach that we do  
40 is we partner with the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge  
41 to host salmon camp at the weir. Typically this  
42 happens twice a summer. This year there were 36  
43 students in two different groups. They come to see the  
44 weir, they come to see how it works, to see the fish,  
45 and how we sample them. And typically they're  
46 elementary aged students and they come as part of the  
47 curriculum for the salmon camp.

48

49                   And for 2015 we don't expect to operate  
50 things a whole lot different. Again, the project is

1 funded in it's current state through 2017 so we'll run  
2 the Buskin weir from mid-May for the sockeye project  
3 through the end of July but we have been keeping the  
4 weir in through the end of September to do a count for  
5 coho as a separate project. So that's going to  
6 continue this year.

7

8                   There hasn't been any changes in our  
9 escapement goal since 2011 but those are evaluated  
10 concurrent with the Board of Fisheries and the next one  
11 is in 2016.

12

13                   So that's about all I have but if you  
14 have any questions. I know a lot of this is the same  
15 as the fall meeting but feel free.

16

17                   MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

18

19                   MR. HOLMES: Yeah, you know the Tyler  
20 kid that became the assistant area biologist, he was an  
21 intern as well wasn't he, thought you'd done a good  
22 job.

23

24                   I was wondering two things. One thing  
25 that we had tried to get funding for you and didn't  
26 work out was the smolt project that you used to have  
27 with the Department cuts and then the Governor's  
28 talking about dropping 400 more people, that seems to  
29 be a pretty difficult thing to achieve, but when you  
30 had that program it was so important because you could  
31 say, whoa, this year our condition factor -- or our  
32 little smolt going out are really fat or they're really  
33 skinny and give us a lot more solid idea as to whether  
34 be buying another kicker can to head somewhere else for  
35 fish for the following season. But I'd like to take  
36 that comment and ask, being's your age composition  
37 shifted quite a bit there, does that give you any kind  
38 of feeling, certainly nowhere near as strong as the --  
39 I think some smolt data from this year, but what's your  
40 ballpark gut estimate for next season on returns  
41 because we've had two really strong years but it's  
42 still too early if that over escapement was dilatory to  
43 be seen, so what's your -- what's your guess for next  
44 season?

45

46                   MR. POLUM: Mr. Holmes, through the  
47 Chair. I would guess -- that's always the question is  
48 to guess.

49

50                   (Laughter)

1                   MR. POLUM: Typically when we look at  
2 sockeye runs we think that -- the thinking is that if  
3 we see a lot of younger fish we'll see a lot of older  
4 fish in subsequent years. I don't know that that's  
5 always -- always the case, since it was a -- since  
6 there was an even split of these fish in age classes  
7 rather than, you know, just a lot of fish in general.  
8 You're right, we wouldn't -- if there was an issue with  
9 over escapement from the last two years we wouldn't see  
10 that for several more years, so I wouldn't expect to  
11 see less fish than we had or significantly less fish  
12 than we've been having. I would expect to see another  
13 run that at least makes our escapement goals.

14  
15                   That being said, I'm not going to guess  
16 whether or not we'll be able to have enough fish to  
17 liberalize the fisheries or not, but I would expect to  
18 see healthy runs for the Buskin for the time being.

19  
20                   And with the age -- if it was --  
21 honestly with the age composition, you know, like with  
22 our hatchery king salmon project, if we saw this many  
23 younger fish coming back in that project, I would  
24 expect to see much more older fish coming back in  
25 subsequent years, but I just don't know with the Buskin  
26 as precisely.

27  
28                   MR. HOLMES: So maybe similar numbers,  
29 a little less, a little more, who knows, but bigger  
30 fish?

31  
32                   MR. POLUM: That's what I would expect  
33 probably.

34  
35                   MR. HOLMES: Okay. Well, that would be  
36 pretty swell there.

37  
38                   And one suggestion I might have from  
39 some of the other folks that work the Buskin, I didn't  
40 get there this year because of bugging up my knee and  
41 my buddy Rohr said I should have just bought a new  
42 motor rather than try and work on it all summer, but  
43 anyway I was wondering, some folks have suggested that  
44 beings you bumped significantly over the escapement  
45 goal a couple years in a row, that you might want to  
46 cogitate maybe opening that up just a little bit  
47 earlier, rather than after you get your 8,000 minimum  
48 up at the lake because you could probably have three or  
49 4,000 in the river, which seems to be coming through  
50 and maybe open that a little earlier the first time

1 that you open to the mouth. I was there and I didn't  
2 get any fish and I'm pretty good at that.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 MR. HOLMES: And my buddy that was  
7 there for the first day, I think the high boat was 12  
8 fish because they were all sitting in the river. And  
9 just a thought for you folks on management you might  
10 cogitate on seeing if you could kind of shift it open  
11 if it looks like it was, you know, building up.

12

13 But, anyway, I think you've done a  
14 great program and it's certainly -- take notes, Tom  
15 Kron, a well, well worth the money to be funding that  
16 program for Kodiak subsistence users.

17

18 Thank you very much.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Pat. Is  
21 there any other questions.

22

23 Rebecca.

24

25 MS. SKINNER: I don't have a question,  
26 I just have a comment. I worked with Tyler here, I  
27 think, for a little over a year on projects related to  
28 youth internships and Tyler came in and helped with the  
29 career fair at the high school and did some hands on  
30 examples of what the interns would do out at the weir  
31 as far as measuring fish. And, you know, I think I  
32 can't overstate the importance of the internship  
33 program and also, particularly, just having worked with  
34 Tyler, particularly what Tyler brings to the community  
35 and also having been an intern in the program, I think  
36 -- and then you came back and worked at Fish and Game.  
37 So I just wanted to point that out and thank you for  
38 your continued work.

39

40 MR. POLUM: Thank you.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

43 Anybody else.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Mitch, do you  
48 have anything on line.

49

50 MR. SHELIKOFF: Yes, this is Antone in

1 Akutan.  
2  
3 The pod (line breaking up) to do  
4 the.....  
5  
6 MR. POLUM: No, I'm not under.....  
7  
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Antone, can you  
9 maybe get closer to your phone and repeat that please.  
10  
11 MR. SHELIKOFF: Sure. What's a  
12 copepod, it's spelled C-O-P-E-P-O-D.  
13  
14 MR. POLUM: A copepod?  
15  
16 MR. SHELIKOFF: Yeah.  
17  
18 MR. POLUM: That's -- the question is,  
19 I believe, is what a copepod and that's a small  
20 crustacean that are found in a lot of our lakes that is  
21 a -- can be a primary food source of juvenile salmon.  
22 And I believe that Sun'aq Tribe and with KRAA is  
23 actually sampling Buskin for limnology, I'm not sure if  
24 they're doing plankton sampling or not but that is  
25 something that's going on right now. It's not  
26 connected to our project directly but something that  
27 we'll likely partner with them in the future just to  
28 share information.  
29  
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.  
31  
32 MR. HOLMES: Well, one more thing and  
33 I'll be as brief as I can. I understand tomorrow we'll  
34 probably be getting a bit of a report on mitigation  
35 funds and the trust funds set up for the Buskin River  
36 airport extension and I would, I think, you know, it'll  
37 be from Nate. You might keep tabs with him on that  
38 because there's going to be a substantial pool of money  
39 available for mitigation and I know if you'd want,  
40 probably our Council, would come up with a letter  
41 saying, yeah, we'd sure like to see it go for salmon  
42 research rather than, no offense to the Refuge folks,  
43 buying a piece of the Refuge on the other side of the  
44 island that has nothing to do with our subsistence here  
45 in town, so I hope we can do some encouragement to see  
46 some money go into that, particularly the smolt  
47 research and Sun'aq work.  
48  
49 MR. POLUM: Mr. Holmes, through the  
50 Chair, if I may. I should have mentioned, actually,

1 that we did -- our sportfish office did receive some of  
2 that mitigation funding last year actually, but we  
3 weren't able to get it in time to put anything in the  
4 water, so over the next three years we do have plans to  
5 -- so far -- this is all very preliminary, but so far  
6 the plan is to conduct a coho radiotelemetry study on  
7 Buskin coho to document where the use of those -- the  
8 river by those fish, mostly since -- since some of you  
9 may know that our sockeye weir is at the lake, and our  
10 coho weir -- not all the coho go into the lake so our  
11 coho weir has typically been by bridge two about two  
12 miles above the river mouth and that is just, in the  
13 fall, is like many streams, it's not a very nice  
14 location to be, so hopefully we can figure out how many  
15 of those coho actually use the lake over the course of  
16 three years and use that information to better get a  
17 good handle on our coho numbers in the Buskin.

18  
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Mitch, I  
20 didn't have or hear if you had any questions at this  
21 time.

22  
23 MR. SIMEONOFF: Yeah, this is Mitch.

24  
25 Just out of curiosity, what's the ratio  
26 between subsistence users and sports fishermen at the  
27 Buskin.

28  
29 MR. POLUM: Mr. Simeonoff through the  
30 Chair. The sport harvest is typically a -- I think it  
31 averages between four and five percent pretty  
32 consistently of the total run, whereas the subsistence  
33 harvest is about 20 percent. And those are just the  
34 long-term averages, so it does vary from year to year.  
35 In some years the subsistence harvest can be lower,  
36 closer to 10 percent and in some years the sport  
37 harvest can get above five percent, but not much. So  
38 typically the subsistence harvest is about double or at  
39 least three times the size of the sport fishery for  
40 sockeye anyway. For coho it reverses where the  
41 sportfishery is the dominant harvester of Buskin coho  
42 versus the subsistence fishery which is a fairly minor  
43 harvest of Buskin coho.

44  
45 MR. SIMEONOFF: Okay, thank you.

46  
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. I  
48 think Carl and Karen, because some of the questions  
49 that are, you know, asked on line, they don't have  
50 these with them so make sure that they get these in the

1 mail or something.  
2  
3 Thank you. Any other questions,  
4 comments.  
5  
6 MR. HOLMES: Not on this, on the  
7 letter.....  
8  
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Well, I think  
10 we're going to break for dinner.  
11  
12 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I was just thinking  
13 if we got this on the record on the decline Upper  
14 Station then.....  
15  
16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think we got  
17 that.  
18  
19 MR. HOLMES: Did it make it in there?  
20  
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Well, go ahead  
22 and add that if you want to do that right now.  
23  
24 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Madame Chair.  
25  
26 I was just thinking based on Mitch's  
27 comments earlier, I think that another thing for Carl,  
28 before dinner, or whenever, is to add on to our letter  
29 because we did discuss it at our last meeting, was the  
30 decline in sockeye returns to Upper Station and our  
31 concerns about that and hopes for some research to be  
32 able to be done on that. So unless -- if that's in  
33 concurrence with the rest of the Council.  
34  
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.  
36  
37 (Council nods affirmatively)  
38  
39 MR. HOLMES: Yeah.  
40  
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, I had it  
42 written down, declining salmon in Upper Station, Olga  
43 Bay, is that right?  
44  
45 MR. HOLMES: Yes. Uh-huh.  
46  
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.  
48  
49 MR. HOLMES: And it's used a lot by  
50 Akhiok and other subsistence users in Mosher Olga Bay.

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I think  
2 we will break at that point and be back at 9:00 in the  
3 morning; is that correct, and then we've got the  
4 hearing at 7:00. Carl.

5  
6 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Madame Chair. So  
7 the Council will recess now until 9:00 a.m., however,  
8 this evening from 7:00 to 9:00 there will be a public  
9 meeting to provide a briefing to the public on the  
10 current proposed rule on rural determination and then  
11 there will be a public comment period where people can  
12 either provide written comments or they can come up to  
13 the microphone to provide comments into the record.  
14 Those comments are direct comments to the Federal  
15 Subsistence Board. And tomorrow morning the Council  
16 will, itself, address this issue, so people, if they  
17 want to provide their thoughts directly to the Council  
18 that would be the opportunity to do it. So it's a  
19 separate process than what we're doing tonight.

20  
21 Thank you, Madame Chair.

22  
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

24  
25 MR. SIMEONOFF: Madame Chair, this is  
26 Mitch. Do I need to call in for the C&T.

27  
28 MR. HOLMES: Is there something else  
29 we're supposed to be reading and thinking about but  
30 we're going to do tomorrow.

31  
32 REPORTER: Della. Della. Mitch wants  
33 to know if he should call in.

34  
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, and I think  
36 it's that confusion thing of understanding the rural  
37 process.

38  
39 MR. SIMEONOFF: Hello. Hello.

40  
41 REPORTER: Della, Mitch has a question.

42  
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Carl, is Mitch  
44 going to be able to call in tonight.

45  
46 MR. JOHNSON: Yes.

47  
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes. Mitch, you  
49 can call in this evening at 7:00 o'clock.

50

1 MR. SIMEONOFF: Okay. I'll call at  
2 7:00 thank you.

3

4 (Off record)

5

6 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter of Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 2 through 135 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the KODIAK/ALEUTIANS FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING taken electronically by our firm on the 10th day of February, in Kodiak, 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 20th day of February 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 09/16/18