

1 KODIAK/ALEUTIANS FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2
3 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
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8 PUBLIC MEETING
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10 Visitor Center
11 King Cove, Alaska
12 September 11, 2014
13 9:00 a.m.
14

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16
17 MEMBERS PRESENT:
18

19 Speridon Simeonoff, Chairman
20 Patrick Holmes
21 Richard Koso
22 Thomas Schwantes
23 Antone Shelikoff
24 Peter Squartsoff
25 Della Trumble
26 Vincent Tutiakoff
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32 Regional Council Coordinator, Carl Johnson
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(King Cove, Alaska - 9/11/2014)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Call the meeting to order. Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. May I have roll call, please.

MR. JOHNSON: Certainly, Mr. Chair. Antone Shelikoff, who couldn't make it for work. Patrick Holmes.

MR. HOLMES: Here.

MR. SHELIKOFF: Here.

MR. JOHNSON: Oh, Antone, you're on the line. Great. Rick Koso.

MR. KOSO: Here.

MR. JOHNSON: Sam Rohrer, who indicated he would be with hunting clients at this time. Tom Schwantes.

MR. SCHWANTES: Here.

MR. JOHNSON: Pete Squartsoff.

MR. SQUARTSOFF: Here.

MR. JOHNSON: Vincent Tutiakoff.

MR. TUTIAKOFF: Here.

MR. JOHNSON: Della Trumble.

MS. TRUMBLE: Here.

MR. JOHNSON: Mitch Simeonoff.

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Here.

MR. JOHNSON: And Melissa Berns.

(No response)

MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Well, Mr. Chair,

1 you have a quorum.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Carl.

4

5 Before we get started I'd like to ask
6 Pat to give us an invocation.

7

8 MR. HOLMES: Yes, Mr. Chair. This
9 figure here that we have is a chip carving I did after
10 doing a lot of research with Alutiiq folks in Kodiak
11 and up in the Chugach area and it's Llam Sua, the
12 ultimate spiritual deity of Alaska Natives in our neck
13 of the woods. I've been checking with Moses Dirks to
14 see if there's a similar Unangan figure. But it's very
15 symbolic of the ultimate spirituality of our region and
16 also of the -- I think probably made the transition to
17 Christianity. So Vince did such a swell job the last
18 time, I would like to suggest that we all recite The
19 Lord's Prayer.

20

21 (Reciting The Lord's Prayer)

22

23 MR. HOLMES: I don't know if I got that
24 correct for the folks with the Orthodox background, but
25 that's as close as I can get.

26

27 So thank you all.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.

30

31 MR. HOLMES: A follow up to that. We
32 always try to have a little bit of humor, so the
33 coordinator was giving his traditional bar of chocolate
34 or a bag of nuts, depending on which way he wants to go
35 for keeping himself going. And then you've all seen
36 the little Far Side thing for Mitch. It's kind of
37 perhaps symbolic of our Council and what we try to get
38 done.

39

40 So thank you very much for coming.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thanks again. I'd
43 like to start off with introductions. I'll start and
44 then we'll go with Rick. I'm Speridon Simeonoff. I'm
45 from the Native Village of Akhiok on the southwest end
46 of Kodiak Island. Rick.

47

48 MR. KOSO: Rick Koso representing Adak.
49 Originally born and raised in King Cove here, but I
50 reside in Adak now and representing that part of the

1 Aleutians.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Pat Holmes. I'm from
4 Kodiak. Spent most of my life in this neck of the
5 woods. Would you like me to give a report on that
6 codfish/halibut thing or do that later?

7

8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Not yet.

9

10 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Anyway, this year I
11 did help Tonya Lee and the ladies at the Native Village
12 of Afognak with their preparations for the Spirit Camp
13 at Afognak. I also did attend this winter or early
14 this spring the Federal Board meeting and if anybody
15 has questions on that, I can come back on that. Went
16 up on my own buck and it was quite a positive meeting I
17 thought.

18

19 I called around to some of the villages
20 and some of the issues in town and the villages are the
21 deer population being down in some areas and conflicts
22 with outside hunters. It sounds like the goat
23 compromise, goats are up and quite a bit of harvest
24 there. Concerned with soup ducks in Larsen Bay and
25 Emperor Geese.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat, you can give
28 all that under Council member reports. This is
29 introductions.

30

31 MR. HOLMES: Oh, I beg your pardon. I
32 beg your pardon. Forgive me.

33

34 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Pete Squartsoff,
35 Ouzinkie/Port Lions.

36

37 MS. TRUMBLE: Della Trumble, King Cove.

38

39 MR. SCHWANTES: Tom Schwantes, Kodiak.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: And our recorder.

42

43 REPORTER: Meredith Downing with
44 Computer Matrix.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If you're out in
47 the audience, please speak louder so she can pick you
48 up on the mic or whatever. Maybe turn one of those on.

49

50 DR. CHEN: Good morning. My name is

1 Glenn Chen with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
2
3 MR. MCKEE: Good morning. My name is
4 Chris McKee. I'm the Wildlife Division Chief with OSM.
5
6 MR. LIEBICH: Good morning. I'm Trent
7 Liebich. I'm a fishery biologist with the Office of
8 Subsistence Management.
9
10 MR. DANBERG: Good morning. I'm Doug
11 Danberg. I'm the Refuge Manager of Izembek National
12 Wildlife Refuge.
13
14 MS. LOWE: Good morning. I'm Stacey
15 Lowe. I'm a wildlife biologist at Izembek Refuge.
16
17 MS. WEISS: Amberly Weiss, tribal
18 member of the Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove.
19
20 MR. MACK: Kenneth Mack, resident of
21 King Cove.
22
23 MR. WILSON: Warren Wilson, resident of
24 King Cove.
25
26 MS. MACK: Good morning. I'm Liza
27 Mack. I'm from King Cove and I'm a UAF student.
28
29 MS. SEVERIAN: Good morning. I'm
30 Bonita Severian. I'm here with the Agdaagux Tribe.
31
32 MR. JOHNSON: I guess that just leaves
33 me. I'm Carl Johnson. I'm the Council Coordination
34 Division Chief from Office of Subsistence Management
35 and also acting as Council Coordinator for this Council
36 the last three meetings.
37
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. At
39 this time we'll have the adoption of the agenda, so a
40 motion will be in order.
41
42 MR. KOSO: Make a motion to adopt the
43 agenda.
44
45 MR. SCHWANTES: Second.
46
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any discussion.
48 Any additions. Carl.
49
50 MR. JOHNSON: I have some additions,

1 Mr. Chair. If the Council may recall at its last
2 meeting it asked to possibly discuss at this meeting
3 submitting a Board of Fisheries proposal for the 2016
4 finfish meeting regarding taking grey cod on halibut
5 longlines. So our fisheries biologist Trent has done
6 some research on that and is prepared to help the
7 Council with a discussion on that. I thought a good
8 place to put that would be right after the discussion
9 on the Federal fisheries proposal, the Statewide
10 Proposal FP15-01, so then we could have a discussion on
11 that proposal or if there are any other Board of
12 Fisheries proposals that the Council members have been
13 considering since the last meeting we could discuss
14 them then.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Under new
17 business?

18

19 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, that would be under
20 new business, right after the Statewide Fisheries
21 Proposal FP15-01.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

24

25 MR. JOHNSON: And then also the Council
26 did ask at its last meeting for a status report on the
27 Unimak and Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herds. So
28 Lem Butler is going to be on the phone and he will be
29 prepared to give you a report on those caribou
30 populations when we get to the Alaska Department of
31 Fish and Game portion of agency reports.

32

33 Then also perhaps after we're done with
34 this agenda too if we could invite the folks who are on
35 the phone to join us and at least introduce themselves.

36

37 I have just one last little thing.
38 Under reports, after Chair's report, I just want to
39 cover a couple of quick Council Coordinator
40 administrative items. If I could just put that in
41 there after your Chair's report.

42

43 That's all I have to add, Mr. Chair.
44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Carl.
47 Anything else. Pat.

48

49 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. To Carl. I
50 was wondering with our existing agenda if we'd be able

1 to chat a bit about soup ducks and Emperor Geese. Is
2 there some area within the existing agenda that we can
3 discuss that?

4

5 MR. JOHNSON: We certainly could.
6 Anywhere that the Council would like to discuss it?
7 Mostly likely under new business or it could be old
8 business too. These are issues this Council has been
9 discussing for some time, so I guess it depends whether
10 or not you want to follow up on a previous discussion
11 or start a new discussion as to whether or not it will
12 be old business or new business.

13

14 MR. HOLMES: Well, we've been talking
15 about these things ever since I can remember, so
16 probably under old business.

17

18 MR. JOHNSON: That would make sense.
19 We could do that right at the end of old business after
20 rural determination process review.

21

22 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I thought
23 that would be important because these are topics that
24 Tom's been working on for many years and our Council
25 has been concerned about for many years. So it would
26 be good to keep the continuum of discussion going.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

29

30 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I was
31 wondering if -- just the last two or three meetings
32 there's been a lot of discussion on the low population
33 of deer on the east side of Kodiak. I was wondering if
34 we could discuss that some and possibly, if the reports
35 are still low, maybe issue an emergency order for a
36 closure.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Maybe Don Tracy or
39 somebody from Kodiak is on there. Anything else.

40

41 MR. KOSO: Is that going under new
42 business?

43

44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We'll put that low
45 deer population under Fish and Game.

46

47 MR. JOHNSON: Maybe we could discuss
48 that in context of Kodiak's -- the Refuge report.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah.

1 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.
4
5 MR. HOLMES: To Carl. Maybe if we
6 could have somebody get a hold of Nate or Larry Van
7 Daele at the Kodiak Game Management with ADF&G to be
8 able to provide some background information, that might
9 be handy.
10
11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
12
13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
14 additions to our agenda.
15
16 (No comments)
17
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing none, is
19 there any objections to the agenda with the additions.
20
21 (No objections)
22
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Seeing no
24 objections, then the motion carries. I think we moved
25 along a little quick on the introductions. I neglected
26 to have the people online make introductions. Can we
27 do that now, please. People online, anyone speak up.
28 OSM, start introducing yourselves, please.
29
30 MR. TUTIAKOFF: This is Vince. Hello.
31
32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hello. We can
33 hear you.
34
35 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, I'm having a hard
36 time hearing you, Mitch. Maybe you could move that
37 speaker next to you and the other speakers need to get
38 close to the mic because it's hard to hear with the
39 rattling of papers going on.
40
41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, Vince, the
42 mic is about 10 feet. I'll try to holler once in a
43 while so you can hear me.
44
45 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Okay, yeah, sounds
46 good. And, Carl, I did not receive the agenda that you
47 said you'd send to me yesterday, so I'm kind of
48 following by whatever you say is going on there.
49
50 MR. JOHNSON: Okay, Vince. I did see

1 that it was sent to you via email. One of our Council
2 coordinators, Eva, sent it and I did get a copy of
3 that.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I think
6 introductions of people online might be a little
7 difficult, but we'll just take it as it comes. So
8 we'll move along with our agenda. Right now we have
9 previous meeting minutes. I'd like a motion to accept
10 the minutes of our last meeting.

11

12 MR. KOSO: I move to accept the minutes
13 of the last meeting.

14

15 MR. HOLMES: Second.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and
18 seconded. Any discussion, corrections.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If there are no
23 corrections to the minutes of our last meeting, do I
24 have any objection to the motion.

25

26 (No objections)

27

28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing none, then
29 the motion carries. We have Council member reports.
30 We have two people online. Vincent, would you like to
31 give a community report.

32

33 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Yeah. Yeah, I heard
34 you that time, Mitch. I'm out here in Adak right now
35 and this will be my last meeting, I believe, before I
36 get off the Council. I think I did make my concerns
37 known that the direction the RAC has been going is kind
38 of frustrating to me. It started off to be subsistence
39 issues that affect villages that we represent and it's
40 turned into more of getting in line of what State
41 policy is and I just don't understand why the State --
42 we have to do that when the State of Alaska does not
43 recognize subsistence. Very frustrating to me.

44

45 One of my concerns about what's going
46 on here in Adak is we need to -- I'd like to see the
47 Council work to get a better number on -- track what's
48 going on with these caribou here in Adak. It's a very
49 vital part of this small community of 80, 90 people and
50 we're getting a lot of hunters out here. I know Fish

1 and Wildlife probably has their own plans, but we need
2 to try and keep this herd for the people out here
3 because, as many of you know, this is a community
4 that's up and down and right now it's down and trying
5 to get it back on its feet. But the food that caribou
6 provides for the community is basically their
7 pocketbook. The cost of getting food out here is \$12
8 for a gallon of milk once you buy it and it's pretty
9 expensive. Fuel is 6.81 a gallon for gas. So you can
10 see it's very critical for them.

11
12 I'm concerned about the ability for the
13 subsistence users to hunt beach geese. I don't
14 understand the reasoning, but they're not allowing us
15 to hunt them. I think their population is a pretty
16 good size in Unalaska that I know of. Last year and
17 the last two years I've watched them. At times there's
18 two or three thousand just in one day, so I know there
19 should be an opening.

20
21 Probably more as we go along here, but
22 thank you, Mr. Chair and other board members. I'll be
23 online as long as I can.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you,
26 Vincent. Antone Shelikoff, would you like to give your
27 community report.

28
29 MR. SHELIKOFF: Not too much going on
30 here, but for Akun Island, that's six miles from
31 Akutan, but sand from the sand dunes have gone over
32 into -- it's kind of like a salmon stream and now the
33 sand is being eroded. It started from the
34 (indiscernible). It only can recede. It will take a
35 couple years.

36
37 There definitely is on this Council
38 that I feel that should not be part of -- well, there's
39 just issues that should be separated, like
40 (indiscernible) and stuff like that. Those are not
41 easy to deal with. But, yeah, just receding the sand
42 dunes in Akun.

43
44 That's all I got.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Antone.
47 Rick.

48
49 MR. KOSO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah,
50 well, it sounds like Vince did a pretty good job on

1 Adak for me there, so I'll do Dutch Harbor. No, I'm
2 just joking. Anyway, I think on Adak Vince covered a
3 lot of the issues I have. Mostly on the caribou. I
4 think everybody is pretty well taken care of as far as
5 the subsistence fishery part of it goes. We don't have
6 a very big population there, so we don't run into a lot
7 of subsistence problem at least with coming out of the
8 ocean.

9

10 The caribou we're a little concerned
11 about because we worry that there's been a tremendous
12 amount of hunting going on there in the last couple of
13 years and I think it would be nice if we could get the
14 Feds and the State together and maybe we could get
15 another survey done out there for the caribou.

16

17 And during the survey I'd also like to
18 combine that with an Emperor Goose survey. I think
19 we've been losing Adak as a count for the Emperor Geese
20 and we've been trying to get a subsistence hunt on that
21 throughout the Aleutians for years. Well, ever since
22 I've been on this board. It seems like the limit we're
23 going to require to have a subsistence hunt is always a
24 few thousand under. It never ever gets to the 80,000
25 mark that's required on a three-year average.

26

27 So I think what we need to do on that
28 in order to get a subsistence hunt on the Emperor Goose
29 is to drop that three-year average and drop it to
30 70,000 because they're always around 76,000, 78,000.
31 They're always a couple thousand under the actual
32 count. I think in a lot of the islands such as Sanak
33 and all the way out to Attu there's Emperor Geese that
34 aren't being counted. I think there's plenty there for
35 a subsistence hunt for people in the region. I think
36 that's something I would like to see the Feds -- look
37 forward to getting that done so that we could have a
38 Federal hunt there, subsistence.

39

40 That's it there, Chairman.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Rick.

43 Pat.

44

45 MR. HOLMES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
46 Rick, we were talking earlier. What's the timing of
47 the Emperor Geese in the Aleutians? Is that about the
48 same time as the Feds do their survey in September or
49 October?

50

1 MR. KOSO: I don't know if the Feds
2 ever come out there and survey Emperor Geese. The
3 reports -- I've seen -- you know, I've never really
4 looked at them, but I did go and see if the two, three
5 hundred, even more, flocks sitting on the beaches out
6 there and that's just one small portion of the island,
7 so I know that can't be the only place there are
8 Emperor Geese. There are going to be Emperor Geese on
9 every one of those islands. So I'm really thinking
10 there's a lot more geese than is actually being
11 recorded and counted. So I really think we're getting
12 screwed on that deal.

13

14 I think we should have a subsistence
15 hunt for people out in this region and I think we could
16 have it and I think it could be sustainable as far as
17 the Emperor Geese go. So I really think we need to
18 work toward that and we need a proposal in to get that
19 to happen here.

20

21 MR. HOLMES: Thanks for the
22 clarification because that's what I've heard from folks
23 on the peninsula too and friends out at Atka that the
24 Emperor Geese are around there about the same time as
25 the Federal surveys in September, October. I believe
26 one briefing we had was that originally, when they were
27 starting the surveys, they did some of the Aleutians
28 but they quit doing it because of problems with
29 weather. I always thought that if that's the point
30 where they had come up with an 80,000 threshold, I
31 certainly agree with you on lowering it particularly
32 for a step wide subsistence approach.

33

34 Emperor Geese is a problem, a
35 discussion that I've heard from Kodiak and the villages
36 there. I talked with Alex Paramanoff, Jr. in Larsen
37 Bay just before I came down and he was going to check
38 around on the soup duck question in Larsen Bay because
39 folks there feel that the numbers are dropping and
40 we'll talk about that more with the Kodiak report.

41

42 I've heard some folks have had success
43 with the increased goat harvest on the south end to
44 two, so that sounds like that program where folks and
45 our Council have been working with the Advisory
46 Committee to come up with compromises and solutions is
47 working real well.

48

49 Some parts of the island deer are up.
50 With does and fawns in other places I've heard reports

1 that they're not doing as well and I heard from friends
2 down in the south end of concern of the areas where
3 there are still deer populations of large numbers of
4 folks being outfitted and guiding and making it more
5 difficult for locals to get their deer.

6

7 Let's see. I did help the Native
8 Village of Afognak's spirit camp a bit, but had a new
9 granddaughter, so didn't really go out to camp this
10 year. I did attend the Federal hearings in I believe
11 it was March or April in Anchorage for the Federal
12 Board on the rural determination question and really
13 had some very positive feelings from listening to the
14 other Councils and their thoughts. I think the new
15 Federal Board is an entirely different group of folks,
16 physically and philosophically, and I think they're
17 really trying to come up with some solutions where
18 things can be decided within state of what's rural and
19 what's not.

20

21 A little later I can talk about the cod
22 and halibut situation.

23

24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.
27 Any questions for Pat.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Peter.

32

33 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, I'm in the same
34 situation with Vince. This is my last meeting. My term
35 is up and I'm not going to re-run. I do agree with a
36 lot of what Vince said. I think we're spending too
37 much time on issues that aren't -- you know, to me
38 aren't that important as like low caribou population
39 out here and subsistence for the people. I did miss
40 the last meeting. I seen in the minutes where I was
41 unexcused because I went to state basketball. I have
42 two nieces that were starters on the ball team and they
43 went 27 and 0, so I'm very proud of that. I just felt
44 that three meetings in a row in Kodiak I didn't support
45 that.

46

47 The Port Lions new ferry dock will be

48

49

50

Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Peter.
2 Della.

3
4 MS. TRUMBLE: Good morning. Where to
5 start here. I think first of all I'd like to welcome
6 everybody for being here. I'm glad we were able to
7 have the meeting here and not in Cold Bay. This Council
8 had directed in the last winter meeting that the
9 meeting would be in King Cove and through some push and
10 pull I'm thankful we are here today.

11
12 There's a number of issues that we
13 continue to work on in Izembek. Doug and I had a long
14 talk yesterday on how we address the issues for the
15 subsistence users from King Cove and then when they go
16 to Cold Bay and I think how they're treated and how
17 better to improve relationships between the two
18 communities. As we all know, the issue with the road
19 between the two communities is a high priority for King
20 Cove and at this point we are in a lawsuit status and
21 I'm limited as to what we can really talk about at this
22 point in regard to that. That continues to be an
23 issue.

24
25 I think the last time the
26 Kodiak/Aleutians was here in King Cove, and I don't
27 recall the year, but I do know the reason they didn't
28 want to come back is because they were stuck here for
29 four days and a boat wouldn't take them to Cold Bay.
30 Anyway, that's that.

31
32 From the corporation standpoint, the
33 corporation has passed here limited land use to
34 shareholders and their descendants only and that's an
35 issue that they are going to continue to look at and
36 try to come up with good policies as far as future use
37 and how to be able to regulate that. Warren is our
38 vice president for King Cove Corporation and he can add
39 to that if he would like.

40
41 From the tribal standpoint, we have the
42 TWG grant, which is a tribal wildlife grant, which is
43 200,000 that we were awarded over a two-year period.
44 The purpose of that is observation of the marine
45 mammals and the various threatened bird species,
46 including the Brant. Over the past summer we've gotten
47 -- they were able to get a lot of information. We have
48 a sentinel that works in Akutan, who is Antone
49 Shelikoff. We were able to, between the TWG and the
50 NPRB grant, hire a sentinel in Akutan/False Pass for

1 two hours a day, which we'll probably be increasing to
2 four hours a day, five days a week, in conjunction with
3 a grant that St. Paul has because we utilize the Bering
4 watch site for inputting all of the information on what
5 is being seen.

6
7 Amberly Weiss, who has put in her name
8 for this Council, was the prior coordinator. Bonita
9 Severian has just been newly hired and she is starting
10 to learn basically the system. But just looking at
11 what was observed not only from some of the fishermen
12 this summer is the effects, I think, of global warming
13 and the water temperature being five to six to seven
14 degrees warmer than even last year. So we're working
15 on right now trying to get all that information in and
16 we will be working also I think with Doug. We were
17 talking about trying to create some collaboration in
18 one of his grants also because they basically are all
19 along the same lines.

20
21 We had the caribou drawing in King Cove
22 where people were drawn this year for the 2014 hunt.
23 The State had their drawing and a good number of people
24 did get their names in. There still shows a high need
25 not only from the amount of people that turned in their
26 names for both drawings, the need for the people to be
27 able to get their caribou. I think it's very
28 important.

29
30 We had our culture camp this past year
31 and I think tried to coordinate with Fish and Wildlife
32 and even the State to be able to come in and work with
33 the kids and do some projects with them next year as
34 they have been with the other culture camps in the
35 region.

36
37 From a personal standpoint, I think --
38 well, not much personal, but in looking through the
39 minutes and the discussion again in two things. The
40 first is the migratory bird. I believe there is going
41 to be the count in October. Amberly, I think, has
42 talked to somebody in Cold Bay or somebody from King
43 Cove to be able to go over when they do that count.

44
45 I do definitely agree with Rick because
46 from the time I was on this Council before and that
47 80,000 threshold for three years never gets met, but
48 it's very close, within a 10,000 average. To lower
49 that to the 70,000 I think makes sense if you're
50 looking at the past 10 to 12 years as it's been

1 remaining within that average. That being one.

2

3 Also the issue of the subsistence on
4 the Emperor Geese has come up for as long as I've been
5 on this Council. I think as a practice that needs to
6 even be incorporated into this process, is that
7 somebody from their Council or Staff needs to be online
8 at every one of our meetings because we continue to go
9 round and round, no resolution, nothing done. The same
10 thing gets brought up every meeting.

11

12 The same thing with Adak caribou. You
13 go back and look at the last three meetings, that issue
14 and the concern about the high use of sport hunters and
15 what's being done in Adak and nothing being done. No
16 harvest, no surveys, no -- there's nothing in place and
17 who can be taking what and when and where. The same
18 thing is going to happen on Adak as happened out here
19 if they don't address it soon.

20

21 That's basically all I've got.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Della.

26

27 Tom.

28

29 MR. SCHWANTES: Good morning, Mr.
30 Chair. A number of my concerns have been covered here,
31 but I'll just touch on them briefly. Deer population
32 on Kodiak again. Some areas seem to have a fairly
33 decent population while others are almost nothing. I
34 think there's certainly some areas that could be
35 addressed there, closing some areas, keeping others
36 open.

37

38 The Emperor Geese thing is something
39 that we've talked about since day one since I've been
40 on here, which has been seven years ago we started
41 talking about Emperor Geese. Something that I brought
42 up I don't know how many years ago, but the Audubon
43 Society does a bird count. They go out and solicit
44 people all over the state to participate in that bird
45 count. There's no reason why the Feds couldn't do the
46 same thing. When they do their bird count, the same
47 time period they do their bird count they could have
48 everybody else out in these regions counting birds in
49 areas that they don't count. At least we'd have some
50 kind of an idea what the numbers are. There's no

1 reason that couldn't be done, couldn't be implemented.

2

3 You know, this report today that we
4 have shows we're only like 400 birds from being the
5 80,000 again, you know, and yet we can't have a
6 subsistence season. Come on, let's get real here. I
7 mean we've been within that number 75, 76 to 80,000 for
8 the last how many years and yet they're saying, no, you
9 can't go kill a few geese. That's just nonsense to me.
10 It's a traditional food and I think we need to take a
11 long, hard look at getting that changed so that we can
12 get back to harvesting that.

13

14 Then my biggest concern is -- you know,
15 I live a long way away from Unimak Island, but my
16 biggest concern is Unimak Caribou Herd. I was reading
17 the report in here and I just get so frustrated I want
18 to tear my hair out sometimes when I read these
19 reports. It says in the report that the Wildlife
20 Refuge and ADF&G are working hand in hand cooperatively
21 on this study and trying to manage this thing and then
22 in the next sentence it says, well, the Refuge didn't
23 get their survey done this winter because of lack of
24 snow. Come on. You have to have snow to do a caribou
25 survey? I just don't buy that, you know. You can
26 survey caribou during the summertime or whenever, but
27 don't use that as an excuse because it just irritates
28 me.

29

30 Then further down it says, well,
31 because we didn't get our survey done we're hoping to
32 get the results that ADF&G did. That doesn't tell me
33 that you have a very close relationship when you're
34 telling me you're hoping to get this information. I
35 think that's something that I've talked about. Doug, I
36 hope you'll make sure that you have a close working
37 relationship and you're doing everything you can
38 between you and the Department of Fish and Game to
39 build that herd back up out there. To me, that's a top
40 priority and I believe it is for the people out here
41 and I think we need to do a whole lot more.

42

43 If we have to go in there and do some
44 predator control, then let's work together and get it
45 done. We've seen excellent results on the Peninsula
46 Herd because of a couple years of predator control. My
47 feeling is we should at least try it on Unimak and see
48 if it works.

49

50 That's all I've got, Mr. Chairman.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Tom.
4 For Akhiok, you know -- well, first off, it sounds like
5 we have a good foundation for a Chair's report for the
6 Federal Subsistence Board meeting in January. Again,
7 in Akhiok, we're right in the middle of the area that
8 have a real low deer population. It came up a little
9 bit this year but not very much. I've seen the
10 transect that they fly for those surveys from Low Cape
11 to Cape Kaguyak. That's a big area. In that report,
12 they only counted like 460 deer. From Cape Ikolik to
13 Kaguyak, that's bad.

14

15 Last year I was talking with some of
16 the guiding operations, the transporters up in Alitak
17 Bay district. They said some charter boats were coming
18 in to Alitak Bay and taking a lot of does and fawns.
19 Some guys are pretty good. They tell them, you know,
20 there's no deer out there, don't take any, but if you
21 see a buck, you know, I can't stop you from shooting a
22 buck. We generally don't want you to shoot any does,
23 don't shoot any Bambis, but it's happening. It's
24 happening out there.

25

26 I travel Alitak Bay, Moser Bay and Olga
27 Bay and you go by these big dragger boats and you know
28 they're just coming in to do some dragging and then
29 they go to a hunting spot. When you go by there,
30 there's deer hanging on the rigging and they're not
31 bucks. With the declining population, when you take
32 the does and the young deers, that's further killing
33 the population off. That's a major concern in our area
34 because everybody, since they brought the deer in to
35 Kodiak, everybody has become pretty reliant on venison.
36 It's good meat.

37

38 On the other hand, we have a kid's camp
39 in the village and that went fairly well. It's a camp
40 where we teach the kids the traditional way of life,
41 harvesting foods and processing it, and the kids just
42 love it. We get help from the Refuge on Kodiak. Tonya
43 Lee comes out and she does arts and crafts with the
44 kids and teach them about animals. They just love
45 getting that hands-on experience. We take them out to
46 harvest a seal, harvest a deer and they come back and
47 they're so jubilant and happy and say I did this.
48 That's their traditional way of life they're learning
49 in a camp they get that.

50

1 The Emperor Geese issue. Like Tom
2 said, I think that's an issue that's been going on
3 since I've been on the board in early 2000. The
4 threshold we've asked and asked. Instead of keeping
5 the threshold at 80,000 where you're just a couple
6 hundred away from that, why don't you just drop it.
7 Drop the threshold. Subsistence, our way of life for
8 thousands and thousands of years, has never ever
9 depleted a resource. Never. The people have a way of
10 regulating themselves in the amount of harvest they do
11 of any resource that is out there.

12
13 On Kodiak Island where it was -- like
14 before contact we had 50,000 people on there and the
15 resources were there. With 50,000 people you would
16 think resources would be hit pretty hard. That's how
17 self-regulation is with our people. They don't. They
18 have people that would say if this is depleting over
19 here, you can't go there. You know, you've got to go
20 somewhere else. You can get the same species of food
21 over here as you can here, but numbers are dwindling so
22 leave that alone for a while. It's been that way for
23 thousands of years with our people.

24
25 Unfortunately the population grows and
26 we have commercialization of all the resources that are
27 available to us. We have to form different ways of
28 management and we work towards that. I'm a strong
29 advocate of teaching kids and having them watch out for
30 our way of life and the resources we use. If we don't
31 make it better for them, what are they going to say
32 about us. Who are we, what manner of people are we if
33 we don't try to make it better. We have to.

34
35 It's not an easy thing, I can tell you
36 that, but when you see a child's face light up when
37 they learn something, that means a lot. That's who we
38 work for. We work for each other, but the generation
39 coming after us, those are the guys that are going to
40 say why didn't you fix it. You had time, you had a
41 chance. If we give them something that's broken, you
42 know, what have we done. We need to accomplish
43 something. Small things like the Emperor Geese
44 population. Emperor Geese to subsistence hun. Elders
45 in Kodiak have been asking for that for years.

46
47 It's frustrating, but other times it's
48 rewarding. It's one of the reasons I wanted to get on
49 here. My people like their way of life and I felt that
50 I could do something here. Road blocks are something

1 we've got to overcome. We can do that if we just keep
2 on trying and sooner or later we'll accomplish
3 something that our people and our next generation will
4 be thankful for.

5
6 That's all I have. Thank you. So next
7 on our agenda would be the .805(c). I'll turn that
8 over to Carl.

9
10 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 Council members and everybody here in the audience,
12 this is on Page 10 of the meeting book. There's also a
13 separate handout on the table back there with this.
14 Every year after the Federal Subsistence Board adopts
15 new regulations it submits a report to the Councils
16 telling the Councils how the Board either accepted or
17 it did not accept their recommendations.

18
19 Under Section .805 of ANILCA, the
20 Federal Subsistence Board is required to defer to the
21 Council's recommendations unless any of the three
22 different -- there's three different criteria in .805
23 paragraph (c) that the Board could use as justification
24 for not following those recommendations.

25
26 As you note at the beginning of this
27 paragraph, of the 52 proposals that the Federal
28 Subsistence Board heard on wildlife regulatory changes
29 at its April meeting, 48 of those they went with the
30 Council's recommendation. So for people who want to
31 have kind of an understanding of how much influence the
32 Councils have on the Federal Subsistence Board, that's
33 a good indicator.

34
35 In this case, the only two issues that
36 this Council made recommendations, there was one
37 statewide proposal and one regional proposal and those
38 ended up on what's called a consensus agenda, which
39 means that everybody agrees with the recommendation.
40 The Council recommendation, the Interagency Staff
41 Committee, the State of Alaska, everybody is all on the
42 same page. In this case, both of the issues that this
43 Council made recommendations on were on that consensus
44 agenda.

45
46 There could be some years where there's
47 something where everybody disagrees, not everybody
48 agrees. So the State might disagree or there might be
49 several Councils that have different ideas as to what
50 the recommendation should be, so that would end up on

1 what's called the non-consensus agenda. But there were
2 no items on the non-consensus agenda that affected this
3 region from the last Board meeting.

4

5 That's all I have for this, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Carl.

8 Any questions.

9

10 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. On our last
11 correspondence to the Federal Board, I think there were
12 -- even though they did agree with our two proposals, I
13 think there were some points on this letter that we got
14 that was sent to you for our Council on October 6th and
15 I could go into it in detail, but I think there's some
16 things that I would suggest that we further question or
17 maybe write a rebuttal to some of the comments that
18 were in that letter. If you would like me to address
19 that specifically, I can or I can rough something out
20 for later in the meeting.

21

22 MR. JOHNSON: Are you referring to the
23 annual report reply, Pat?

24

25 MR. HOLMES: Yes. I believe our
26 Council should write a rebuttal to some of the replies.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: That's next. Are
29 there any questions for Carl.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If there's no
34 questions on the .805(c) then next is the annual
35 report, the reply you were referring to, Pat.

36

37 MR. HOLMES: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'm
38 sorry, I got sidetracked and got a little bit ahead.
39 Some of the areas in the annual report, the comments
40 back to us addressed funding being flat, but some of
41 the questions that we had asked about are things that
42 had existed before funding went flat. I really think
43 that those should be some things that the Federal Board
44 responds to us, particularly the Emperor Geese. I
45 think once we have our discussion on that we could add
46 more in our letter this year to them.

47

48 Maybe what we could do in our letter to
49 them this year we can say these sections of last year's
50 report your comments we don't agree with. Particularly

1 the Emperor Goose thing and the caribou population
2 there's several points that folks have addressed in
3 their comments to the Council that I think really need
4 to be elaborated on and responded back to them in terms
5 of the caribou populations, Emperor Geese and sea duck
6 mortality in Uyak Bay, because some of the things -- we
7 write a letter to the Board, Carl and OSM Staff
8 sanitize it and get it into the proper format, a few
9 things get lost. Not too much. I think Carl is doing
10 a better job than before.

11
12 Then it goes to the OSM Staff, they
13 condense and sanitize it, then it goes to the Federal
14 Board and the OSM report to them gets condensed and
15 sanitized and then the comments at the Board meeting I
16 think the rural discussion is another example. They
17 get condensed and summarized. So then when we get
18 things back. Some of these condensations and abstracts
19 lose their context and that prompted, I think, our
20 comments in the early part of this letter on the
21 bureaucratic response. I think they're trying, but
22 communications get lost and distorted and tend to
23 support the Fish and Wildlife Service position.

24
25 Things show up in there like on Page 7
26 of this, down in the second to last paragraph, Concern
27 over local harvest of harlequin ducks has also been
28 expressed in past years by staff at Kodiak National
29 Wildlife Refuge. That is not true. Only one time did
30 I hear a comment since I've been on here about the
31 declining population and that was when Denny
32 Zwiefelhofer was the bird person and I have not seen
33 that -- I think you could go back and look at the
34 transcripts and it is flat not there. It does support
35 the staff and the staff does try hard, but that hasn't
36 occurred.

37
38 So there are a few things in there that
39 just don't come through once they have been sanitized
40 three or four times. So I'll just let it go at that
41 because the issues that I have in this document I think
42 we'll hit upon once again when we have the discussion
43 on the Emperor Geese and caribou and soup ducks.

44
45 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Carl.

48
49 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, actually, I want to
50 note specifically the response on the Council's Emperor

1 Goose issue. The Interagency Staff Committee went back
2 and forth as to how to respond. In the end, it
3 provided this simple response because the Council
4 specifically noted that it wasn't requesting any action
5 from the Board. The last sentence, Council does not
6 request any action by the Board on this issue, but
7 wanted to inform you of our intention to keep pressing
8 this issue with the AMBCC.

9

10 So, essentially, since the Council
11 wasn't asking for any particular action, in the end the
12 ISC concluded with recommending a non-response. The
13 information was passed on to Migratory Birds, as it
14 notes, so that's kind of the explanation for that
15 response.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Does each area
18 have a migratory bird council? Like Kodiak has a
19 migratory bird council. Does each different areas in
20 the region have that?

21

22 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, there are different
23 regional councils, kind of like there are regional
24 councils for this subsistence program. There is a
25 Kodiak area council. One thing that was suggested as
26 part of these discussions was that perhaps maybe there
27 should be more communication between this Council and
28 the Kodiak regional council for the migratory birds
29 process. Maybe we can develop a good communication
30 relationship there. In fact, I think one of the
31 representatives is a Squartsoff.

32

33 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Uh-huh.

34

35 MR. JOHNSON: So that could be
36 something we could start working on to maybe try a
37 different route of communication about Emperor Geese
38 issues in the future.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, we started
41 working with the Kodiak migratory bird council. We
42 produced a proposal from this Council and then it got
43 to Kodiak and it died. Pat.

44

45 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's
46 correct. I guess I would say, you know, some of this
47 issue precedes you, Carl. We did have a proposal to
48 the Federal Board asking for that to be reduced and
49 then they told us, no, we had to go to the AMBCC. We
50 went to the AMBCC. The chairman of that tabled it.

1 Mr. Devine from this neck of the woods in Sand Point,
2 the Devine kid. I can't remember his name.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Peter.

5

6 MR. HOLMES: Peter. He was on there.
7 So we've just had this tossed from place to place. So
8 we had asked for that and Rick tabled it, Rowland, at
9 the Kodiak one. There's no documentation on what I
10 received from that meeting other than it was tabled.
11 We had quite a discussion when we were on
12 teleconference with them and for quite a while he was
13 basically telling us that we couldn't submit a
14 proposal. We nailed it down and he finally yielded to
15 us on the previous meeting before it was tabled. So
16 there's some folks in town that felt that he wasn't
17 particularly representing the whole area, so we're left
18 out once again on the discussion of reducing the
19 population threshold.

20

21 So I have to go back on your point of
22 saying that we hadn't asked for an action. We did ask
23 for an action. We were told to go to them. So we, for
24 two years, have been trying to get somewhere only to be
25 bounced around and get nowhere and back again. That's
26 why we had our comments in on Emperor Geese, is that we
27 thought the Board should be aware that we were getting
28 nowhere with the AMBCC. So that's a small thing, but
29 when we changed coordinators those things get lost in
30 the whole thing and I certainly wouldn't expect you to
31 go back and reread all the transcripts of our Council
32 before you got on and the things at the AMBCC. So
33 that's a point of frustration on that. I'm sorry.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della.

40

41 MS. TRUMBLE: This is Della Trumble,
42 King Cove. I'm not sure what the process is, but
43 looking at this, is it acceptable for us to develop a
44 resolution and pass it at this meeting incorporating
45 all the discussion and asking to review the threshold
46 at 70,000. But to take it even further than that,
47 Mitch, I think we can take it to all our tribes in our
48 respective regions, ask them to pass that supporting
49 also and to send it to Migratory Birds. It's not a
50 matter of who supports what. If your tribes all fully

1 support it, there shouldn't be a question about why it
2 shouldn't be addressed.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Carl.

5

6 MR. JOHNSON: Certainly this Council
7 can approve of a letter to be sent to that effect. I
8 do know, however, that since the 80,000 threshold was
9 established in a management plan that involved several
10 agencies, several Councils, several different entities,
11 I know it's not something that the AmBCC itself can
12 change. It would have to be a pretty lengthy process,
13 but definitely this Council has the ability to send
14 correspondence to State agencies, to Federal agencies
15 advocating on subsistence issues kind of on a broad
16 spectrum.

17

18 So certainly what is always helpful too
19 would be to have some background information that's
20 already been discussed here where observations of
21 people who live out in the region who have seen the
22 stable geese populations and the frustration of always
23 being within just a few thousand of that 80,000
24 threshold and then requesting a reconsideration of that
25 threshold. That could start a process and I don't know
26 what that process would take, but it would definitely
27 involve a lot of, probably several years worth of work
28 to keep it going, but I know this Council has the
29 desire to do that.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rick.

32

33 MR. KOSO: Yeah, it just seems a lot
34 simpler if we were to get somebody that knows how to
35 count geese and send them out there so we could get the
36 right count. I think we could probably do that in
37 short order. They're not counting out in Aleutians
38 like they should be. I'm sure they'll count an extra
39 two, three or four thousand geese. They're sitting at
40 77-78,000 for the past how many years. If they would
41 do that count right, they would be over 80,000 and we
42 wouldn't be in this predicament. We would have our
43 hunt. I think to go back and try to change the
44 management plan we'll be looking at five more years of
45 paperwork. We'll be going in the wrong direction. I
46 think we need to get somebody out there that's going to
47 do a better count for us and I think we can get our
48 subsistence hunt within the next couple years.

49

50 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom.

2

3 MR. SCHWANTES: I agree. I go back to
4 this thing. If, when the Feds do their bird count,
5 they ask all these individual communities to do a bird
6 count at the same time, then those numbers could be
7 added to the Feds' count. There's a lot of areas I'm
8 sure that are being missed that the Feds aren't
9 covering when they do that bird count. They don't
10 cover anything out beyond Unimak as far as I'm aware.
11 So those numbers, if they solicited all these
12 communities to participate in that bird count, those
13 numbers could be added and I agree with Rick, we'd be
14 up. We wouldn't have to be dealing with this issue.
15 It seems to me a fairly simple issue to ask communities
16 to participate in a bird count.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thanks, Tom.
19 Della and then Pete.

20

21 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair. I agree with
22 both. For the immediate short-term, yes, asking, but
23 they're still going to say it's a process. That's what
24 we're up against is the process that they're utilizing.
25 Ten, 12 years ago we were up to the same thing, that
26 80,000 threshold. That needs to be changed. So the
27 question is for the long term we've got to get that
28 number changed and we've got to change the process.
29 It's got to be changed for the whole system. That's
30 your long term. That may take us three to five years
31 to do. Short term we can recommend to include the
32 communities in their counts.

33

34 This is the other piece of it. We go
35 back to this issue with trust. I recall this when we
36 had a meeting, I believe, in Nelson Lagoon one time.
37 Butch Gunderson at the time who was on this Council
38 basically went out and did those surveys with them on
39 occasion. And, yes, we did hit the 80,000. The next
40 year we were under by a little bit. You're right.
41 There's two things, short term and long term, but the
42 other piece of it and more importantly I think is
43 effectiveness. How are we going to get this done so we
44 don't keep doing this every single year. The same
45 thing we do with the caribou every single year.

46

47 That's part of why when you listen to
48 Vincent and Pete, their frustration with this process.
49 How do you change it or what are we going to do to
50 change it. I don't agree, Carl, with the letter. A

1 letter is a letter. We've done letters. I feel like a
2 resolution has a stronger impact, but to also include
3 and copy it to all the affected agencies. It needs to
4 be looked at. That would just be my recommendation.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Della.

7
8 Peter.

9
10 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, I agree with
11 Rick and Tom and Della. Also I think that 80,000
12 threshold that opens it up for everybody. That's what
13 they're after. But I don't see why we can't go for a
14 threshold for a subsistence hunt that's below that
15 80,000. Leave that 80,000 for statewide and go for a
16 70,000 to open for subsistence. I think that's another
17 thing we need to look at. These things are going to
18 take time. I don't know what it's really going to
19 take, but I think that's one thing we should really be
20 looking at is make a different threshold for
21 subsistence.

22
23 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

26
27 MR. HOLMES: You know, I agree with
28 everyone else and what Pete just said I think that was
29 in last year's correspondence to do that and then we
30 were bounced to the AMBCC, so it ended up being tabled
31 and that should have been the point where discussion
32 should have started. I have a question for Carl
33 because I'm a geezer and I lose thoughts and memories.
34 It seemed to me at our last meeting we requested that
35 there be a Migratory Bird Council person attending this
36 meeting or at least teleconferencing with us. Is there
37 anyone online from the Migratory Bird Division of Fish
38 and Wildlife Service?

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 MR. HOLMES: Because I know Carl was
43 going to write them a note and ask them to attend.
44 Here we are talking about this again, at least for me
45 for 16 years. I know when I came on Della was talking
46 about it from the years before that. Doggone it, I
47 just hate to get snubbed and pushed in the corner
48 because people aren't doing their job.

49
50 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thanks, Pat.

2

3 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair, I've just got to
4 add to Pat's letter there when you produce it, could
5 you add surveying caribou in Adak and maybe do it on a
6 more regular basis. I understand that maybe they did
7 it in 2010, but I couldn't find any paperwork on that.
8 But if we can get the survey done out there also, at
9 least every five years, would be really good. I know
10 they do it on the Peninsula here pretty much every
11 year, but on Adak they kind of forget it because I
12 think they'd like to see them all killed off because
13 they're not natural to the island. But it's a heck of
14 a food source for the folks out there and we need to
15 make sure the caribou herd are not overharvested.
16 Thanks.

17

18 MR. HOLMES: In response, Mr. Chair, to
19 Rick. Yeah, that would probably be a separate letter,
20 but I'll work on a draft.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: A lot of good
23 discussion we're going to have in our annual report
24 this year. I'm sure as we go along we'll have more.
25 Carl.

26

27 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, I would like to
28 speak just briefly to Pat's comments about the process.
29 So you're correct that there's kind of, as you say, a
30 sanitization. There's a lot of editing and revising
31 that goes on back at OSM. Historically, in the past,
32 the way things have worked is the Council discusses
33 issues for its annual report at this meeting, at the
34 fall meeting, and then, in the interim between the fall
35 meeting and the winter meeting the Council Coordinator
36 drafts an annual report that the Council then reviews
37 at its winter meeting and approves it. After that is
38 when the people at OSM then start the group editing,
39 the group review and all that.

40

41 I'm changing that process beginning
42 this year to where all the group review and group
43 editing of the annual report will actually be done
44 prior to the winter meeting so that at your winter
45 meeting you will then see the version that has been
46 fully reviewed and edited by the leadership team and
47 all the relevant staff at OSM. It would actually be
48 the closest thing as possible to the final version of
49 the annual report pending any additional issues that
50 may be added by the Council at its winter meeting. But

1 making that change in the desire to have the most
2 accurate annual report as possible for the Council at
3 its winter meeting and not seeing something that's been
4 changed after the fact.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: That's great. I
7 like that. Pat.

8
9 MR. HOLMES: I think that's swell. I
10 was wondering if we couldn't tighten things up and
11 instead of waiting from spring to fall to review most
12 all of us have email and it would seem that the Chair
13 assigns a committee to work on it and they could send
14 that out to the other members with a drop dead date on
15 it and then bring it back and then the committee could
16 come up with what the final note was and then we could
17 just send that on. If you end up ever having adequate
18 Staff, we might be able to go from spring to fall and
19 not have to wait. I mean right now sometimes these
20 things take a year and sometimes I wonder what we're
21 rebutting or which version.

22
23 If we could use the flexibility of your
24 office to -- once we come up with these two resolutions
25 or letters or three that evolve today, that I could
26 rough that out and whoever else and we could dust it
27 off, send it to Mitch and then out to the Council and
28 then ask a one week response or whatever and whatever
29 comes back then I compile a final and make sure that
30 Mitch is in the loop and send it off to you folks and
31 then we can save a whole bloody year on some of these
32 correspondence.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thanks for that,
35 Pat. Any other discussions, items for the annual
36 report. Carl.

37
38 MR. JOHNSON: We'll have an item on the
39 agenda later on to fully discuss the new annual report.
40 This was just to -- if there's any discussion on the
41 reply. Then we can develop the new annual report later
42 on in the meeting.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. So next we
45 have the Chair's report. The letter that's on Page 12.
46 Is that it?

47
48 MR. JOHNSON: This could be anything
49 you want it to be, Mr. Chair. You've given your
50 community report, the .805(c) report is there.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We've already gone
2 through the annual report that was submitted to the
3 Federal Subsistence Board. We've already discussed the
4 Chair report, I think. I would ask if there's any
5 questions from anyone.....

6
7 MR. TUTIAKOFF: What item are you on
8 there, Mr. Chair?

9
10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Discussing the
11 Chair's report or the fact that we already have covered
12 the Chair's report.

13
14 MR. TUTIAKOFF: I got the documents
15 finally. Thanks a lot. I got them. I've been
16 downloading them for 10 minutes. What page are you on?

17
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Twelve.

19
20 MR. JOHNSON: Just beginning of the
21 agenda, Page 1.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Vince, we're on
24 Page 1 of the agenda under reports and we're just going
25 over the annual report reply and the Chair's report.

26
27 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thanks.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: So if that's it, I
30 put Council Coordinator right under there.

31
32 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
33 Chair. This is an additional item that was added
34 during the approval of the agenda. Kind of Council
35 Coordinator administrative items. First, for those
36 here in the room, back on the table there's a poster
37 announcing the student art contest. What that is is
38 something that the Federal Subsistence Board does every
39 year is to reach out into different communities to
40 encourage youth to create art that eventually will
41 become the cover of either the fish or the wildlife
42 regulatory books. For those on the line, I'm holding
43 the 2013-2015 subsistence fisheries regulations book
44 and this is a winning piece of student art.

45
46 So I have for each Council member a
47 poster and then some information about the art
48 competition and then some entry forms. So before you
49 leave tomorrow to go back to your different communities
50 if you could each take a poster with you and some of

1 the forms and some of the information and take them
2 back to your communities and then also leave some here
3 for King Cove for the students here to make their own
4 contributions. At the regulatory meeting in late
5 January is when the fisheries regulatory meeting will
6 be and that's when the Federal Subsistence Board
7 members go through and cast their ballots and vote for
8 the winning entry and the winning entry becomes the
9 cover of the next subsistence regulation booklet. So
10 it's something that is kind of a cool thing that we've
11 been doing for quite a few years.

12
13 I also want to let the Council members
14 know that for those of you whose terms expire next year
15 I have placed in your little blue folder a Regional
16 Advisory Council application form. So if your term
17 expires in 2015, the deadline for submitting an
18 application to be reappointed will be January 23rd of
19 next year and then we'll continue on and we'll work on
20 those applications throughout the year. I just put
21 that in there as just a little reminder for you that
22 your term expires next year.

23
24 The tribal information that's in your
25 folder is going to be subject to change because we're
26 going to try to fly out tomorrow instead of Saturday.
27 Also just wanted to say welcome to the people of King
28 Cove who are here at this meeting. This is one of the
29 10 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils who provide
30 recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board on
31 fish and wildlife harvest on Federal public lands. We
32 have one Federal fisheries proposal, so if you have any
33 comments on that, they're welcome.

34
35 There's also other issues on the agenda
36 that you may find interest in also commenting on. If
37 there's anything you want to bring up that's not on the
38 agenda, there's the public and tribal comment on non-
39 agenda items. It's always great to hear --
40 particularly one of the values of these Council
41 meetings is we get to hear information from the
42 residents of the communities about what's going on with
43 particular bird populations or fish populations or
44 wildlife populations, how good the harvest seasons have
45 been, how hard they've been.

46
47 A lot of times I know that when the
48 anthropologist or the fisheries or wildlife biologists
49 are doing proposal analyses one of the sources of
50 information they go to to get information about a

1 region or a community is public comments at these
2 meetings. They go through the transcripts and they
3 look at information to get historical, traditional and
4 ecological knowledge about an area about particular
5 populations.

6

7 So thank you for coming and that's all
8 I have for the administrative items. Mr. Chair, thank
9 you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Carl.
12 Next on our agenda is presentation of service awards.
13 I guess you have all that information.

14

15 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. If I
16 could ask Chris McKee to come up. Then if I could ask
17 Della to come up front and center. So the Federal
18 Subsistence Board likes to recognize Regional Advisory
19 Council members on their 5th, 10th, 15th and 20th years
20 of service. I'll have Chris, who is our Wildlife
21 Division Chief, present. Go ahead.

22

23 MS. TRUMBLE: They're just being nice
24 to me so I don't ask for another meeting in King Cove
25 for five years.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 (Applause)

30

31 MR. JOHNSON: For those who didn't see
32 the inscription, that's recognizing Della for five
33 years of service on this Council. Last year we had
34 seven Council members in the whole 10 Council system
35 who were recognized for 20 years of service, so they
36 were Council members who have been on their Councils
37 since the very beginning of the Federal program. We do
38 have one other one in the Seward Peninsula Council this
39 year who will be recognized for 20 years of service.

40

41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Carl.
44 At this time we have public and tribal comments on non-
45 agenda items. Public comments are welcome for each
46 agenda item and for regional concerns not included on
47 the agenda. The Council appreciates hearing your
48 concerns and knowledge. Please fill out a form in the
49 back and give it to Carl. You have an opportunity to
50 make public comments. Please step up to the mic. I

1 guess Carl has the list. As he calls your name, just
2 come forward.

3

4 MR. JOHNSON: That's actually an
5 administrative item I forgot to mention. I encourage
6 everybody who is here to make sure to sign in on the
7 sign-in sheet at the front of the table there. Also,
8 if you want to come up to the microphone and say
9 something to the Council, there's these little blue
10 slips. If you could just fill those out and then that
11 way we have your name so the court reporter can
12 correctly spell it for the record. Then we also have
13 an idea of what it is you want to talk about. So if
14 it's something on the agenda specifically, we know to
15 call you up to the table when it gets to that agenda
16 item and that way we don't forget about you.

17

18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Before we start on
21 that maybe we can take a short break and get coffee or
22 get something to eat.

23

24 (Off record)

25

26 (On record)

27

28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Council members,
29 please take your seats. Call the meeting back to
30 order. We are taking public comment. Can we have the
31 first name on the public comment period, please.

32

33 MR. JOHNSON: Certainly, Mr. Chair.

34 Liza Mack.

35

36 MS. MACK: Good morning. I'd like to
37 thank everybody for coming here. I appreciate you guys
38 bringing the Federal Subsistence Board to King Cove.
39 It's not very often that we actually have this kind of
40 outreach and I think it's important just for our
41 community.....

42

43 MR. TUTIAKOFF: I can hardly hear.

44

45 MS. MACK: First of all, like I said, I
46 was just thanking the Federal Subsistence Board for
47 coming to King Cove so we have the option to
48 participate way out here in rural Alaska. I just
49 wanted to speak a little bit to the conversation that
50 you guys were having especially about the bird

1 populations and the Emperor Geese and kind of the
2 threshold that it is at and where it needs to be for
3 people to have a subsistence hunt versus a commercial
4 hunt.

5
6 I just wanted to say that we live here.
7 There's people here year round. So for there to be
8 gaps in the data, that's really not acceptable
9 because.....

10
11 MR. TUTIAKOFF: I can't hear her, I'm
12 sorry.

13
14 MS. MACK:there are people here
15 that can help count and there are people throughout the
16 Aleutians and throughout the state that can help in
17 this effort to kind of get those numbers up. Right now
18 we were just having a conversation in the back with Ken
19 Mack and Pat Holmes and we were talking about the fact
20 that there's a pot cod season, so there's people that
21 are on the water that are in the bays that are actively
22 out here on the landscape. So to have an effort to
23 make sure that our people who know what's going on in
24 these areas are also included in this.....

25
26 MR. SHELIKOFF: This is Antone in
27 Akutan.

28
29 MS. MACK: I think he's saying that he
30 can't hear me.

31
32 (Microphone test)

33
34 MS. MACK: Hello. Test, test. This is
35 better than karaoke. No, I'm kidding. I was just
36 saying for those of you who didn't hear me that I
37 appreciate the Federal Subsistence Board coming to King
38 Cove and for you guys taking the time to listen to our
39 community members and to actually get a feel for our
40 transportation challenges and also to just say that
41 there's no reason for there to be gaps in the data
42 because there's people who live here and there's people
43 that can assist in these counts.

44
45 So acknowledging that people here do
46 know, have traditional ecological knowledge about birds
47 and about migratory patterns of animals is important,
48 so taking that into consideration and also using the
49 resources that we have, especially local people,
50 fishermen, hunters, is imperative to making sure that

1 we understand really what's going on in our ecosystems
2 and allowing the continued subsistence harvests of
3 different species. I think that it's important to look
4 at those threshold numbers and also the numbers in
5 considering both subsistence and potentially commercial
6 things are different. So, when you're talking about
7 those threshold numbers being consistent over a number
8 of years, we should be looking at allowing our people
9 to hunt.

10

11 So, thank you. That's all I had.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Della.

14

15 MS. TRUMBLE: I think just to add to
16 what Liza just said and we kind of hit on this a little
17 bit earlier as an example is the tribal wildlife grant
18 that we're doing now where we utilize fishermen or
19 tenders and the guys that are on the boat to gather
20 that information, take the pictures, get the numbers,
21 get the counts, lats and longs, and we get all that
22 information put together so that is a good suggestion
23 to be able to utilize the people that are on the water.

24

25 MS. MACK: That and one other thing I
26 think is important, that we're here 100 percent of the
27 time. We're not only here for the window where people
28 are doing a survey. So if you needed to do a survey
29 during a certain amount of time it's easy to have a
30 little bit of outreach and have a little bit of
31 cross-communication so that people -- so that there
32 aren't gaps in this data and so that you guys are
33 getting a bigger picture of what's actually going on.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

36

37 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I'll
38 comment from an elder biologist. I think that your
39 idea is just really swell and particularly, Della, if
40 your wildlife grant could provide for some person to
41 summarize because late September, early October is when
42 they're doing the aerial surveys. So if you could get
43 the fleet here in Sand Point for folks to do some
44 counts and record it in their log book, then they could
45 provide that back to one of your staff and then that
46 could just be summarized on a simple spreadsheet.

47

48 Because if you have five guys that
49 anchor up in East Anchor Cove on the end of Unimak
50 because of weather and they count and, you know, that

1 gives you five observations. You just do a little
2 average and say the average of five observations on
3 this date was X and end up getting so much more area
4 covered for your data. I think, you know, if Rick
5 could get some folks to just go out in a skiff at Adak
6 here in the next three weeks or a couple of people to
7 do that and just showing, okay, at Adak we've got 200
8 emperor geese during your count and Unimak, the
9 Shumigans, there's another 8,000 and Shumigans north
10 there's another 25 or 30,000 I mean it would probably
11 be -- it would be over threshold, and then that would
12 help our Council and our arguments with the Migratory
13 Birds and the Migratory Bird Council to say, hey, we
14 need to look at this because we are over the threshold
15 and that's just such a swell idea that if we could get
16 something like that going now even if they don't accept
17 it, at least we're saying, hey, folks in our region are
18 so concerned about it they're giving you additional
19 information so then they'll have to really pay a whole
20 lot more attention.

21

22 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.
25 Any other comments.

26

27

(No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you for your
31 testimony.

32

33

MS. MACK: Thank you.

34

35

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Who's next Carl.

36

37

MR. JOHNSON: That's all I have at this
38 moment, Mr. Chair.

39

40

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We've got one
41 right here.

42

43

MR. JOHNSON: Oh, sorry.

44

45

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Come on up here,
46 please.

47

48

MR. JOHNSON: All right, Mr. Chair, we
49 have Amberly Weiss.

50

1 MS. WEISS: Hi, Mr. Chair. And I'd
2 like to thank everybody for coming here to King Cove,
3 we really appreciate you guys coming out here to have
4 your meeting.

5
6 And I've been working with Della and
7 setting up our tribal wildlife grant and we're getting
8 the foundation set right now and we've got some
9 fishermen out there right now making observations and
10 stuff and we've got a lot of good stuff we're inputting
11 information into our Bering Watch website that we work
12 with the Pribilof Tribes.....

13
14 MR. HOLMES: Oh, cool.

15
16 MS. WEISS:and doing some local
17 and ecological monitoring of several important species;
18 stellar sea lions, sea otters, emperor geese, brant,
19 killer whales, any type of whales. And what they have
20 been seeing this summer was a lot of increase in
21 whales, and the increase in the water temperature
22 across the area.

23
24 So that was just kind of an update on
25 what we're doing here.

26
27 But I would also like to speak to the
28 issues with the caribou and the emperor geese surveys,
29 that these surveys, you know, how do I say it, they
30 affect our subsistence which is a part of our culture
31 and, you know, for our kids it is really important to
32 get these surveys done and in a timely manner and get
33 them done right so that it's going to be available to
34 our kids. I have a little nine year old daughter and
35 she's an avid outdoorsy little girl and she's a big
36 hunter and fisherman, subsistence user, and she was so
37 excited yesterday to get to meet you guys at the school
38 from the Izembek and, you know, she told me she wants
39 to be a biologist now but she is, you know, she's big
40 on hunting and big in her culture and so I'd like to I
41 guess highlight the importance of getting these surveys
42 done so that these resources will be available to our
43 next generations.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you.

48
49 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom.

2

3 MR. SCHWANTES: I just want to say we
4 really appreciate your comments. And then a question
5 for you. This information that you're gathering, where
6 is that information going, what's becoming of that
7 information.

8

9 MS. WEISS: Like I said, we're just
10 trying to get the baseline trends for these, the
11 observations right now and they are going into a
12 website that has been developed by the tribes in the
13 Pribilofs, St. Paul and St. George tribes, and it's
14 called BeringWatch. You can go on there, it's
15 BeringWatch.net, and they've got a bunch of great
16 information on what St. Paul's been doing and we are in
17 our beginning stages. We're just about to finish our
18 first year and Della would like to speak to that.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della.

21

22 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair. We started,
23 basically I started working with this quite a number of
24 years ago when the Aleut Marine Mammal Commission had
25 the Sentinel program and I was actually the Sentinel
26 coordinator for a number of years. And what this
27 program does, and it started kind of with the Pribilofs
28 because of the issues surrounding the seals and then
29 the impact of killer whales and other species, so they
30 developed what was called the BeringWatch program. So
31 what they do is on a daily basis, we have Sentinel, in
32 our case we have a Sentinel in Akutan, False Pass, Cold
33 Bay, we're working on that one, King Cove, and we will
34 be trying to get somebody in Sand Point. But what this
35 does is they do daily monitoring and what we've done is
36 expanded it to the fishermen and there's three grants
37 that we are technically working, that's a tribal
38 wildlife grant, the NPRB grant, and then the POM, which
39 is a new one. The POM grant is -- we're also working
40 in coordination with St. Paul which, what they're doing
41 is developing an app, because the guys we have on the
42 grounds are taking pictures, taking the lats and longs,
43 you know, writing out what they're seeing, observing,
44 and then we're coming in and these girls are uploading
45 the information in the log, but they're developing an
46 app that the guys will be able to take the pictures,
47 the iPhones, iPad, put all the information in there and
48 then once they come into the grounds and they hit
49 internet, it's going to automatically upload into this
50 site. So on the site, what it does is develops a way

1 for us to correlate information to what we're seeing
2 where and in populations, various populations and being
3 able to expand it now from the Pribilofs to the
4 Shumigans is going to allow us to gather more
5 information and kind of see what's going on. You know,
6 a good example, this summer, not only the amount of
7 whales and the amount of finwhales in the different
8 areas, but the walrus on Amak all the way down through
9 Izonsiki, killer whales up and through Port Moller,
10 Dillingham, Bonita Fish is actually Dillingham and
11 they're used to seeing beluga whales in the river
12 systems, hardly any beluga whales but killer whales
13 were in these systems, no berries up in the Dillingham
14 and Bristol Bay area, down here we had a lot, and then
15 the correlating the water temperature, the air
16 temperature, you know, all these things are going to
17 allow us to get more information, I think to kind of
18 get a better sense of what -- not only what's going on,
19 but the various agencies will be utilizing the
20 information.

21

22 So it's a really a pretty good deal.

23

24 And I think the more we expand and work
25 with other agencies to correlate this, I think it's
26 going to be more information for us to have.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thanks for that,
29 Della.

30

31 Tom, do you have more.

32

33 MR. SCHWANTES: It just sounds like
34 that's going to be a wealth of information that this
35 body could be using to help support some of these
36 issues so we certainly appreciate that.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, I do have a
39 question and a comment.

40

41 Does the local tribes have like local
42 management plans for resources. The reason I ask is
43 that I chair Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission and
44 we have introduced to tribes local management plans and
45 ordinances and right now it just deals with marine
46 mammals. But the vision is that those management plans
47 can encompass every resource that the villages have and
48 utilize. You got three villages on Kodiak and right
49 now our CEO is going to Yakutat and after they get done
50 with Southeast they're going to come out to the Bristol

1 Bay area and work with Helen Chythlook.

2

3 MS. WEISS: Della might be able to
4 speak to that a little better, we don't have a local
5 management plan that I know of.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: That might be
8 something to look into. I can certainly give the
9 information to our CEO, to make a point to come to the
10 area since you have all the information already, if you
11 put a local management plan together it can be easily
12 expanded and it sounds like you already have paperwork
13 in place, you just need a formal management plan and
14 get a tribal ordinance for enforcement.

15

16 MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 We'll definitely look at a longterm goal. I think
18 working with both the IGAP program and our resource
19 department program is to utilize what we've got for
20 both to develop plans that work. I think mostly at
21 this point we've been working closer with, I think, the
22 city in developing ordinances and then trying to
23 coordinate that with the King Cove Corporation, who is
24 the majority land holder on land use so our short-term
25 and longterm goals, that is the direction we're
26 heading, thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, thank you.

29

30 Pat.

31

32 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. Yeah, I
33 think that's really a terrific idea and, you know,
34 there's such a change from, I can recall, in '82 when I
35 stopped at Nikolski and I talked to Jacob Tracasin and
36 he said there's a whole lot of orcas around and our sea
37 lions are disappearing and, you know, when I came back
38 I called the folks that were managing the sea lions and
39 passed that on to them, but at that time they weren't
40 really accepting secondhand information. They had to
41 do the counts and they just kind of blew it off and,
42 you know, it took 20 years, and correct me if I'm
43 wrong, Glenn, I think USGS is now the research
44 component for Fish and Wildlife, the folks at the
45 maritime, whatever agency, they noted that orcas, that
46 the otters had all disappeared and the sea lions had
47 all disappeared and in one place they were still around
48 was where the orcas couldn't get and so they started
49 doing research and diet studies and, oh, yeah, gee, you
50 know, but if folks would have been listening at the

1 time they might have been able to at least do some kind
2 of discussions or, my old saw about having a noggin
3 orca commission, might have perhaps been able to have a
4 few more seals and sea lions longer. But I would
5 really suggest a strategy, that verbalization aside,
6 that you folks in working on this, this would also be
7 something that could go to the bird folks, I would
8 think, and say, okay, if we do get a subsistence
9 program, this is a way in which the community can
10 integrate and provide some feedback on how small
11 numbers of these critters can be harvested and if you
12 could actually get data on the harvest much better than
13 a big organization.

14

15 And I would suggest that -- I know that
16 Tom Hobblet out at King Cove has gotten their Advisory
17 Committee going again with the State and also young Mr.
18 Devine is doing the same thing at Sand Point, I
19 believe. And so like on Kodiak we've had a lot of
20 issues and our Council members, as individuals, work
21 with the local Fish and Game Advisory Committee and try
22 to massage and get support for things of concern, both
23 Council-wise and also of concern to the local other
24 entities, and so having more groups working towards the
25 common goal of providing for, you know, the emperor
26 goose harvest on subsistence the better.

27

28 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thanks, Pat. Any
31 other comments or questions.

32

33 Peter.

34

35 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I just wanted to make
36 a short comment for the record. Earlier there was at
37 least four or five other local residents here but have
38 left. So if this public tribal comment could be moved
39 up on the agenda a little bit so they don't have to sit
40 around and wait so long, I know we lost at least four
41 or five people.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thanks. Tom.

44

45 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I'm noticing the
46 same thing. I think if we could open it up for public
47 comment first thing in the morning because I'm sure
48 there's some people that come and then have to go to
49 work or do other things so maybe if we could get some
50 comment from the public early.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: That's a good
2 idea. I was going to suggest have another one this
3 evening or this afternoon, you know, when they get off
4 work or something they could come back. You know,
5 that's still an option.

6
7 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman, I would
8 suggest being's we have a tight agenda, we have
9 weather, but the biggest commitment is the local folks
10 and we've fought for 15 years to get here or longer,
11 and I think we should -- I would like to make a motion
12 that we have an evening session and then the first
13 topic would be input from local folks, and then we can
14 go on to other business to try to finish up.

15
16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17
18 I'd like to ask for a second.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thanks for your
21 testimony. We do have a motion on the floor.

22
23 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I'll second it.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Now, discussion.
26 Under discussion I would ask that you amend that motion
27 so that it's specific to public comments but I think
28 we're going to take care of our business and we could
29 do that without having an evening session.

30
31 MR. HOLMES: Yes Mr. Chairman, I'd
32 accept that friendly amendment to have a special
33 evening session for local input and we'll get our
34 business taken care of before then.

35
36 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della.

39
40 MS. TRUMBLE: First of all, I think
41 having an evening session without public notice, we're
42 going to have to figure out how we're going to get that
43 information out, that being the first. But it seemed
44 to me, in the past being on this Council, because I've
45 been on here and in years prior to being on here this
46 last five years, without about four years in between,
47 but through the course of the earlier years, we had it
48 open to the public at any time they walked in they were
49 given notice at the beginning of the meeting, that if
50 you want to have something you want to speak to, fill

1 out the card and give it to the coordinator, and as we
2 were going through the agenda we actually made that
3 notice, is there anybody that would like to do their
4 public comment now. And what that also does is allows
5 us, when we're making decisions or drafting proposals,
6 to have more information. So I think it's like putting
7 the horse behind the cart here, having a public comment
8 period after the meeting's over, so I think we just
9 should allow it through the course of the rest of the
10 meeting today, would be my recommendation.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Della.

13
14 Rick.

15
16 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I agree with Della on
17 that deal there. It just makes good common sense.
18 Also there's a lot of people here that are attending
19 the meetings in Anchorage right now on the drug seminar
20 and this and that and they've got the Borough meetings
21 and what not going on, so a lot of the folks that would
22 normally be here testifying and speaking on behalf of
23 the subsistence issue are certainly not here right now.
24 So there's probably a dozen of them that are out of
25 town that would normally be here but due to other
26 obligations they're in Anchorage at different types of
27 meetings so that's one of the biggest reasons we're
28 kind of low on public people right now. Is most of the
29 ones that are real subsistence users and real spokesmen
30 for King Cove are not here today.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thanks, Rick.
35 Other discussion on the motion.

36
37 Pete.

38
39 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Mitch, I agree
40 with Della and I know it used to be open during the
41 whole meeting for public comment and I would like to
42 ask Mr. Holmes to withdraw his motion and that we just
43 leave it open for public comment at any time.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

46
47 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. My motion
48 was not exclusionary it was to provide for additional
49 opportunity for the public and I agree with Della, I
50 like the way we used to do it where folks would just

1 come in and pass a green slip up and, you know, speak
2 any time. And I think that, you know, as far as our
3 operations go, we probably should go back to having
4 some public comment space in the early part and then,
5 you know, when we're letting folks know our process
6 that they can provide information whenever they want.
7 And I think that, you know, a couple of phone calls or,
8 I mean even though the population's probably four times
9 as much as when I worked here the last time, at least
10 let folks know that there's an additional option for
11 them to provide input to our Council. But my motion is
12 not exclusionary for reducing comments, it's to provide
13 another point for people to provide input. I think it's
14 a lot more appropriate for us to be available after
15 dinner for our folks to talk to us than to take off and
16 go to the bar or do other things so I think the public
17 input is the main thing and so I think it's very
18 important to have that additional time and that's the
19 intent of my motion. And so you'd have to vote me
20 down, otherwise I'd like to -- I think we should have
21 that.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Further
24 discussion.

25

26 Carl.

27

28 MR. JOHNSON: Nothing, Mr. Chair. I
29 just want to call everybody's attention on the top of
30 the agenda, public comments, public comments are
31 welcome for each agenda item. So everything on this
32 agenda is completely open to public comment, there are
33 no restrictions on public comment. So as a matter of
34 practice, the whole agenda is open to public comment.
35 And also -- and for regional concerns not included on
36 the agenda, so that's really what this public and
37 tribal comment on non-agenda items is for, is for
38 anything that doesn't fit on the agenda, that's a good
39 place to put it. And if we were going to a second day,
40 that would be there as well tomorrow in the morning as
41 well. We do like to put this as early as possible on
42 the agenda for the reasons stated, but procedurally,
43 there are certain things we have to get done first,
44 call to order, approving the agenda, approving previous
45 minutes, et cetera. And also as for having an evening
46 session, I'll also note, under this little box again,
47 evening sessions are at the call of the Chair, so we
48 don't even actually have to have a motion approved by
49 the Council in order to have an evening session, it's
50 at the Chair's discretion. We have done this in the

1 past at other Council meetings, the Western Interior
2 Council met in Holy Cross two falls ago, and for the
3 very reason that's stated here, you know, it's during
4 the work day and sometimes it's not a good people time
5 for people to come out and attend these meetings, the
6 Chair -- we decided to have that day, have an evening
7 session and put the word out to the community and
8 people did show up.

9
10 So that's kind of all I have to add to
11 this.

12
13 Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: That's how I
16 understand it, too.

17
18 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chair.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom.

21
22 MR. SCHWANTES: Is it appropriate for
23 me to withdraw my second to Pat's motion.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: It is.

26
27 MR. HOLMES: And I'd withdraw.....

28
29 MR. SCHWANTES: Okay, I withdraw the
30 second then.

31
32 MR. HOLMES:my -- and I'll
33 withdraw my motion given Carl's information that it's
34 in your court.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

37
38 MR. HOLMES: So let's just go.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rick.

41
42 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I don't know if that
43 evening session right now -- I think the people you saw
44 this morning were the people that's going to be here.
45 I think King Cove had lost -- and maybe Della could
46 correct me, I may be speaking out of turn on this --
47 but do you think, Della, without prior notification,
48 that we would get people to come after dinner, to come
49 down here, because I don't really know. I think in my
50 mind, that there's a lot of folks that are not in town

1 that would have normally been here and the folks that
2 were here, I know a few of them had to work or have
3 gone back out fishing, so I'm not sure if maybe just a
4 bull session over here in the evening where -- you
5 know, it doesn't have to be official, but we could sit
6 around and maybe get some information from people that
7 just want to sit and talk about certain issues that
8 they have here rather than going on the public
9 recorder, they would probably be more comfortable doing
10 that, a lot of the folks. But like I said, I don't
11 know, Della would know more on that than I would.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della.

14

15 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair. To be honest
16 with you I really don't know. I think, like I did say,
17 there are quite a number of people out of town. In
18 fact, this conflicted with a very important conference
19 that I would actually like to be at also and that's
20 the reclaim Alaska seminar that's being put on for the
21 whole Aleutians and has to do with recognizing the
22 problems that we're having with drugs in our community
23 and looking at it, you know, as a whole region and how
24 we could address that together. And like I say, it's
25 unfortunate, these two are very important to these
26 communities. But I also think -- I just don't know,
27 you know, I know some of the guys are out, some are in
28 because it's blowing and I think the issues for these
29 communities, a bigger issue I think is the caribou
30 issue and hopefully people will want to come speak to
31 it this afternoon. And I think we'll put something on
32 FaceBook to, you know, let people know we'll be back
33 this afternoon, we're here, you know, if you want to
34 come speak to us, please do.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Peter.

37

38 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, I'd just like to
39 make one other comment. I think also when we come to
40 these areas that we should notify the schools, because
41 there's probably some students that would be interested
42 in what we discuss, especially like on the caribou and
43 the goose hunting.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: That's a good
46 idea, I like that. If we're going to have an evening
47 session, I would think that the public comment, public
48 and tribal comment, you know, it's on the agenda, we
49 should recognize anybody that comes in, any time of the
50 day. As for an evening bull session, I don't think

1 that would happen, if we're going to have an evening
2 session, we'll take care of business.

3

4 MR. KOSO: But I was thinking that our
5 business would have been done by evening, that's the
6 reason I said that, but if we're still in the session
7 then we're still on the regular meeting, that's all
8 well and good and we certainly could -- I don't have a
9 problem with sitting out here this evening and maybe
10 some folks will come by. That's certainly an option.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Right. Okay.
13 Okay, the motion is dead. Do we have any more public
14 comment.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: None. Okay, then
19 we'll move on to old business.

20

21 Customary and traditional use
22 determination. Pippa Kenner and David Jenkins,
23 are.....

24

25 MS. KENNER: Hello, Mr. Chair, I'm
26 here.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF:you guys on
29 line. Who was that? Say again, I didn't get it.

30

31 MS. KENNER: Hello, Mr. Chair. This is
32 Pippa Kenner up in the OSM office in Anchorage and I am
33 ready for the presentation.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. You have
36 the floor.

37

38 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 Members of the Council. Again, my name is Pippa Kenner
40 and I'm an anthropologist here at the Office of
41 Subsistence Management and I'm in Anchorage right now.
42 And I want to let you know that this is not an action
43 item and my presentation is to tell you where we are in
44 our review of the customary and traditional use
45 determination process. The briefing begins on Page 20
46 of your Council books.

47

48

49 I'll start with a short history of the
50 issue.

1 In 2010 the Secretary of the Interior
2 asked the Federal Subsistence Board to review with
3 Regional Advisory Council input the customary and
4 traditional use determination process and present
5 recommendations for regulatory changes. And in 2011
6 all 10 Regional Advisory Council reviewed the process
7 and nine of the 10 Councils suggested no changes to the
8 process. But the Southeast Council asked the other
9 nine Councils to review the customary and traditional
10 use determination process again, which they did in 2013
11 and 2014.

12
13 At your fall 2013 meeting, this Council
14 voted to eliminate the customary and traditional use
15 determinations and instead, use, when necessary, the
16 ANILCA, Section .804 criteria.

17
18 Some Councils are working on the review
19 of the process.

20
21 At its last meeting the Southeast
22 Alaska Council drafted a letter to the Federal
23 Subsistence Board with a proposal to change the process
24 and the letter begins on Page 21 of your Council book.

25
26 So as I said, some Councils are still
27 working on their review and will continue it through
28 these fall meetings.

29
30 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council
31 members. That's the end of my presentation and I'm
32 happy to answer questions.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pippa.
35 Any quest.....

36
37 MS. KENNER: You're welcome.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF:any questions
40 -- oh, was there someone on line that.....

41
42 MR. JOHNSON: No, that's Pippa.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Oh, okay. Pat, do
45 you have a question.

46
47 MR. HOLMES: Yes, Mr. Chair. Through
48 the Chair, to Pippa. You said in your comment, this
49 Council voted to drop except for using the Section
50 .801, did you mean our Council or the Southeast RAC?

1 MS. KENNER: I meant your Council.
2
3 MR. HOLMES: Thank you.
4
5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
6 questions or comments.
7
8 (No comments)
9
10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Seeing none.
11 Thank you, Pippa, appreciate your report.
12
13 MS. KENNER: You're welcome.
14
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rural
16 determination process, OSM.
17
18 Carl.
19
20 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
21 can give a quick overview on this. The material starts
22 on Page 30 of the meeting book.
23
24 And, you know, if you'll recall last
25 year we did the year long public process doing a
26 complete review of the rural determination process.
27 All 10 of the Regional Advisory Councils provided their
28 input and recommendations starting at their fall
29 meetings and then as Council Member Holmes noted, the
30 Federal Subsistence Board, at its April meeting this
31 year, made some recommendations. And so what the next
32 step is is transmitting those recommendations to the
33 Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture for action.
34 And if you'll look at -- if you'll look at the
35 material, starting actually on Page 28 is kind of a
36 quick overview and then specifically Page 29 is what
37 the conclusion that the Federal Subsistence Board came
38 up with that they're recommending to the Secretaries.
39
40 And that is, previously the regulations
41 stated that the Federal Subsistence Board shall
42 determine what communities are rural and identified
43 several criteria to use in making that determination.
44 Now, the Federal Subsistence Board is recommending to
45 the Secretaries that they change those regulations to
46 instead determine what communities are non-rural, and
47 then eliminating all of those different criteria from
48 regulation to, instead, to allow the Federal
49 Subsistence Board to come up with its own criteria for
50 determining what is a rural community and relying

1 heavily on the Regional Advisory Council
2 recommendations from each community, or each region, to
3 identify what communities are non-rural.

4
5 And, I guess, the rationale is, it's
6 easier to determine -- it's easier to look at a
7 community and said that's not rural than it is to say
8 which ones are rural. So it's kind of flipping the
9 approach and simplifying it so that it's non-
10 Secretarial regulation but up to the Federal
11 Subsistence Board.

12
13 Then as you'll see there are the next
14 steps, which kind of lays out, you know, what will
15 happen next. What action the Secretaries might take,
16 if they do accept the Board's recommendation then they
17 would publish a rule, a final rule, that would outline
18 what the new regulations would look like and then kind
19 of looking into the final process, ending somewhere in
20 early 2017 as to what the next steps will be.

21
22 And then starting on Page 30 is the
23 briefing that was actually given to the Federal
24 Subsistence Board and what that -- that kept all of the
25 -- that included summaries of all of the public
26 comments, all of the Regional Advisory Council
27 comments.

28
29 And then finally in your supplemental
30 handout, in your blue folder is the actual letter that
31 the Secretaries -- that the Federal Subsistence Board
32 has sent to the Secretaries with their recommendations.

33
34 So, you know, a quick overview. The
35 recommendation has been transmitted to the Secretaries.
36 It's to simplify the regulation and have the Board
37 determine what areas are non-rural and then with the
38 intention that the Board will rely a lot on the
39 Regional Advisory Councils for making those
40 recommendations as to what communities are non-rural.

41
42 Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I'll answer
43 any questions.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any questions.
46 Pat.

47
48 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I was
49 really tickled. I made my own way up to that meeting
50 and I was, as I mentioned earlier, greatly impressed

1 with the new Board and their philosophy on trying to --
2 I think they really listened to the Regional Advisory
3 Councils and their recommendations and they really came
4 up with an entirely different perspective that is a
5 much more rationale way of determining what's rural or
6 not.

7

8 I don't know if Pam Bumsted, are you on
9 line.....

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MR. HOLMES:I would make a note
14 there for the record there that I -- usually before a
15 meeting I try to let the different tribal folks in
16 Kodiak know what's up on the website and the call-ins
17 and stuff, but the presentation here, the summary for
18 the Sun'ag Tribe is much briefer than it should be and
19 it missed some very key points. Ms. Bumsted is the
20 resource officer for Sun'ag and did a lot of work for
21 the tribes and the community of Kodiak and summarizing
22 and looking into what existing definitions were already
23 there. And this summary really doesn't provide the
24 information that she had. There are some health and
25 social services. I think one of the divisions of the
26 Department of Agriculture had some things that showed
27 up in the other comments from the community, but they
28 related to the remoteness and remote island or an
29 island that's more than one hour from the mainland
30 automatically falls into a category that's even more
31 remote than rural and they call it frontier. And she
32 had some very specific recommendations for the Board to
33 look at and those didn't make it into that comment.
34 And I believe she's probably going to prepare a
35 statement and send it into OSM as to what she feels
36 should have been in her discussion.

37

38 But I think overall the summary is
39 pretty good. There's a few things that one scratches
40 their head on, but, golly, I think what went through
41 and the tremendous amount of information that came from
42 the public and the attitude of the current Board really
43 has to be commended and I hope that new rural gets
44 accepted and that the Secretaries allow it to come back
45 and that the Federal Board for Alaska is the one that
46 says, okay, here's a change, here's when we need to
47 take action and I think that will be so swell. But I
48 hope it gets done before the Presidential elections
49 because all depending on which way things go in
50 Washington, DC, would be, you know, very accepting of

1 this or it would be back like we had when we had the
2 big to-do six, eight years ago where the power was in a
3 different political power party and I really think
4 everybody that went to those hearings could hear that
5 the shots were being called way beyond our Alaska
6 Federal Board.

7

8 But I guess in summary I'll shut up and
9 say it's a really quantum jump ahead for rural
10 determination.

11

12 Mr. Chairman, thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.

15 Any others.

16

17 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Peter.

20

21 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I just have one -- I
22 have one question for Carl. Like Kodiak's not right on
23 immediate Federal lands, so how come the Federal
24 Subsistence -- or Federal is making the decision on
25 that for whether they're rural or not?

26

27 MR. JOHNSON: Well, under Title VIII of
28 ANILCA it sets the rural subsistence priority and
29 Congress said you had to basically -- basically you
30 have to identify who's rural and what that means is if
31 you're a resident of a community you can then go and if
32 you're a resident of a rural community or an area, you
33 can go to harvest on Federal public lands. It doesn't
34 mean that you have -- you can only -- it's a community
35 within Federal public lands itself. I mean technically
36 a rural Federal subsistence user can go to any part of
37 the state where there's Federal public lands and
38 harvest fish and wildlife under Federal subsistence
39 regulations as long as there's not a conflicting
40 customary and traditional use determination. So they
41 could go all up and down anywhere that's near Kodiak to
42 subsist on Federal public lands.

43

44 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, okay, that was
45 my concern about the resource handling the population
46 when there is a shortage.

47

48 MR. JOHNSON: That's where Section .804
49 becomes relevant because then Section .804 is the
50 mechanism that's used if there is a shortage of a

1 resource to determine who gets to have access to that
2 and gives priority to the communities that have a much
3 more traditional historical use and reliance on that
4 resource.

5
6 And recent examples were the Federal
7 Subsistence Board action this year on the Kuskokwim
8 River regarding king salmon and then also recently in
9 the Wrangell area for the Chisana Caribou Herd and,
10 again, small populations, small available resource,
11 determining what communities rely on that and then
12 allocating accordingly.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
15 questions or comment.

16
17
18 (No comments)

19
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: None. Thanks for
21 that. We'll move on.

22
23 I got emperors on here.

24
25 Carl.

26
27 MR. JOHNSON: So, yes, this is the item
28 that was added during the adoption of the agenda for
29 discussion on sea ducks and emperor geese and I'm going
30 to assume that we'll let Council Member Holmes lead
31 this discussion since he was the one who asked for it
32 on the agenda.

33
34
35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, Pat.

36
37 MR. HOLMES: Okey-dokey.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat, hit your
40 button.

41
42 MR. HOLMES: Certainly. Yes, Mr.
43 Chairman.

44
45 You're getting me at the low ebb of
46 caffeine and blood sugar. But the emperor goose thing
47 on our letterback of October 6th, let's see, excuse me
48 just a moment while I get my right place because I was
49 so busy writing the notes on Carl's last comments.
50

1 I have a question, we did receive a
2 document from Edward Malik, Christian Dow, emperor
3 geese, fall 2001 aerial surveys, and it had a table 3
4 and it had a little diagram on it with a survey
5 summary. It says fall emperor goose population trends
6 Southwest Alaska, estimated trends not statistical.
7 But I was looking at that table -- let me find the
8 other table that I had, I think the table in our text,
9 in our report, and I didn't think we'd get to this so
10 quickly, Mr. Chairman, my compliments on your moving
11 things along. Let's see, I got to go back to the
12 index, what's the emperor goose discussion. Darn, I
13 can't find it.

14
15 MR. SCHWANTES: It's at the top of Page
16 81.

17
18 MR. HOLMES: Page 81. Thank you so
19 much Thomas.

20
21 MR. SCHWANTES: Actually I think the
22 chart you're looking for is on Page.....

23
24 MR. HOLMES: That's the one I was
25 looking for. Now, in this one, it has, you know, the
26 table on Page 84, it has a table of spring emperor
27 goose population counts three years -- oh, that's the
28 difference, that's the difference, I didn't read it.
29 It says spring on figure three in our book and then the
30 fall survey is figure three in that other publication.
31 And so in the fall survey itself of Southwest Alaska I
32 noted on this one with the little red dots that the
33 fall surveys of emperor geese in '94, '95, '96, '97 are
34 above the threshold, so that's like four years in a
35 row, the fall is up, but the spring survey is below the
36 thresholds and something that I've wondered about, that
37 I would really like to find out from the Migratory Bird
38 folks, is, is this just a function of the sampling
39 error, because, you know, there are points in the fall
40 surveys where things are above the threshold and the
41 spring surveys are below. So are they doing three year
42 averages of spring and fall surveys or -- you know, so
43 I get confused.

44
45 And what I'd like to see come to our
46 Council, the -- excuse me, the bright young lady that's
47 from the Refuge here did send me these information, but
48 there's a nice discussion on the surveys on emperor
49 geese, on Table 2 and this publication of 2011, and it
50 would be really interesting because we did get a

1 presentation one time that the area surveyed was larger
2 and it used to go out in the Aleutians, but the weather
3 didn't allow them to and so we -- it would be so nice
4 to have a Migratory Bird person to give us some advice
5 or knowledge on how this 80,000 number came up because
6 in my mind if it was developed from when they were
7 surveying a broader area and they're doing a smaller
8 area now, then the 80,000 number is erroneous. And it
9 would be very nice on these charts and I'm not a
10 statistician but beings I'm a biologist, I always
11 wonder, well, what's the error around the estimate on
12 any given point. And so if these things, in whichever
13 publication, have a tremendous error around them, how
14 good is the 80,000 threshold, and that's a question
15 that comes to mind. I think our Council, with the help
16 of the local community here and Della's wildlife, her
17 grant, I mean we have the opportunity for folks to be
18 able to significantly add to the evaluation of the
19 geese populations. And, you know, Rick and the folks
20 at Adak, and I would -- maybe if -- I don't know who
21 can do this but if the word can get out to the other
22 communities that are involved during this normal time
23 of the surveys from late October, early -- or late
24 September, early October and you can look at these
25 dates on the table 2 and so if we had local community
26 folks gathering some information during this time then
27 we could compile it, get averages of people's
28 observations and then when the survey is done we could
29 -- as our Council might be the place to forward this
30 on, or the local representatives for the bird Council,
31 anyway, to say, okay, if your count this year is 74,000
32 and we come up with another 6,000 in these wider,
33 broader areas, then, you know, is your population, how
34 is that number formed and is that number correct and
35 then we can go from there and say, well, regardless of
36 how that number is, how solid it is, if we can give a
37 better firm number of the population then lets go to
38 what we've been asking for for at least, I don't know,
39 Tom, four years, five years, for this step down thing.
40 I don't know.

41

42 REPORTER: Hold on, could we stop for a
43 minute.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Let's take a
46 minute here to -- what are you working on?

47

48 REPORTER: I think the wind knocked us
49 off line.

50

1 MR. JOHNSON: We got disconnected.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Knocked our phone
4 off line.
5
6 (Pause)
7
8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat, go ahead.
9
10 MR. HOLMES: Okay. So I guess that
11 takes us to the discussion -- this is Pat Holmes, back
12 on with my ramble about emperor geese and our proposals
13 that we have tried for many years. Mr. Schwantes and
14 Della reminded me that we've asked many times to have a
15 threshold approach for subsistence hunt and we've -- I
16 know we've taken it to the AMBCC two years running and
17 so I think that this should be part of our letter, our
18 communications that we put together for a report to the
19 Federal Board asking their assistance and I think we
20 should send it to all of the members of the AMBCC and
21 get also the tribal folks to -- in all of these areas
22 to submit some similar discussions so that we don't
23 have the thing consistently delayed. And I think that
24 we need to forge ahead and that's all I got to say.
25
26 I'm kind of tired so I'd invite the
27 Council to provide some other input and to ask for some
28 volunteers to help if we decide to work on those
29 communications with me.
30
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della.
32
33 MS. TRUMBLE: If I may ask, Doug, I
34 know this has been brought up and it also says that the
35 survey is conducted in September and October, do you
36 know when that survey's going to start and who's going
37 to be doing it?
38
39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Come forward and
40 use the mic please.
41
42 MS. LOWE: Mr. Chair. The dates of the
43 survey this year will begin on September 29th and they
44 will be doing several replicates and they'll be here
45 through October 10th.
46
47 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair. The reason
48 I'm asking this is if we develop a protocol or develop
49 a survey document that would show, you know, dates and
50 times that these guys are on the water and we get the

1 various Sentinels to start doing this, between the
2 dates of September 9th and October -- I need the
3 October date, that would include not only the date,
4 time, the temperature, even basically wind direction
5 and then if they can get pictures, estimate of emperor
6 geese seen. And then the other piece, I mean I think
7 we can get people to collect that, which we can turn
8 into Izembek to give that to whomever is doing the
9 surveys.

10
11 The other piece of this survey that
12 kind of falls right into with something along the lines
13 of the caribou, is the transect lines they're using,
14 and to also have whether or not they include these
15 different things when they're doing this, fly over this
16 time, this area, this is observed, so you're not --
17 there'll be no question about an overlap and they're
18 saying, well, over here in Majovian on September -- or
19 October 5th we observed this or farther out west toward
20 Unimak, that way there's no question about the data
21 overlapping and that it is separate data. So it will
22 think about how you can develop -- how we can develop a
23 questionnaire or a survey document that's going to be
24 able to do what's being asked here.

25
26 MS. LOWE: I don't know if you heard me,
27 it was September 29th.....

28
29 MS. TRUMBLE: September 29th.

30
31 MS. LOWE:until October 10th is
32 the window for the surveys this year.

33
34 MS. TRUMBLE: October 10th, okay.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom.

37
38 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I guess that
39 would be my next question. Can you give us something
40 that shows what areas you are actually going to survey?

41
42 MR. HOLMES: Oh, yeah, we've got that.

43
44 MS. LOWE: Mr. Chair. At the request
45 of Pat Holmes I did send him that report that has a
46 diagram of the survey transects and I'd be happy to get
47 a copy for you as well.

48
49 MR. SCHWANTES: Thank you very much.

50

1 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della.
4
5 MS. TRUMBLE: If we can all get a copy.
6 The corporation office has a color printer over there,
7 maybe you could run over and get you that, we'd like to
8 have a copy. I think it would also be good for us to
9 have, so we can make copies, for anybody else that
10 comes in later that wants to speak to this.
11
12 Thank you.
13
14 MR. DAMBERG: Mr. Chair. Just a
15 followup, too. I think what we would like to do is
16 coordinate with the Migratory Bird folks at our
17 regional office on it to see what would be the best way
18 to do a coordinated effort, we could learn a little bit
19 more about what is the actual geographic range that
20 they're getting that number from, that 80,000 estimate,
21 so what is that area and how do we best coordinate the
22 details, so we could do that and then get back to you
23 on it so that we're maximizing our effort and making
24 sure we're getting the best data.
25
26 MS. TRUMBLE: Okay.
27
28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della.
29
30 MS. TRUMBLE: Doug, I'm looking, like,
31 September 29th, we're really close so I'd be really
32 happy if you'd work with us in developing the survey
33 because with our grant program and just to get this off
34 the ground this year and maybe just we just take a
35 close look at it and see what comes out of it and if we
36 need to fine-tune it or expand it to the Kodiak area
37 next year, you know, I think there's room -- like I
38 think, I mean I've always been told those numbers are
39 there but we got to figure out how do we get those
40 numbers and accurate.
41
42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.
43
44 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. And I've
45 forgotten your name.
46
47 MR. DAMBERG: Doug.
48
49 MR. HOLMES: Doug.
50

1 MR. DAMBERG: Doug Damberg.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: I think Doug has been very
4 receptive in listening to our Council, both during our
5 sessions and other times we've got together and I think
6 that's a really splendid idea to coordinate with the
7 survey folks, and even though one would initially think
8 it wouldn't be good and that's a question for the
9 pro's, to have an overlap in surveys, you can sometimes
10 groundtruth and so we'll get copies here after lunch of
11 all these surveys areas but, you know, if we've got
12 four boats that have to go into inner Stepovak or
13 something because of weather, and they do a count, then
14 that gives you something to compare to the aerial count
15 and so you can develop, you know, a ratio observed from
16 one technique to the other in order to estimate places
17 that are in between those points and so it would give
18 greater strength if folks are out doing your count for
19 your traditional knowledge program to put that
20 together. And I think you're both correct in terms of
21 finding out the best format of doing that because it
22 can enhance the whole project. And it's just so
23 exciting to be moving forward on this.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Anyone else.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you.

30

31 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Peter.

34

35 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Mr. Chair, yeah,
36 I really agree with looking at them doing a better
37 survey on the numbers but also I still think we ought
38 to look at a different threshold number for our
39 subsistence use.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: That's a good
42 idea. I think that's something that would go on our
43 report and our recommendation to the Federal Board.

44

45 One question, though, before you do
46 your surveys do you send information out to communities
47 that you are about to do surveys and if they can do
48 local counts?

49

50 MR. DAMBERG: Well, the survey is

1 conducted by our Migratory Bird Program and they have a
2 window they do it, they have to respond to weather and
3 other factors and so they give us a broad window and
4 I'm not aware if they communicate those dates to
5 communities. I don't believe they do.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: That leads to
8 another question then. Do you have a formula of
9 counting; when you're surveying the birds do you take a
10 section and say there's approximately 1,000 birds in
11 that section or how do you count them?

12

13 MR. DAMBERG: We would really have to
14 get their input directly on the survey protocol on how
15 they do the actual count, yeah, I can't address it
16 here.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

19

20 MS. LOWE: Mr. Chair. We don't have
21 that information available right now because there's
22 certain species where they're taking photo counts
23 simultaneously and I'm not sure if the emperor's are
24 photographed or counted as they're flying over.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. You take a
27 photo and then you bring it back and then you count
28 them?

29

30 MS. LOWE: On some of the species,
31 yeah, like the steller's eiders.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

34

35 MS. LOWE: Yeah, some of them are
36 counted.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I'm familiar with
39 that.

40

41 MS. LOWE:simultaneously because
42 they're all in the same lagoon so I'm not clear which
43 ones they're relying on, the photo counts versus the
44 aerial survey itself.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, I'm familiar
47 with that.

48

49 MS. LOWE: We'll have to get back to you
50 on that.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Because that's how
2 we count seals sometimes. You take a photo and then
3 you go back and you count each one.

4
5 Tom.

6
7 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I guess I was
8 just going to make a comment, again, about, you know,
9 if we could get the word out to the communities when
10 this is being done then -- and try to get input from
11 all those communities, from Adak all over, you know, so
12 that we can show that, you know, you guys are doing
13 your surveys and it's covering this area, but, yet,
14 there's all this other area and these other people are
15 seeing birds out here at the same time that you've done
16 your survey. I think that's really important.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della.

19
20 MS. TRUMBLE: Just kind of falling back
21 on both your questions as far as the communication of
22 getting this survey out. We can easily do that. We
23 work our Sentinels No. 1, but the other piece of it is
24 Aleutian/Pribilof Island Association as an natural
25 resource environmental department and we can get a hold
26 of them and they can get the information out to the
27 tribes to get it to the -- and a lot of times just even
28 getting the information to all our -- I mean we want to
29 get information out, you get it to the Harbor Master
30 House and I'll tell you what, the guys know what's
31 going on. You know, just developing that document is
32 critical, I think, right now, so we can get that out
33 there. And like I say, I'm traveling until the -- if I
34 get out tomorrow I won't be back until the 20th, but
35 there are people here and I will also have email access
36 to be able to comment on, or even assist in developing
37 a document.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Any other
40 questions. Comments.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Pat,
45 do you have anything else on the emperors?

46
47 MR. HOLMES: No, Mr. Chairman, I think
48 we've pounded that one into the mud pretty well.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Then we'll

1 move on. New business.

2

3 Before we do that I just wanted to
4 point out that I noticed that a gentleman walked in
5 here. I just wanted to let you know that you are
6 welcome to make a public comment, if you wish, on any
7 non-agenda items for this Council. So there are green
8 forms back there, just fill one out and give it to
9 Carl.

10

11 Okay. Next is new business. Priority
12 information needs for FRMP, Karen Hyer and Trent
13 Liebich.

14

15 MR. LIEBICH: Liebich.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Liebich, okay,
18 that's you. I don't know if that one is working.

19

20 MR. SQUARTSOFF: You can come over and
21 sit here if you want.

22

23 REPORTER: It's working.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Sounds like it's
26 working now.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 MR. JOHNSON: You just have to yell
31 into it, I guess.

32

33 MR. LIEBICH: Oh, you might have lost
34 your phone line again.

35

36 REPORTER: No, it's over here.

37

38 MR. JOHNSON: It's just there for a
39 placebo effect.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MR. LIEBICH: Okay, it's working.

44

45 (Pause)

46

47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: You have the
48 floor.

49

50 MR. LIEBICH: Okay. Thank you, good

1 afternoon, Mr. Chair, and members of the Council.

2

3 I'm going to talk under the new
4 business, talk about the priority information needs for
5 the Fishery Resource Monitoring Program. My name is
6 Trent Liebich, I'm a fish biologist in the subsistence
7 program. I think this is the first time working face
8 to face with many of you so it's a pleasure to be here
9 with you. I used to live in this part of the world for
10 awhile so it's nice to be back and see some familiar
11 faces around town as well.

12

13 So the Fishery Resource Monitoring
14 Program is something, I think, you're all probably
15 familiar with too. Two of the projects that have been
16 ongoing in the Kodiak/Aleutian region is the Buskin
17 River sockeye salmon stock assessment and monitoring
18 project and then also Afognak Lake sockeye salmon stock
19 monitoring. So that gives you a good idea what that
20 Fishery Resource Monitoring Program is about. It's a
21 two year funding cycle. And this program's been
22 around, it was established in 1999 under Title VIII of
23 ANILCA and it's been run out of the Office of
24 Subsistence Management since that time. And it is a
25 competitive funding source for studies on subsistence
26 fisheries and it's intended to expand the understanding
27 of subsistence harvest so there's projects that'll come
28 in as harvest monitoring projects, also traditional
29 knowledge of subsistence resources, which we'll fund as
30 traditional ecological knowledge projects and then also
31 projects that are studying populations of subsistence
32 fish resources, so those would be stock, status and
33 trend projects. And the two I just mentioned, the
34 Buskin and Afognak are stock, status and trends. And
35 funding gets broken out into those different
36 categories, generally.

37

38 So with this funding program, there's
39 six regions in Alaska. You know, there's 10 Regional
40 Advisory Councils and then this Fishery Resource
41 Monitoring Program is broken, not all by those 10
42 Councils, but only out to six subsistence regions.

43

44 So the funding region that we're
45 working within with this Regional Advisory Council is
46 the Southwest funding region and that includes the
47 Bristol Bay area and also Kodiak/Aleutians.

48

49 And this funding, it's on a two year
50 cycle now and we're working on this call for proposals

1 and there might have been some discussion at the spring
2 meeting. The last funding cycle, the funding
3 announcements were made this winter, the 2014 funding
4 cycle, and now we're developing that next call for
5 proposals, so the prior information needs that are
6 being developed, we're trying to finalize those right
7 now and that's what we're going to talk about today for
8 this Southwest Alaska region, develop and finalize the
9 wording on what our priority information needs would be
10 and then put out that call for proposals, people will
11 submit applications for funding for projects and then
12 we'll go through the process and make decisions and
13 make announcements in early winter of 2016, is likely
14 when those decisions will be made.

15
16 So if you turn to Page 58 in your
17 Council book you'll see the Southwest Alaska region,
18 the priority information needs. And there's strategic
19 plans that are developed for Bristol Bay, Chignik and
20 the Kodiak/Aleutian areas, and those strategic plans
21 are reviewed and they try to insure that they're --
22 when we develop these calls, we try to insure that the
23 remaining priority information needs are being
24 considered. So we take into account those strategic
25 plans, projects that have been occurring in the past,
26 information needs that are coming up. And this list,
27 as I mentioned, this Southwest region, includes both
28 Bristol Bay and Kodiak/Aleutians. So you'll see
29 several bullets here for priority information needs but
30 we're really, in regards to this Council, it's the
31 fifth bullet down is a comparative ecological
32 evaluation of lake rearing habitats of subsistence
33 sockeye salmon stocks in Southwest Kodiak Island,
34 Alaska, including Olga Lakes and Akalura Lake
35 watershed, and that's assessment of two things. One,
36 the decline in salmon stocks and associated subsistence
37 harvest opportunities, and; 2, the potential affects of
38 climate change on salmon production in these lakes.
39 That's one of the priority information needs as written
40 right now the way it would be put into the call for
41 proposals.

42
43 And then the last two bullets, on this
44 as well, and if Pippa Kenner is still on line she might
45 be able to answer questions on these or if we have
46 wording changes, would be interested in, and those two
47 bullets are the harvest of salmon for subsistence use
48 by residents of the communities of Cold Bay, King Cove
49 and Sand Point, including harvest methods and means by
50 species and distribution practices, and then the last

1 bullet on here, a priority information need for the
2 upcoming call would be the description and analysis of
3 the social network underlying the distribution of fish
4 harvested for subsistence by residents of the Bristol
5 Bay area or Chignik area, so that one kind of splits
6 both Councils as one of the priority information needs.

7
8 So, you know, we read through that
9 list, if there was maybe some other priority fisheries
10 information needs that we might be missing in this
11 list, we could try to add, or if we wanted to try to
12 modify the way that this language is written, I guess
13 that's what we were hoping to accomplish on this one.

14
15 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della.

18
19 MS. TRUMBLE: I'm not -- Della Trumble,
20 King Cove. I'm not sure if this is the appropriate
21 place to bring this up or where but maybe I'll start.

22
23 One of the things that's kind of not
24 clear to a lot of people, including me, to be honest
25 with you, when -- for example, if I went to Cold Bay
26 and harvested fish from Russell Creek or Thin Point,
27 these are -- Thin Point, that's easy, it's State, and
28 if I'm over there then I'm under a -- I usually get a
29 subsistence use permit every year. But when you're
30 grouping these together and what I hear all the time is
31 -- I mean asked all the time and I honest to God don't
32 have a good answer for it, is why can, if somebody from
33 King Cove goes to Cold Bay they're only allowed a
34 certain amount of fish per day. Now, I'm not sure what
35 that allotment is. However, if I'm a resident of Cold
36 Bay, I can get more fish or I can fish -- you know, I'm
37 just -- there's some theory or belief that the people
38 in Cold Bay can get more fish than people in King Cove
39 and if they're in King Cove their daily limit is
40 different than residents of Cold Bay. And it's never
41 been clear to me how that ever came about, if there is
42 anything to it. And what would be really nice over and
43 above that is actual documentation on what is your
44 daily limit if you're classifying for sport or
45 classifying for subsistence and by whom, whether it's
46 State or Federal. It's not really clear to me, or I've
47 never seen anything actually that shows what that is.

48
49 MR. LIEBICH: Yeah, I'm not familiar
50 with that either. I have not heard that in the past,

1 if there is a difference in regulations, I'm not
2 familiar with that.

3
4 MS. TRUMBLE: I hear it all the time
5 and that's why I'm trying to figure it out.

6
7 MR. LIEBICH: Okay.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

10
11 MR. HOLMES: I think Rick was up before
12 me.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, go ahead,
15 Rick.

16
17 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Della,
18 yeah, I go to Cold Bay and get my subsistence fishing
19 permit there. They allow 250 fish. I know when I
20 called into see if I -- when I would call in to get my
21 permit, I was kind of asked, how much fish did you
22 want, you know, the maximum is 250, and then they also
23 told me that, you know, if you needed more then you
24 could possibly come back and ask for more. So they
25 were really good to me as far as that goes. I talked
26 to a few other peopled and, you know, other people that
27 go over there and they've never had any problem getting
28 their Federal -- or their subsistence fishery permit
29 and then we all got the 250. I don't know of anybody,
30 at least I'm not aware of in Cold Bay that were denied
31 getting their total 250 fish if they requested it.

32
33 MS. TRUMBLE: Okay. Go ahead, Pat.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

36
37 MR. HOLMES: Possibly, it's been 16
38 years since I was involved in this, but I think your
39 best point to get clarification is to call Jeff Wadley,
40 he's the regional salmon management biologist for ADF&G
41 in Kodiak and his number is 486-1830 and they can
42 connect you to him. I think the potential -- I don't
43 think there probably is a difference, but I haven't --
44 as I had said, worked in this area since I retired, but
45 in the last 10 years or so, the Department has greatly
46 liberalized their subsistence in to trying to provide
47 for the needs of people in remote communities. And it
48 used to be 25 fish per person. But since the returns
49 have been doing well, and then this decision to support
50 subsistence in smaller communities, I believe, that's

1 why they have gone to this 250 fish for this neck of
2 the woods. Other parts in the state, on Kodiak Island,
3 they don't even have a limit, they just ask people to
4 report their catch at the end of the season. And so I
5 think you could get that clarification from Jeff
6 because they do, pretty much, the regional philosophy
7 is, is you give folks, you know, X amount and if that
8 isn't enough they just call up and they'll extend your
9 permit. And so if somebody caught up with the number
10 of kids that Rick really had, you know, he might
11 qualify for 500, I don't know. Just teasing you. But
12 you can go back to the area office and get that number.
13 And I think that probably could give Jeff a call he
14 could probably square that away.

15

16 Tom, sorry.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della.

19

20 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair. I know the
21 250, it is what it is, that wasn't the point but I'll
22 talk to you guys on the side here after.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom.

25

26 MS. KENNER: Hello, Della, this is
27 Pippa, calling in from Anchorage with OSM. I would
28 like to take this opportunity to research this question
29 for you a little bit, I'll try to have the answer by
30 the end of the meeting.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Appreciate that.

33 Go ahead, Tom.

34

35 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I was just going
36 to say, according to the regulation book it's 250
37 salmon per permit. And my experience is, is, you know,
38 if you get your 250 and your family needs more, you go
39 back to the Department and they'll issue you another
40 permit and you get whatever you want.

41

42 MR. KOSO: Except in Adak, you're only
43 allowed 25.

44

45 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, this is Alaska
46 Peninsula.

47

48 MR. KOSO: Yeah.

49

50 (Laughter)

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Peter.
2
3 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I
4 have a Kodiak permit here and it says here, limit of 25
5 salmon per family member living in the household. But
6 they also state if you fill that you can come back and
7 get another permit. So I guess that's what Pat
8 was.....
9
10 MS. KENNER; Mr. Chair, this is Pippa.
11
12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pippa.
13
14 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
15 briefly explain the situation on Kodiak and the
16 Aleutians right now.
17
18 It used to be in all the villages on
19 Kodiak Island as well as the road system, you were
20 limited to 25, you know, but you could go back for more
21 but we actually funded a Fishery Resource Monitoring
22 Program on Kodiak to review that system and how well it
23 was working and what that study discovered is that
24 people weren't reporting because of these limits and so
25 those regulations were modified except on the Kodiak
26 road system where you're still limited to this 25 and
27 you can elect to ask for more. Currently with Kate and
28 others were doing the same similar research in the
29 Aleutians investigating what the impact of these limits
30 on permits have on people and their likelihood of
31 reporting their harvest.
32
33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, thank you
34 for that.
35
36 Steve [sic], do you have more?
37
38 MR. LIEBICH: I don't have anymore.
39
40 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chair.
41
42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.
43
44 MR. SCHWANTES: I kind of have a
45 question on this. You're talking about the funding for
46 these different programs and I noticed in the South --
47 in our region, there's four different projects that are
48 talking about Lake Clark projects, like, are those all
49 in one project or are they all individual projects?
50

1 MR. LIEBICH: Individual projects.
2
3 MR. SCHWANTES: Okay, so we're actually
4 -- actually we're asking for funding for four
5 individual projects at Lake Clark?
6
7 MR. LIEBICH: Well, four different
8 types of information needs that are out there.
9
10 MR. SCHWANTES: Right.
11
12 MR. LIEBICH: So there's four, you
13 know, maybe concerns surrounding subsistence resources.
14 So what we do is list those and then people will submit
15 proposals for projects with study designs and dollar
16 values and put in their application and request and try
17 to fund and address those issues.
18
19 MR. SCHWANTES: Okay.
20
21 MR. LIEBICH: So that's what we're
22 trying to do is make sure that we have the subsistence
23 concerns clearly expressed so that when the researchers
24 or the investigators come in they know what to apply
25 for and then through that competitive process -- so you
26 might get multiple proposals addressing that same
27 concern on Lake Clark but we'd only -- you know, go
28 through that review process and decide if, you know, if
29 those studies are technically sound and if they're good
30 projects and select one of them. We would try to avoid
31 duplication and having multiple projects addressing the
32 same issue.
33
34 Does that help.
35
36 Thank you.
37
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Does that help?
39
40 MR. SCHWANTES: Yes, that answers my
41 question, thank you.
42
43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Just one question.
44 Who decides whether a project is technically sound, do
45 you have a group of people that are looking at these
46 proposals, are those people from the Kodiak area, if we
47 were looking at Kodiak proposals?
48
49 MR. LIEBICH: Yeah, there's a pretty
50 thorough process of review and several people from

1 multiple agencies and we have technical review
2 committees and InterAgency Staff Committees that work
3 through and review these projects and go through, you
4 know, pretty lengthy discussions in deciding what, you
5 know, what projects are acceptable and technically
6 sound, as you're asking and we also talk about
7 partnership and capacity building and several aspects
8 of addressing these subsistence questions and concerns
9 in targeting those projects. And then, ultimately, it
10 will come around to the Council meetings and the
11 discussion as well to get your guys' input on those
12 projects.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: So does this
15 technical review committee, you have people from
16 different areas of the region from like when we talk
17 about the proposal from Kodiak, does your technical
18 review committee, that committee is comprised of, what
19 scientists, local people, or who are they?

20

21 MR. LIEBICH: Scientists. People with
22 Federal agencies and with the Alaska Department of Fish
23 and Game are all part of that review process. The
24 Office of Subsistence Management is a large part of
25 that review process as well in developing -- not
26 developing the proposals, but working through that
27 process of evaluating the proposals and making
28 recommendations for funding.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. It looks
31 like you have a question from the audience.

32

33 MR. LIEBICH: Does that help.

34

35 MS. MACK: I have a question, it's not a
36 comment. I was just curious.....

37

38 REPORTER: I need to have you get to a
39 microphone.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Oh, yes. Thank
42 you.

43

44 MS. MACK: I was just curious whether
45 or not there's a potential to include some sort of way
46 for tribal councils or Native people to participate on
47 these -- in the different projects and stuff or whether
48 or not they can have a voice in the things that get
49 funded. And also including a component that
50 acknowledges the traditional and ecological knowledge

1 and the local knowledge that is held within
2 communities.

3

4 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair, this is Pippa.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pippa.

7

8 MS. KENNER: We can answer that
9 question to the affirmative on several different levels
10 and first of all when you look at these priority
11 information needs, if you look through the transcripts
12 of your Council meetings, the last couple of meetings
13 where this has come up, you'll find that most of these
14 are directly related to concerns that came up at the
15 Council meeting. There were a few other items that
16 might have come up, like the impact of recreational
17 fisheries on the subsistence fisheries in King Bay --
18 in King Cove and Cold Bay which aren't on here right
19 now, so that's why we're interested in hearing your
20 input, if there's things that we've missed that you
21 would really like to see here.

22

23 But also it's not just what the public
24 and the Council members suggest to us. We also have
25 the strategic plans that were developed with a lot of
26 public input and a lot of Council members and tribal
27 members were involved in that. Unfortunately your
28 strategic plan for your area was published in 2006 and
29 so it might be getting a little dated. But I think
30 you'd find that each of these priority information
31 needs that are listed for Southwest Alaska are related
32 directly back to items in your strategic plan.

33

34 And then the other thing is we know
35 that we have issues coming up in the regulatory process
36 where people are unhappy with certain regulations but
37 we don't really have any information to give to the
38 Board and the Advisory Committees and the public
39 describing those fisheries or those groups of people
40 who are using these fisheries and those will come up as
41 priorities also. Things we think that are going to
42 come before.

43

44 During the process the Staff here at
45 OSM, people like Trent and myself, we actually look at
46 the proposals that come in and we rate them based on
47 five criteria and one of those criteria is whether or
48 not the investigators are going to collaborate,
49 cooperate or inform tribes or other rural organizations
50 like the Native non-profits. So there actually is a

1 rating system that we require everybody involved in
2 this research to at least be in touch with villages and
3 we prefer them to actually be engaged in cooperating,
4 even through the budget with the villages or other
5 rural entities.

6
7 And then, finally, after we have gone
8 through that technical review process, where people who
9 have the required backgrounds can look at these
10 investigation plans to see if these are good projects,
11 or are the investigators lacking the experience they
12 need to actually conduct the research. And after the
13 proposals make it through that process and are deemed
14 worthy of funding from a technical point of view, then
15 finally that list of proposals for -- projects for
16 funding goes before you once again to seek your input
17 into it.

18
19 The final decision, of course, is with
20 the Federal Subsistence Board but if we do our job
21 well, the Federal Subsistence Board just stamps it and
22 says, good job, you followed your process and we're
23 done.

24
25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pippa.

28
29 Carl.

30
31 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, so Liza, so part of
32 your question regarding opportunity for tribal input is
33 what Pippa has said and that is, the grading of the
34 project proposals assesses capacity building with local
35 communities and then the other part is when these
36 projects have undergone the technical review committee
37 process, they're graded and scored and some are
38 recommended for funding and some are not, but even that
39 list goes out then to the Regional Advisory Council and
40 then the Regional Advisory Councils have the
41 opportunity to give their recommendations and their
42 support for whatever projects they feel are necessary
43 for their region. So the public then can also
44 contribute to that process at the Regional Advisory
45 Council meeting.

46
47 So those are kind of the two areas
48 where tribes can have -- there's a relationship to
49 tribal input. And, one, you know, can the project work
50 well with the local communities, and, two, then the

1 comment on those proposals when they come before the
2 Councils.

3

4 And then there's also the Partners
5 Program, which is a separate issue.

6

7 MS. MACK: Great, thank you, and thank
8 you for that explanation on both of those things.

9

10 I guess my question was more geared
11 towards looking at things in a technical aspect and is
12 there any -- what are the efforts on your guys' part, I
13 guess, maybe to see if there's somebody that, including
14 in the technical aspect that you also include say
15 somebody who is always there to have that sort of
16 viewpoint from the Native perspective and from the
17 subsistence user's perspective, and so that it's not
18 necessarily just coming out to the rural meetings, but
19 also having that day to day interaction with somebody
20 who is familiar with these types of processes, as far
21 as like subsistence practices.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

24

25 MS. MACK: But thank you guys for what
26 you're doing.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you.

29

30 MR. JOHNSON: Well, I can say that one
31 of the bodies that's involved in evaluating these
32 projects is the InterAgency Staff Committee and the
33 Office of Subsistence Management Native Liaison is one
34 of the members of the InterAgency Staff Committee. I
35 know that as a general rule that's one of the roles of
36 the Native liaison, is to insure that the rural and
37 Native perspective is represented in policy discussions
38 and I also would imagine as well as part of this
39 project review process.

40

41 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Carl. Mr.
42 Chair, this is Pippa.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pippa.

45

46 MS. KENNER: Thank you. I'm glad I had
47 a couple of minutes to think about your question.

48

49 One of the things that you may want to
50 know is that especially with the types of research

1 where we're going into communities and talking to
2 people and relying on their information we require the
3 tribes to be consulted before -- long before that
4 process starts and to actually have communities write
5 letters of support for the projects or in other ways,
6 tell researchers that they're willing to participate.
7 It's not uncommon for communities for one reason or
8 another to choose not to participate and then those
9 projects do involve a lot of on-site participant
10 observation, people going out with people and working
11 with them in other ways.

12

13

14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, thank you.
15 Trent, do you have more.

16

17 MR. LIEBICH: No, Mr. Chair, I'm
18 finished. If you guys are happy with the way those
19 priority information needs are written we can move on,
20 I guess.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: When can we expect
23 any results from your technical review committee?

24

25 MR. LIEBICH: That will be coming in
26 the next year so we'll submit that call for proposals
27 this fall, maybe December, if I had to guess, I don't
28 know if we have an official date set on that and then
29 we'll have applications come in for projects and then
30 we'll go through that review process and then likely
31 have a more thorough discussion of those projects,
32 probably at the next year, one calendar year from now,
33 at the fall Council meeting here for you guys to look
34 through the proposals for your region.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Tom.

37

38 MR. SCHWANTES: Just real quick. So
39 we're looking at least a year or two down the road
40 before these projects even begin to be implemented.

41

42 MR. LIEBICH: Yeah, so this is the 2016
43 -- yeah, it's a long drawn out process but it's part of
44 -- to give those investigators a lot of time to develop
45 a good thorough proposal so they have a good project
46 and a good study design and then -- and then that final
47 funding decision as Pippa was mentioning as well is
48 made at the -- by the Federal Subsistence Board. So we
49 wouldn't make the call for proposals and then have
50 those project -- you know, those applications come in

1 and make a decision in time for this winter's Board
2 meeting. So we give them a lot of time in advance to
3 develop these projects and I think that improves the
4 quality of the studies that come out of this. So I
5 think it's important.

6

7 MR. SCHWANTES: Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della.

10

11 MS. TRUMBLE: You mentioned the Native
12 Liaison, who is that for -- is there someone
13 specifically for Kodiak/Aleutians or works with us?

14

15 MR. LIEBICH: Currently in that
16 position we have Orville Lind.....

17

18 MS. TRUMBLE: Okay.

19

20 MR. LIEBICH:who many of you
21 probably know.

22

23 MS. TRUMBLE: I did actually get an
24 email from him, now that I think about it.

25

26 MR. LIEBICH: Yeah, so Orville Lind has
27 been in that position temporarily. It was Jack
28 Lorrigan, and he had moved over to a different
29 position, so while that's vacant Orville has been
30 serving in that position, and I think he's going to
31 continue through the end of this month. That
32 position's been announced. The position was open and
33 people have applied and I don't know any more detail
34 than that of when that position will be filled.

35

36 MS. TRUMBLE: Okay. And I had one more
37 question for you.

38

39 Pippa referenced a strategic plan that
40 was probably last updated in 2006.

41

42 MR. LIEBICH: Yes.

43

44 MS. TRUMBLE: Do we have that or can I
45 get it on line.

46

47 MR. LIEBICH: It should be available on
48 our -- on the Office of Subsistence website. I think
49 if I remember right, you would go on to the subsistence
50 website and then on the left-hand column there should

1 be a tab you can click into the fisheries and there'll
2 be -- I can't remember it off the top of my head
3 exactly but in there is an option for strategic plans
4 and they're in as PDFs so you can download them and
5 review them.

6

7 MS. TRUMBLE: Thanks.

8

9 MR. LIEBICH: You're welcome.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat, do you have a
12 question.

13

14 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, a question Trent.
15 Our Council has, in the past, you know, a real
16 significant interest in the Afognak Lake and the
17 Buskin, are those going to be dropped in priority
18 because of these new considerations or are those still
19 going to be in the ball game for funding because those
20 are probably, in this region, are the two primary
21 subsistence -- largest subsistence systems.

22

23 MR. LIEBICH: Yeah, so to answer your
24 question, Pat, the -- both Buskin and Afognak, those
25 projects are ongoing.

26

27 MR. HOLMES: Okay.

28

29 MR. LIEBICH: So in this last call for
30 funding, we made the announcements for funding
31 decisions at this past winter's Federal Subsistence
32 Board meeting, those decisions were made, and then the
33 project funding started this spring in 2014, so the
34 funding can go up to, I believe up to four years on
35 those projects, and I don't have the full details of
36 those projects in front of me, but they're ongoing. So
37 if we know that project's ongoing we wouldn't
38 necessarily put it in the call for proposals because
39 there would be an overlap in the funding cycle. So if
40 you had four years of funding you could, I guess,
41 theoretically wait and skip a cycle and then apply the
42 next time around, if that issue is brought up again as
43 a concern.

44

45 MR. HOLMES: Uh-huh.

46

47 MR. LIEBICH: So, yes, Buskin and
48 Afognak are continuing to be addressed.

49

50 MR. HOLMES: Okay, thank you. And then

1 just as a point of clarification, both these issues
2 have come up from topics that were previously addressed
3 to our Council, and I know both agencies are looking
4 for ways to try to fund this, both the State and the
5 Feds, and the State to the Feds, and the State
6 independently, and, you know, after our last meeting
7 when we had the table, I thought, a really important
8 thing, subsistence studies for Cold Bay, King Cove and
9 Sand Point, because of -- anyway, I'd suggest people go
10 look at the transcripts, I understand that the State
11 subsistence division is pursuing some funding for that
12 from the State in the event that there's not funding
13 from the Federal government. And so whenever these
14 items come up for our Council we have a lot of research
15 people that are keeping their eyes open and their ears
16 open to try to achieve the goals of our Council and the
17 need of Native and non-Native folks in our region. So
18 this is swell to get this update, thank you.

19

20 MR. LIEBICH: You're welcome.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Peter.

23

24 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I got one question.

25

26 MR. PYLE: Mr. Chair, this is Bill Pyle
27 with Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. I'd like to make
28 a comment, please.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.

31

32 MR. PYLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
33 just wanted to briefly state the Refuges's interest in
34 supporting a collaboration in developing those
35 proposals that addresses one of those items and that's
36 the ecological evaluation of some of those lake systems
37 including Olga and Akalura down in the Southwest Kodiak
38 Island area.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, thank you.
41 Peter.

42

43 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, I was just
44 wondering if you had any working relationship or any
45 discussion with KRAA, Kodiak Regional Aquaculture
46 Association.

47

48 MR. PYLE: Mr. Simeonoff, this is Bill
49 Pyle, and, yes, we primarily had discussions with the
50 Department of Fish and Game, but the concern was also

1 for those systems was expressed by one of the KRAA
2 board members.
3
4 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, thank you.
5 You good, Trent.
6
7 MR. LIEBICH: Yes. I'm next up, the
8 next item.
9
10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: All right. Any
11 other questions.
12
13 (No comments)
14
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, thank you,
16 appreciate that. Before we get into the next agenda
17 item, I think we ought to consider a lunch break. It's
18 already 12:30.
19
20 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chair. Before we
21 take a lunch break, can we move back to some old
22 business.
23
24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Say again.
25
26 MS. TRUMBLE: Move back at the agenda,
27 look at the agenda before we.....
28
29 MR. SCHWANTES: Can we back up into
30 some old business for just a minute before we take our
31 break.
32
33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Back up to old
34 business.
35
36 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, in the emperor
37 geese thing and I'm going to yield Della here.
38
39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.
40
41 MS. TRUMBLE: You're going to yield to
42 me and I forgot why we were going to go back.
43
44 (Laughter)
45
46 MS. TRUMBLE: I got it. I got it.
47
48 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Are we on break now,
49 lunch break or what?
50

1 MS. TRUMBLE: I'm trying to think about
2 a number of things at one time here.

3
4 Before we go -- if we can add to the
5 agenda before we leave, or I'd like to make a motion to
6 amend the agenda to add a resolution in regard to the
7 emperor geese and the lowering the threshold for
8 subsistence and also kind of to somewhere add in there
9 the protocol we've kind of described on how do we
10 expand the survey areas and the tools.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Where would you
13 like to put it.

14
15 MS. TRUMBLE: Let's try new business
16 this time. We've done old business forever so let's
17 try new business.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. We have
20 right after fisheries regulatory or FP15-01, we have
21 cod, and then all Chairs meeting, in January, do you
22 want to put it right after the cod deal.

23
24 (Council nods affirmatively)

25
26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, the
27 resolution. Okay. Anything else.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We will take an
32 hour for lunch and we'll be back here around 1:30 or a
33 quarter to 2:00.

34
35 (Off record)

36
37 (On record)

38
39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Let's go ahead and
40 call the meeting back to order. Before we conduct any
41 more business I'd like to find out if Antone or Vince
42 is on the line.

43
44 MR. SHELIKOFF: Yeah, Antone.

45
46 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Yes, Vince is here.
47 I'm here Mitch.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, good. Just
50 wanted to make sure you guys were there because we need

1 a quorum. But we'll continue.

2

3 The next item is the fisheries
4 regulatory proposals statewide. The first one is FP15-
5 01, defining a fishhook, and it's on Page 61.

6

7 MR. LIEBICH: Okay. Good afternoon,
8 Mr. Chair, and members of the Council. Trent Liebich,
9 I was presenting before lunch break, and will continue
10 on.

11

12 As you know we're in the regulatory
13 cycle right now.

14

15 MR. TUTIAKOFF: If you could speak up
16 please.

17

18 MR. LIEBICH: Are you able to hear me
19 better on the teleconference?

20

21 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, much better,
22 thanks.

23

24 MR. LIEBICH: Okay, sorry about that.

25

26 Yeah, so we're in the regulatory
27 process right now. We received proposals for changes
28 to Federal subsistence fishing regulations. And no
29 proposals were submitted specifically for the
30 Kodiak/Aleutians Council area but there is one
31 statewide proposal that was submitted and that's
32 Proposal 15-01, and it's on Page 61 in your Council
33 books if you guys want to try to follow along with
34 this.

35

36 So Proposal 15-01, it was submitted by
37 the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory
38 Council, so that's the Kenai Peninsula area and
39 Southcentral Alaska, and they submitted this proposal
40 and they're requesting that the definition of hook be
41 described in regulation as a hook with or without a
42 barb. And I'll start explaining some of the details.
43 And I'm going to get into some of the discussions that
44 came up through tribal consultation and with the North
45 Slope RAC as well. So I'll do my best to talk through
46 this process, sort of, as it happened, it could get a
47 little confusing at the end.

48

49 So this proposed language, as I
50 mentioned, they wanted to -- requesting that hook be

1 defined as with or without a barb, and they want this
2 proposed language -- the intention is that it would
3 clarify the type of fishing hook that could be used
4 under the Federal subsistence fisheries regulations,
5 where hooks are an authorized methods and means of
6 take.

7
8 So the Southcentral RAC, they're
9 requesting this change to the existing statewide
10 Federal regulatory language to eliminate the potential
11 for adoption of default methods and means, restrictions
12 of the Federal subsistence fishery to the use of
13 barbless hooks. So as you might know, if there's
14 nothing in the Federal regulation it'll default to the
15 State regulation, so this is where the concern comes in
16 with the Southcentral RAC. So in many parts of Alaska
17 standalone Federal subsistence fishery regulations do
18 not exist so there is potential for the default in the
19 Federal subsistence fisheries methods and means are
20 therefore then the same as taking fish under the State
21 of Alaska sportfishing regulations unless they're
22 specifically modified in the Federal regulations. So
23 in other words, as I mentioned, if the State adopts
24 fisheries regulations, such as requiring barbless hooks
25 in a fishery where Federal subsistence regulations do
26 not exist or do not address what type of hook is
27 allowed, then the Federal subsistence regulations could
28 default to the State regulations resulting in Federal
29 subsistence users being restricted to something like
30 barbless hooks, if that's what was put into the State
31 regulation.

32
33 So this proposal was submitted in
34 response to a recent Alaska Board of Fish restriction
35 to the Kenai River early run chinook salmon
36 sportfishery. So that sportfishery there was a
37 proposal that Kenai River chinook salmon sportfishery
38 is requiring barbless hooks as a conservation measure
39 when that fishery is restricted to catch and release
40 only, so that's a potential situation where if -- a
41 subsistence user could be put in a situation to have to
42 use a barbless hook as well. So the proposed -- the
43 language that's being proposed here in the Federal
44 subsistence regulations under definitions would be a
45 definition of hook and that would be meaning a single
46 shanked fishhook with a single eye constructed with one
47 or more points, with or without barbs, so they're not
48 specifying that it's a barb or a barbless hook. A hook
49 could be either and it would leave it up to the user to
50 determine which type of hook they would want. And

1 there were some discussions with the solicitor on this
2 as well so that language was developed with our office,
3 with the Council and with the solicitor, and that was
4 the definition they came up with.

5
6 As I mentioned that Kenai fishery, that
7 early run sportfishery restricted to catch and release,
8 they have now in regulation from July 1 through July
9 31. The use of bait and retention of king salmon are
10 prohibited and only one unbaited barbless single hook
11 artificial lure may be used when sportfishing for king
12 salmon. So that's that potential image, and again I'm
13 just reading that out of the State regulations.

14
15 And those are the only current State
16 regulations that require the use of barbless hooks. So
17 this isn't necessarily a concern statewide at the
18 moment, it's really about that potential for those
19 Federal regulations to default to State.

20
21 So the Southcentral, the Regional
22 Advisory Council, they believe that the adoption of
23 this proposal, if it's submitted as a statewide
24 proposal, would benefit Federally-qualified subsistence
25 users throughout Alaska allowing the continued use of
26 barbed hooks in all Federal subsistence fisheries where
27 use of hooks is authorized would benefit subsistence
28 users by reducing the chance of losing a fish hooked on
29 a barbless hook as subsistence fishing is characterized
30 by efficiency of harvest. So they didn't want to lose
31 that opportunity, or the choice to use a barbed hook if
32 that's what you wanted to use.

33
34 So the preliminary conclusion from OSM
35 was to support this proposal as written with that
36 definition of hook as barbed or as I read in here, that
37 definition of hook on Page 62 in your book;

38
39 A single shanked fishhook with a single
40 eye constructed with one or more points
41 with or without barbs.

42
43 So the initial conclusion was to
44 support that, and the rationale being that the adoption
45 of the proposal would protect the Federal subsistence
46 fishermen's choice to use barbed or barbless hooks.
47 The adoption of the proposal would not result in
48 impacts to Alaska fishery resources by Federal
49 subsistence fishermen.

50

1 Now, as I mentioned there was some
2 further discussion, the North Slope Regional Advisory
3 Council meeting and also some discussions through
4 tribal consultations.

5
6 The North Slope Regional Advisory
7 Council, they wanted to make a slight modification to
8 the definition and further define hook, and kind of
9 combine the proposed Federal language from the
10 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council and combine some
11 of the language that was adopted under the State
12 regulation and merge those together so that -- so the
13 North Slope RAC, the modification was keeping that
14 definition of hook, meaning a single shanked fishhook
15 with a single eye constructed with one or more points
16 with or without barbs, and then adding a second
17 sentence to that; of a hook without a barb means the
18 hook is manufactured without a barb or the barb has
19 been completely removed or compressed so the barb is in
20 complete contact with the shaft of the hook. So they
21 keep the barb or barbless option, but then further
22 define what a barbless hook would be. And that comes
23 from discussion with the North Slope RAC largely.

24
25 So that's where we're at. The initial
26 conclusion from OSM is to support, and then the North
27 Slope RAC had that modified language. So I believe now
28 this would be action item and hear your thoughts. If
29 you guys have any questions I'd be happy to try to
30 answer.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Questions.

35
36 Pat.

37
38 MR. HOLMES: Would OSM support the
39 language proposed by the North Slope RAC? It seems to
40 me it'd be logical.

41
42 MR. LIEBICH: Yeah, I don't think it
43 really changes what the original intention of the
44 proposal was. It was keeping that option so the
45 subsistence user had the choice of a barbed or barbless
46 hook. You know, I think the way that modified language
47 reads it's still retaining that initial proposed
48 language but just then further defining what barbless
49 means, so, yeah, I think that it would probably be safe
50 to say that we would support that.

1 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, thank you for that
2 clarification. It seems to me that that adds a little
3 more preciseness to the objective of the Southeast
4 [sic] RAC. I think I probably would be inclined to go
5 along with the Northeast [sic] RAC's recommendation.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
8 questions. Tom.

9
10 MR. SCHWANTES: I make a motion that we
11 support this proposal.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Do I hear a
14 second.

15
16 MR. KOSO: Second.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: What's that Carl.

19
20 MR. JOHNSON: If I could remind the
21 Chair, Council members, your procedure for adopting
22 proposals is on the back of your name tag so we're a
23 little ahead of ourselves in doing a motion at this
24 time. There are some other things to go through before
25 we get to that point.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. You're
28 right we have other agencies to hear from on this,
29 right.

30
31 MR. JOHNSON: Yes.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I better pull that
34 out.

35
36 (Laughter)

37
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, we heard the
39 proposal, the analysis. So the reports on Board
40 consultations, tribes, corporations.

41
42 MR. JOHNSON: Did you have any
43 information on that, Trent, it sounded like you
44 indicated you did, what the tribal consultation results
45 were on this.

46
47 MR. LIEBICH: Well, yes, I guess I
48 should have separated these out more when providing the
49 analysis.

50

1 Was that, that modified language with
2 the North Slope Regional Advisory Council and also
3 tribal consultations, they had agreed -- from my
4 understanding, had agreed with that modified definition
5 where it combined and further defined barbless hook.

6
7 MR. JOHNSON: And just to add to this
8 at this point in time. Tribal consultation has been
9 done with tribes in the North Slope, Northwest Arctic
10 and Kodiak/Aleutian regions on just this proposal,
11 because those three regions only have the statewide
12 proposal. The rest of the tribes from the other
13 regions are going to be consulting, I think, on
14 September 19th, and our Native liaison, Orville Lind,
15 has sent out information to all the tribes of the other
16 regions inviting them to that consultation opportunity.

17
18 MR. LIEBICH: And we also have several
19 other Regional Advisory Council meetings still to come
20 this fall yet, so we haven't had discussions with those
21 Councils on this proposal.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat. Go ahead,
24 Pat.

25
26 MR. HOLMES: Trent. Carl. I was just
27 wondering if you got any feedback from Bertrand or his
28 folks on what they'd feel about this suggested
29 rewording. It seems to make more sense to me, any
30 response from Southeast RAC. And then what was the
31 feedback you got from the Kodiak tribes on it.

32
33 MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair. I can
34 answer some of those questions. The Southcentral
35 Council has not heard the North Slope modified language
36 yet. They don't meet until October. Actually the
37 North Slope and this Council are the only Councils that
38 have met yet. So Southcentral hasn't yet had a chance
39 to provide feedback on the North Slope modification.

40
41 As for what tribes from
42 Kodiak/Aleutians region participated, unfortunately I
43 don't have that information with me as to who
44 participated in that consultation.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: But we have.....

47
48 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. George Pappas,
49 OSM.
50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: What.
2
3 MR. JOHNSON: George Pappas, OSM.
4
5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, George.
6
7 MR. PAPPAS: Good day, Mr. Chair and
8 members of the Councils.
9
10 I participated in the consultation and
11 I don't believe Kodiak was represented, did not call
12 in, it was folks from the North Slope and that part of
13 the world called in. But it's a part of modified
14 language, they liked the idea of some regulatory
15 consistency between State and Federal regulations. The
16 language is the same. But the question you had
17 earlier, it doesn't make a difference between one or
18 the other.
19
20 In the big picture, Federal subsistence
21 users -- if this proposal is adopted Federal
22 subsistence users will be able to use whatever kind of
23 hook they want. Whether or not it's adopted as
24 proposed with the OSM language or modified, either one
25 will allow the subsistence user to use hooks or not use
26 hooks.
27
28 In some of the tribal consultation
29 testimony up North was interesting, from the North
30 Slope, I believe Kaktovik, or that part of the world,
31 members -- public testified, well, we use barbless
32 hooks in the wintertime and I didn't understand, have
33 not heard it before, and when it's, you know, 50 or 60
34 below zero and you're pulling fish out of the water,
35 it's easier to unhook them, so there are certain
36 individuals that use barbless depending on temperature.
37
38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, George.
41 Tom, did you have something earlier.
42
43 MR. SCHWANTES: (Shakes head negative)
44
45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Agency
46 comments, Fish and Game.
47
48 MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chair. This is Drew
49 Crawford with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
50 Federal Subsistence Liaison Team in Anchorage.

1 The State's position on Fisheries
2 Proposal 15-01 is that we support this proposal with
3 the modification to adopt similar criteria for hooks as
4 defined in State regulation.

5
6 Currently the State has two definitions
7 for hook, one is the single hook, which is a hook with
8 only one point with or without a barb; 2 is a multiple
9 hook, which is a fishhook with two or more points with
10 or without a barb. And then this most recent
11 definition of this barbless and the State definition of
12 barbless means the hook is manufactured without a barb,
13 or the barb has been completely removed or compressed
14 so that the barb is in complete contact with the shank
15 of the hook.

16
17 Now, the North Slope RAC were concerned
18 about the term manufactured. They felt that -- they
19 were worried that this may not include their homemade
20 hooks; however, if you look up the term manufactured,
21 it does include the homemade hooks. It basically means
22 that they are modifying a nail, for example, to their
23 own end.

24
25 Over.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Federal
28 agencies.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: None.

33
34 Native tribe, village or other.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: None.

39
40 InterAgency Staff Committee.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: None. Advisory
45 Group comments.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Fish and Game
50 Advisory Committee.

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Other Regional
4 Councils.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Subsistence
9 Resource Commission.
10
11 (No comments)
12
13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Summary of written
14 public comments. Carl.
15
16 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. I'll
17 refer you to your blue supplemental folders. We did
18 receive a letter from AHTNA, from their Customary and
19 Traditional Use Committee in support of this proposal.
20
21 Essentially noting the concerns where
22 they don't want to be subject to a barbless hook if
23 there's a State regulation that calls for a barbless
24 hook. And that, traditionally, at least in their
25 region, users don't use barbless hooks for salmon, but,
26 as noted, folks in the North Slope would. But, anyway,
27 they noted support of the original definition. And at
28 the time of this letter, June 11th, 2014, the North
29 Slope RAC hadn't yet conducted their meeting and come
30 up with their modified language. So this written
31 comment is only in response to the original proposed
32 language.
33
34 And that's it, Mr. Chair. Thank you.
35
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, thank you,
37 Carl.
38
39 Public testimony.
40
41 (No comments)
42
43 MR. JOHNSON: I have not received any
44 slips for public testimony on this agenda item, Mr.
45 Chair.
46
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Regional
48 Advisory Council recommendation.
49
50 At this point I'd hear a motion to

1 adopt.
2
3 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Second.
4
5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Did you make the
6 motion, Tom.
7
8 MR. SCHWANTES: Motion to accept.
9
10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.
11
12 Moved and seconded.
13
14 REPORTER: Microphone, please.
15
16 MR. SCHWANTES: Okay, make a motion to
17 accept and approve this proposal.
18
19 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Second.
20
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and
22 seconded.
23
24 Discussion.
25
26 Carl.
27
28 MR. JOHNSON: Question for the motion
29 proponent. Is this the original language or as
30 modified by the North Slope RAC.
31
32 MR. SCHWANTES: As modified by the
33 North Slope RAC.
34
35 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36
37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any further
38 discussion.
39
40 (No comments)
41
42 MR. KOSO: Question.
43
44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
45 discussion, question is called. All those in favor of
46 this proposal say aye.
47
48 IN UNISON: Aye.
49
50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Antone. Vince.

1 MR. SHELIKOFF: I abstain from voting,
2 Antone.
3
4 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Aye.
5
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Those
7 opposed.
8
9 (No opposing votes)
10
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Motion carries.
12 The Kodiak/Aleutians RAC supports this proposal.
13
14 Do we have another.
15
16 (No comments)
17
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Was that it,
19 Trent.
20
21 MR. LIEBICH: Yes, thank you, Mr.
22 Chair.
23
24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Next
25 on the agenda is the cod -- okay, update me on that, I
26 just wrote it down, who was going to talk about the
27 cod. I believe it had something to do with halibut
28 fishing and catching cod.
29
30 MR. JOHNSON: And for this agenda item,
31 Mr. Chair, it's going to be primarily Council member
32 Holmes, I believe he's received an email with some
33 additional information on this and then Trent is
34 available to answer any questions that come up out of
35 the discussion.
36
37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.
38
39 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair and members of
40 the Kodiak/Aleutians RAC.
41
42 A few years back one of our members was
43 out longlining halibut with his SHARK card and was
44 informed by a sergeant at Alaska Department of Fish and
45 Game, Wildlife Protection, that he could not retain his
46 cod fish on longline and had explored it with
47 Department of Public Safety and so it was brought to
48 our Council and I've pursued it over the last couple of
49 years talking to -- as an assignment from the Chair,
50 talking to the Halibut Commission in Juneau and

1 Vancouver and also with NFMS enforcement in Kodiak and
2 then NFMS groundfish management in Kodiak and ADF&G in
3 Kodiak, and it's changed a few times but basically the
4 conclusion now is we have a copy for the minutes that
5 Trent got from Mark Stichert and the -- currently the
6 Fish and Wildlife Protection agrees now with the other
7 agencies that it is kosher, it's okay, to retain cod
8 fish when you're using your halibut longline. And then
9 they clarify you can't keep salmon, lingcod or
10 rockfish. And so I think that solves a longterm
11 problem of interpretation. Fish and Game and the Lt.
12 Ellis are in concurrence and so it appears it was
13 perceived a problem, what, three years ago, Tom, is now
14 solved. And I greatly appreciate Trent and Mark
15 Stichert and everybody following up on this because it
16 got to be difficult when you get one agency that has a
17 different perspective but couldn't tell you why. So
18 now it's solved that there wasn't a problem in the
19 first place, which is an irony of management, but at
20 least folks can do what they've always done and not
21 have to throw dead cod fish over the side.

22
23 Thank you, Mr. Chair. That concludes
24 my report.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Carl.

27
28 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
29 Chair. I just want to note that this issue is a good
30 example of how the Regional Advisory Councils can move
31 on issues that are subsistence related that are not
32 necessarily under the Federal Subsistence Management
33 Program but, you know, what we do offer is the ability
34 to connect with other agencies and to try to resolve
35 issues and this is a forum for subsistence users and
36 for the harvest of fish and wildlife under a variety of
37 different jurisdictions. So I'm glad to see that this
38 was successfully resolved and one of the things that
39 the Council has been working on for a few years we can
40 chalk off the list.

41
42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, thank you,
45 Carl.

46
47 I have a question, though.

48
49 When you say retention of cod during
50 halibut longlining. Now, a lot of people are fishing

1 by hand jigging or fish with pole, would that -- would
2 this include that or is it just the longlining.

3
4 MR. HOLMES: Well, this interpretation
5 is for longline but if you're jigging with line
6 yourself then under State law it's kosher and under
7 Federal law it's kosher, so it's not a problem. But
8 this was specifically for longlines but you can --
9 under State regs you can use a handline to subsistence
10 fish for those critters.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah. And that
13 means subsistence longline or is that commercial
14 longline?

15
16 MR. HOLMES: No, I don't know what the
17 commercial is, but this was in relation to subsistence.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Halibut fishing by
20 longline, you know, that.....

21
22 MR. HOLMES: Oh, yeah, that's a whole
23 different ball of wax and I didn't look at that at all.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

26
27 MR. KOSO: I think you have to have the
28 right permits for that.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

31
32 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Because they do
33 allow certain incidental catches and all that sort of
34 thing and it wasn't our turn so I didn't look at it.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Gotcha. We're
37 good Trent. Any other questions or comments.

38
39 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I'd just like to make
40 a comment, because I never have seen a limit on cod as
41 long as I've been around.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Trent.

44
45 MR. LIEBICH: Yes, I had some pretty
46 extensive discussions and currently there's no State
47 limit for Pacific cod and they're not considered under
48 the sportfishing regulations. So to kind of get to
49 your question about hand jigging and longlines and it
50 kind of goes back and forth between that SHARK card,

1 which is issued through the National Marine Fisheries
2 Service, but then fishing that SHARK card in State
3 waters and then you get into the State jurisdiction if
4 you're within three miles. But then because cod are
5 not listed as a sportfish under the State regulations
6 then you have that exception or the ability to keep
7 them on your subsistence gear and your longline even
8 though that SHARK card is only specified in regulations
9 on halibut and the 30 hooks. So it was a very
10 complicated discussion.

11
12 So, yeah, the quick answer to your
13 question, Peter, is there aren't limits on cod being
14 caught in that sportfish -- or because they're not
15 listed as a sportfish.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
18 questions.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, thank you.

23
24 Okay, next, is the resolution. How do
25 you want to form this resolution.

26
27 Go ahead Della.

28
29 MS. TRUMBLE: I'm not sure how we
30 should kind of do this but I kind of basically outlined
31 the whereases and then I think we definitely are going
32 to need Carl to help us to -- the Council can add or
33 delete to it and then have Carl draft the final
34 resolution. Is that -- but kind of for purposes of
35 this, and it's just:

36
37 Basically;

38
39 Whereas the Kodiak/Aleutian Federal
40 Subsistence Advisory Council has over
41 the past decade advocated for a
42 subsistence hunt on emperor geese;

43
44 Whereas the Kodiak/Aleutian Federal
45 Subsistence Advisory Council has
46 followed protocol, to no avail, to
47 address this issue important to the
48 subsistence users of the Kodiak and
49 Aleutian region;

50

1 Whereas the Kodiak/Aleutian Federal
2 Subsistence Advisory Council has
3 questioned the process utilized for the
4 annual count of the emperor geese and
5 whether the 800,000 [sic] threshold is
6 -- and I need a word here -- is
7 something -- so.....
8

9 MR. HOLMES: Is valid.

10 MS. TRUMBLE: Valid, that's good.

11 MR. SQUARTSOFF: 80,000.

12 MS. TRUMBLE: Yeah, I got 80,000.

13 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Oh, you said 800.

14 MS. TRUMBLE: Oh, 80,000 -- 800 works
15 good.

16 MR. SQUARTSOFF: No, you said 800,000.

17 (Laughter)

18 MS. TRUMBLE: Okay.

19 And, whereas, the Kodiak/Aleutian
20 Council would like to enhance ability and
21 opportunity for the areas to be
22 surveyed that is currently being
23 utilized for the population count by
24 involving local fishermen and a survey
25 document that we will develop in
26 accordance with the Izembek Refuge
27 Staff;

28 And then I guess I just basically;

29 Now, further be it resolved that it is
30 important to the user -- the Federal
31 subsistence users of the
32 Kodiak/Aleutian Federal Subsistence
33 Advisory Council that the threshold be
34 lowered to be able -- that the
35 subsistence user -- can allow for a
36 subsistence hunt on the emperor geese
37 and that, you know, maybe that
38 threshold needs to be 75, 65, but to
39 kind of look -- you know, I'm just
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

1 throwing things out there as an idea.
2
3 And then, further be it resolved that
4 the collaboration and coordination
5 efforts of all the user -- or agencies
6 involved to get good counts in the
7 future, that effort be made.
8
9 I'm just, you know, throwing these
10 ideas out there, I think we can get the language,
11 technically, to get a clean document, I think that we
12 could work with, and that would be my suggestion.
13
14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you.
15
16 MS. TRUMBLE: Anyway, that's it.
17
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. When you
19 get all the wording and stuff and we can see a draft
20 resolution probably today or tomorrow.
21
22 MR. JOHNSON: Well, actually, Mr.
23 Chair, as long as this Council discusses on the record
24 its desire and intent of these main points that Della
25 has outlined, you know, I can work with Della and Pat
26 to finalize the language. You don't actually have to
27 approve it on the record here, you know, just for the
28 purpose of the overall correspondence policy, all you
29 have to do is had to have had a discussion, the main
30 points are covered, that you approve of submitting such
31 a resolution and then I can work on, you know,
32 finalizing the language with Pat and Della, you know,
33 with a little bit more time. So we don't have to rush
34 through it today.
35
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.
37
38 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair -- oh, go
39 ahead, Pat.
40
41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead. Pat.
42
43 MR. HOLMES: I thought that was really
44 good, Della. I was just thinking in a great state of
45 panic and I asked Carl if he might have it, because we
46 did -- didn't use a resolution format but we did make
47 our request before and so if we can get this approved
48 conceptually, I think I still got it on my computer and
49 I can forward it to you and Carl and that might have
50 some sound bytes or word bites that would be

1 complimentary to what you're doing.

2

3 And I might suggest that while we're
4 chatting we think about maybe having two components to
5 this approach.

6

7 One is the 80,000 to 70,000, and I
8 would suggest that we request a review as to how the 80
9 was -- I mean that's our goal. And then a subset of
10 that would be how was the 80 developed, was it
11 developed on, you know, based on what amount of area,
12 and if you're doing less area -- basically address --
13 questioning the validity of the 80. And then having a
14 separate, I don't know, resolution or a letter or
15 something saying that our Council is willing to assist
16 the facilitation of surveys of other areas because our
17 members from as far west as Adak have observed emperor
18 geese during the survey period. We will be looking
19 forward to developing a survey protocol for this year
20 to give some additional -- additional evaluation of the
21 population numbers. Because -- so in one hand we're
22 saying, you're wrong with your numbers and we feel that
23 the survey area is incomplete, or their survey
24 technique is incomplete and then we're helping to
25 develop a survey.

26

27 But I think as long as we talk about
28 this then the three of us can hammer it out and given
29 the wisdom of the other members, it's just some
30 thoughts.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Della.

35

36 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair. I think, just
37 to also add to that, in the further be it resolved,
38 that this -- a copy of this resolution be distributed
39 to all the affected tribal councils and that we
40 advocate that they also support a resolution on this
41 behalf -- effort.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom.

46

47 MR. SCHWANTES: I agree with -- both
48 ideas are good but I think we should keep them
49 separate. I think we should send one letter off
50 saying, yeah, we're willing to help you do your surveys

1 and do whatever you can. But the separate issue is we
2 feel like we want to reduce that number to 70,000 for
3 subsistence purposes. But I think that should be two
4 separate issues, not -- not confusing by clumping them
5 together.

6

7

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Carl.

8

9

MR. JOHNSON: I think there's
10 definitely two approaches.

11

12 One would be a letter to the Migratory
13 Birds outlining suggestions on how to improve the
14 survey, which could be not only the area of the survey
15 but also involving more stakeholders and perhaps
16 getting a more accurate count.

17

18

But aside from that, I think for the
19 resolution, both of the issues are interrelated. The
20 adequacy of the survey as well as the threshold and
21 because they're tied together and both of them together
22 kind of are behind the inability to get the Migratory
23 Bird Council to approve of a subsistence hunt. And I
24 think one of the things to make adopting a resolution
25 more meaningful and different compared to sending a
26 letter is typically when organizations adopt
27 resolutions, they want to get other organizations that
28 are involved in the issue to support their resolution.
29 So I would suggest that once the Council adopts this
30 resolution it gets forwarded to the YK-Delta RAC as
31 well as the Bristol Bay RAC and ask for their support
32 of the resolution and then also perhaps maybe even the
33 Regional Migratory Bird Councils and other stakeholders
34 who are involved in this to get their support.

35

36

And, you know, Della had said earlier,
37 a resolution is more meaningful than correspondence and
38 I think in order to make it more meaningful you need to
39 get the other stakeholders engaged and see if they will
40 also support your resolution which would then give it
41 more affect.

42

43

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Carl.

44

45

Peter.

46

47

MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, I agree with Tom
48 on keeping them separate and I agree with Carl on
49 getting it out for more support.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Pat.
2
3 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. Council folks.
4
5 I was thinking that, you know, this is
6 an issue that, you know, it is mostly tribal and rural
7 villages, but I think we can also get support because
8 there are -- there's also, you know, a -- I think the
9 more support the better and, you know, the Fish and
10 Game ACs out here join the Peninsula are picking up and
11 getting a little more clout, but I'd be willing to go
12 to the Kodiak one, if I'm home at the time, and just
13 brief them on the issue and ask for a letter of support
14 from them because they've generally been pretty darn
15 supportive on subsistence issues that our Council has
16 had in the past years.
17
18 Just a thought because the more support
19 we get, because there's a State management person on
20 the Council and so, you know, getting everybody on line
21 with the thought -- what do you think, Tom.
22
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, thanks, Pat.
24
25 Rick.
26
27 MR. KOSO: I support it too. I support
28 what Della wants to do there and the two tier system,
29 so we have a letter and then we also include both the
30 survey remarks and the threshold remarks in the
31 resolution so I think Della hit it right on the head
32 there pretty much and I'm in support of that.
33
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I would support
35 that resolution, too. Another good place to send this
36 resolution would probably be to the AFN Subsistence
37 Resource Committee. That would get it out statewide.
38
39 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Um-huh.
40
41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della.
42
43 MS. TRUMBLE: And just adding on to it,
44 you have the -- the Aleut Corporation has a subsistence
45 committee out in the Ocean Pribilof Island as -- you
46 know, all of those -- any that we can get to support
47 this, I think, is going to show the need for -- we need
48 to look at this, look at, you know, the Kodiak region
49 corporations, the village corporations, you're part of
50 this process, this is you now too. That's that

1 consultation process, we're all involved. And I think
2 the more that we do have on the table they'll stop and
3 say, hey, we need to deal with this. We've got it --
4 hopefully it works, we'll see, but, yeah.

5

6 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Pat.

9

10 MR. HOLMES: I don't know who's going
11 to be left on the Council from Kodiak but once we get
12 this together, if you'd like, unless there's somebody
13 else that does step forward, I do a lot of work with
14 the three tribal councils in Kodiak, helping them out
15 pro bono when they need, you know, biology advice, and
16 once we've got it, I could drop it by to them if that's
17 the Council's wish.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, go ahead,

20 Rick.

21

22 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Della, just one more
23 thing, you know, they have those -- the village seminar
24 coming up here, I think it's on the 14th of October or
25 something, I think you'll have representation of all
26 the villages out here in the Aleutians, and I think it
27 would be a good place. That's where they usually
28 present their resolutions. And I think if we presented
29 this resolution to them to accept this resolution,
30 which will go on to the regional corporation, you know,
31 for their support. But if we could get all the village
32 seminar people there, they're representing all the
33 villages, which would include the whole Aleutians, I
34 think it would be a very good place to go to get
35 everybody at one time and it could be done through
36 resolution of the villages, at their meeting in
37 Anchorage, I think it's the 14th of October.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Anybody on
40 line have any questions or comments.

41

42 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, Mitch, this is
43 Vince.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Vince.

46

47 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, I think for years
48 we've been questioning the threshold limit and this is,
49 as was mentioned by a couple speakers early on that we
50 did address this issue at the RAC level, we asked for

1 and wanted a true count in the Aleutians and the Kodiak
2 area because we felt the arbitrary decision of 80,000
3 was -- where did they get that from, how did they come
4 to this grandiose number, that we never seem to reach.
5 At one point it was 60,000 and we reached that -- I
6 can't remember if it was 2010 or '09 or somewhere in
7 there, that it moved to 80,000 -- we're going -- just
8 about there and then we're moved up higher. So at some
9 point we need to address it and get support and get
10 this number back to reality that for hundreds of years
11 Aleuts have been hunting these birds and they didn't
12 kill them off, they didn't wipe them out, the foxes --
13 fox farms did a lot of damage and in hindsight that
14 should have never happened out there but now those are
15 eradicated, you got the birds coming back and I think
16 it's a good time now to come up with a number. To say
17 we want to lower this, fine, they'll say, okay, we'll
18 lower it to 79,000, I mean then they'll say well we
19 did, we lowered it, we need to give a directive that we
20 go to 60,000 or a number we need to agree to today in
21 that resolution.

22

23 Also on the same note, Ricky's right,
24 if it goes to the village seminar, gets approved by the
25 villages and be brought forward at the Aleut Board
26 meeting on Saturday, annual meeting, it'll be sent on
27 at the request of the Aleut Corporation to AFN for
28 their consideration in a resolution packet.

29

30 Thanks, Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Vince.

33

34 Any other questions or comments.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thanks.

39

40 Go ahead.

41

42 MR. DAMBERG: I would just say that,
43 you know, I'd be happy to look at some of the language
44 as it's crafted but just to the -- I can't speak to the
45 number and the development of it, but it might be one
46 strategy is to actually -- for us to learn a little bit
47 more about the basis for it first so we have that
48 background information in developing the language and
49 then the next step, of course, would be to revisit that
50 number based off of what we learn from Migratory Birds.

1 So I just want to encourage their early involvement
2 with maybe some of the understanding of the background
3 of it prior to developing the language.

4

5 So that's just my comment.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Pat.

8

9 MR. HOLMES: I can agree with your
10 strategy but we have asked them and they haven't done
11 it. We've asked several times and we haven't gotten
12 that clarification and probably a good idea for us in
13 our discussions of saying we've asked through our
14 Council for that information and really not received
15 that in-depth discussion and, therefore, we have this
16 resolution. But if you could provide us additional
17 information and understanding we would appreciate that
18 ASAP. We could probably use your help and your
19 colleagues to, you know, give them a little bump to get
20 that info to us ASAP while we're working on this
21 resolution because we need to understand that. And I
22 know there's been changes in Staff and things like that
23 but it'd be real nice to know.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom.

26

27 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I was just
28 looking at this chart again and I think we should set a
29 specific number and looking at this chart I like the
30 idea of using something similar to the wording that any
31 year that the spring count exceeds 70,000 then it would
32 be allowed, a subsistence harvest.

33

34 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, 70 is what we used
35 before but, you know, if you look at that line it's
36 been about 70 no matter who -- spring or fall quite
37 often and it's moving in that way so I would think --
38 and then once we do have a subsistence hunt then they
39 have to figure out how many and where and how but I
40 think that's where the tribal folks can provide a lot
41 of assistance and, you know, developing that because if
42 we start at a small harvest and not have a negative
43 effect showing up well then you can bump it up a little
44 bit. Because you'll need to have some way to share
45 those birds within the different communities.

46

47 But, anyway, thank you, Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Any other
50 questions or comments on the resolution for emperor

1 geese.
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Are we all clear
6 what we're doing here.
7
8 (Council nods affirmatively)
9
10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Do you have
11 all the information you need Carl.
12
13 MR. JOHNSON: I have all the
14 information. All that's lacking now is just a motion
15 of the Council to support the resolution.
16
17 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I so move.
18
19 MR. SCHWANTES: Second.
20
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and
22 seconded. Any further discussion.
23
24 (No comments)
25
26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
27 discussion, is there any objections.
28
29 (No objections)
30
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
32 objections, all those in favor say aye.
33
34 IN UNISON: Aye.
35
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Antone. Vince.
37
38 MR. SHELIKOFF: Aye, Antone.
39
40 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Aye.
41
42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Those opposed.
43
44 (No opposing votes)
45
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Motion carries.
47
48 Next.
49
50 Partners for Fisheries Monitoring

1 Program strategies plan. Pamela Ingles.

2

3 MS. INGLES: Yes, good afternoon, Mr.
4 Chair, and Council members. I hope you can hear me
5 okay. I'm calling in from OSM in Anchorage. I am the
6 coordinator for the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring
7 Program. I have two things to speak to you very
8 quickly today about.

9

10 The first thing that I wanted to tell
11 you is I think Carl should have given a handout to you
12 that shows our vision document for the Partners
13 Program. We're in the process of trying to coordinate
14 a strategic plan that will guide our program for the
15 next five years. And the way we started on this is we
16 have a core group of people that are working on this
17 vision document that's in front of you and we've talked
18 to different stakeholders, and we would like to get
19 input from all 10 of the RACs, if they have any
20 suggestions for how the Partners Program can help the
21 Councils and if there's changes they would like to see
22 made to the program.

23

24 If you look at Page 1 we have a list of
25 questions, there's seven questions there for people to
26 consider. You know, the first one says, are there
27 changes you would like to see made to the Partners
28 Program. So we're just looking to see if there are
29 changes that people want to have made to this program,
30 and once we get feedback from the Councils, then we'll
31 incorporate that into our strategic plan.

32

33 We started out by talking to
34 stakeholders, and that included the current partners
35 and some of the past partners and we also spoke to two
36 of the RAC Chairs and different people from the State
37 and Federal agencies. If you look at Page 5, what we
38 were able to do is we came up with planning issues,
39 things that people said might need to be changed or
40 tweaked within the program, and so on Page 5 there's a
41 list of seven preliminary goals, and that's what we're
42 concentrating on right now. I we get agreement on
43 these goals then we will proceed with putting a
44 strategic plan together that will give an overview of
45 how we plan to meet each of these goals or there may be
46 other goals that we haven't considered at this point.

47

48 So once, again, our plan is to have a
49 strategic plan. The Council will have a chance to look
50 at the strategic plan, we're hoping that will be

1 finished early 2015 and I will be providing that to the
2 Council once again for people to look at. But any
3 comments are welcome.

4

5 We did not get this document into the
6 RAC books and so I know that most of you have not had
7 enough time to read this. If you'd look at Page 6 my
8 contact information is at the very end of this
9 document, so if you have any comments or any
10 suggestions about the Partners Program, I would love to
11 hear them and I can share that with the core group
12 that's writing the strategic plan.

13

14 The other thing I wanted to mention
15 very quickly is what is in your book, I believe, on
16 Page 66, is we have the call for the next round of
17 funding and our funding is four years at a time, and
18 that call for proposals will go out sometime in
19 February and we're looking at a date of sometime in May
20 for when the proposals will be due back to us.

21

22 So that's all I have. If anybody has
23 any questions or discussion, I'd be happy to hear it.

24

25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Questions.

28

29 Pat.

30

31 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Mr. Chair -- through
32 the Chair, to Pam. I was reading through your summary
33 that we had in the book and it's a really exciting
34 concept, and up in Kodiak one of the State divisions,
35 sportfish, does something similar with the local high
36 school and provides mentorship for young folks to work
37 theirself up and gain experience with the agency and I
38 believe the assistant area biologist was a Kodiak born
39 lad that was able to go through that program. You
40 know, frankly, I think that I meet and see lots of
41 excited young people out in the Aleutians, everywhere
42 from when the maritimes was based out at Adak to
43 Kodiak, and they have lots of excited young people, but
44 they're from Brown and Dartmouth and all the liberal
45 arts colleges in the East Coast and I think this
46 stimulating local Alaskan kids, Natives, you know, I
47 mean it's just a terrific way to go because when you
48 get people that grow up in an area they understand the
49 players and they know how to make the programs work and
50 how to communicate with people and it's just so

1 exciting. So I commend you for pursuing this.

2

3 I have one question based on that, 66,
4 that.....

5

6 MS. INGLES: Uh-huh.

7

8 MR. HOLMES:the \$150,000 maximum
9 yearly award, so is this just providing for one or two
10 positions statewide that would assist.....

11

12 MS. INGLES: I -- I did not list.....

13

14 MR. HOLMES:in facilil.....

15

16 MS. INGLES:that correctly,
17 that's one hundred -- we -- originally my program was
18 given \$1 million and then they cut it back a little bit
19 so it depends on what the funding levels are from year
20 to year but we allow each grantee to have up to
21 150,000. At the current time we have five positions
22 that we fund and each one is funded at the level of
23 almost 150,000 each.

24

25 MR. HOLMES: Oh, that's cool. Thank
26 you for your clarification.

27

28 MS. INGLES: And as far as students, we
29 totally agree. I mean one of the goals of the Partners
30 Program has always been to provide opportunities for
31 local youth. We just recently, in the last few weeks,
32 had our intern day that we have -- it's an annual thing
33 every year where the students come in that have been
34 worked on our various projects from the FRMP projects
35 throughout the state, and so these young kids, most of
36 them this year, I think I had 18 interns that came in
37 and gave presentations and all but one of them were
38 from Alaska. And that's what we like to see is the
39 opportunity is provided to kids from Alaska, they have
40 a chance to work with our Fisheries Monitoring Program
41 projects out in the field, and for some of them they
42 decide, you know, I was going to study business but I
43 really like natural resource management, others might
44 decide I wanted to study resource management and now I
45 don't want to after doing this for a summer; so either
46 way it's a really good situation for students. And it
47 sparks a lot of interest.

48

49 We have summer camps through some of
50 these programs that introduce high school kids to

1 working on a weir, or working on a fishwheel. The kids
2 get very excited. If they do well many of the programs
3 are designed where they can come back the next year and
4 take on more responsibility. So we've had some of the
5 kids in these programs starting at 15 years of age
6 working up until they're 22 years old. So it's been a
7 great program.

8

9 Any other questions or comments.

10

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 MS. INGLES: As I said my contact
15 information is at the back of this document and feel
16 free to call me and contact us if you have any
17 questions or suggestions for the program. The program
18 is designed to work for the Councils. We would like to
19 be partners with the Councils and we want to have our
20 partners presenting at the meetings for their regions,
21 and so it's been a really good program.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pamela.

24

25 MS. INGLES: All right, thank you, Mr.
26 Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Next on the agenda
29 is identify issues for the 2014 annual report.

30

31

32

33

34 MR. JOHNSON: Okay, Mr. Chair, just as
35 a guidance I'll point the Council members to Page 67 in
36 your meeting book which kind of just gives the
37 highlights on, you know, the basis for the annual
38 report comes from Section .805 of ANILCA and under
39 report content you'll see four bullet points and that's
40 kind of the general overview of what the Board is
41 looking for.

42

43 Most often the Board looks at this as
44 an opportunity for the Council to bring issues to its
45 attention that fall outside of the regulatory process
46 and into this kind of very broad mandate of Councils to
47 be a forum for subsistence.

48

49

50 So that's just kind of the quick
overview. We've already talked about a few things
today that I know are issues of concern but I think

1 this would be a good time to specify which ones, in
2 particular, you want to bring into your annual report.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Time to
7 discuss our annual report.

8

9 Like I said earlier, we started out
10 with a good foundation for creating a good annual
11 report and we can go back to those discussions and
12 create that.

13

14 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

17

18 MR. HOLMES: I think we should maybe
19 start out this time with some positive things and, you
20 know, thank the Board to reflect to the agencies that
21 assist us and appreciation for the hard work that comes
22 from those folks and I've been really impressed with
23 the new Refuge manager and Staff out here for Cold Bay
24 and, you know, the folks at Kodiak try hard so maybe a
25 -- some positive statements about Staff support. And
26 as well as the OSM Staff, you know, give them a pat on
27 the back.

28

29 And then let's leap in and address the
30 things that we addressed the last time and with more
31 clarification, and that would include emperor geese
32 surveys and thresholds, caribou assessment and
33 population dynamics, stabilization. How's that. Is
34 that a nice buzz word, Carl, rather than predator/prey.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 MR. HOLMES: So the things we've been
39 arguing about so long, maybe if we come up with another
40 phrase it would be a little more accessible. But those
41 would be the top four things of concern.

42

43 I think we should also -- oh, on the
44 positive things, is this partnership for fisheries
45 management, you know, that's a good gig and at that
46 point I'll shut up.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom.

49

50 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman. I know

1 we're at this point in our agenda now but I'd kind of
2 like to hear some of these agency reports before we
3 finalize what we want to put in that annual report. I
4 think there's some things out there we're going to be
5 hearing that we may want to address. So if we could
6 maybe move that further down the line and take the
7 agency reports.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We can do that.
10 Just suggest that we save this agenda item until after
11 we've heard the agency reports.

12
13 MR. SCHWANTES: Okay. I'll make that
14 -- move that we save these annual report issues until
15 after we've heard the agency reports.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

18
19 MR. HOLMES: Second, Mr. Chair.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and
22 seconded.

23
24 Any discussion.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
29 discussion, is there any objection.

30
31 (No objections)

32
33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing none, then
34 the motion carries. We'll come back to the issues of
35 the FY'14 annual report after we've heard the agency
36 reports.

37
38 Next on the agenda is the changes to
39 the nominations and appointment process.

40
41 Carl.

42
43 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44 I'll be handling this and the next two agenda items.

45
46 So currently with 10 Regional Advisory
47 Councils we have 109 seats on those Councils. Seven of
48 the Councils have 10 members and three have 13 members.
49 And the way the system is currently designed is to have
50 an annual process of soliciting applications from the

1 communities and going through a nominations process and
2 an appointment process so roughly one-third of all the
3 Council seats terms expire every year on December the
4 2nd. But over the years we've run into a few problems
5 with that.

6
7 One of the issues is sometimes
8 confusion of the public. Because we start -- we start
9 our solicitation for new applications during the fall
10 meeting cycle, while we still haven't heard back from
11 the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture about
12 the appointment recommendations from the previous
13 application cycle. So there is that overlap and
14 sometimes people, they see the public announcements
15 about soliciting applications, they haven't heard about
16 their previous application they submitted the previous
17 year so they go, well, I guess I didn't get on the
18 Council so I'll move on with my life or I'll reapply or
19 something else, so it creates a little bit of
20 confusion.

21
22 Also in the last two years the
23 appointment process has not been completed until
24 approximately five months after it should have been
25 completed. And the last two years, instead of
26 receiving appointment letters on December the 3rd, the
27 first appointment letters didn't come until January 5th
28 and 8th, and the last appointment letters didn't come
29 until the first week of May, and in one case, the
30 Northwest Arctic Council this year, waiting to hear for
31 five appointments had to move their entire meeting a
32 month back during the winter meeting cycle until they
33 could find out the results of their appointments.

34
35 Another problem that has developed over
36 the years is the lack of alternates for the Councils.
37 Currently the way things work, we -- of the pool of
38 applicants there are a certain number of people who are
39 recommended for appointment but then there are also at
40 least one or two names, depending on the number of
41 applicants, sometimes we don't have enough for the
42 region, but there's at least one or two names that are
43 forwarded to DC to be vetted, to be cleared for
44 approval in the case we need an alternate, you know,
45 later on in the next year and there might be a vacancy,
46 somebody resigns or, you know, in several cases in the
47 last couple years we've had some Council members who
48 passed away and, therefore, now we need somebody to
49 fill their seat. And sometimes it takes a couple of
50 months, even though the name's already been approved it

1 takes a couple of months to get the wheels turning and
2 DC to get an appointment letter issued.

3
4 So that's kind of the background on
5 some of the challenges we've had in recent years.

6
7 So what I want to point to you is
8 starting on Page 70 is some comparisons of some of the
9 different suggested changes to the system that the
10 Staff at OSM and myself, in particular, have come up
11 with and also with some feedback -- some of the Council
12 members have -- some of the Councils have also
13 suggested some of these things. And for one of them
14 is, you know, right now Council members are appointed
15 to three year terms and so one of the suggestions would
16 be to appoint them to four year terms and how will that
17 benefit. Well, if we stay on an annual cycle, if we go
18 to four year terms then that's fewer names we have to
19 submit each year to DC and, therefore, fewer names that
20 they have to go through the process of approving and
21 vetting; instead of sending them 45 to 50 names in a
22 year we might send them 35 or so names in a year. So
23 it'd cut down on the workload and hopefully get them to
24 complete their process sooner. Or the other
25 possibility would be to do four year appointments on a
26 biennial cycle, so every two years, and then in that
27 case then we don't have a delay problem every year
28 because we're not doing an annual appointment cycle
29 every year. And, additionally, then that also
30 overcomes the confusion, you wouldn't have overlapping
31 appointment cycles anymore, there would be a very clean
32 break between the end of one appointment cycle, the
33 appointments would be issued before we start the next
34 appointment cycle.

35
36 There's some disadvantages to both
37 sides.

38
39 If we go to a four year annual cycle
40 there's no cost savings, whereas, right now, we're
41 spending, you know, a certain amount of dollars a year
42 for public outreach, under a biennial cycle we'd only
43 have to do that every two years; spend the same amount
44 of money but only every two years. And also with an
45 annual cycle we still would have to go through all of
46 the Staff work involved in an nominations process.

47
48 The disadvantage for a biennial cycle
49 would be, you know, if we're only submitting it every
50 two years then that means instead of a third of the

1 Councils being up for reappointment, half the
2 membership would be up for reappointment. So that
3 would likely end up with more names being submitted to
4 DC and perhaps overwhelm them in their process.

5
6 But one of the main concerns that were
7 raised about a two year cycle was that it would take
8 the Council appointment process out of the public eye.
9 By keeping an annual cycle we still keep the
10 opportunity for participating in these Councils up
11 front in the public presence by doing a constant
12 recruitment, a constant public outreach process. So
13 some people were concerned that perhaps that would
14 diminish if we went to a two year cycle.

15
16 The next suggestion is formal
17 appointments of alternates to the Council. So instead
18 of just holding on to those names and only going to
19 them in the event that there is a vacancy, actually
20 issue a formal appointment letter. The people would
21 receive a letter in the mail from the Secretary of the
22 Interior saying, you have been appointed as an
23 alternate to the Kodiak/Aleutians Council to
24 represent, you know, subsistence users in the region.
25 Now, there a lot of different ways that that could be
26 used and, you know, one of the suggestions the North
27 Slope Council had when they discussed it at their
28 meeting was having those formally appointed alternates
29 available means that if somebody couldn't make it and
30 there was a concern about establishing quorum then
31 you'd call up the alternate and have them attend the
32 meeting in person and then that way you'd never have to
33 worry about establishing quorum for a meeting,
34 particularly in regions where a lot of times Council
35 members can't make it because of the weather in their
36 communities, not being able to get out.

37
38 And there are a lot of different ideas
39 that have been discussed about how to utilize
40 alternates. One would be they would receive the
41 meeting books, just like you would, so they could still
42 be informed of what's going on. They would be invited
43 to, you know, listen in on the teleconference so they
44 could be aware of what the Council's doing but only
45 would actually physically attend the Council if there
46 was a risk of establishing quorum. So advantages and
47 disadvantages are outlined there.

48
49 Basically the advantages, you know,
50 even if they're just an alternate they're at least

1 aware now that they have a potential of being involved
2 in the process and that they retain their interest and
3 don't lose interest because, you know, they didn't hear
4 anything from their application.

5
6 The disadvantages was that some people
7 suggested that perhaps, you know, some people might
8 wonder well why was I just appointed an alternate and
9 not a member to the Council and that would raise
10 questions about the selection process and I really
11 don't know how to respond to that. I think people in
12 general would raise questions about why wasn't I
13 appointed at all if they get a letter saying they
14 weren't appointed so I'm not sure what -- what real
15 disadvantage there is to that.

16
17 Now, this would -- the first -- the
18 first change I mentioned, the four year terms, that
19 would require a Secretarial regulation change. But
20 from what I've been told it would be a very easy change
21 to make, it could be done through an expedited process
22 that's used when making regulation changes that aren't
23 considered likely to generate any public feedback. The
24 alternates to the Council would be a change to your
25 charters, and your charters are up for renewal next
26 year so this could be something that you could do as
27 part of your charter renewal next year.

28
29 The next thing -- the next suggestion
30 that was introduced by the Western Interior Council,
31 you'll note, as part of your packet there are a couple
32 of letters starting on Page 75 from the Western
33 Interior Council, they've been very local in expressing
34 their displeasure in the last two years over the
35 delayed appointments. So the Western Interior Council
36 suggested a modification to the charters that would
37 allow for what's called, carryover terms. If your term
38 expired but nobody had yet been appointed to fill your
39 seat or you hadn't been reappointed, you would remain
40 as a member of the Council until that appointment was
41 made.

42
43 Now, the National Park Service
44 Subsistence Resource Commissions have such a provision
45 in their charters that states, if no successor is
46 appointed on or prior to the expiration of a member's
47 term, then the incumbent members will continue to serve
48 until a new appointment is made. So that would also be
49 an amendment to your charter.

50

1 I am working on the process right now
2 of submitting the briefing memorandum in support of
3 that to get that change made, pending the Councils
4 themselves, and whether or not they want to make that
5 change but my goal would be, if the Councils agreed to
6 it then perhaps we could amend the charters this year,
7 in the event that there is a delay, that could go into
8 effect immediately and it wouldn't have to wait until
9 the charter renewal next year.

10

11 The last thing, if you'll look on Page
12 4 of the briefing, Page 72, is several of the Councils
13 have asked, you know, is there something we can do to
14 get youth involved more on the Councils.

15

16 And it's funny, the Southcentral
17 Council, when they discussed this, the Chair, Ralph
18 Lohse, said that when he was talking -- when he heard
19 youth, he was thinking more of people in their 30s and
20 40s as opposed to their teens and 20s but, it's up to
21 each Council, really, what they consider to be youth.
22 There's really no -- there could be no mechanism in
23 place to have a formal youth seat on the Council, since
24 the Councils are governed by the Federal Advisory
25 Committee Act, there's no membership category that
26 would permit that officially, but there's nothing
27 really that would prevent the Councils themselves from
28 perhaps having some type of youth liaison or mentorship
29 program that they could do. And really, since this is
30 something that would be unique to each region as to
31 what would work the best, it would just be up to the
32 Councils themselves to work with their Council
33 coordinators on adopting something that could possibly
34 work for their region.

35

36 And so that's my presentation.

37

38 What I'm looking for from the Council
39 is their comment on any of these proposals and if
40 there's any in particular that you support I'd like to
41 hear which you would like us to proceed with as we
42 tally the different responses from the Councils.

43

44 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Carl.

47

48 Della.

49

50 MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and

1 Carl. First of all when I first got on here many years
2 ago, and I know Pete was on here then, we actually had
3 alternates on our Council that filled in and there
4 never seemed to be an issue with that. I'm not sure --
5 I think that there would be -- I think as an issue as
6 pro -- as stated in the document.

7
8 The other thing that involves the youth
9 and someone can correct me, but I believe that AFN has
10 a youth council that they appoint, the various regions
11 appoint each year and it may be appropriate to ask if
12 that youth would be willing to sit in on these meetings
13 twice a year to learn, and that -- that works with them
14 being on AFN, and the wide range of subjects and things
15 that they work on, it'd be perfect and it would take us
16 out of the selection process also.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
19 questions. Comments.

20
21 Pat.

22
23 MR. HOLMES: I think, yeah, I recall
24 that we did have appointed alternates before. I think
25 that's keen.

26
27 Four year annual cycle, that would
28 work; for me, it doesn't matter.

29
30 And the carry over terms, I think, is a
31 really good idea.

32
33 And on the youth, Kodiak, for awhile we
34 had a teacher that did our marine program, and she
35 would bring students down. Golly it's been a long time
36 since any of them made our Council because she's gotten
37 involved in other things but she would take them to the
38 Fish and Game Advisory Committee to see how that
39 worked, and I think at least one Council somewhere
40 back, she brought the kids down to see how that's
41 going. And I think it would help when we do the
42 announcements of our meetings, is to send the
43 announcements to the local high school, particularly
44 for the place that's involved, because it would be
45 really cool. I don't know what the curriculum they
46 have here but for those kids to spend, you know, half a
47 day here or a day and see how boring and difficult it
48 is to reach these decisions, but also to understand the
49 process, and over time then we would get coverage of a
50 broader area.

1 I'd like to give you a comment on the
2 whole vetting process because I don't think, myself,
3 having been on here, have a clue on how it happens. I
4 get -- somebody calls me sometimes, other times I go
5 five years, and sometimes I apply and sometimes I
6 don't. Sometimes I get a notice to reapply and then I
7 get somebody calling me up and interviewing me before I
8 send it in and it's very confusing.

9
10 And a lot of people I know, like I
11 mentioned, Alec Paramanoff, he didn't know for sure
12 that he had a one-year position. Maybe it's something
13 he slipped up on, because he's getting a little older,
14 too, or what. But folks need to know what their term
15 is. And I think you should in the process of when
16 these things, notices, go out, let them know that they
17 need to apply every year, because you said the numbers
18 have dropped in applications, but I know several people
19 in Kodiak that applied two or three years ago, they're
20 just assuming some day they'll get interviewed, or they
21 were interviewed and then nobody ever calls them back
22 to say, no, you weren't appointed, and they're still
23 thinking, well, maybe I'm in the queue or the line for,
24 you know, position. And so either you need to leave --
25 when you interview somebody, either leave them in the
26 pot, or at least tell them, hey, this is only good for
27 a year, because there's a whole lot of confusion on how
28 this works.

29
30 And I think you gave us a clarification
31 at a meeting or two back that -- when I raised the
32 question of the difference between the Federal vetting
33 process and the State AC process whereby in the State
34 it's the person that comes to the meeting and complains
35 the most often gets appointed to join the committee.
36 And they're just done by committee.

37
38 But I think you mentioned that there's
39 a way where -- if we know somebody's applied, is there
40 a way that we can nominate a specific person and say,
41 hey, so and -- as an example, Rebecca Skinner is I
42 think one of the first two Native gals from Kodiak to
43 get a law degree, and she's got an MBA, and she's
44 helped out our community so much on these discussions
45 on subsistence or rural. When she was the resource
46 person at Sun'aq, she coordinated all the migratory
47 bird stuff. And talk about somebody that's got a mind
48 that can listen to five people at once and get it down
49 -- she'd be a good one for your job, Carl. But, I
50 mean, there are some people that are exceptional within

1 our communities, and, you know, if we can say, hey,
2 this person is good, or that one's great or even know
3 who potentially is going to be on the Council, and
4 provide a little feedback from our perspective, because
5 I know almost everybody here has been on the State
6 advisory committee or some other committee, and they
7 know how each other people work in public and their
8 devotion to their communities. And it would just be in
9 my mind good if our Council could have just a little
10 bit input somehow.

11
12 So those are my thoughts on it. It's a
13 good idea to review the whole thing I think.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: All right. Carl,
16 do you have a response?

17
18 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, just a quick
19 response. The same appli -- the same form that you
20 would use to apply, or anybody would use to apply, can
21 also be used to nominate someone. So if you do know
22 someone who you think could be a great contribution to
23 the Council, you can nominate them. You'd fill it all
24 except -- all the same way, except there's a little
25 part where you put the name of the person, name of the
26 nominating, you know, party, so that's where you put
27 your name down, you position, your affiliation,
28 whatever. Of course, the key thing is you need to
29 coordinate with that person in order to complete the
30 application, and also -- then that way they understand
31 they're being nominated, and they can decline at that
32 time rather than, as the case has been in a couple
33 instances, they're getting their first call from the
34 interviewer, and they're like, no, I don't want to be
35 on the Council. So you avoid that problem by getting
36 somebody who you know would be interested to be
37 nominated.

38
39 MR. HOLMES: Uh-huh. So, excuse me,
40 Mr. Chair. Back to Carl. So then as individuals we
41 can do that, or the Council could do that, or which
42 would carry more weight?

43
44 MR. JOHNSON: It can be individuals.
45 Either as an individual or a representative of an
46 organization. So there's really no requirement one way
47 of the other. I don't think that the Councils have
48 ever nominated somebody. My nose is twitching when I
49 think about the idea of a Council voting to nominate
50 someone to the Council. I know, that's not quite the

1 same as passing the sniff test, but there's something
2 there that just gets me a little twitchy about that
3 idea. But individuals could, or as a representative of
4 a tribe or a village corporation, or a regional
5 nonprofit, whichever.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Peter.

8

9 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, I just want to
10 let Pat know that this last nomination I got came from
11 the Port Lions tribe. I didn't put in for it, they
12 did. So tribal councils do get the packet.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rick.

15

16 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Mr. Chair. You know,
17 I don't have any problem with the four-year, you know,
18 cycle, if it could lessen the problems of applying.
19 And for sure the carry-over terms it sounds like would
20 be a great deal, because, you know, there was times
21 where I was nominated and almost a year and a half
22 before I really found out whether or not things were
23 going to happen for me on this deal here. And it was
24 the same thing when my term came up, I wasn't sure if I
25 was required to go to the next meeting or not, because
26 I wasn't sure if I was on the board or not, because my
27 term expired. So I think this carry-over term deal
28 that you suggested would be great. And like I said, if
29 it helps by extending the term limits to four years
30 versus three years, then I'd certainly be all for that.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Peter.

33

34 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. Like I
35 mentioned, that I always have been supportive of the
36 youth, and I really think it's important that we do get
37 the youth involved. When we're going to communities
38 like this, we should send notice in advance to the
39 school principal or whoever so we could encourage some
40 youth to attend these meetings. I think -- because I
41 did in Port Lions, I went up to the school, and gave a
42 presentation and let them ask questions, and I got a
43 lot of letters after later thanking for coming there
44 and explaining the difference between State and Federal
45 regulations, because they had no way of knowing there
46 was a difference.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I would be more in
49 favor of having an existing youth organization make an
50 appointment, like AFN Youth Conference. They have a

1 youth council. If we approached them and say, you
2 know, we would like to have a youth membership on this
3 RAC, because if we start sending out notices to
4 schools, then we get all these names. Who's going to
5 make the decision? Us? You know, I'd like to have the
6 students themselves making the decision. You know,
7 they're a council, they're our up-coming replacements
8 of us.

9

10 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I
11 was just recommending they come and listen in so they
12 can learn about the process.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah.

15

16 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Mr. Chair. That was
17 kind of my perspective, too, because I don't know, the
18 way schools are now, and it's so intense on what the
19 kids have to accomplish. If a kid that was -- I mean,
20 we're having our meeting, and like some of Pete's
21 nieces are on the ball team, you know, and they got
22 appointed because, you know, like all the Squartsoffs
23 are really supportive of community things, you know.
24 So it's two different questions.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: So if the student
27 government or student council of AFN makes an
28 appointment, that student, whoever it might be, would
29 have an interest in our process. If they have other
30 interests, if they're following sports, or if they've
31 got other programs they want to follow, they wouldn't
32 apply to here. Those that have interest will apply,
33 and those will make themselves available, just like us.
34 We make ourselves available, because we have a vested
35 interest of what we do for our people.

36

37 MR. HOLMES: Well, I guess the point
38 wasn't -- I was thinking -- Mr. Chair. With your
39 permission -- wasn't the devotion of the child, but the
40 fact of whether they'd be able to give up a week's
41 worth of school any more, because there's so many
42 things that they have to get done, you know, whether
43 they could actually do that without getting into
44 trouble. Because like Kodiak, what, 25 days you miss,
45 and then you don't graduate. And so if a person did
46 something at a different time, they might have time to
47 come to our Council, but because of their other things,
48 then they get sick, and then they've got to come back
49 the following year to finish their senior year. And so
50 it's a really sticky issue.

1 I agree that it would be really swell
2 to have, you know, a youth representative, but I was
3 just raising the question of if it could be
4 accomplished, and I kind of agree with the other folks
5 in that, you know, maybe a point to start is education,
6 and letting them see what happens at a meeting. And
7 then that could build from there.

8
9 MR. KOSO: You know, to me I look at
10 the -- you know, going through the youth deal of AFN is
11 kind of tough. I would more recommend that we go to
12 different villages when we have this, and then you
13 should contact the local villages where we're going to
14 have these meetings, and then the school presents a
15 certain amount of kids. I mean, we have to have some
16 sort of control. We can't have 40 kids coming here
17 during our session, we'd never get nothing done. So
18 we'd have to have some sort of control on that. But I
19 think if we did it on a local level, like say we're
20 going to have it in Cold Bay or Old Harbor or King
21 Cove, then we could let the school know that we're
22 having this here, and we would like -- maybe kids can
23 rotate in throughout the day, half a dozen here, or
24 stuff, to sit in. And maybe during that time that the
25 Chairman can ask the kids if they have any questions,
26 give them a few minutes, you know, for a day, and they
27 could listen in and learn.

28
29 I think it should be on a local level.
30 I think it would be really tough to have AFN in
31 Fairbanks or Anchorage try to appoint certain
32 individuals to different regions. It would be really
33 tough. I don't think -- I don't know if they'll ever
34 pay for it. I know OSM certainly don't have money to
35 do it. So it would be, you know, a cost issue. But if
36 we kept it on a local level, where we go to the
37 different communities and we keep it within the
38 community to maybe have the school system rotate them
39 through, depending on how much is -- wants to do it.
40 So that was just a suggestion.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah. Given the
43 constraints of costs, then our best option would be
44 contacting local schools of the area where we're having
45 our meeting.

46
47 MR. KOSO: Yeah.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: It's simple.
50 Peter.

1 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, that's exactly
2 what I was saying. Then maybe you're going to get some
3 one or two or three students that may be interested,
4 and that may want to sit on this RAC in the future. So
5 I think just by inviting them, I'm not saying they have
6 to come, but if they want to come down here and listen
7 to what we're discussing, especially like on the
8 caribou and the geese, because it's going to affect
9 them as they get older. And I think some of them --
10 you just never know when you're going to get somebody
11 that will be interested.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom.

14

15 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I agree with
16 that. I think it needs to be kept local, and allow
17 those kids that have an interest to come in.

18

19 Also, on the -- getting back on the
20 four-year cycle, I think that's a good idea. And then
21 this carry-over terms I think is a good idea also. But
22 that's not going to work unless -- for instance, let's
23 say Pete's due to get off this year, and if there's
24 nobody appointed to take his seat, theoretically he's
25 going to be a carry-over, but is somebody going to
26 notify him that he's still on the Council. That's what
27 needs to be taken care of, is there has to be some
28 notification come out to say, your position hasn't been
29 filled, so you are a carry-over. You need to stay --
30 you need to come to the next meeting.

31

32 MR. KOSO: And I think that will be his
33 prerogative.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Carl.

36

37 MR. KOSO: It would be his choice.

38

39 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I'm just saying
40 on any one of us, any member that's term would be up,
41 you know. If we adopt the carry-over thing, if you
42 don't notify that person that, hey, your position
43 hasn't been filled, so you are a carry-over, then
44 they're going to think, I'm off, so I'm going to go do
45 something else. I think that's important that they are
46 notified, if in fact we go that route.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah. Go ahead,
49 Carl.

50

1 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, that would fully be
2 necessary, to notify the Council member that the carry-
3 over provision has implemented.

4
5 I also would change the language, the
6 SRC language that I quote on the third page of the
7 briefing is mandatory, incumbent members will continue
8 to serve. I would change that to may continue to
9 serve, just so that if for other reasons, for example,
10 there's some basketball going on, or other obligations
11 of the Council member who chose to not reapply decides
12 that they want to discontinue membership, it's
13 optional, it's not mandatory.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.

16
17 MR. KOSO: So do you want us -- do we
18 need to take action on it, or is this just an
19 information deal?

20
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: He's looking for a
22 recommendation of one of these options.

23
24 MR. KOSO: Do you need a motion to that
25 effect or how?

26
27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: How do you want to
28 go about it? We'd make a motion to one of these
29 options and, yeah, choose one and he'll run with it.

30
31 MR. JOHNSON: Well, Mr. Chair, what I'm
32 hearing, there are different issues, so there were
33 really three that would require either a change to the
34 regulations or a change to the charter, so those are
35 the ones that I'm looking for feedback on. And what
36 I'm hearing from the Council is support for four-year
37 terms on an annual cycle. There wasn't really any
38 discussion on a biannual cycle, so I'll assume there's
39 no interest in that. Second, I'm hearing support for
40 formal appointment of alternates to the Council. And,
41 third, I'm hearing strong support for the carry-over
42 terms being adopted in the charters.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah. Personally
45 I think the carry-over terms is the simplest way to go.
46 You know, if we change the language so that that member
47 may continue to, you know, serve on this Council, you
48 know, it's optional for him. But it just requires a
49 change to our charter, which we can do today.

50

1 Go ahead, Pat.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Well, I kind of agree
4 about changing our charter. I don't think that item
5 two, the formal appointment of an alternative is
6 contradictory to having a carry-over position. And
7 then the four-year cycle thing I don't think that
8 contradicts anything either. All of them make it
9 easier to get somebody to replace it, but if we rely
10 just on one methodology, and, you know, myself, if
11 we're going to just pick one, that would be the carry-
12 over. But it could end up that for personal reasons,
13 you know, on the carry-over, you know, we could end up
14 not having a quorum, because like Tom's leaving, Pete's
15 leaving, and Rick, you're coming up, you're up for.....

16

17

18 MR. KOSO: No, I'm not.

19

20 MR. HOLMES: No? I don't know, but, I
21 mean, you know, at any one time we're getting two or
22 three new members, and if something happens to one or
23 two people personally, then, you know, they might just
24 say, well, and, you know, then we're stuck. And so to
25 me, the more alternatives that we can work into our
26 charter options, the better. At least those are my
27 thoughts, folks.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Carl.

30

31 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah. Each of these
32 different pieces really do address different issues.
33 So if you only take one, you still have holes in the
34 other issues that wouldn't be fixed or addressed.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom.

37

38 MR. SCHWANTES: So, Carl, what's your
39 suggestion? Are you suggesting that we adopt all three
40 of them, or what would you suggest?

41

42 MR. JOHNSON: Well, it really is the
43 Council's discretion. You know, you may not like the
44 idea or alternates or the carry-over terms. You know,
45 you may only -- you know, might just one thing. I'm
46 just saying what I was hearing from some of the
47 discussion is that if we adopt one, it would address
48 all the other issues, but it would address all the
49 other issues, but it wouldn't. So I guess it's really
50 up to the Council to kind of identify where are the

1 areas that are of most concern to the Council as far as
2 problems that need to be tweaked, and then which of
3 these options best address some, or if they all
4 address them, then, you know, that's great. I know
5 what my preference is, but the reason why we're putting
6 this to the Councils is to get the Council feedback.

7

8 MR. KOSO: Yeah. Mr. Chair. You know,
9 that carry-over to me was -- is put in place to give
10 D.C. or whoever time to confirm the next appointee. We
11 have two meetings a year, and I don't see a very big
12 problem that, you know, Pete has brought up -- or Pat,
13 excuse me, because, in fact, we have a meeting twice a
14 year. And the carry-over in my mind is -- it's going
15 to be one meeting maybe, you know, before we have
16 another eight months before our next meeting. So it's
17 not like we're having a meeting every month, and I
18 don't see a big problem in it, because by the time we
19 get to our next meeting, if the -- you know, let's say
20 we don't have a quorum. I don't see that ever
21 happening. If we didn't have a quorum, we reschedule
22 the meeting a month later or something until we get
23 one. So it's something that I don't think would be a
24 problem. It might be a little logistic problem at
25 times, but I think we adopt the carry-over. And the
26 reason that is, is because they're slow on paperwork.
27 We just want to keep the guy until the guys finalize
28 it, and that's the way I understand it.

29

30 The four years is just to give them a
31 little more time so they don't have so much paperwork
32 to go through.

33

34 So to me, it's a no-brainer, unless I'm
35 missing something here.

36

37 But, you know, I would like to present
38 a motion to accept the four-year and the carry-over and
39 change our charter.

40

41 MR. SCHWANTES: I'll second.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Motion is
44 made and.....

45

46 MR. TUTIAKOFF: I'd second.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF:a second. Is
49 there any further discussion.

50

1 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I think as
2 Carl pointed out, all three of these things give us
3 more options. And I'll vote against this if it's only
4 the two. I think we should adopt all three. All three
5 should be adopted is that I.....

6
7 MR. KOSO: What was the third one?

8
9 MR. HOLMES: Well, the first is four-
10 year; second is the formal appointment of alternate;
11 and the third is a carry-over. And I think if we have
12 all three, then that gives us a maximum security. Any
13 one may or may not accomplish what we want, but if we
14 have all three, then that in my mind would assure us
15 that we would be able to maintain an active Council.
16 So that's my rationale.

17
18 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della.

21
22 MS. TRUMBLE: I agree with Pat. I was
23 just going to bring that forward, because all three of
24 them benefit the -- or may have the ability to have a
25 quorum. You know, if somebody dies, and you have an
26 appointment, an alternate, they can move up and fill
27 in. So you'll never really have to stop.

28
29 Carry-over term, yeah, that's just so
30 you can continue to move on, that you have a quorum,
31 and not have to wait, to hold off your meeting. We've
32 got little windows for our meetings. We've got to keep
33 moving forward.

34
35 I agree all three of them should be
36 part of the motion.

37
38 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair. Maybe he could
39 rescind his second, and I'll rescind my motion, and
40 then we'll re-issue another one to include all three,
41 unless you want to just do an amendment.

42
43 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair. I'll amend it
44 to add the -- formally appoint alternatives.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: That's up to you,
47 you made the motion.

48
49 MR. KOSO: And he seconded it, so
50 unless he cancels his second, then.....

1 MR. SCHWANTES: Okay. I'll rescind my
2 second.
3
4 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: He removed his
5 second.
6
7 MR. KOSO: Okay. And I'll remove my
8 motion and I'd like to represent a new motion, to adopt
9 all three instead of the two that I had there. So,
10 sorry about that. I missed that one, Della.
11
12 MR. SCHWANTES: And I'll second that.
13
14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and
15 seconded.
16
17 MR. HOLMES: Call for the question.
18
19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The question is
20 called. All -- I must ask, before I call for the
21 question then, is there any discussion. Anybody want
22 to say anything.
23
24 MR. SCHWANTES: Just one comment. This
25 carry-over terms, in reality, I mean, they have a hear
26 to make an appointment. How much time do you need to
27 make an appointment? Come on.
28
29 MR. HOLMES: Sometimes it takes them
30 two or three years.
31
32 MR. KOSO: Yeah, it took me two years.
33
34 MR. SCHWANTES: I mean, in reality, you
35 should be able to get an appointment made within a
36 year.
37
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Carl.
39
40 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. I will quote
41 from the play Hamlet by William Shakespeare. There are
42 more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt up in
43 your philosophy. So you might not be able to imagine,
44 but that doesn't mean there isn't a reason.
45
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Peter.
47
48 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I just want to make a
49 comment to Carl, that I'm not going to have nieces on
50 the State basketball championship team every year.

1 (Laughter)
2
3 MR. KOSO: The questions's been called.
4
5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The question's
6 called. All those in favor say aye.
7
8 IN UNISON: Aye.
9
10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Those opposed.
11
12 (No opposing votes)
13
14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Vince? Antone?
15 Did you get all that?
16
17 MR. SHELIKOFF: Aye. Antone.
18
19 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, I got that, most
20 of the discussion there. I approve it.
21
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Then the
23 motion carries. We've got all three. Now we've got to
24 change the charter and to make a recommendation for
25 changing the regulation.
26
27 MR. JOHNSON: One thing at time. Eight
28 more Councils to go, Mr. Chair.
29
30 So the next item on the agenda is --
31 oh.
32
33 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair. Can we take a
34 five-minute break? There's somebody here I wanted to
35 talk to, and then -- before we get started again.
36
37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Take a
38 break.
39
40 MS. TRUMBLE: Is that good? Thank you.
41
42 (Off record)
43
44 (On record)
45
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: All right. Let's
47 call the meeting back to order. We are on the agenda
48 items, all Council meeting in winter 2016.
49
50 MR. KOSO: Are we going to do our

1 winter meeting now?

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We are in order.
4 We're taking care of business. 2016 all-Council
5 meeting.

6

7 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. So this next item
8 on the agenda, all-Council meeting in winter 2016.
9 What this is about is in the past, over the years, the
10 Councils have expressed a desire to have an all-Council
11 meeting, where all Regional Advisory Councils are
12 meeting at once. So we've kind of preliminarily come
13 up with an idea of how that might work, but before we
14 spend the time and the planning and logistics and all
15 that, we just wanted to just with the Councils again
16 and make sure this is something that they would still
17 like to do. And the idea would be it would be a
18 meeting over a five-day period in Anchorage or
19 Fairbanks, most likely Anchorage, because we're looking
20 for a facility that's large enough, and also has hotel
21 lodging nearby, with the idea that we would have both
22 joint sessions where all 10 Councils are together in
23 the same year, and then concurrent sessions where we
24 would have up to any one point in time three of the
25 Councils conducting their own meetings, their own
26 business to cover their own unique issues, and then
27 when the people who aren't meeting in those concurrent
28 sessions, we would have training and reports set up in
29 different rooms. So you can get really detailed agency
30 reports from, say, Fish and Wildlife Service, Park
31 Service, Department of Fish and Game, training
32 sessions, like a training session on Robert's Rules of
33 Order, a training session on ANILCA, a training session
34 on Federal law, Federal Indian law, and so it would be
35 kind of a combination of a really extensive training
36 opportunity, report opportunity, and then also this
37 joint and concurrent session meeting opportunity.

38

39 And in order to make it work, we'll
40 form a committee that would develop the joint session
41 agenda, so what would be on the agenda for all 10
42 Councils when they meet together, and then also to
43 adopt the training and report agendas. So what kind of
44 reports do we want, what kind of training do the
45 Council members want. And then again this would all
46 take place over say probably a five-day period. And
47 then that would be the meetings for that cycle.

48

49 And the reason I only picked winter of
50 2016 is because the winter of 2016 would be the time

1 when people are submitting Federal fisheries proposals,
2 which we generally get far fewer fisheries proposals
3 than we do wildlife proposals. So it will be a really
4 low agenda meeting cycle, and therefore allow for more
5 opportunity to do these other things.

6

7 So what we're really just looking for
8 is just feedback from the Council on if this is
9 something they would like us to pursue.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any takers? Rick.

12

13 MR. KOSO: No, I think that would be
14 great. I thought maybe that was because we're getting
15 a new president, but.....

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MR. KOSO: Okay. Yeah. No, I would be
20 certainly for something like that, to talk to different
21 regions, because a lot of times we do a lot of business
22 with them through mail, but we never look them in the
23 eye, and able to really talk to them, so to me I think
24 that would be a great opportunity for us to do.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Would you like us
27 to appoint committee members?

28

29 MR. JOHNSON: At this point, Mr. Chair,
30 we're just gauging the interest of the Council. And
31 then once we finish this meeting cycle, if we have an
32 idea that all the Councils are interested in it, then
33 the Council coordinators will work on, you know,
34 probably one member from each Council, probably a
35 person or two from the InterAgency Staff Committee, and
36 also probably like the Native liaison, and a couple
37 other Staff people who might be involved, and that they
38 would be the ones -- and, of course, the Council
39 coordinators themselves, would periodically, develop
40 the agenda while we're also working on logistics to get
41 everything taken care of.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

44

45 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. Carl. I think
46 it would be an absolutely great idea. Twice I think I
47 filled in for the Chair, and I found that to be the
48 most sometimes boring, but rewarding things to do to
49 listen to the other Council members. And I found as
50 much excitement during the discussion on rural

1 determination process listening to the other Councils
2 and their Chairs.

3

4 And I'll give you nickels to donuts one
5 topic will be maintaining biological equilibrium,
6 because that's what everybody at every meeting I've
7 gone to, that's one of their big concerns, is not
8 getting enough food for their folks. And how do you
9 keep the environment in balance.

10

11 And I think it would be an absolutely
12 swell experience. And, you know, if we end up just
13 having like one joint session -- you know, it was
14 proposed at our last meeting to have one with the
15 Southeast RAC that we have, you know, a lot of cultural
16 ties over hundreds of years. You know, if it ends up
17 that I can't be appointed, then I'll probably dip into
18 my air miles to just go, because I have developed a
19 friendship with Bertram, and have know Bob Larson,
20 their coordinator, for 30 years, and a lot of folks in
21 Southeast. And, you know, they helped Kodiak out
22 immensely in the rural discussion processes, and, you
23 know, that would be a passionate thing to get to talk
24 to folks first hand or just listen to their thoughts
25 and the way they solve problems is most intriguing.

26

27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thanks, Pat. Tom.

30

31 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I
32 think that's a wonderful idea. Opportunity to get
33 training and also the opportunity to meet with members
34 from other Councils. I think that's just -- it's a
35 very good goal.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Anyone else.

40 Vincent, Antone, you guys have any questions or

41 comments on this 2016 meeting.

42

43 MR. SHELKOFF: No, Mitch. I can
44 barely hear you guys. Once in a while I hear nothing,
45 so I'll just say no. I'll abstain from voting on this.

46

47 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Yeah. Mr. Chair.

48 Mitch. Vince here. Hello?

49

50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: So what do you

1 need from us at this time, Carl.

2

3 MS. TRUMBLE: We have Vince.

4

5 MR. JOHNSON: Vince would like to
6 speak.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Vince.

9

10 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Yeah. Mr. Chair and
11 Council. I guess I'll play devil's advocate. Where
12 are you going to get the money for this kind of -- pull
13 it together and meetings of these other RACS? And how
14 is it going to affect our ability to meet with our
15 people in the future. I have concerns that the more
16 this whole discussion prior to this, this meeting is
17 being held in King Cove as why we don't have the money,
18 I don't know if we're going to get there on and on and
19 on. And, you know, where are you going to get the
20 money to pull this kind of a meeting together before
21 I'd say yes on it.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Carl.

24

25 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26

27 Vince, you know, in all reality roughly
28 -- you know, sometimes a third of the Council travel
29 expense is actually getting the Federal Staff out to
30 the meetings, so this would completely eliminate that
31 expense. Also, a lot of communities, like, for
32 example, in this region, you might have to fly through
33 Anchorage. You know, like if you're coming from, you
34 know, out on the Chain to Kodiak for a meeting, you
35 have to fly through Anchorage and then back down to
36 Kodiak. So this would -- you know, there's half the
37 expense right there gone, because you're stopping the
38 flight at Anchorage. A lot of other regional areas,
39 the flights to the central hubs are, you know, that's
40 just one part of the flight. And then you have to go
41 out to the more remote areas. So in a lot of ways
42 there will be some cost-savings by having this.

43

44 There will be the expense of having,
45 you know, the meeting facility compared to some other,
46 but in the collective, when you look at over six to
47 eight weeks of travel and meeting venues, and per
48 diems, and all that sort of stuff, you know, it could
49 very well be that this would not be in the end a
50 significant expense, and could actually have cost

1 savings.

2

3 Again, we haven't spent the time to do
4 the complete analysis, because, you know, given that
5 we're short-staffed, we didn't want to spend at that
6 time doing all the cost analysis until we got an idea
7 that the Councils actually wanted to do this. And then
8 if they do want to do it, then we'll spend the time and
9 the energy, and then it would be up to the joint
10 meeting committee that would then -- or working group
11 that would then both develop the agenda and then, you
12 know, give the final go ahead to complete -- you know,
13 to do the work on the meeting in the event, you know,
14 looking at the cost analysis.

15

16 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Okay. I guess the
17 Council can wait for and get -- if the majority agrees
18 to go ahead and have this kind of thing, find out what
19 it's going to cost.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
22 questions.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: None. Oh, what do
27 you require at this time? It's just information?

28

29 MR. JOHNSON: Just a sense of whether
30 or not the Council approves of the idea and concept,
31 and then that way once we get a full tally from all the
32 councils, we can move forward or not move forward with
33 doing some initial planning.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: So either way I'll
36 hear from you whether we're going forward or not?

37

38 MR. JOHNSON: That's for sure.
39 Because, you know, so far the North Slope Council's in
40 support of it, and if you're in support of it -- it's
41 conceivable perhaps maybe the other eight Councils are
42 against the idea, in which case we would abandon it,
43 but if everybody else supported it, then we would just
44 give the Council reports as we move on with initial
45 planning. And then, of course, there would be
46 developing a joint Council committee to plan the joint
47 meeting.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

50

1 MR. KOSO: Well, I support it. Mr.
2 Chair.
3
4 MR. SCHWANTES: And I support it as
5 well.
6
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I think we're all
8 in support of it. So you've got the go-ahead from the
9 Kodiak/Aleutians.
10
11 Peter.
12
13 MR. SQUARTSOFF: No, I support it.
14
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Vincent. Antone.
16
17 MR. SHELIKOFF: Yeah. Antone.
18
19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. We heard
20 Vincent. He's in support. Okay. That's it.
21
22 MR. JOHNSON: Yep. Thank you, Mr.
23 Chair.
24
25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Carl.
26 All-Chairs meeting before January 2015.
27
28 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
29 This is just kind of another short administrative item.
30 It was brought up at some recent Council meetings, the
31 desire perhaps some of the Chairs would like to meet
32 together in advance of the Federal Subsistence Board
33 regulatory meetings just so they could discuss issues.
34 This is something that used to happen in the past, but
35 was discontinued.
36
37 Because the Councils are governed by
38 the Federal Advisory Committee Act, there are certain
39 requirements that have to be met if the Councils or
40 their representatives are meeting and having
41 substantive discussions about policies or regulatory
42 changes. And it was determined in the past that the
43 Chairs meetings as they were in the past really
44 couldn't have both a private meeting and comply with
45 the Federal Advisory Committee Act.
46
47 So I had a discussion with our
48 solicitor about how we could do this, and it can be
49 done to have such a meeting where the Chairs can get
50 together. There's just kind of either -- there's two

1 way to do it. Either you can have a meeting in
2 advance, and, you know, myself and some other Staff
3 will be there to assist the Chairs in the meeting to
4 make sure they didn't violate FACA, or the Chairs could
5 meet after the meeting, and then that way there
6 wouldn't be any risk of discussing or planning any of
7 the regulatory issues in advance. So there's a way to
8 do it, and we'll just work on some kind of a guidance
9 to guide the Chairs in their meeting, if the Chairs
10 wanted to have the meeting.

11
12 So this was just again sort of more of
13 an informational item, that this has been discussed and
14 that there would be a means of putting one together if
15 the chairs so desired.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I can't think of a
18 purpose. What would the purpose of that be?

19
20 MR. JOHNSON: That's a very good
21 question, Mr. Chair. I think perhaps maybe you might
22 want to -- we could help connect you with the other
23 Chairs, and you could talk to them, you know, Chair to
24 Chair about whether or not there is a need for such a
25 meeting, and what the purpose would be.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: You've got a
28 question, Tom?

29
30 MR. SCHWANTES: No, sir. Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Vincent, do you
33 have any questions.

34
35 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Well, just a question
36 to ask, Mr. Chair. You know, what would be the
37 purpose, and I guess we'll all get together and find a
38 purpose. I don't know. I don't understand it.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Well, we have like
41 the Federal Subsistence Board meeting, and all Chairs
42 are present there. I'm sorry, I don't.....

43
44 MR. TUTIAKOFF: I agree. That's where
45 the Chairs meet anyway, at that level.

46
47 MR. JOHNSON: All right. Well, I think
48 I have enough. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah. Yeah, we'll

1 just move on with that. I just have -- my personal
2 feeling is that we already have a Chairs meeting at the
3 Federal Subsistence Board meeting. So no action
4 required.

5
6 Okay. Now we're down to the fun part.
7 The agency reports. Fifteen minutes or less. First on
8 the line is OSM.

9
10 MR. McKEE: Mr. Chair. I'll endeavor
11 to be as brief as possible. I'll definitely be less
12 than 15 minutes.

13
14 Mr. Chair. Members of the Council. My
15 name is Chris McKee. I am the wildlife division chief
16 for the Office of Subsistence Management out of
17 Anchorage.

18
19 Most of what I have to report for you
20 is staffing updates. I can just briefly mention that
21 in terms of the budget, there are no changes to the
22 budget. We've been talking a lot about flat budgets
23 and not a lot of money to go around. I have nothing to
24 report that anything's particularly any better.

25
26 However, one thing that has improved
27 within OSM is staffing. I think at one point, and
28 others can correct me if I'm wrong, we had somewhere
29 between 13 or 15 vacancies in OSM alone. And we've
30 been fortunate enough to be able to either fill some of
31 those positions right now or be in the process of
32 filling them. So just a quick update on where our
33 staffing is at.

34
35 Deborah Coble was hired as our new
36 subsistence outreach coordinator, which was vacated by
37 Andrea Medeiros. She previously worked out of Delta
38 Junction with the Department of Defense, and she has
39 been doing a great job in putting together the booklets
40 for all the RAC meetings. That's been going really
41 smoothly.

42
43 Chuck Ardizzone, who used to be the
44 wildlife division chief, is now our deputy assistant
45 regional director for the Office of Subsistence
46 Management. So he's kind of Gene Peltola's right-hand
47 man now. Chuck has a lot of experience. He's been
48 with the subsistence program for probably the better
49 part of 10 years or so, so we're really to have him
50 there.

1 Pamela Raygor was hired at the new lead
2 secretary, and we're trying to recruit to fill in her
3 old position as administrative assistant. So that's
4 on-going as well.

5
6 Also in the admin department, Glenn
7 Westdahl has transitioned to the Council coordination
8 division as a dedicated travel and administrative
9 person.

10
11 Stuart Cogswell was hired as the new
12 supervisory fisheries biologist. He has been a 20-year
13 employee with the Fish and Wildlife Service. He's
14 coming to us from Minnesota. He has extensive
15 experience working with tribes and state agencies, and
16 is going to be well-equipped to handle some of the more
17 controversial issues we've been having with fisheries,
18 like on the Kuskokwim. So we're really excited to have
19 him. I think he's actually currently driving up here
20 right now. I think he's actually supposed to be
21 starting in the office not next week, but I think the
22 week after. So we're looking forward to getting him in
23 there and filling that position that's been vacant for
24 actually quite some time.

25
26 And I just got the job as the wildlife
27 chief at the end of July, but I've been a staff
28 biologist at OSM since April of 2011. So if you want
29 any wildlife questions answered, you give me a call,
30 and if I don't know the answer, I'll find somebody that
31 does. So I'm excited to be there.

32
33 Alex Nick retired from the Fish and
34 Wildlife Service after 21 years. Thirteen of those
35 years was with OSM. He was the subsistence management
36 -- he was a Council coordinator I believe for the
37 Yukon-Kuskokwim and the Seward Peninsula. And
38 recruitment is currently underway for two more Council
39 coordinators.

40
41 I should also back up and say that the
42 wildlife -- I will be trying to hire two new wildlife
43 biologists, two staff biologists. One to replace my
44 position and one to replace another biologist who
45 laterally transferred to another division. We have the
46 waiver for one position approved, and I'm waiting for
47 the waiver for my old position to be approved through
48 D.C. And when that is approved, and hopefully that
49 will be very soon, we're going to advertise both of
50 those positions at the same time. So I'm really hoping

1 to have two biologists on staff hopefully well before
2 the new year, at the end of this year, so we can have a
3 fully-staffed wildlife department.

4
5 The waiver for the anthropology chief
6 has been approved, and recruitment for that position
7 will start soon. We've actually just done interviews
8 for a new anthropologist-slash-social scientist. I
9 don't know if the interview process is finished. I
10 don't know if they've made an actual decision on that
11 position, who to hire, but the interview process is
12 done, so we should have somebody coming on shortly for
13 that as well.

14
15 So that was most of what I have to
16 discuss. There is a little bit about there's been a
17 draft tribal consultation implementation guidelines
18 going around. We do have a working group making
19 revisions to that, and the Board is aware of some of
20 their progress, but there's been no draft that's been
21 approved for final implementation. But I just wanted
22 to make you aware of that.

23
24 So most of what I've been up here to
25 talk about was staffing, and hopefully we'll get all
26 those positions filled and be a fully functional
27 division again. So it's nice to see some movement on
28 some of these positions and get them filled,
29 particularly with regards to some of the anthropology
30 stuff, because I know we've been having very short-
31 staffing in anthropology division, and also the
32 wildlife as well. So we're excited to have fully
33 staffed divisions on that level.

34
35 So that's it for me.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

38
39 MR. HOLMES: Something that I think
40 would help us, Chris, is once you get these -- I think
41 my tally was like 11 or 12 new slots filled here, it
42 would be really handy for us to get an email. Used to
43 have a little pamphlet of OSM, who does what, what
44 agencies, phone numbers and emails. And I think Pippa
45 got a reasonable update for me, but I don't know that
46 the other Council has. So if we could receive -- you
47 know, whenever you have significant changes, if you
48 could give it to the coordinators to pass on to folks,
49 so that when we do have questions, we know who to call.
50 And particularly for geezers like me that are pushing

1 Alzheimer's, you know, I have a clue, because I can't
2 remember. But I think it would help us a bunch.

3
4 MR. McKEE: That's a good idea, and
5 also we're trying our best to update our OSM website as
6 well. There hasn't been a lot of update on that one.
7 The only update I've seen on that website recently was
8 my position, my new position. But I know that, you
9 know, the internet isn't always the most available
10 resource either.

11
12 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. If I might
13 comment. And Carl, too. Since you guys, whoever
14 revised your website for OSM, it sucks. I mean, the
15 one that was there before worked, and there's some
16 things I try to access, and it comes up and says, you
17 can't get in here. And I try and try and try, and then
18 I call Pippa or somebody else, and they'll send me the
19 PDF, you know, through the email. And whoever is
20 working on that, I wish that they would just be given a
21 little extra time or whatever to get the thing more
22 user friendly, because it's -- I'm not that much of a
23 computer geek, but when I push on push here, right
24 click, and nothing happens, then it causes emotional
25 responses that I don't like to have.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Carl.

30
31 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32
33 Just some supplemental staffing
34 information. The Council coordinator positions that
35 I'm going to be hiring for, we're hiring two. And the
36 reason why we're hiring two is Alex Nick retired, but
37 also there's been a vacant Council coordinator position
38 on our organizational chart for over three years. And
39 that's why you guys have had a floating Council
40 coordinator for the last three years is because we
41 haven't had a Council coordinator assigned to this
42 region, and it's been the acting division chief or the
43 division chief, myself, that fills in. And one of the
44 things that's going to happen as a result of this
45 hiring is you will get a permanent, dedicated Council
46 coordinator for this region. I don't know who that's
47 going to be. I'm going to wait and see who I hire to
48 see who I assign to which regions. Obviously giving
49 the Council coordinators some preference, because
50 they've developed good relationships with some of their

1 regions, but really I'm going to go with who I think is
2 going to be the best person for each region, and I'll
3 be looking for hopefully people who have specific
4 personal connections to regions as a means of assigning
5 them, but we'll see how that goes.

6

7 And then as for the website, Patrick,
8 we feel your pain, because that format was forced upon
9 us by the Department of Interior. We were initially
10 given a period of time. We were told we were going to
11 be able to transition to it, and then literally one
12 weekend we came back to work on a Monday morning, and
13 they said, okay, we're switching you over now. So we
14 were not given the opportunity to fully transition all
15 of the content and the functionality, so that's
16 something we're working on slowly over the time. So
17 it's really helpful when people such as yourself or
18 anybody else from the public has problems with finding
19 content or accessing content. Let us know, and we can
20 work on -- we've made several changes already just to
21 the Council coordination part to make some of that
22 information more accessible. So anytime you have any
23 problems, just let us know.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead. More
28 questions, Pat.

29

30 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Through the Chair.
31 Just a comment for the record, and I hope it carries
32 through into the written summary of our thing, and then
33 I know occasionally there's been bumps, but frankly I'd
34 like to see you stay as our coordinator, and I'd give
35 you your same salary and reduce your workload, because
36 you're pretty clever on getting some things done for
37 us, like the finagling for going to remote sites. And,
38 you know, occasionally you'll slip up on some things,
39 but most -- you can leave that out. I think that
40 you've been probably one of our -- probably the best
41 one that we've had on trying to get our Council moving
42 in the directions that we're hoping to go. So I want
43 to give you an attaboy with a couple stars, and perhaps
44 some of our other folks might want to comment off the
45 record. But, you know, what can you do? You did a good
46 job.

47

48 MS. TRUMBLE: No comment.

49

50 (Laughter)

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Peter.
2
3 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. While you're
4 talking about coordinators, I ran into our last
5 coordinator, Michelle, the other day, and she said,
6 make sure you tell everybody hello.
7
8 MR. HOLMES: Oh, that's swell.
9
10 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair.
11
12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Della.
13
14 MS. TRUMBLE: I'm just going to tease
15 Carl here, and say no comment, because I had to arm
16 wrestle him, literally wrestle him to get a meeting
17 here in King Cove, so it wasn't that easy.
18
19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
20 questions, comments.
21
22 (No comments)
23
24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Well, thank
25 you.
26
27 MS. TRUMBLE: I have a question.
28
29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della.
30
31 MS. TRUMBLE: Carl, I was kind of not
32 paying attention, and I apologize, but did you say you
33 have people that are applicants now for that position,
34 or you're going to be recruiting for applicants for
35 that position?
36
37 MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair. Yes,
38 I'm sorry, I wasn't very clear on that. So we sent out
39 two announcements. The first announcement was to all
40 Federal employees, and then the second announcement was
41 all U.S. citizens. I've already received a list from
42 H.R. on the first announcement. The second
43 announcement has closed, but I haven't received yet the
44 list of applicants from the second announcement. Once
45 I have that in, then I'll start the process of -- I'll
46 work together -- we usually get a three-person
47 committee that gets together. In the past, when I
48 first started working here, and this is the first time
49 Mitch ever heard who I was, when I hired Council
50 coordinators two years ago, I called each of the

1 Council Chairs and asked them -- first I introduced
2 myself, because most of them didn't know who I was, and
3 I asked them, what would you like to have as a Council
4 coordinator? What's important to you as a Council
5 coordinator for your region. So I actually still have
6 that, and I kind of keep that in mind as I'm going
7 through and making my hiring selections, in addition to
8 the other stuff that matters regarding efficiency and
9 planning and meeting facilitation and all that, but
10 that's something I keep in mind.

11
12 MR. HOLMES: I'd like to see somebody,
13 if you hire them, not only that has perhaps some
14 cultural ties to our neck of the woods and
15 understanding, but someone that knows how to beat the
16 bureaucratic system, or at least massage it, to try to
17 reach the goals of our Council.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Any other
20 comments.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: All right. Good
25 luck with that, Carl.

26
27 Next U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

28
29 MR. DAMBERG: Mr. Chairman and Council
30 members. Again, I'm Doug Damberg. I'm the refuge
31 manager at Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. And this
32 is Stacey Lowe. She's our wildlife biologist at the
33 Refuge.

34
35 It's a pleasure to be able to come in
36 front of you today. Today is my first time to sit in
37 front of the Council and listen into a meeting. I
38 really appreciate all the insights and information that
39 you've shared and that I've been able to learn in the
40 last 24 hours with you all. We've had some good
41 biological discussions about some of our programs, and
42 some of the shared concerns we have in the area. We
43 look forward to continuing to learn from you and
44 working together on those issues. And I look forward
45 also to some of your help with outreach efforts that we
46 can do to work with communities here. And I welcome
47 any input that you all have at any time, and invite you
48 to call me up any time and talk and share your thoughts
49 I look at this as an on-going discussion, not just once
50 every six months, but, you know, an open dialogue and

1 on-going discussion so that we can continue to improve
2 things and work together.

3

4 Stacey will give you our biological
5 report, and we're happy to answer questions.

6

7 MS. LOWE: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair.
8 Again my name is Stacey Lowe, and I'm the wildlife
9 biologist at Izembek Refuge.

10

11 I provided the written report in the
12 book, but I'm going to go through it and just report on
13 some of the highlights, and I will take questions at
14 the end.

15

16 So starting off with the caribou on the
17 Southern Alaska Peninsula, since the last time we met
18 in the spring, the 2013 and '14 Federal subsistence
19 hunt closed on March 31st, and resulted in only one out
20 of the 20 Federal permits being filled. The one bull
21 was harvested by a Cold Bay resident. For this year,
22 in 2014, both the State and Federal subsistence hunts
23 were re-opened again for Unit 9D with a total harvest
24 goal of 40 caribou. For the Federal hunt, we
25 distributed 20 permits. Allocated to each of five
26 communities were four permits. And the Federal hunt is
27 currently open. It opened on August 10th. It will
28 close on September 20th and reopen on November 15th
29 until March 31st of next year. To date, no caribou
30 have been reported as harvested for this year.

31

32 On Unimak Island this year, Alaska
33 Department of Fish and Game is the principal
34 investigator, and they initiated another caribou calf
35 mortality research study that started in June. They
36 were able to put out 18 radio collars on the newborn
37 calves, and they're looking at causes of mortality.
38 And my understanding is they're going to provide a
39 report later on in the meeting here.

40

41 For the brown bear surveys we conduct
42 each year in the fall, stream surveys where we're
43 surveying to count an index of productivity and
44 population size for the brown bears. As you may
45 recall, last year we were a little bit late in
46 conducting the surveys, and it resulted in fairly low
47 numbers. This year we did conduct the survey earlier,
48 and the numbers aren't reflected in this report as we
49 turned in this report in July and we conducted the
50 survey the week of August 20th. So those numbers will

1 be printed in the spring report. But preliminarily I
2 can report that the numbers were good and very
3 comparable to the levels of between 2004 and 2006. So
4 happy to see that. And that was both on Unimak Island
5 and on Izembek, on the Peninsula. The numbers were
6 both comparable to previous years.

7
8 For the waterfowl, reporting on the
9 Pacific brant, this fall again we'll be conducting the
10 population survey on Izembek Lagoon, and that's
11 conducted by the migratory bird management office. And
12 that will be in that same time window of early October
13 they should be down here to do that.

14
15 We also go out on the ground and
16 conduct productivity counts where we count the number
17 of adult and juvenile birds to get an idea of the index
18 on productivity. We've already started that, and I've
19 conducted several surveys, but that basically lasts all
20 of September and most of October we'll be conducting
21 those counts, and again those numbers will be reported
22 in the spring.

23
24 For the emperor goose, the 2014 spring
25 count data resulted in about an 18 percent increase
26 above the 2012 estimate. As you may recall, the
27 surveys were not conducted in 2013. These are the
28 aerial flights conducted by the migratory bird office,
29 and that's what's reflected in the graph, figure 3, in
30 our report.

31
32 In the fall simultaneously to
33 conducting the brant productivity counts, we also do
34 the same for the emperor goose, and measure the number
35 of juveniles, a ratio to adults. So we've already
36 initiated those counts as well.

37
38 As you'll note, the spring three-year
39 average, which is the number used for the management
40 decisions, is on an increasing trend, but as you'll
41 note, it is still below the 80,000 as we've already
42 talked about today.

43
44 This year in the spring we conducted
45 the annual tundra swan survey, which is an aerial
46 survey flown on the Izembek portion of the refuge and
47 the adjacent Pavlof unit. And basically we fly the
48 low-lying areas of the wetlands, and we count the
49 number of swans and nests that are present on the
50 Refuge. Overall the numbers look good, slightly lower

1 than the long-term averages, but the survey hasn't been
2 conducted since 2009, so we will conduct it again next
3 year and take a look at the numbers.

4
5 This fall we're also continuing with
6 the avian influenza and avian blood parasite program
7 where we've worked cooperatively with the U.S.G.S.
8 scientists to obtain samples from hunter-harvested
9 waterfowl. And we will be conducting that program here
10 this fall at the refuge again.

11
12 This year we also continued a long-term
13 effort to assess the productivity and biomass and
14 abundance of the eelgrass in Izembek Lagoon. As most
15 of you will note, the Izembek Lagoon contains one of
16 the largest eelgrass beds in the world, and is a very
17 critical resource for many species that utilize the
18 refuge, so we're still continuing that program to track
19 the distribution and abundance of the eelgrass.

20
21 This year we will be able to head back out
22 to Unimak Island and collect our photos that we took of
23 the Steller sea lion population. Last year we
24 initiated a project to monitor the population and use
25 of haul-out sites by Steller sea lions, and we were
26 successful and collected a lot of photos. We're still
27 in the process of analyzing those, and be happy to
28 report our report our results of that in the spring.

29
30 We did redeploy the cameras, and we're
31 also initiating cameras at two more sites here this
32 fall we hope to get up.

33
34 Something interesting to know, and I've
35 already mentioned this to Della, but while we were
36 doing these surveys, we also noted the presence of
37 walrus on Unimak Island for the first time in a long
38 time. And we've since documented four occurrences of
39 the walruses hauling out on Cape Sarichef on Unimak
40 Island, so we'll look for putting that in the report
41 for the spring, but it's a pretty interesting
42 occurrence.

43
44 We've also done several education and
45 outreach activities at the Refuge this year. In the
46 spring we were able to help host the False Pass and
47 Cold Bay school science camp at the refuge, and we were
48 able to get the kids out and we took them out on the
49 lagoon, and they got to sample all the critters with
50 nets, and really bring home a good science education

1 for these kids, and give them a chance to meet each
2 other and hang out. It was a really neat experience,
3 and we look forward to continuing that relationship
4 with the schools in the future.

5
6 We also had a Youth Conservation Corps
7 group visit the Refuge this summer, and they went out
8 to the Grant's Point gazebo and were able to refurbish
9 the entire gazebo, repaint it and really spruce it up
10 and make it look nice. And they did a wonderful job,
11 and we were happy to have them aboard. In addition to
12 the gazebo, they were also able to help us on several
13 of our biological projects, so they got a chance to
14 experience some of our research that we do at the
15 Refuge. And they helped with a spruce tree project and
16 with the eelgrass sampling.

17
18 If anybody has visited the dock over in
19 Cold Bay, you may have noted that we were able to put
20 up four new educational panels this year. They've been
21 installed at the end of the dock, and they will stay
22 there through October, so that visitors from the ferry
23 and other hunters and people coming to fish will have a
24 chance to review them. They will be removed during the
25 winter to help preserve the signs in the long term.

26
27 This year we were able to do the ferry
28 tours with the Tustumena coming every two weeks. And
29 we have taken folks out, approximately 24 to 30
30 visitors each trip. We've taken them out to the Refuge
31 and basically done an interpretive tour all the way to
32 Grant's Point, and then they also get a chance to visit
33 the office and look at our displays there.

34
35 In the spring we were able to assist
36 with the City of Cold Bay's annual dolly derby for the
37 kids. It's an annual event that's held at Trout Creek,
38 and we were able to help the kids fish. We did a cook-
39 out, and just explore the area and learn about nature.
40 And we had about 15 kids participate this year, both
41 from Cold Bay and King Cove, along with other friends
42 and family members. And it was a great experience, and
43 we look forward to doing that again next year.

44
45 And most recently, just yesterday, we
46 had the great opportunity to finally meet a lot of the
47 King Cove kids, and Doug and I went up there and were
48 able to do just a brief presentation to teach them
49 about the different projects and research that we do at
50 the Refuge, and just about the career of a wildlife

1 biologist in general, so it was really fun and we're
2 looking forward to doing more programs in the future.

3

4 That's all I have for my report, Mr.
5 Chair. I'm willing to answer questions.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Della.

8

9 MS. TRUMBLE: This is Della.

10

11 Yeah, thanks for taking that time
12 yesterday. As I've explained, we've had -- had a long
13 meeting with the two last night, and I think we are on
14 the road I think, heading the right direction as far as
15 the education, the communication. And not only that,
16 but the ability to partner on some of these projects
17 that I think in the future, which would be really good.

18

19 One question I had, and without a map I
20 think, first is going to the -- I'll wait on the
21 caribou, of course, for the State reports. But on the
22 brant population counts, are you looking at doing this
23 at this -- I was trying to figure out where these
24 different points were in looking at like Morzhovoi and
25 toward Unimak on these species. I know Stalimek (ph)
26 is brought up on many occasions when we've looked at
27 this issue with the Brants on seeing them in different
28 areas than what they normally have been counted in the
29 past. Have you expanded or looked at expanding
30 possibly where these counts are being done?

31

32 MS. LOWE: Thank you, Della. Yep, in
33 the last several years they've started incorporation
34 Sanak Island as one of the study plots when they're
35 doing the complete population counts. Our productivity
36 counts are separate from the full population count
37 which is conducted by migratory birds, and our counts
38 are just specific to Izembek Lagoon. And we haven't
39 conducted those anywhere else yet.

40

41 MR. DAMBERG: And can I add, too, USGS
42 this year is also collecting primary feathers off of
43 birds that are harvested. And they're doing that to
44 basically try to pinpoint where a lot of these birds
45 are traveling from and get a little better idea of
46 where their origins are, so that's kind of a new twist
47 on the study and the research that we've collectively
48 doing out there. Next year maybe we'll have a -- or
49 maybe by this spring or next year we'll have a little
50 better idea of kind of the origins of a lot of the

1 birds coming to Izembek.

2

3 MS. TRUMBLE: I guess if I can keep
4 going with my questions. Okay.

5

6 The next one is on the Steller sea lion
7 population monitoring, and I'm just kind of curious.
8 Do you like make sure -- or not make sure, take the
9 time, like let people in False Pass know that, you
10 know, we're doing this study and this is why we're
11 doing it? I guess I'm not sure if I was even aware
12 this was being done. I know -- I was kind of curious
13 about that. And then I'll let you move to that.

14

15 And then I go to the question of some
16 -- it was my understanding, and I don't -- and it's
17 back to caribou. There was some surveys or study being
18 done on the feed on Unimak, and if it had any impact on
19 the crash of the caribou population. And I didn't see
20 anything -- I haven't seen anything on that study, what
21 are the results of it.

22

23 So the two questions. Thanks.

24

25 MS. LOWE: Yes. Thank you, Della. To
26 answer your first question regarding the Steller sea
27 lions, I did a school program for the kids back in it
28 was January or February, and I talked extensively with
29 them about the cameras and doing the study. And then
30 we actually went out and put a camera up with the kids.
31 So the school was aware of what we're doing, but we
32 haven't informed the rest of the community.

33

34 MR. DAMBERG: Actually just to step in
35 there, I did stop by and talk to Tom Hoblett in the
36 last fall/winter sometime, and gave him a copy of the
37 RAC report at that time, too, and tried to overview him
38 on some of the things we're doing. And I actually
39 don't remember if we talked specifically about that,
40 but I did give him an overview on some of the projects
41 we were doing, and a copy of the draft RAC report, and
42 may have had some discussion of the program.

43

44 MS. LOWE: Yeah. And then to answer
45 you second question regarding the caribou nutrition
46 study, we are still awaiting the final results. All of
47 the seasonal data has been processed except for winter,
48 which is the most critical period for the caribou, so
49 we're awaiting those results from the University of
50 Alaska.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
2 question. Rick.

3
4 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Stacey, Doug. Yeah,
5 thanks again for educating our kids. That's really
6 great.

7
8 On the Steller sea lion issue, are you
9 working with the endangered species people on that, or
10 is this just something you guys are doing on your own?
11 Who are you working with on that, because I know -- I
12 have attended many of the North Pacific Council
13 meetings, and it's been a big issue for the western
14 Aleutians. So is that just something you guys are
15 doing, are you involved with the marine fisheries in
16 some way?

17
18 MS. LOWE: Thanks, Rick. Yes, at this
19 point it's just a study that we have initiated to gauge
20 sort of the amount of use on Unimak Island. And we've
21 started talks with Alaska Fish and Game, their Steller
22 sea lion specialist, to potentially do some cooperative
23 work, but we haven't engaged other Federal agencies at
24 this point.

25
26 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I guess I'm a little
27 concerned that there's been a lot of testimony and a
28 lot of grief I should say over the Steller sea lion
29 issue in the western Aleutians. I mean, they closed
30 down tremendous areas of fisheries because of Steller
31 sea lions. And, you know, when I heard you're posting
32 cameras and stuff, I know the North Pacific Council and
33 the endangered species people have been supposedly
34 putting cameras out in the Aleutians in the rookeries
35 and haul-out areas to monitor sea lions, but this is
36 the first time I heard the Refuge people doing it. So
37 it's kind of -- you know, I just don't understand you
38 guys doing it, spending money, if you're not working
39 through some other region that really maybe could use
40 this information. I guess I'm just kind of dumbfounded
41 that you're doing it on your own, and it's such a big
42 issue in the State of Alaska.

43
44 MS. LOWE: Yeah, if I could comment on
45 that. We're monitoring our areas that were not
46 designated as the critical habitat when the initial
47 listing occurred. These are areas we're not sure if
48 they're newly using them. The historical information
49 is pretty spotty. It's really just trying to document
50 when and how often they're using it before we move any

1 further on this.

2

3 MR. KOSO: It would be real nice if --
4 if you've got that information, I'd sure like to have
5 it if you can give me a copy later when you get your
6 information on that, it would be great.

7

8 MR. DAMBERG: Yeah. We're happy to
9 share, you know, any of the data that we collect with
10 folks for sure.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom.

13

14 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I'm going to go
15 back to this Unimak caribou thing. I know we're going
16 to get a report later, but I'd like to address it while
17 you're here. I think from a conversation we had
18 earlier, you indicated to me that there hasn't been a
19 complete bear survey of Unimak since 2000 or something
20 like that, and the number of bear permits that are
21 being issued on Unimak is based on that population
22 survey from 2000. So I guess my concern again is the
23 low caribou population, and, of course, the brown bear
24 is part of that predation problem I'm sure. And so I
25 would like to see a complete survey, brown bear survey.
26 I understand it's over-due. And so I'd like to see a
27 thorough survey, and then let's look at getting some
28 more permits issued based on the current population.

29

30 MS. LOWE: Mr. Chair. I'd just like to
31 fill everyone else in on our discussion, if you don't
32 mind, Thomas.

33

34 What we were talking about is every 10
35 years, rather than the stream survey that we conduct
36 annually, we can work with the State and we conduct a
37 full transect survey where it's basically a census of
38 the population to get a very accurate count of exactly
39 how many bears are out there. And as I mentioned, the
40 last survey was conducted in 2002, and our management
41 plan indicates that we try to do it on a 10-year cycle.
42 So we're about two years beyond that at this point.
43 So that's different than the graphs that are here in
44 this report.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Tom.

47

48 MR. SCHWANTES: So my understanding is
49 that the number of bear that are being allowed to be
50 taken is based on that 2000 survey. So if we have 200

1 bears in 2000 and now we've got 300 bears, we could
2 certainly issue more permits for Unimak Island. Am I
3 correct?

4

5 MS. LOWE: Yes.

6

7 MR. SCHWANTES: Thank you.

8

9 MS. LOWE: Sorry, my microphone was
10 off. Yes, but we don't set the harvest levels. The
11 State Fish and Game sets the bear harvest on Unimak.

12

13 MR. SCHWANTES: Right. Right. I
14 understand that. It's just that, you know, my concern
15 again is that caribou herd, and I want to do everything
16 I can, and I believe this Council agrees, we want to do
17 everything we can to boost that caribou population.
18 And if we can take 15 more bears off of that island,
19 that's great. Let's take 15 more bears off that
20 island, do whatever we can to help that caribou
21 population. And I understand we've got to work with
22 Fish and Game on that, but the bottom line is we need
23 that survey. And so, you know, I would just encourage
24 you, since we're two years behind now, let's get it
25 done as soon as we can so we can have those numbers to
26 work with.

27

28 Thanks.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della.

31

32 MS. TRUMBLE: I guess just kind of
33 leading into that, too, and as an afterthought, is any
34 numbers or surveys on wolves on either 90 or 10 being
35 done.

36

37 MS. LOWE: Currently there aren't any
38 wolf surveys specifically. We do record incidental
39 observations during other survey work, but we don't
40 spec -- we haven't specifically surveyed for wolves.

41

42 MS. TRUMBLE: The reason I kind of went
43 to this, because it seems like it was -- I'm thinking
44 it was about a year ago, and I think Chris Dell for the
45 ADF&G had given a report, and they were in the process
46 of doing a survey on the caribou, and we talked about
47 the issue at that time, the State had -- where they had
48 a four-year opening on taking down wolves, and, you
49 know, because of the predator control issue and the
50 impact on the caribou. And at the time I think she

1 said when they would look at the wolves, like you said,
2 as incidental -- or not incidental, but, you know, as
3 part of their survey.

4
5 And the reason I bring this up is this
6 past winter, we've had a lot of wolves in King Cove.
7 And there's been a couple occasions where we've had
8 packs of six or more up on the hillside and into town.
9 And that is a major concern. And that this issue with
10 the wolves I think plays right into this caribou issue,
11 and I can't -- you know, I think there needs to be more
12 attention to it, because of the impacts, you know, that
13 it's creating. You know, I realize the caribou
14 population may be coming up, but would it be coming up
15 a lot more if there was more work being done on trying
16 to figure out the predator control issue.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

19
20 MS. TRUMBLE: I want an answer.

21
22 MR. DAMBERG: As you know, it's a hard
23 one to answer, and I know it's been -- there's been
24 lots of discussions over time, and there's many factors
25 that play into it. And, of course, we've looked and
26 are looking at habitat factors and how those play in,
27 and we've talked about some of the caribou dynamics
28 over time, and those long-term fluctuations. So right
29 now we are looking at it, we're aware of it. Of
30 course, there's conflicting laws that different
31 agencies have, and things that make it a delicate
32 balance also to find that path forward. As you know,
33 the Refuge is open for hunting, too, so we do hear some
34 people are doing some hunting and trapping on the
35 Refuge, and we're monitoring best we can as we're out
36 doing other surveys and tracking things.

37
38 But I don't have a good answer for you
39 right now, but I appreciate your comments, and it's
40 good to hear your thoughts and insights about the wolf
41 populations and those dynamics out on the ground.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pat.

44
45 MR. HOLMES: On your last topic, I was
46 told by some local folks that one of the guides was
47 encouraging folks while they were out hunting caribou
48 to take a wolf or two. And the rumor I heard, I have
49 no idea if it's true, was that one of the previous
50 managers basically threatened them to lose their guide

1 license if they persisted in hunting wolves. And so if
2 there's any substance to that, that was very bad form.
3 And I don't really know anything, it's just speculation
4 and rumor, but there's a difference between the
5 philosophy of Refuge management and maintaining bio
6 diversity and defining those topics would take a large
7 team of lawyers. But, anyway, I'll leave that behind.
8

9 Let's see. I wonder, and I've asked
10 this question before, and I wanted to compliment you,
11 because Stacey has been very helpful, and I think the
12 chats we've had over meals and whatnot with our new
13 manager and everything have been to me very positive,
14 and that you folks are listening, and within the limits
15 of what your operational levels are or criteria, I
16 think that you folks are really trying to be
17 responsible to our questions.
18

19 And I would ask this question again. I
20 went to one of the Federal Board meeting, and I
21 listened in. It sounded to me like all the other
22 refuges do their survey during the calving or pre-
23 calving or post-calving period when there's an
24 aggregation of the herd is at its greatest density.
25 And it's been the question that our Council has asked
26 since I started. I know Della eight years or nine
27 years before that asked at every meeting, why persist
28 in trying to survey during the snow? And I know if you
29 get partial snow and exposed area, it's really tough to
30 count the critters, but why not do it when there's no
31 snow when you don't have to worry about -- I mean, that
32 used to be my greatest fear on flying stream surveys is
33 to have a storm come down and (makes sound) into a
34 mountain. Nobody wants to do that. And so when it's
35 not snowing is certainly a safer time. And so if you
36 could maybe comment on that, because I think you'd have
37 a much greater degree of success doing it when the
38 other refuges are doing it when the caribou are all
39 compact. And I know that, you know, there's a pretty
40 good idea of where the calving grounds are on Unit 9.
41 I don't really have a clue on Unimak, but I suspect by
42 the, you know, the collaring areas that the State has
43 been doing, and you guys go along, I think that's well,
44 but maybe think about focusing your survey at that
45 time.
46

47 And we also chatted over coffee about
48 the potential, if you can't do it fixed wing, we did,
49 and I'll try and find and talk to my colleagues here,
50 but we did have an assurance about two or three years

1 back, and I forget if it was the head guy for refuges
2 or the deputy, but I believe -- Della might remember,
3 she's a lot younger and sharper, but we did -- I asked
4 them specifically if there would not be a priority
5 within the refuges, because of the small numbers of
6 caribou that we have left, regardless of your
7 philosophy of predator control, to have accurate
8 evaluations, and the need for surveys that your Refuge
9 would have a priority for planes and pilots. And then,
10 of course, the following year something happened and
11 things didn't work out. And, I don't know, a pilot has
12 hemorrhoids or I don't know what, but things sometimes
13 haven't happened after we've had that assurance. And,
14 you know, I hope you folks -- I'll try and find it for
15 you, because it would be very handy when you're having
16 staff meetings, planning out programs for the future,
17 that there was that assurance given to our Council that
18 you folks would have a priority of support from Fish
19 and Wildlife Service to get the surveys done. And so I
20 hope that that can be of assistance to you.

21

22 I have some questions on your
23 information you presented in the report. On your brown
24 bear figure 1, it would be nice if you could break out
25 the bears on the Refuge versus the bears on the island.
26 And then it would also be interesting to look at, in
27 the year 2000, the full transect, how that would
28 related to your stream surveys, and so you get --
29 because if you had that, then you'd know -- you could
30 have an adjustment factor. And, you know, if it isn't,
31 maybe you can take an average or something, because I
32 think that could give you a lot more finesse in being
33 able to guesstimate the number of bears on the island,
34 and evaluate what the process is.

35

36 They probably are part of the argument
37 I have heard from State biologists that coastal brown
38 bears aren't as active a predator on caribou as
39 mainland grizzly bears, because the grizzlies can run
40 a whole lot faster, but, you know, if they have the
41 chance to nail a calf when they're ambling about -- I'm
42 sorry, I'm diverging into the lawsuit here.

43

44 Your feather analysis, that's really
45 cool, because there's often been conjecture on emperor
46 geese where are they coming from? Are the Russians
47 shooting them? You know, and showing what portion of
48 our population here are Russian birds, that's great.
49 Super.

50

1 And, let's see, emperor geese, we've
2 talked a whole ton about that, and I don't think I need
3 to belabor that any more.

4
5 Let's see. Tundra swans. I talked to
6 Della about that.

7
8 I think your eelgrass monitoring,
9 that's really cool. And if you have a chance, if you
10 could personally send me your sampling design, I'm just
11 curious about it, because marine biology used to be my
12 gig.

13
14 And it's obvious that you folks from
15 noting -- you're taking notes there. On the sea lion
16 monitoring, the questions from Della and Rick on a
17 broader outreach. And your school outreach program is
18 just swell.

19
20 And I'm just so tickled to see you
21 folks over here when we got here in civilian clothes
22 and, you know, doing outreach, and not -- some of your
23 predecessors have been very officious in my humble
24 opinion. And nothing turns off a small village person
25 than somebody showing up in a uniform and telling them
26 what to do, and I think your approach on trying to talk
27 to Della and see what concerns are going on here I
28 think will carry you a long way. So I have some real
29 positive feelings for moving forward.

30
31 And I just got cut off by the Chair, so
32 I'm done anyway.

33
34 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I've just got one
35 quick one here. I'm not quite as long-winded as Pat
36 here.

37
38 But anyway I just -- I talked to Doug
39 earlier about these old man license that we get
40 nowadays, and about whether or not -- I know you don't
41 need a State stamp, but the
42 Federal stamp, I've been looking in the book since I've
43 talked to you, and all I could see is at 60-year, you
44 know, you could get a license forever, and it doesn't
45 indicate anything about having to get a Federal stamp.
46 And I know you told me that it's probably a good thing
47 to get it, because we'd probably get pinched, but I
48 don't see it in the regulation. And I think maybe I'm
49 looking in the wrong spot or something, but I'd sure
50 like to be able to see it in the book where we have to

1 do that. And I think a lot of other people have the
2 same concern I do, so if I could get that information
3 somewhere in the book where it states that we have to
4 have that. You know, I'm going to go ahead and buy it,
5 because it's for a good cause, but there are people
6 that maybe don't have the funds to do that.

7

8 Anyway, that's about all I really had,
9 and thank you for your good work.

10

11 MS. LOWE: Mr. Chair. Would it be okay
12 to address Mr. Holmes' questions.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah.

15

16 MS. LOWE: Starting with your first
17 question regarding the caribou surveys, we did attempt
18 to do a July photograph survey, and, unfortunately,
19 down here the caribou are not aggregating like they do
20 in other herds. We're finding just scattered small
21 groups. And we counted the small groups, but it's not
22 as conducive to doing those types of surveys as what we
23 found this year. We're going to try it again next year
24 to make sure it wasn't just an anomaly. And that was
25 on Unimak Island. Unfortunately the volcano was
26 erupting on the Southern Peninsula over the calving
27 grounds, so it wasn't possible to survey that area this
28 year. And we look forward to trying that next year.

29

30 On your second question, there's
31 actually another figure on the second page and the
32 bears are split between Unimak Island and Izembek
33 Refuge. It's figure 1 and figure 2. And I look
34 forward to comparing -- I appreciate your suggestion to
35 compare the full transect survey numbers to our index
36 and look at those results.

37

38 I'm pretty sure that covered all your
39 questions, unless you have any further ones.

40

41 MR. HOLMES: No. And I apologize to
42 everybody for being long-winded. It's my trait.
43 Sorry.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Peter. Okay.
46 We'll hear from Peter and then we'll take up.....

47

48 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, I just want to
49 -- I'm really glad to see that you did put some collars
50 on calves to see what happens with them, and I think

1 you guys are doing a good job, and I see good -- it
2 feels and seems like more cooperation from the Refuge
3 to help work with the people in this area. So thank
4 you.

5
6 And also, Rick, I do a lot of duck
7 hunting all over, and you do have to have a federal
8 duck stamp. You're not required to have to State
9 license or State stamp, but you are required to have a
10 Federal stamp

11
12 MR. KOSO: Well, that's what we state,
13 but I couldn't find it in the book.

14
15 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, I don't -- it's
16 there, but you have to hunt.

17
18 MR. KOSO: (Indiscernible - microphone
19 not on) in the book, you know, but.....

20
21 REPORTER: Microphone.

22
23 MR. KOSO:it didn't say anything
24 about.....

25
26 REPORTER: Your microphone.

27
28 MR. KOSO: Huh?

29
30 REPORTER: Your microphone.

31
32 MR. KOSO: Well, I didn't want this on
33 record.

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Tom.

38
39 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah. Rick, that \$60
40 -- or the free license you get is from the State, and
41 that only pertains to State license, it doesn't exempt
42 you from any of the Federal licenses.

43
44 MR. KOSO: It ain't in the book. I
45 don't care (Indiscernible - microphone not on). It
46 ain't in the book.

47
48 MR. SCHWANTES: And I, too, would like
49 to express my appreciation to the folks from the
50 Refuge. I have a much better feel for a good working

1 relationship with Refuge folks and with you guys with
2 the State, so I appreciate that.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Go ahead,
5 Della.

6

7 MS. TRUMBLE: Yeah, would like to say
8 that also, and everybody here, you have to understand,
9 this relationship, even with this Council and Izembek,
10 on occasion has not been that great. And I'm hoping
11 that we will continue to move forward on a more
12 positive note, and realizing there's a number of issues
13 of conflict, but there's no reason why we can't try to
14 address them and work on them to make it better,
15 because the people, like they're saying, and I've told
16 you, we're subsistence users. You know, our people
17 have been on those lands for thousands of years, and,
18 you know, we're going to be there one way or the other.
19 So that's it.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Doug.

22

23 MR. DAMBERG: Yeah. Thank you very
24 much, and we appreciate the feedback and welcome
25 additional feedback. I think we have a lot more common
26 issues that we can work on in a positive way going
27 forward together, and that's what we'd like to do, so
28 thanks for your feedback.

29

30 And I won't maybe address each one, but
31 Mr. Holmes brought up a couple points, and I'd just say
32 thank you for giving us some of that background. It's
33 good for my awareness to know what's helpful going
34 forward to, you know, follow up on some of those
35 issues, and maybe avoid some of those problems that
36 you've encountered in the past. So thanks.

37

38 MS. TRUMBLE: Amberly Weiss might have
39 a question.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah. Carl, do we
42 have questions from the public?

43

44 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, Amberly Weiss had
45 indicated that she want to provide a comment after the
46 Izembek report. I don't know if she has.....

47

48 MS. WEISS: (Indiscernible - away from
49 microphones)

50

1 MR. JOHNSON: Or for. So questions for
2 it.

3
4 MS. WEISS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5
6 I would just like to thank you guys
7 very much for coming up to our school yesterday and,
8 you know, talking with the kids. I know my daughter
9 really enjoyed it. She was jabbering about it for, you
10 know, a good 20 minutes last night, so thank you for
11 that.

12
13 And I would like to ask that we
14 continue building our relationship between the Izembek
15 Refuge and the community of King Cove, because over the
16 years I know there's been, you know, some sort of wall
17 built with our on-going debate for the road to Cold
18 Bay. And it is important that we have a good standing
19 relationship with Izembek, because it is, you know,
20 part of -- it's in our backyard, and our kids and our
21 ancestors, we all have been there, and we use the lands
22 and get our subsistence from there. And it's important
23 that we have a good relationship with the Refuge.

24
25 And I would like to see more education
26 outreach for our children. And that was my comment on
27 that.

28
29 I also had one more question about the
30 swans. I heard a few people talking a few months ago
31 in Cold Bay about you guys taking swans. Did you guys
32 actually -- did you guys do any taking of the swans?
33 And if so, what were your results on that?

34
35 MR. DAMBERG: Do you mean hunting
36 swans? Is that.....

37
38 MR. JOHNSON: Tagging.

39
40 MR. DAMBERG: Oh, tagging.

41
42 MS. WEISS: Tagging.

43
44 MR. DAMBERG: Go ahead.

45
46 MS. LOWE: Thanks. And we look forward
47 to doing more outreach, especially here in King Cove.

48
49 And we just did a population survey.
50 We didn't tag them. The last time they were tagged I

1 believe was 2006. They had attached the neck collars
2 to determine where they're migrating to. Did that
3 answer your question?

4
5 MS. WEISS: Yes.

6
7 MS. LOWE: Okay.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you,
10 Amberly. Della.

11
12 MS. TRUMBLE: Just a question. Was
13 there anything on paper in regard to that survey with
14 -- just determine where they're migrating to?

15
16 MS. LOWE: I'm not sure, yeah, I'd have
17 to check in our reports. And if there is a report, I
18 can certainly forward that on to you. I can't
19 recollect at this time.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
22 questions, comments. Pat.

23
24 MR. HOLMES: I'll make it really brief.
25 I was thinking that we don't need -- I mean, we're not
26 a university review board, and so if you can tease out
27 preliminary information, or draft information from the
28 University or something, hey, that's swell. We don't
29 care that everything's footnoted in appropriate final
30 style.

31
32 REPORTER: Pat, your microphone.

33
34 MR. HOLMES: Oops. If you could, if
35 it's possible, it's quite acceptable for us to, and
36 desirable, to receive draft information or incomplete
37 studies, because we don't need to have everything
38 footnoted and whatever. Just general trends or things
39 that were discovered on the Unimak study, if you could
40 get your folks to give you just sort of a preliminary
41 summary, that's swell, because, you know, that will do
42 the job, because it gives us a good idea and helps us
43 start thinking about different approaches to things.

44
45 So thank you so much.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Peter.

48
49 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. How come some
50 areas have seasons for swans and others don't? Like I

1 know up in Bethel area, they have a season for swans,
2 and then also I've hunted down in North Dakota, and my
3 friend down there drew a permit to shoot a swan. You
4 know, it seems like there should be a way where some
5 people could harvest a swan if they wanted to, or a
6 drawing permit, or whatever.

7

8 MR. DAMBERG: Well, I'll take a first
9 stab at that. Just waterfowl in general for hunting
10 are divided into different populations and different
11 flyways, and hunting is based off of just each
12 scenario, each flyway, each area. And the central
13 flyway in the Dakota area happens to have a healthier
14 population or a surplus population where there's birds
15 that can be hunted. Our birds in the Izembek area is
16 considered a resident flock, and non-migratory, smaller
17 numbers, declining population, so it's not subject to
18 hunting at this point. So it just depends on the
19 location and the population that would trigger a hunt
20 or not.

21

22 MS. LOWE: Also, I'll just add to that.
23 Yeah, my understanding was the same, was the thought
24 was that the swans that use our Refuge are a mix of
25 both resident and migrating swans. And their concern
26 was the non-migrating ones. It's a unique population.

27

28 I also am aware that for I believe two
29 seasons they did allow a small subsistence hunt, and
30 I'm not sure why that wasn't continued and what
31 happened there, but I'm happy to look into that and
32 report back at the next meeting.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
35 questions about that.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I have comment. I
40 must point out that this the longest comfortable
41 dialogue we've ever had with Izembek.

42

43 (Laughter/applause)

44

45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you for your
46 report.

47

48 MS. TRUMBLE: People would have left
49 the room by now.

50

1 (Laughter)
2
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Next on the
4 list is the National Park Service. Carl.
5
6 MR. JOHNSON: Actually, Mr. Chair, I
7 thought I'd see if there's anybody on the phone from
8 Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge who might want to give
9 a report. And I know Bill Pyle was on the phone
10 earlier.
11
12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Is there
13 anyone on the phone from Kodiak National Wildlife.
14
15 MS. LaROSA: Yes, there is. This is
16 Annemarie LaRosa. Hello to everybody.
17
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hello.
19
20 MS. LaROSA: I think I met some of you
21 at the last meeting here in Kodiak. I'm the manager
22 here. Are you there?
23
24 MR. JOHNSON: We are here.
25
26 MS. LaROSA: Oh, sorry, maybe someone
27 else hung up. I thought -- with me is Bill Pyle, the
28 supervisory biologist, McRae Cobb, another one of our
29 biologists here, and Tanya Lee, who's our Refuge
30 information technique -- technician, I'm sorry. I have
31 a bad cold. So the three of them are here.
32
33 Something I have to report, someone who
34 you knew, Kent Sundseth, the deputy manager here, he
35 left last winter, and we finally got our new deputy
36 manager here, Travis Underwood. He comes to us from
37 Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge in Dillingham. He also
38 spent quite a bit of time in Fairbanks as both a
39 fisheries biologist with the Fish and Wildlife
40 Service's office there in Fairbanks, and as an
41 assistant manager at Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
42 So lots of time in Alaska, and lots of knowledge about
43 fish and fisheries throughout the State in that job he
44 worked at as a fisheries biologist. He's probably
45 worked in about half the places in the state at one
46 time or another during his career. So we're happy to
47 have him on board here in Kodiak where we have, you
48 know, a lot of fisheries management projects.
49
50 So I guess at this point I'll turn it

1 over to Bill Pyle, and then McRae might have something
2 to say.

3

4 So thank you very much for having us.

5

6 MR. PYLE: Mr. Chair. This is Bill
7 Pyle, and I'll be reporting on activity report. In
8 part I'll start out with fisheries, and then over to
9 McRAe Cobb on wildlife.

10

11 The fisheries information that I'll be
12 referring to reflects -- the count information reflects
13 data that has been collected by the Alaska Department
14 of Fish and Game. And these counts serve for purposes
15 for a wide range of fisheries management issues,
16 including, and of great interest, of course, in terms
17 of helping manage the sport and Federal subsistence
18 fisheries as well.

19

20 Starting it off with the western area,
21 the early run of sockeye salmon in the Karluk river has
22 continued its recovery from minimal abundances observed
23 during 2008 and 2011, and escapement goals have been
24 met for the early run, and are likely to be met for the
25 late run. A total of nearly 650,000 sockeye have been
26 observed in that escapement at the Karluk. You'll
27 notice that the situation with sockeye in that system
28 in contrast Chinook salmon in Karluk as well as the
29 Ayakulik did not fair very well, and neither of those
30 runs met lower escapement goals, and emergency orders
31 were issued to close the subsistence fishery in mid
32 June through mid August.

33

34 With respect to the northern area of
35 Kodiak, the Federal marine waters near the Afognak
36 river, often referred to as Litnik, and the Buskin
37 River were intensively used by subsistence anglers
38 targeting sockeye salmon, and also continue to be use
39 by those that are targeting silver salmon currently.

40

41 In response to data on the initial
42 returns and projected accomplishment of escapement
43 goals in both seasons, emergency orders were issued in
44 June of 2014 to allow subsistence fishing near river
45 termini. These areas are usually closed most proximate
46 to the river mouth.

47

48 And I think, you know, we check in with
49 the various residents in terms of whether they're
50 meeting their subsistence fisheries goals, and the

1 reports are that, you know, they are, and the catch per
2 unit has been good.

3

4 And that's all I have for fisheries.
5 Over to McRae.

6

7 MR COBB: Good evening, Council. My
8 name is McRae Cobb. I'm a wildlife biologist at
9 Kodiak, and I'll just continue on with our report which
10 starts on Page 87.

11

12 I'll refer to table 1, which shows the
13 number of Federal subsistence permits that have been
14 issued, and an estimated number of animals harvested
15 since 2007. This past season we had an increase in the
16 number of Federal subsistence deer permits issued, and
17 also double the number of animals harvested. It was
18 also a year where we had two elk harvested, which was
19 the most that's been reported since 2007.

20

21 We have two surveys that we do every
22 year on brown bear. One is to estimate population
23 abundance, and one is to get composition. A good
24 composition of brown bear. We look at female, family
25 groups, number of first year and older cubs.

26

27 This past year we planned on surveying
28 a region that encompassed Frazer, Red Lake, and
29 Sturgeon River drainages of southwestern Kodiak Island.
30 However this collaborative survey between Refuge and
31 ADF&G was canceled because early leaf-out this past
32 spring created unsuitable survey conditions. Basically
33 we couldn't see the bears from the air good enough to
34 get a survey.

35

36 However, we have continued with our
37 aerial surveys of streams, we call them stream surveys,
38 in southwestern Kodiak. And these are occurring in
39 July and August, and again we quantify group
40 composition.

41

42 This summer we continued with a
43 research project that's a collaboration with USGS and
44 the University of Montana. A graduate student is
45 working on a project along with Refuge staff, and the
46 goals of the project are to characterize runs of
47 returning sockeye salmon in Karluk, Frazer, and Red
48 Lakes, and to evaluate the relationship between salmon
49 abundances and run timing and brown bear movement,
50 foraging strategies, and salmon consumption. As part

1 of this project, the Refuge deployed GPS collars on a
2 sample of brown bears in that region. We have been
3 monitoring those animals, as well as monitoring salmon
4 passing through streams off of those lake tributaries.

5
6 We have a number of projects looking at
7 Sitka deer. Most importantly are the population
8 estimate, which is a high priority for the Refuge.
9 Starting in 2012 we developed an aerial survey method
10 to estimate deer abundances in non-forested regions of
11 Kodiak Island. This was tested first at Aliulik
12 Peninsula, and then refined this past summer -- this
13 past spring. In May we repeated a survey at Aliulik,
14 Olga Flats area and Ayukulik River valley of Kodiak.
15 The deer detection rate was high, indicating that we
16 were seeing quite a few deer. The estimated density at
17 the Aliulik area, which was the only area that was
18 surveyed multiple times, was higher this past year than
19 in 2012, 62 percent higher. We were seeing a deer
20 density estimate in that peninsula of .86 deer per
21 square kilometer this year versus .53 deer per square
22 kilometer in 2012, indicating the population's
23 rebounding from that winter die-off we had in 2011/12.

24
25 Again when surveying, we were also able
26 to count carcasses and other wildlife, and we're
27 experimenting on how we can use these data, the carcass
28 data to index winter mortality rates by using a
29 proportion of carcasses seen versus the number of deer
30 seen to index how many deer are dying each winter.

31
32 This is the first statistically-robust
33 estimate of deer densities and abundances on Kodiak
34 Island, and it's a project that we will be expanding
35 upon and actively hoping to expand. However, the
36 funding for this project will require efforts beyond
37 the Refuge. We'll be looking for support from groups
38 such as yourself for this work, and to continue our
39 efforts for what we think is the highest priority on
40 Kodiak, and that's getting an idea of how many deer we
41 have, and how many deer die each winter.

42
43 ADF&G has continued with its radio-
44 collared elk project. They've deployed a number of
45 radio collars out on Afognak Island this past year.
46 And most notable for the Federal subsistence side of
47 things is the Waterfall herd, which summers in the
48 vicinity of the Refuge lands on Afognak. And the
49 State's surveys this past year estimated that that
50 group has increased from 40 to 60 elk. And they'll be

1 repeating that survey soon, and we should be able to
2 get an updated number.

3
4 The Refuge conducted a dedicated feral
5 reindeer survey in 2011 and we counted 315 reindeer
6 during that effort. And since that time State Trooper
7 Alan Jones during his patrol efforts often photographs
8 and counts the feral reindeer while he's out, and his
9 photographs are looked at and counted, and we
10 determined from that that the herd appears to be fairly
11 stable. Since then it's been 335, and then 300 and
12 319, So the minimum count number has been pretty
13 stable recently, and probably have only fluctuated
14 between 300 and 400 reindeer for the past 15 years or
15 so.

16
17 This past year we were successful in
18 getting outside funding to be able to do the first
19 aerial survey sea otters on the Kodiak archipelago in
20 10 years. We followed a published method using line
21 transects, which accounts for detection probability,
22 and spent over 100 hours surveying sea otters this past
23 July. And we're collaborating right now with the USGS
24 office in Anchorage to analyze these data and I had
25 hoped to have some results to present to you at the
26 meeting, but I will definitely have some here at the
27 next meeting. Overall nothing really stood out, but
28 we'll have a detailed report for you at the next
29 meeting.

30
31 We're still continuing to collaborate
32 with the Fish and Wildlife Service's Marine Mammal
33 Management office to help out a project that they have
34 going on with the sea otter diets. And we also work
35 with them to collect sea otters that have been reported
36 -- dead sea otters that have been reported by the
37 public and send those to a lab where they do a necropsy
38 to figure out what, you know, killed it.

39
40 Also Tanya Lee and myself are taggers
41 for the Marine Mammal's marking and tagging program.
42 There's 15 other taggers distributed in villages at
43 Kodiak Island. During this reporting period we -- the
44 Refuge staff here at Kodiak Refuge headquarters tagged
45 14 sea otters.

46
47 Continuing along in our report, for
48 migratory birds, we have nearshore surveys that rotates
49 between two different regions of Kodiak Archipelago.
50 Last year we surveyed the western side of Kodiak. This

1 year we focused on the eastern side. We observed
2 approximately 25,000 birds of 48 different species, a
3 majority of which were black-legged kittiwakes,
4 glaucous-winged gulls, tufted puffins, marbled
5 murrelets, and pigeon guillemots. Results from this
6 will also be presented in the spring meeting.

7

8 And with that, I'm going to hand it
9 over to Tanya Lee who will be talking about subsistence
10 salmon harvest surveys and our outreach efforts.

11

12 MS. LEE: Good evening, Mr. Chair and
13 Council members. This is Tanya Lee.

14

15 I just want to let you know that I've
16 been focusing efforts on keeping in touch with the
17 communities and just trying to maintain connections
18 within the village communities, especially adjacent to
19 the Refuge. I jumped on board with the community
20 programs on-going, such as (indiscernible) up on the
21 Afognak, Muniak (ph) camp, and Akhiok Camp, continue to
22 just contribute to the RA outreach program. Alutiiq
23 weeks are coming up, and I'll (indiscernible) in the
24 village schools when I'm invited.

25

26 And I've been working with ADF&G,
27 Meredith Markioni out of the subsistence division on
28 the subsistence salmon harvest project, which we're
29 doing in Larsen Bay, Old Harbor, and Kodiak
30 communities. We interviewed and we did site
31 observations and, you know, documented the fishing
32 practices in general, and just observing how and if
33 they're changing over time.

34

35 And yesterday I attended the Sun'aq
36 Migratory Bird Working Group meeting. Somebody spoke up
37 as the representative for Kodiak, and the AMBCC meeting
38 will be I believe September 23rd.

39

40 So upcoming outreach, McRae and I will
41 be working on hunter outreach in the communities on
42 goat and subsistence bear and deer on Refuge lands.
43 And otherwise I'm just keeping in touch with youth
44 programs, AFN Youth and Elder booth, RIT group. My
45 fellow RITS in the state will be coming to the AFN
46 Youth and Elder, and you can look for us at our booth
47 there. We always have a great both at the AFN Youth
48 and Elder Conference.

49

50 And that's all I have, Mr. Chair and

1 Council members. Thank you very much for this time to
2 talk to you about our projects.

3
4 MS. LaROSA: And if you have any
5 questions.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any questions for
8 Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge.

9
10 MR. HOLMES: I'll let everybody else
11 go. I've got some.

12
13 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is Pat
14 Holmes. I'll kind of go through your speakers in
15 reverse order.

16
17 I this year got, as many years, a lot
18 of real positive comments on Tanya's outreach programs
19 and her ability to pull together subsistence
20 information. And not only that from the schools, but
21 from the tribal folks that I work with fairly often as
22 a pro bono biologist.

23
24 A couple of the CEOs made a comment
25 that, you know, they have all the intergovernment
26 communications, and some of them say Monday morning
27 there's a pile on their desk that takes until noon to
28 get through, but if Tanya gives them a head's up on
29 some issue relating to subsistence, then they know that
30 that's something to pick up right away. And so there's
31 a great deal of respect for what Tanya's doing.

32
33 And I'd like to express appreciation
34 for the general professional nature of your Staff.

35
36 So going back to Page 87 to Bill, give
37 my best to your family and whatnot but I have a -- you
38 might want to change your verbiage. Subsistence
39 anglers, most subsistence, 99 percent is done with a
40 gillnet. And so that gillnetters might be a little
41 more appropriate. Just sort of a editorial comment.

42
43 And then I appreciate you folks
44 identifying information on fisheries and things like
45 that. You might want to reflect on the joint emergency
46 orders, because I know you folks get together with Fish
47 and Game, be it game issues or fish, and chat about it
48 and come up with, you know, joint Federal and State
49 emergency orders.

50

1 Interesting to see the changes in
2 subsistence permits, particularly on deer.

3
4 And again we were just chatting with
5 the Izembek folks, and if you've got, you know, some
6 preliminary rough drafts on things, it would be really
7 interesting to our Council to know, particularly like
8 your anadromous stream surveys, you know, it doesn't
9 have to be finished and polished, but maybe some
10 discussion of general trends and, you know, what are
11 things looking like. So that would be a big help.

12
13 And, let's see. Oh, there was a
14 question I had, these are just sort of general comments
15 mostly. On Page 2, population estimates, it said
16 minimizing deer impacts to native flora and fauna while
17 maintaining Sitka black-tailed deer subsistence harvest
18 opportunities in Kodiak Island are goals of the Refuge.
19 And this is a policy, and when was that adopted?

20
21 Thank you, and I'll have some other
22 things, but I'd like to ask that question first.

23
24 MR. PYLE: Hi, Pat. This is Bill Pyle
25 with the Refuge.

26
27 And in response to your question, that
28 is the standing goal of the Refuge as you stated and is
29 in our report. That is in the Kodiak Refuge
30 Conservation Plan that was issued in 2007. And so it
31 reflects, you know, a concern that when the deer were
32 introduced to this area, and that they could under
33 certain climatic circumstances, that will increase in
34 population size, and by the same token, I mean, that
35 hasn't happened, and there's potential to do that, and
36 we would want to maintain a population that provides,
37 you know, the healthy population that provides
38 sufficient subsistence and sport harvest opportunities,
39 but at the same time minimizes the potential for
40 adverse habitat impact.

41
42 So in other words, I think in summary
43 what we're saying is that's a good wildlife management
44 practices, because you maintain a productive herd when
45 it doesn't exceed its habitat-carrying capacity.

46
47 MR. HOLMES: Roger that. Thanks for
48 that clarification, Bill, I think that's along the
49 lines of the discussions that you folks had with the
50 Fish and Game Advisory Committee, and individuals from

1 our Council on goats and changing population, and bag
2 limits, and things. So that's just clarification I'd
3 forgotten that from the 2006 management plan, but you
4 know me, I forget a lot of stuff anyway, but thanks.

5
6 I had, let's see a question on your
7 aerial surveys, McRae, on being able to detect deer
8 carcasses from the air. And I don't get around like I
9 used to, but I used to spend a thousand hours a year
10 trucking around on streams and things when I was
11 working for the Department, and hunting and stuff, and,
12 you know, my comments from before on the mortality
13 estimates or indexes rather is what they were, they
14 weren't estimates, from finding dead deer on the beach,
15 which is where I've seen most of them. So I was just
16 wondering how many deer carcasses did you pick up on
17 your south end index from the air? Because that's
18 tough to see live deer, and perhaps even more difficult
19 for mortality. So I just -- how many did you folks
20 pick up this year?

21
22 MR. McRAE: Pat through the Chair.
23 This is McRae.

24
25 And in response to your question, I
26 don't have the report in my hand, but I can say that
27 the number of carcasses that we observed this past
28 survey were less, substantially less than in 2012. And
29 if I had to do a ballpark number, I would say maybe 30
30 to 40 total that we saw this past year, versus double
31 that or more in 2012. And once again like we're
32 missing carcasses, we're not seeing them all. The
33 assumption is that we're missing the same number of
34 carcasses every year. And so it's not a big count of
35 how many deer are dying, but like you said, it produces
36 an index for how many -- well, proportion of the
37 population that may be dying each winter.

38
39 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Thank you ever so
40 much.

41
42 MR. McRAE: If that answers your
43 question.

44
45 MR. HOLMES: Does somebody else have
46 questions? I have some things on eiders and what, but
47 I can let that go. Pete?

48
49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Peter.
50

1 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. Bill, this is
2 Pete Squartsoff.

3
4 You know, I have a big concern, because
5 every spring meeting for the last two, three years now,
6 it's been on Council member reports about the low
7 population of deer on the east side of Kodiak, down to
8 Akhiok and beyond. With the amount of hunters coming
9 in there from off island into Olga Bay and taking a lot
10 of does and fawns, I'm just concerned about that. Has
11 there been any thought about closing that down for that
12 and just leaving it open for subsistence hunters in the
13 area.

14
15 MR. McRAE: Through the Chair, this is
16 McRae. I'll try to answer your question.

17
18 Are you talking about State regulations
19 now or Federal subsistence regulations?

20
21 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Federal subsistence.
22 This is on Federal land.

23
24 MR. McRAE: Okay. So you're wanting to
25 close Federal subsistence regulations?

26
27 MR. SQUARTSOFF: No.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No, we're not
30 talking about closing Federal subsistence. We're
31 talking about closing sport hunting and leaving it open
32 to Federal subsistence, because of the low deer counts.
33 I can see in your transects that you flew there was
34 only 432 deer in a 60-mile area, and that's not even
35 counting deer on Moser Peninsula or Olga Bay. The
36 question was to consider closing sport hunting and
37 leaving it open to subsistence.

38
39 MR. McRAE: Yeah, we understand your
40 concern the population likely hasn't rebounded yet from
41 the real hard winter we had a number of years ago.

42
43 One thing I'd like to note though is
44 that the survey that we conduct on the south end only
45 covers flat, treeless areas, and so it shouldn't be
46 considered an estimate of abundance of deer across the
47 south end of Kodiak. There's a good chance during that
48 period when we're out surveying these areas where
49 they're flat, we are surveying these flat areas,
50 because the current method that we're using is only

1 applicable for those area. There's a good chance that
2 during that period they may be up in the hills, in
3 higher densities, and so I'm missing them. So, if
4 anything, this count is an under-estimate of true
5 abundance, but it does provide an index of population
6 change across years.

7

8 And to address your idea to change the
9 sport hunting regulations that's under State purview,
10 the sport hunting regulations, and so that would not be
11 -- that would be something out of our jurisdiction.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Peter.

14

15 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Well, on the Refuge,
16 can't the Refuge manage and do like an emergency order
17 closing on the Refuge? Why does it have to go through
18 State if it's on Federal lands?

19

20 MS. LaROSA: This is Annemarie.

21

22 That would potentially be possible, but
23 we haven't considered it at this time.

24

25 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I think it's a big
26 issue.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat, do you have
29 another question.

30

31 MR. HOLMES: Oh, I thought that Chris
32 was going to say something.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No, he turned
35 back.

36

37 MR. HOLMES: I thought one of the.....

38

39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Have a question.

40

41 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, this is Pat back
42 again.

43

44 Let's see. I was on migratory birds.
45 We were going to get together when you first got here,
46 Annemarie, and I called up to see if you were
47 available, and I think you were out flying and asked
48 for another chat time, and I guess you were busy this
49 summer. But sea ducks remains a question for our
50 Council, and it has been for many years, particularly

1 in Uyak. The harlequin ducks statewide are generally
2 down, on the west coast generally down. Kodiak's
3 stable, except for Uyak. And we have asked to have an
4 evaluation of that, and it hasn't occurred. And we
5 asked at our last meeting for this year's surveys to
6 have rough results on harlequin numbers to compare with
7 the last survey to be presented at this meeting, and
8 that didn't happen. I talked to folks in Uyak, and I
9 was going to suggest when we first met, or I might have
10 mentioned, I honestly don't remember, because my
11 brain's kind of foggy, that you stop and chat with some
12 of the folks over there when you first got to the
13 island, and go around the island and see what people's
14 concerns were about subsistence. And the concern is
15 still there.

16

17 And we were told at a previous meeting,
18 we've asked before, about mortality surveys or
19 logbooks. We were told that it was the State's
20 prerogative -- or State's, McRae said, I believe that
21 the State was supposed to do that. And after our last
22 meeting, I did call up the -- sorry, lose the
23 connection to meetings. I did have a talk with the
24 State representatives, and they said, no, that
25 mortality surveys or logbook programs was your shop's
26 part of handling things. They could do a local
27 reduction in harvest level if it was run through the
28 Board of Game, but we really can't do that until we
29 know what the number of ducks and what's happening.
30 There are some guides that are very responsible down
31 there that do bring in the meat from the ducks that
32 their clients shoot, and I know the folks in Larsen Bay
33 really appreciate that. But then there are -- I've
34 heard reports of folks with lodges and things like
35 that, some of the ones I've heard comments on, serving
36 king crab to their clients also are involved in
37 harvesting a lot of ducks and nobody knows how many is
38 taken, and, you know, I think that would help our
39 Council and also would be very important to the folks
40 in Larsen Bay to know what's going on with their sea
41 ducks, and particularly the harlequins.

42

43 And so I would ask you folks if you
44 would please get your preliminary results on your last
45 surveys there, particularly on harlequins, for the
46 Larsen Bay, and submit that to Carl Johnson so he can
47 get it to us, because we're considering possible other
48 things to look at that. And so we need to have some
49 data to know what's going on with those soup ducks.

50

1 So thank you so much, and I'll just
2 hang up on that.

3
4 MS. LaROSA: Okay. Pat, just a couple
5 of comments. Robin Corchoran, our bird biologist,
6 she's not here now. She's already gone home, but if
7 you're like, she could come and talk in the morning in
8 front of the board, and, yeah, we will get results.
9 She last surveyed that area in 2013, so there should be
10 data available.

11
12 And regarding our meeting, I'm in and
13 out all the time, and welcome a meeting, so just send
14 me an email or give me a call.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Any other
17 questions.

18
19 MS. LaROSA: Would you like Robin to
20 address the Council.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Peter.

23
24 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, I'd just like to
25 make one more comment that, you know, on the deer
26 population around Old Harbor, because a few people from
27 Old Harbor came to Port Lions to harvest their deer
28 this last winter, so I really think they do need some
29 help with their deer down in that area.

30
31 MS. LaROSA: We'll look at the numbers.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, this is
34 Mitch.

35
36 I can testify to that, too, because I
37 spent all winter looking for deer and didn't get one,
38 and so did my boys. You know, you have a 60-mile area
39 that you counted 432 deer.
40 Can you recommend that they close it? Can you make
41 that recommendation, or are you going to make the
42 observations and -- you know, it's kind of irritating
43 to see that you make the observation and don't make any
44 kind of recommendation to improve the population. I'm
45 kind of looking for you to step up and make a
46 recommendation of some kind to help the deer population
47 out there.

48
49 Thank you.
50

1 MS. LaROSA: As I said, we'll look at
2 the numbers.

3
4 Just a couple of things to mention, and
5 that is that the numbers show that the deer population
6 is going up from that hard winter which resulted in the
7 population taking kind of a crash, and it does take
8 some time to recover, but it seems to be showing signs
9 of recovery. So that's a good sign. But we'll look at
10 the numbers and talk with Fish and Game about what they
11 might mean.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Any other
14 questions. Pat.

15
16 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. We were having
17 some just chats about different options and things, and
18 there was quite a discussion a year or two back there
19 at the Fish and Game AC on taking some action. The
20 consensus opinion of the non-subsistence folks at that
21 meeting was that the winter weather has more of a thing
22 of regulating population levels. It does on the
23 negative side. And those in the minority of the vote
24 expressed a concern that agencies should be thinking
25 about at least reducing the harvest of does and fawns,
26 and we've had some folks from the south end of the
27 island make comments that they see a lot of vessels
28 coming in from outside, and that's not your problem,
29 but where most of the deer hanging from their rigging
30 are does and fawns. And so it would seem if you want
31 to be assisting the increase in any population, that
32 you have temporary adjustments in the harvest to
33 protect that component of the population that gives you
34 the greatest potential for increase. And anyway I hope
35 that we can develop a positive dialogue with you folks
36 and with the State to make some decisions on whether to
37 -- or how this can be approached, because some of our
38 members feel very strongly about this.

39
40 Anyway, that's it, and I appreciate
41 your folks working with us.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.
44 Any other questions for Fish and Wildlife in Kodiak.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Seeing none, thank
49 you guys for your report.

50

1 MS. LaROSA: Thank you, and we'll have
2 Robin give a report on the ducks in the morning.

3
4 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, this is Carl, the
5 Council coordinator.

6
7 The Council's most likely going to
8 complete its agenda today. So there won't be an
9 opportunity in the morning.

10
11 MS. LaROSA: Oh, okay. Well, we'll get
12 the results to Carl and then, Pat, if you want to drop
13 in and talk, then give me a call, and we'll arrange a
14 time.

15
16 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Monday I'll be home.
17 Maybe Monday afternoon.

18
19 MS. LaROSA: How about Tuesday.

20
21 MR. HOLMES: No problem.

22
23 MS. LaROSA: Okay. Thanks.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Anybody
26 else on line for National Wildlife Refuges.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Can we get
31 into National Park Service.

32
33 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, Mr. Chair. These
34 are place holders for Park Service and BLM, but as far
35 as I know, nobody contacted me about a desire to
36 present a report, so we can ask on the line, but I
37 don't expect there is anybody.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Is there
40 anyone on line from National Park Service or BLM.

41
42 Della, you had something.

43
44 MS. TRUMBLE: I had.....

45
46 MR. SHARP: Yeah, Mr. Chair. This is
47 Dan Sharp from Bureau of Land Management.

48
49 And Carl's correct, there's no formal
50 BLM report for this particular RAC.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. We have a
4 board question or comment here, then we'll get into
5 yours, okay.

6

7 MS. TRUMBLE: I guess I just had one
8 question, because I don't think I've seen anything.
9 This is Della.

10

11 And it's in our minutes from the last
12 meeting under agency reports, and it was Alaska
13 Maritime Wildlife Refuge where Steve Delahanty gave a
14 report I think. And what we were talking about at this
15 time was the cattle on the two islands in the
16 Shumagins, and I'm wondering at this point has there
17 been any information made available from the public
18 hearings that they were doing at that time.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Carl.

21

22 MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair. I
23 haven't received any updated reports, seen any results
24 of their public process yet, and I know he was pretty
25 engaged with me on keeping the Council informed on
26 anything new. But I have not heard anything yet.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rick.

29

30 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Della, I think I
31 understand that was -- Wosnesenski was one of them with
32 David Osterbach, and he was in contact with David
33 Osterbach. And it sounded like they worked something
34 out there between the two of them, because he
35 supposedly owned the cattle and had the lease from the
36 -- I don't know if it's the State or the Feds.
37 Whoever.

38

39 But I don't know about the other
40 island, but the only one that -- I think the other one
41 was over there off of Kodiak, Chirikof, wasn't it?

42

43 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Chirikof.

44

45 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Chirikof. And I think
46 they tried to get the cows off there and wasn't able
47 to. But I think David Osterbach was dealing with them
48 directly. So I never really heard what the outcome was
49 on that deal.

50

1 MS. TRUMBLE: I think I just would
2 like to see what the outcome is. I haven't talked to
3 David about this since they were holding the public
4 hearings, and, you know, I at the time had made
5 recommendations on them trying to work with the land
6 use -- or David, because, you know, all of us are
7 utilizing that cattle for subsistence, and trying to
8 come into land use agreements. It would be nice to
9 see, you know, what the result of that is, if they have
10 a final decision.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Anything
13 else, Della.

14
15 MS. TRUMBLE: No.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. If that's
18 it, then we'll continue on with Bureau of Land
19 Management.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No. ADF&G.
24 Anybody on line from ADF&G.

25
26 MR. POLUM: Mr. Chair.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.

29
30 MR. POLUM: Tyler Polum with Department
31 of Fish and Game in Kodiak. Hi. Mr. Chair. I'd like
32 to update the RAC about our Buskin River Sockeye salmon
33 stock assessment project funded through OSM.

34
35 I gave you guys and gals a brief update
36 in the spring from our 2013 season. And most of that
37 information is the same. I just want to give you a
38 summary of our 2014 season running the Buskin weir, and
39 just do through the end of August basically. We're
40 still currently running a weir there for coho count.

41
42 This year through the 10th of September
43 we've counted 13,905 sockeye, which is well above our
44 upper escapement goal of 8,000 sockeye on the Buskin.
45 The lower goal is 5,000.

46
47 And this year on the Lake Louise
48 tributary we have a second weir. I guess I should back
49 up. I believe all of you are familiar with the
50 project, but just in case, we operate mainly two

1 counting weirs on the Buskin River drainage to count
2 sockeye salmon entering the river, one at Buskin Lake
3 and one on a tributary creek called Lake Louise. And
4 those have been in operation -- or the Lake Louise
5 tributary has been in operation for about -- since
6 2002, and the Buskin River weir has been in operation
7 since 1990. And these have been funded through OSM
8 since about 2000 I believe. And this year was the
9 first year of a new funding cycle. I believe someone
10 from OSM mentioned that earlier, that the weir entered
11 a new contract forward funding cycle for that project,
12 so we'll continue through 2017.

13

14 So at Lake Louise we counted 925
15 sockeye this year, which was well above the last
16 several years. That run, we don't have an escapement
17 goal for that run, but some years we counted as little
18 as 90 fish, and some years we've counted a couple of
19 thousand in there. So there were a few more this year
20 than we've had in the last several years. We'll still
21 probably count some more sockeye through the Buskin
22 Lake weir since we've got it in place to count coho
23 right now, but not many. I would guess less than a
24 couple hundred.

25

26 The Buskin Lake sockeye run followed a
27 pretty typical run timing this year. It was above the
28 five-year average of 10,500, and only a little bit
29 above the 10-year average of 13,200. So it's right
30 about the 10-year average is the number of sockeye
31 we've had.

32

33 In the Lake Louise, the weir count was
34 above the last several years as I mentioned, but it was
35 below the 10-year average of 1300 fish.

36

37 And both the sport and subsistence
38 fisheries on the Buskin River were both liberalized
39 this year in mid June. There was a lot of harvest in
40 both the subsistence fishery and the sport fishery, so
41 a lot of happy anglers and subsistence users out there.

42

43 We also -- at Buskin Lake we collected
44 about 350 scale samples and measured sockeye for length
45 as well as collecting -- or as recording of the sex.
46 And we also did the same thing from 55 subsistence
47 fisher -- yeah, about 50 at Lake Louise. And those
48 samples haven't been analyzed yet, but they will be
49 this year, and we'll give you an up-to-date report on
50 that in the spring as we typically do.

1 We also conducted about 20 subsistence
2 use interviews on the Buskin river fishing grounds out
3 in front of Buskin and as well as at the docks when
4 people came back to clean their fish. We've been doing
5 that annually since about 2007 I think when the RAC
6 asked us to start incorporating them to our subsistence
7 season program. And each year all of the users
8 interviewed were from Kodiak, about 15 will
9 traditionally fish Buskin. I mean, most of them fish
10 other areas like the Pasagshak and Afognak.

11
12 One of the interesting things that we
13 did this year is we did analyze genetic samples
14 collected from subsistence fishers from 2010 through
15 2013, so four years of samples. We had been collecting
16 samples to try and apportion the harvest from the
17 subsistence fishery in front of Buskin to see what
18 percent were Buskin fish versus what percent were Lake
19 Louise fish. And interestingly enough, in some years
20 only a couple of fish were actually bound for Lake
21 Louise. .1 percent was the lowest, in one year I mean,
22 and the highest year six and a half percent were going
23 to Lake Louise versus Buskin.

24
25 That being said, there was a large
26 percentage of -- or a larger percentage of fish headed
27 to other systems on Kodiak that we weren't aware of,
28 anywhere from 10 to 25 percent of the harvest in a
29 given year is headed to places other than Buskin or
30 Lake Louise. And we didn't -- in our analysis, we
31 weren't able to differentiate that, but in the next
32 four-year cycle, we will try to break that down to see
33 at least the general area that those fish are headed.

34
35 So that's the newer notes from our
36 project that we haven't presented in the past, and
37 something that we can definitely use in the future.
38 We're still collecting those genetic samples as well.

39
40 (Interruption on teleconference)

41
42 MR. POLUM: I can keep going here I
43 guess. The only other thing I had to mention was that
44 we are continuing our -- or we did continue our
45 internship program this year. We were partnered with
46 the local high school to hire Federally-qualified
47 subsistence users for our Buskin River project. We did
48 hire two high school interns, and usually they work
49 from June 1st through the end of July. It's been a
50 really successful program. This year one of the

1 interns -- we only had one intern due to one of them,
2 he decided to discontinue his appointment early on in
3 the program unfortunately. But we had one intern this
4 year, and that worked out really well. In the past six
5 teens of the 22 interns we've had so far have returned
6 to work for the Department. And this year, at my last
7 count, six former interns are currently employed,
8 including myself.

9

10 And so that's about all I've got. I
11 hope that was helpful. If you have any questions, feel
12 free to ask.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Questions. Pat.

15

16 MR. HOLMES: Through the Chair.

17

18 Tyler, I'm glad you folks are doing all
19 that work there on the Buskin, because that means a
20 whole lot to the folks in Kodiak to get their reds
21 without having to go long distances.

22

23 Anyway, I have a couple of questions
24 for you. This is the second year that, you know,
25 you've exceeded the escapement goal. And didn't you
26 use to have the weir down lower in the river? And it
27 seemed like in those years it didn't bounce over so
28 much. Could you go on that one first?

29

30 MR. POLUM: Yeah. Mr. Holmes through
31 the Chair. Sure.

32

33 The weir counts for sockeye were
34 collected from the lower weir for a short period of
35 time. That was from 1985 to 1989 I believe. The
36 weir's been in its current location at the lake, at
37 least for June and July since maybe 1998. We do
38 operate the lower weir starting August 1st for coho,
39 however, but, you know, I think there is a Lake Louise
40 component to the run. If we operated at the lower weir
41 site, we'd include both of those runs in our count.

42

43 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. It was -- I also
44 would like to go along, have you had any luck on
45 getting any funding for your third position you folks
46 used to have that would head up the smolt program for
47 the Buskin, because a few cycles back you were able to
48 give the community some good heads up after it was
49 closed that in the X number of years in the future that
50 we'd see an upswing because of the nice fat smolt that

1 were coming out of the lake, so that's kind of our
2 early warning to let people think about and plan where
3 they're going to fish and how they're going to get
4 their fish. And I sure hope that you can find some way
5 to -- I don't -- are you folks by any chance get any of
6 that airport remediation funds to be able to tap that
7 at all?

8

9 MR. POLUM: Mr. Holmes through the
10 Chair.

11

12 Yeah, we did -- well, actually to
13 answer the first part of your question. We did hire a
14 fish biologist I this summer, but that was funded
15 through the Sun'aq Research Institute that the Alaska
16 Legislature appropriated to the Department. And so
17 that was primarily -- that position was primarily
18 focused on a juvenile Chinook study on the Karluk and a
19 marine Chinook sampling project here in Kodiak, so it
20 didn't include a smolt project on the Buskin like we
21 had in 2010 and 11.

22

23 We did get money, some mitigation
24 funding from the FAA for the Buskin River, and that
25 will be used to what capacity I'm not sure. I don't
26 know honestly. Right now Don's working on what to do
27 with that money, where to put it to the best use. I'm
28 not sure that it will go to a smolt project, because I
29 don't think we got enough for that, but it will be put
30 to use on the Buskin in some capacity. We don't know
31 how yet. we just got that money recently.

32

33 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Okay. Well, thank
34 you. I'm sorry there's such passion in the State and
35 that the Governor can come up with so much money, but,
36 you know, Chinook, I mean, that's, you know, for your
37 shop there in sportfish, but it's certainly not a
38 subsistence species for our region, and, of course,
39 that's what our Council focus is on.

40

41 I was wondering if there would be any
42 potential, because obviously there's some real strong
43 runs when they come in, to have your opening to the
44 mouth for subsistence earlier. I was tied up with a
45 new grandchild this year, but the last time you did
46 that, I was right down there with everybody else, and
47 the high catch was 12 fish. And the fish had basically
48 all gone up the river by the time you opened it to the
49 mouth.

50

1 And if I guess -- and I'm just a bit
2 worrisome that if we're getting repeated high
3 escapements, that that's going to end up dropping the
4 productivity in the lake, and would ask you and Lem to
5 chat with Com Fish and with the Refuge folks about, you
6 know, maybe having that expanded -- expanded the
7 harvest for sportfishing, but the subsistence is done
8 kind of late, and maybe consider doing that a little
9 earlier or maybe do some tagging and see how long it
10 takes fish to get from the mouth to the weir, and then
11 figure once you get -- do a projection when you're at
12 8,000 escapement, and then make your announcement at
13 that point rather than wait until there's already the
14 11 or 12,000 up the river. Anyway that's just a
15 comment.

16

17 I really appreciate all the hard work
18 you folks do, and I think that your intern program is
19 really exemplary, and I'd like to point to folks that
20 Tyler Polum started as a high school student messing
21 around with Fish and Game and asking where he could
22 help, and now he's assistant area biologist. And that
23 sort of program needs to be embraced I think statewide.
24 And I know folks out here are hoping to do some similar
25 things. So hats off to you, Tyler, you do a good job.

26

27 MR. POLUM: Thank you, Mr. Holmes.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
30 questions. Peter.

31

32 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I'd just like to make
33 a little comment here on Page 101 of our book on total
34 user interviews, in Kodiak there was 20 people
35 interviewed, and the traditional location was 15 at the
36 Buskin, 5 at Pasagshak. Then below that it says have
37 occasionally fished other areas besides traditional
38 locations. Other areas occasionally fished is
39 Pasagshak, Litnik, Port Lions, and Ouzinkie, and that
40 was 17 out of the 20. So they do move around.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
43 questions, comment.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you,
48 guys, for your report.

49

50 MR. BUTLER: We've got one more stock

1 report for you from Fish and Game, if you're ready for
2 it.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: All right. We're
5 at next on the agenda is tribal governments. What's
6 the.....

7

8 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair.

9

10 MR. BUTLER: I don't know if you can
11 hear me, but one more Staff report from Fish and Game.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Go ahead.

14

15 MR. BUTLER: All right. This is Lem
16 Butler. I'm the regional supervisor for Region 4 which
17 includes Alaska Peninsula and Aleutians.

18

19 I was asked to give you an update on
20 the Southern Peninsula Herd and Unimak Caribou Herd.
21 So I guess I'll just go right into that.

22

23 First I want to kind of follow up on
24 what other people were saying, that we've got a very
25 good working relationship with the new Refuge Staff, so
26 we're really happy to have those guys down there. Hats
27 off to having the safety (ph). It's been a big
28 improvement, and they've really done a lot to help us
29 out.

30

31 Right now we're doing real well for the
32 Southern Alaska Peninsula Herd. You guys know we did
33 three years of wolf control on the calving grounds, and
34 at this point we've pretty much doubled to tripled the
35 herd size. We've gone from about 600 caribou in 2007
36 to a minimum count is 1200 last fall with a projected
37 estimate of up to 1700. So that's all looking really
38 good. We've got high calf ratios and bull ratios above
39 objectives. So, I mean, as you guys know, we've got
40 some small Federal and State hunts that are open, so
41 we're starting to see some return for the lean years.

42

43 In 2013, we did a follow-up study of
44 calf mortality to see how that population was doing, to
45 see if we needed to go back in and do any more wolf
46 control work. And basically what we found is the calf
47 survival during the early period of life is still
48 really good. In fact, it's pretty similar to what we
49 saw in 1999 when the population was growing. We
50 attempted to follow up on that again the second year

1 this year, but we had a volcano going off, so we
2 weren't able to do that, but again we're going to look
3 at the fall calf recruitment, and at this point we
4 don't really see a need to go back in reduce wolves or
5 bears in that area. Pretty much, you know, calf
6 survival is pretty much as good as it's going to get.
7 So there's really no need to work with those predators,
8 and probably not much of a return if we did.

9
10 As far as Unimak goes, we did do a calf
11 mortality study there this year, but the sample size is
12 small enough that we really need two years of study to
13 really say a whole lot about how that herd's doing. So
14 we're going to go back next year in 2015 and pull the
15 samples to see what we're looking at. Right now it's
16 pretty much still too early to say much about it other
17 than last time we looked at it, in 2013, it is pretty
18 much where it was in the past. Bull ratio is still 10
19 bulls per 100 cows and calves are starting to do
20 better. We had 20 calves per 100 cows last year.
21 Hopefully we'll see that again this year. The
22 preliminary results of our initial calf study looks
23 like the early calf survival was good, but later calf
24 mortality isn't all that we'd like it to be, so we're
25 just kind of waiting to see how many actually make it
26 to fall, at which point we'll count them recruited into
27 the population or not, and look at it.

28
29 So anyway that herd continues to have
30 issues. Probably about 200 caribou on the island.
31 Again no real change in bulls, and some hope for the
32 calves, but still too early to say a lot about it.

33
34 Body condition still looks really good
35 out there. What I've heard of the forage studies, it
36 looks like there is good forage, which we roughly kind
37 of expected to see. Still seeing low pregnancy rates.
38 At one point it was speculated that -- well, we knew
39 that the calving was protracted, so at one point we
40 expected maybe our pregnancy rates were biased low due
41 to the protracted calving period. And we followed them
42 for a course of three weeks and it is protracted and
43 the pregnancy rate is low.

44
45 There was a comment earlier when Stacey
46 was talking about summer post-calving counts, and at
47 this point she's right. You know, it's really common
48 for caribou herds when they get small, they get really
49 dispersed. We see that all over the State. And at
50 this point that population is so dispersed that you

1 really won't have much success with a post-calving
2 count, so my recommendation to the Refuge would be to
3 not even try that next year. We'll probably have our
4 best results in the fall when the herds are aggregated
5 for rut, but they're still pretty dispersed at that
6 time as well. So it's tough. There aren't many
7 caribou, and there's a lot of country to search.
8 They're in small groups, and that doesn't make it easy
9 to find caribou any time of year.

10

11 So again we keep looking every time we
12 go out there, and we keep coming up with around 200.
13 So that's our best guess at this point as to what we're
14 look at on that population.

15

16 There was another question earlier
17 about bear harvest, whether or not we're using a 2013
18 -- or, excuse me, 2003 bear count on Unimak Island to
19 set our harvest quota and permits. That is the most
20 current information that we have in terms of the bear
21 population size as a whole, but we base our harvest on
22 other things, including bear harvest indices. And this
23 year we actually increased the number of bear permits
24 that we issued for Unimak, so, you know, we're looking
25 at again things like success rates and other things to
26 evaluate now many bears there are, and how well hunters
27 are able to find them to set some of those limits, so
28 we got authorization from the Board of Game last year
29 to issue up to 50 permits. We're trying 25 to see what
30 kind of a harvest that gets us, and we'll keep
31 discussing whether or not we'll increase the number of
32 permits from there.

33

34 But I think Pat mentioned that,
35 probably something that he heard me saying in the past
36 when we talk about calf survivals. A brown bear is an
37 opportunist, so really they're only effective predators
38 for about the first 10 days of life, again we need
39 another year of calf study to really talk much about
40 how important bear predation is. With relatively good
41 survival from the sample size we have currently during
42 the first two weeks of life, bears aren't really --
43 they're not rising to the top of the issues that the
44 Unimak caribou population is facing currently.

45

46 So with that, if you guys have any
47 follow-up question, there were a lot of questions
48 earlier that I might have been able to help you with,
49 but if you have any more, I'd be happy to answer them.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rick.

2

3 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I just wanted to say
4 that's a real good report. That's one of the most
5 positive we've heard in a lot of years, so I really
6 appreciate that and appreciate you guys going out there
7 and working as hard as you did and working together
8 with the Feds. That's a real good deal here. So
9 thanks again and keep up the good work. It's very
10 positive for us to hear that.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

13

14 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair.

15

16 Lem. Yeah, thanks, that was like Rick
17 said, the best report we've heard in a long time.

18

19 I appreciate you clarifying on the time
20 for doing surveys. And I, you know, always think like
21 a fish guy, and so I hadn't really considered that when
22 your population's low, the herd's going to be spread
23 out all over the place. So I think your suggestion of
24 trying to go for when they're in the run might be a lot
25 better.

26

27 I and I was quite encouraged with your
28 continued report since you folks first started looking
29 there about body condition factor being very good. And
30 that's quite interesting, because at one point a few
31 years ago in this discussion we were told that one
32 potential reason for the decline of the total
33 population was either diminished habitat or the need
34 for trace elements. And I think that was from an elk
35 study or something in Colorado 30 years ago. And it
36 would seem to me that a lot of the trace elements are
37 probably available within 20 miles of any point on
38 Unimak when they just trot on down to the ocean and go
39 for the iodine or copper or whatever in the kelp. And
40 so I'm glad to hear about that body condition factor
41 being very good, because in my mind that kind of
42 eliminates some of those options like habitat, and, you
43 know, some other speculation.

44

45 Anyway I really thank you for doing
46 your experiment in Unit 9 and hopefully we can move to
47 some positive methods of increasing the Unimak herd.
48 Appreciate your professionalism.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other

1 questions. Peter.

2

3 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. I'd just like
4 to thank you for that good report. And also, I missed
5 it I guess, what was your cow/calf ratio?

6

7 MR. BUTLER: For which herd? We had,
8 let's see, 19 calves per 100 cow on Unimak, and 40
9 calves per 100 cow in the Southern Alaska Peninsula
10 Herd.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
13 questions. Vince, Antone, do you have any questions
14 for Lem.

15

16 MR. SHELIKOFF: No. Antone.

17

18 MS. TRUMBLE: Mitch.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della.

21

22 MS. TRUMBLE: I, too, want to thank
23 everybody for the good reports in regard to the
24 caribou, and it's I think encouraging, and we
25 definitely will pass it on to the people in the region.
26 and I just hope we can keep looking and working hard
27 and try to get this herd to get back to levels where we
28 can all be pretty happy with, and we can -- people out
29 here still are looking, you know, for more caribou than
30 we're allowed right now, and get to that point in time
31 I think, you know, it would be a good thing. So thank
32 you very much.

33

34 MR. BUTLER: Well, thanks for making
35 time for me here.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: All right. Thank
38 you, Lem. Appreciate it.

39

40 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman. Through
41 the Chair to Lem.

42

43 Yeah, Lem, Tom Schwantes here. Hey,
44 really appreciate that reporting. And a question, I
45 think you said you said you didn't get enough of a calf
46 survey this summer to pinpoint mortality problems. Am
47 I hearing you right? Is that what you said?

48

49 MR. BUTLER: Yeah, that's correct.
50 Again, you know, there really aren't many animals on

1 the island, and a low pregnancy rate. So we're
2 starting out with not much to work with. We were able
3 to follow 16 calves to this point in time, but 16
4 really isn't a very large sample size. With each
5 individual that wins or dies, it makes a big difference
6 in what the actual outcome is, so it's really good if
7 we go out there again next year and if we can even get
8 a similar sample size and have a total of 30 calves to
9 talk about, we'll be in a much better point to talk
10 about, just for the causes versus the mortality are for
11 this population. At this point it's very just
12 preliminary information about that.

13

14 MR. SCHWANTES: Well, we really
15 appreciate what you're doing out there and you're
16 working with the Feds, and you've got to know that
17 that's one of our big concerns is that Unimak herd And
18 so again we appreciate your efforts in all that you
19 guys are doing out there. Thanks.

20

21 MR. BUTLER: Sure thing. And again,
22 yeah, we really are appreciating the support we're
23 getting from the Refuge down there, so we've got some
24 good guys working in that area.

25

26 MR. KOSO: Lem, I've got a question.
27 It's relating a little bit farther west there. Did you
28 guys do anything on the Adak herd out there as far as a
29 survey or anything? I understood that maybe in 2010
30 you guys did a survey, but I never ever got a report on
31 that if that was the case. Could you update me.

32

33 MR. BUTLER: That was Fish and Wildlife
34 Service, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. And
35 if I recall correctly, there's still about 3,000
36 caribou on the island at that time. It may have come
37 down a little bit from the last survey, but, you know,
38 working with very difficult conditions oftentimes, and
39 limited weather windows, so it's probably again best to
40 use just a minimum count. And that's the last update
41 I've had from them in terms of the number of caribou,
42 so as far as I know, that was their last attempt.

43

44 MR. KOSO: Yeah. Thank you very much.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Anything else.
47 Any questions.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thanks
2 again, Lem. Appreciate your report.

3
4 MR. BUTLER: Sure thing. Always a
5 pleasure.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tribal
8 governments.

9
10 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair. If I may. We
11 don't -- I explained earlier that both Lynn Mack who is
12 the president of Belkofski Tribe and Etta Kuzakin who's
13 the president of the Agdaagux tribe are both teachers
14 at the school, and they don't get out until after 3:30
15 or so, and then at this point with this weather, I
16 don't suspect too many people out.

17
18 However, I would like to take a moment
19 of time I think. Liza Mack is here, and is working on
20 her dissertation. I'm sorry, it's getting -- we're
21 getting -- we've been going all day.

22
23 But I kind of wanted to have her maybe
24 just do a brief report of what she's doing, and I think
25 since it does tie in the Native organizations, the
26 various fish and wildlife, land issues, State, so I
27 think we can just give her a few minutes and also, you
28 know, if she does contact anybody, just please be
29 willing to help her or give her information. I know I
30 would appreciate it. But if it's okay to have her come
31 up and do a brief report on what she's doing.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If it's okay with
34 the board, that's perfectly fine with me.

35
36 MS. MACK: Hello again. My name is
37 Liza Mack, and I was born and raised here in King Cove.
38 And I have been going to school for quite some time,
39 but I'm currently working on my Ph.D. in indigenous
40 studies at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. I have
41 my bachelor's and my master's in anthropology, and I
42 also have my associate's degree.

43
44 What my dissertation research focuses
45 on is policy issues in Alaska Native leadership. And
46 the way that I've set up my research is I'm working
47 with the tribal councils and the boards, the
48 corporation boards, both in King Cove and in Sand
49 Point, and I'm developing a survey with our leaders in
50 the community to assess what our current leadership

1 knows about land rights policy and fisheries policy as
2 far as ANCSA, ANILCA, limited entry fishing, and
3 anything else that they deem important. and what i'm
4 going to do with this survey is I'm going to give it to
5 give it to the tribal council members and the board
6 members to kind of take an assessment and also to kind
7 of get a baseline understanding of the say people are
8 internalizing a lot of these laws and regulations, and
9 specifically kind of what boards like this do, and how
10 that's going to affect us going forward, whether or not
11 our leadership knows what they should or what they need
12 to about the regulatory process, and also the
13 restrictions and/or laws that we abide by within our
14 communities, and as far as moving about the landscape.

15
16 The second part of my research actually
17 has to do wit the cultural component of these kinds of
18 regulations, and whether or not restricted access or
19 whatever, or just knowing or not knowing different
20 things is affecting what types of knowledge is being
21 passed on to the next generation, so whether or not the
22 people who are hunting and fishing right now, or had
23 been hunting and fishing in previous generations are
24 teaching the next generation about how to hunt and fish
25 in these areas, if there is or is not restrictions to
26 that. And so kind of a two-part project.

27
28 But I've gotten an NSF dissertation
29 improvement grant to actually conduct my research out
30 here in King Cove and Sand Point. And that's about it.

31
32 So thank you, guys, for taking the time
33 to hear about my project.

34
35 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I just wanted to
36 congratulate you on all your hard work and your
37 studies, and I appreciate that you've gone into the
38 Native part of it. We certainly could use your
39 expertise and knowledge to carry forward what we've
40 been doing, because we're all getting and we're not
41 going to be around that much longer that I could see,
42 so we'd be sure happy to see someone like yourself pick
43 up and pass on what you know and do what you're doing.
44 So thank you very much for that.

45
46 MS. MACK: Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pat.

49
50 MR. HOLMES: Well, I'd like to commend

1 you and, you know, I've just always been impressed with
2 your family, and how folks are so actively involved in
3 problem solving through time. And to do a thesis on
4 such a complex topic is just mind boggling to me. And
5 so my -- I don't know where my hat is, but it's off,
6 and I really think you're doing a swell project.

7

8 MS. MACK: Thanks.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Peter.

11

12 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. I'd like
13 congratulate you and wish you the best of luck, and I
14 really appreciate somebody local getting involved in
15 what you're doing. And definitely you're going to
16 carry on for us.

17

18 MS. MACK: Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom.

21

22 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I've got to go
23 along with that, you know. It's extremely important
24 and we do appreciate it.

25

26 MS. MACK: Good. Thank you.

27

28 MR. SCHWANTES: So good luck and thank
29 you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della.

32

33 MS. TRUMBLE: And I'd just like to
34 thank Liza. We see each other often, and she chased me
35 down for a couple weeks, and finally tagged me and
36 roped me, and I finally was able to take the time to
37 really fully understand what she was doing, and I'm
38 basically thrilled. You have no idea how thrilled I
39 am.

40

41 And I'm really proud of her. Liza used
42 to work within our I-GAP (ph) program -- or the
43 economic development program with the tribe, and then
44 she had an opportunity to go to school. And she said,
45 Della, do I finish this last year of this grant, or do
46 I go to school? I'm going, you go to school.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50 MS. TRUMBLE: I am so glad she went to

1 school. I'm very proud of her, and look forward to her
2 I think helping the people in the Aleutians East, and
3 passing this on, this information, to other regions. I
4 think it's very encouraging. Thank you.

5
6 MS. MACK: Thank you. And I guess
7 that's another thing that I hope that my research and
8 my project does, is kind of gives, you know, maybe a
9 baseline or even a way to format these kind of things
10 so that we're informed as Native leaders and
11 subsistence users and people who participate in the
12 policy implementation, and also the policy creation,
13 and the ways that we, you know, move about the
14 landscape, and so I hope that it actually -- there's
15 something meaningful that comes out of it in the end.

16
17 Thank you, guys.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you and
20 congratulations.

21
22 Okay. Does that take care of our
23 tribal government and Native organizations.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Future meeting
28 dates.

29
30 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. Mr. Chair. Pages
31 103 and 104 are the calendars for future meeting dates.

32
33
34 So first to confirm the date and
35 location for the winter meeting, so currently March
36 11th and 12th in Old Harbor. And then the calendar is
37 wide open for fall as to date and location.

38
39 I also want to add another component I
40 forgot to have the Council do earlier when we were
41 discussing the potential for an all-Council winter
42 meeting in 2016, was for the Council to identify,
43 whichever is easier, either its preferred dates for
44 such a meeting or dates that it absolutely doesn't want
45 to have such a meeting, whichever is easier. It might
46 be easier to eliminate the dates we absolutely don't
47 want to have versus identifying the ones that we
48 prefer. So we can do that, but, you know, it's
49 typical, you know, whatever your normal meeting window
50 is for winter, or whatever dates typically don't work

1 for winter. But we can do that third. We'll take care
2 of these first two items first.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

5

6 MR. HOLMES: Somebody that might be
7 more familiar with hunting season and whatnot, I think
8 being -- you know, Sam Rohrer's kind of our guide for
9 our Council, and yet, you know, he's always out doing
10 his business, because we're meeting we're meeting in
11 September. I was wondering if we were to look at
12 potentially the last week of October or the second to
13 the last week of October, if that might be a window in
14 which we could have our fall meeting and still be able
15 to have Sam participate, because so often he's -- well,
16 all the time he can't make the fall meeting. I just
17 want to toss that out for some discussion.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If we look at
20 October, we've got to know when the AFN conference is
21 going to happen.

22

23 MR. SCHWANTES: Isn't that the last
24 week of October.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: When?

27

28 MR. SCHWANTES: Usually the last week
29 of October.

30

31 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Maybe we could look
32 at the second to the last week of October, and try
33 that.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Why don't we just
36 go to the week before the convention.

37

38 MR. KOSO: Well, we've got the week,
39 because we've got the Aleut Corporation meetings,
40 that's the week, and.....

41

42 REPORTER: Your microphone.

43

44 MR. KOSO:we've got all the
45 tribal meetings that.....

46

47 REPORTER: Rick.

48

49 MR. KOSO: We can't, because the Aleut
50 corporate meeting is the week before AFN and we have

1 all the tribal council meetings during that week. So
2 it would probably -- in my mind, I would go for the
3 last -- I'd say 28th, 29th and 30th, or 28th, 29th of
4 October. The last part of the month I think
5 everything's pretty done.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The last week of
8 October?

9
10 MR. KOSO: Yeah. If he wants October I
11 think to clear everything up, would be at the very end.

12
13 MR. HOLMES: Or would the first week of
14 November, you know. I'm just trying to find a window.

15
16 MR. SCHWANTES: I don't think it's
17 going to make much difference, because he's either goat
18 hunting or he's bear hunting, and bear season's open,
19 so either way he's not going to be there.

20
21 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, well, when's the
22 bear season? I don't know.

23
24 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah. I mean, I don't
25 see that that's going to make much difference.

26
27 MR. HOLMES: That was my question when
28 I first started talking, Tom, was when is the bear
29 season?

30
31 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I think it's.....

32
33 MR. SQUARTSOFF: It's in October, the
34 10th of October.

35
36 MR. SCHWANTES: 10th of October to the
37 25th of November or something like that.

38
39 MR. HOLMES: Well, maybe we should go
40 back to September, you know.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Carl.

43
44 MR. JOHNSON: Just for the Council's
45 information, the 2015 dates for the AFN convention are
46 October 15th, 16 and 17.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: This year?

49
50 MR. JOHNSON: That's for 2015.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: 2015.
2
3 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah.
4
5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: But the all
6 Council meeting is in 2016.
7
8 MR. JOHNSON: Well, we were currently
9 talking about the fall meeting dates for next year for
10 this Council.
11
12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: For this Council?
13
14 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah.
15
16 MR. SCHWANTES: What were those dates
17 again, Carl?
18
19 MR. JOHNSON: October 15th through 17th
20 is the 2014 AFN convention in -- I guess they're going
21 to have it in Anchorage again.
22
23 MR. HOLMES: And so when's the bear
24 season, Tom, again? Bear season?
25
26 MR. SCHWANTES: The bear season? The
27 end of October to the 22nd -- the 25th of November.
28
29 MR. HOLMES: Okay. October 10 to 25th.
30
31 MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chair. Drew
32 Crawford, Fish and Game in Anchorage.
33
34 Bear season is October 25th through
35 November 30th.
36
37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Who?
38
39 MR. JOHNSON: That was Drew Crawford
40 from Fish and Game.
41
42 MR. HOLMES: Well, then how about the
43 last week of September, and, you know, that would give
44 him some time to get prepped for, you know, to do his
45 thing, and the folks doing the AFN to get their pre and
46 post meetings. And let's just try that and see if it
47 will work for him. Like the 29th and 30th, or when do
48 the planes fly to Old Harbor?
49
50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Every day.

1 MR. HOLMES: Every day, don't they mail
2 plane.
3
4 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della.
5
6 MS. TRUMBLE: Are we looking at the
7 fall meeting for the Kodiak one?
8
9 MR. HOLMES: Fall, yeah.
10
11 (Council members are not turning on
12 their microphones, so partially inaudible)
13
14 MR. KOSO: (Indiscernible) scheduled
15 11th and 12th.
16
17 MS. TRUMBLE: For the fall meeting.
18
19 REPORTER: Your microphones.
20
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The March meeting
22 is in Old Harbor.
23
24 MR. HOLMES: Oh, I beg your pardon.
25
26 MS. TRUMBLE: Yeah. Are you looking
27 at.....
28
29 MR. HOLMES: I beg your pardon. So
30 this would be Kodiak.
31
32 MS. TRUMBLE: Exactly.
33
34 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, so then, you know,
35 whenever it would work for you folks to get.....
36
37 MS. TRUMBLE: (Indiscernible) wrong
38 meeting.
39
40 MR. HOLMES: Yep, wrong one. Well, if
41 it -- let's just try for the last week of September
42 maybe, unless somebody else has got some meeting
43 scheduled for then.
44
45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The last week of
46 September.
47
48 MR. KOSO: We've got the 28th, 29th,
49 30th and October 1st on a Thursday, so I can come in on
50 a Sunday I guess and go back on a Thursday if you had

1 it 29th and 30th. But if you go through October, then
2 it's a weekend.

3

4 MR. SQUARTSOFF: 29th and 30th's good
5 with me.

6

7 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Would be for me,
8 too.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: 29th and 30th and
11 Monday -- Tuesday and Wednesday.

12

13 MS. TRUMBLE: Where is this meeting
14 going to be?

15

16 MR. KOSO: Wouldn't it be in Kodiak?

17

18 MS. TRUMBLE: This is my question. Do
19 we do the fall meeting in the Aleutians and the winter
20 meeting in Kodiak, or are we changing it? What are we
21 doing here.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Carl.

24

25 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

26

27 Historically this Council has desired
28 it's fall meetings on the Peninsula or the Aleutians,
29 and then the winter meeting in Kodiak. So I guess the
30 Kodiak substitute next year would be a winter meeting
31 in Old Harbor, and then pick a desired location for,
32 other than Kodiak, in the fall. But again that's only
33 been sometimes. It hasn't always been accomplished in
34 the past, so really it's up to the Council as to where
35 they would like to select a meeting location.

36

37 MR. KOSO: Adak.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah. September
40 29th and 30th out in Adak.

41

42 REPORTER: Mitch, your microphone.
43 Your microphone.

44

45 MR. HOLMES: With a fall-back at
46 Unalaska.

47

48 MR. KOSO: That would be a pretty
49 expensive place to get to, yeah.

50

1 MR. HOLMES: Just to stir things up.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: September 29th and
4 30th out in Adak.

5

6 MR. HOLMES: Well, yeah, up at Adak and
7 then a fall-back at Atka, and then a fall-back at
8 Unalaska. That will get your folks all fired up.

9

10 MR. KOSO: Yeah, you have to go back
11 through Anchorage to get there.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Carl.

16

17 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I will
18 remind the Council of what's in your Regional Advisory
19 Council Operations Manual about selection of
20 communities and non-hub communities for meetings. So
21 first there's an analysis, there's a cost analysis
22 which is kind of a starting point. Second, it asks for
23 the Council to express a particular reason as to why
24 they want to meet in that community, so like if there's
25 a wildlife proposal, or a particular issue that's
26 unique to that area that the public would benefit from
27 having a meeting. And then it still has to be approved
28 by the assistant regional director. So that's kind of
29 the process for selecting locations for non-hub
30 communities.

31

32 And I'll note that up until this
33 meeting cycle, the Northwest Arctic, Seward Peninsula,
34 and North Slope have all met in the same community for
35 the last five years. So Northwest Arctic is Kotzebue,
36 the Seward Peninsula is Nome, and then North Slope has
37 always been Barrow. And the assistant regional
38 director did approve the North Slope Council to meet in
39 Nuiqsut, which is the first time the Council had ever
40 met in that location; and also approved of meeting for
41 the Northwest Arctic in Kiana. But he also did note
42 that you know, a desire to have those meetings in the
43 more rural communities more often, but often to
44 recognize that it may be kind of on a once every three
45 meetings basis or something like that to kind of spread
46 it around so the different regions can enjoy the
47 opportunity to have the more remote meetings, rather
48 than being every other meeting or every meetings. So
49 just keep that in mind, and I will definitely start the
50 work that's necessary and pass it on to your permanent

1 Council coordinator when he or she is hired to continue
2 that work on advocating and putting the stuff together
3 for the assistant regional director to make a decision.

4

5 REPORTER: Mitch, your microphone.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: When is Bristol
8 Bay having their southwest RAC?

9

10 MR. JOHNSON: Bristol Bay Regional
11 Advisory Council always has its winter meeting in
12 Naknek and its fall meeting in Dillingham.

13

14 So I know that this Council has
15 expressed a joint meeting with both the Bristol Bay RAC
16 and the Southeast RAC before, so another option to
17 consider would be to contemplate perhaps a joint
18 meeting next fall with one of those two Councils as
19 another alternative, in addition to selecting your own
20 location, because it will depend on that Council, too,
21 as to whether or not the dates would work for them, and
22 working on an agenda, but that's definitely another
23 thing that you could consider.

24

25 MR. KOSO: Outside of Adak, it will
26 probably be either Cold Bay or Sand Point then, because
27 we had it in King Cove now. We had it in Sand Point,
28 what, three years ago?

29

30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah.

31

32 MR. KOSO: And Cold Bay last year was
33 it?

34

35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No.

36

37 MS. TRUMBLE: No, it was in Kodiak.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We were in Kodiak.

40

41 MR. KOSO: Oh, Kodiak. That's right.
42 Kodiak. So the year before last Cold Bay. So it will
43 be three, four years if we have it back at Cold Bay.

44

45 But I think you'll find going to Adak
46 is probably cheaper, because of Alaska Airlines. And I
47 know the Aleut Corp will give us a good rate. I'm sure
48 I can talk them into doing that as far as places to
49 stay. Plenty of housing. As far as place to meet,
50 that wouldn't be a problem. That wouldn't be no cost.

1 I think you'll find it would be pretty darn cheap to go
2 to Adak. It will be a lot cheaper than going to any
3 other village. It's a direct flight out of Anchorage.
4 You've got a Thursday/Sunday flight. If you came out
5 on a Thursday, we'd meet on Friday/Saturday, go back --
6 or -- yeah, Friday and Saturday, go back Sunday. So it
7 would be I think very cost effective. You could buy
8 sometimes, at certain times you get mileage for 15,000
9 round trip, and the planes are never full. So if you
10 bought a mileage, you'd be really safe to get there and
11 back. It wouldn't be a problem. And I think the high
12 is 20,000 miles for a round trip. So I think if you
13 went a mileage type of deal with all the members, you
14 could get by with probably around \$600 person round
15 trip.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Carl.

18 Oh,

19

20 MS. TRUMBLE: But I think, Rick, just
21 keep in mind the mileage, if you'd have to do the max
22 on it, because the ones that are under are limited
23 seats on the mileage.

24

25 MR. KOSO: I don't think Alaska
26 Airlines has limited seats going to Adak. We've always
27 had.....

28

29 MS. TRUMBLE: (Indiscernible -
30 microphone off) mileage seats.

31

32 MR. KOSO: No, we've never had -- you
33 know, I've known 10 people flying at the same time
34 going back and forth out there. The hunters all come
35 out on there, there's sometimes 20 of them come out on
36 mileage. That's how most of them get to Adak. I think
37 we could check on it and find out. I think you get --
38 like I said, I think you could do a round trip for
39 around \$600 if you went through a mileage deal. And
40 the plane is never that full that you would never all
41 be able to get down there.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Carl, you've got
44 something.

45

46 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, just two -- well, a
47 suggestion and an observation. So here's the
48 suggestion. If as primary objective having a meeting
49 in Adak, then going for a Friday and Saturday, either
50 September 25th and 26th, or October 2nd and 3rd.

1 And then as a secondary, if not Adak, then Cold Bay,
2 and then go with those original dates that seemed to
3 work for everybody, and that's the 29th and 30th of
4 September. So that's one suggestion.

5
6 And then the observation, I am not
7 sure, and I'm fairly confident, I'll just put it out
8 there tentatively, that we are not permitted to use
9 mileage for travel related to Council business. I
10 don't know that confidently, but I'm just going to
11 guess, because typically we're required -- we have to
12 buy the Government non-refundable rates just so that
13 the Government -- if things change because of weather
14 or something else, we can actually get it changed or
15 refunded without a fee, and you can't do that with a
16 mileage ticket purchase normally, but I can investigate
17 that. But I'm just going to say I'm fairly confident
18 it's probably not going to be permissible.

19
20 MR. KOSO: Then it's a \$1250 bill.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

23
24 MR. JOHNSON: That's still cheaper than
25 Cold Bay.

26
27 MR. KOSO: It is?

28
29 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah.

30
31 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. Members of
32 the RAC. I think that it would be fun to go to Adak,
33 but I'm also thinking that, you know, if you could --
34 in that you were discussing also the potential sometime
35 of having the joint meeting with the Bristol
36 Bay/Southeast RAC. And, you know, that might be a way
37 to get our location cycle back to where you know,
38 Kodiak is -- you know, flip it, because we flipped with
39 the big issue for our Council was the Kodiak rural
40 determination. And so that might be a way if we were
41 going for that joint meeting for us to establish a
42 better working relationship with both Councils, because
43 I know the folks in Bristol Bay have very similar
44 feelings about caribou and wolves. And then the folks
45 in Southeast, it would give them a chance to if the
46 customary and traditional question is still being
47 worked on, for them to inform us of that, and then we
48 have the cultural bond in the fact that, you know their
49 Council helped our Council on the -- on some previous
50 projects on rural. So I'd like, if it wouldn't be too

1 much of a hassle, if you could check them both out and
2 let us know what's the most feasible.

3

4 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della.

7

8 MS. TRUMBLE: Well, here's the way I
9 see it, since the Aleutian part of this lost a meeting,
10 because we'd had three in Kodiak, if we're going to
11 have a joint meeting, then Kodiak give up one of their
12 meetings. Dillingham -- or not Dillingham, but, yeah,
13 you know what I'm saying, the other two Councils. Just
14 a thought.

15

16 MR. KOSO: It will be 10 years before
17 we see this part of the country again.

18

19 MR. HOLMES: No, I would be glad to
20 give up Kodiak for a joint meeting, you know, some
21 place new. But I'm just trying to figure out the best
22 advantages for us and what we might learn and achieve.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Carl.

25

26 MR. JOHNSON: Well, if there is an all-
27 Council meeting in the winter of 2016, you would be
28 giving up Kodiak for that meeting cycle.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom.

31

32 MR. SCHWANTES: I guess from my
33 perspective.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Give me a
36 location.

37

38 MR. SCHWANTES: It really doesn't make
39 any difference where I meet. The important thing is we
40 take care of the people's business. So to me, you
41 know, whether it's Kodiak or Adak or Sand Point or King
42 Cove or whatever, we need to take the meeting to the
43 people, and get the people's input and take care of
44 business.

45

46 MS. TRUMBLE: I don't care. It doesn't
47 matter to me.

48

49 MR. HOLMES: Well, if we're going along
50 that line of thought, and I'm not being flippant, you

1 know, Unimak has been a point of passion for our
2 Council for many years, and maybe instead of -- I love
3 Adak, but maybe instead of that we might want to
4 examine the question of hitting Cold Bay and then the
5 short pop to False Pass if they had facilities for us,
6 you know, because then that would give us the potential
7 of talking intimately with the folks there with their
8 concerns about Unimak Island. And I don't know what
9 the hop from Cold Bay to there, but it would be a
10 natural if we couldn't get there, just like doing this
11 trip to King Cove, it would get us exposed to a part of
12 our constituency that we never have been able to
13 interact with before. And they used to have cannery
14 facilities, and I don't know what all they've got there
15 now, but that might be something to explore, Tom
16 Hoblett's the mayor, and see how they would meet
17 Federal standards for housing and whatever. Or maybe
18 the corporation would help underwrite going to False
19 Pass somehow. Or one of them.

20

21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Adak, False
24 Pass.

25

26 MR. KOSO: Well, a lot of skip, because
27 we're all here, so to make it easy, I'll just say Cold
28 Bay. What the heck, I know we could all get there.
29 Adak, you know, there's people I could see questions in
30 their minds and stuff, so if it's going to be a
31 problem, it doesn't make any difference. I'm kind of
32 like Tom. I'll meet anywhere. It really doesn't
33 matter to me where. It's like I say, we need to
34 represent the people in the region, and if that means
35 Cold Bay, that means Cold Bay. Or if it means Sand
36 Point, it means Sand Point. But right now I would
37 prefer for Cold Bay I guess, if not Adak.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If not Adak, then
40 Cold Bay? False Pass?

41

42 MR. SCHWANTES: So do we want to try to
43 make Adak our number 1 choice with Cold Bay as a fall-
44 back? I'm find with that.

45

46 MR. KOSO: Yeah. Carl said we could do
47 that with Adak as the other one; if that don't work,
48 Cold Bay. You could check on the pricing and see what
49 the pricing is, and, you know, if it's substantially
50 cheaper to go to Cold Bay, then I don't have a problem

1 with that.

2

3

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Carl.

4

5

MR. JOHNSON: And again that was my suggestion, Mr. Chair. Because -- just because of the timing of travel out to Adak, you would want to have different dates selected for Adak versus Cold Bay. So the suggestion was primary preference of Adak with either September 25th and 26th, or October 2nd and 3rd for your meeting dates, and then back-up location of Cold Bay with September 29th or 30th as the meeting dates.

14

15

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Tom.

16

17

MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I would suggest then that we go with Adak for the 2nd and 3rd, and if for some reason that doesn't work, then we fall back to the 29th and 30th for Cold Bay.

21

22

MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair. There's a lot better weather in September. You get into October, you start getting that full moon and eclipse and you start getting stuff like this.

26

27

MR. SCHWANTES: Let's go September then.

29

30

MR. KOSO: I think that -- well, September is definitely a lot better weather, I'll put it that way. If we could do Adak let's say September 17th or 24th, through that weekend, and then if that doesn't work out, then we do September 29th/30th Cold Bay. I would like to see it a little bit earlier if we could there, and then Cold Bay just a little later I guess. Would that work.

38

39

MR. JOHNSON: What were the dates for Adak again?

41

42

MR. KOSO: I would say either the 24th/25th or the 17th and 18th. It doesn't matter.

44

45

MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Because I thought your preference, because of the travel was to have the meeting on Friday and Saturday?

48

49

MR. KOSO: No, if you did -- the travel doesn't matter. We've got a Thursday and a Sunday

50

1 flight.

2

3 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. But if we have the
4 flights coming in on a Thursday, we wouldn't be able to
5 start the day on -- the meeting on.....

6

7 MR. KOSO: We'd have to start on Friday
8 and then Saturday we'd do our meetings, and then we
9 leave back on Sunday.

10

11 MR. JOHNSON: Right. That's what I was
12 suggesting.

13

14 MR. KOSO: Yeah. So it's like I said,
15 you could either do it the 17th or the 24th of
16 September.

17

18 MR. JOHNSON: Flying into Adak.

19

20 MR. KOSO: Flying into Adak. Yeah.

21

22 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Gotcha.

23

24 MR. KOSO: And then if that doesn't
25 work out, we do the 29th and 30th in Cold Bay.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We'd fly in on the
28 24th, and we'd have to be done by Sunday? I'm sorry,
29 we'd leave on Sunday.

30

31 MR. KOSO: We'd have two days.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della.

34

35 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair. You just
36 might want to keep in mind that the 30th is the end of
37 fiscal year, and sometimes -- I don't know if it makes
38 any difference with the meeting schedules or not with
39 different people, but I do know that Fish and Wildlife
40 is under the September 30th fiscal year end also.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Carl.

43

44 MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair.
45 Essentially, yeah, our travel systems and other stuff
46 kind of shut down on the 30th, but as long as we have
47 the travel arranged well before then, then the travel
48 can continue. So that's not an issue. There's kind of
49 a -- there's a little bit of a blackout period where we
50 can't process vouchers at the beginning of October, but

1 that just creates a little bit of delay in you getting
2 the back end of your travel voucher. So as far as
3 travel completion is concerned, there wouldn't be any
4 obstacles.

5

6 MR. HOLMES: Point of clarification.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom.

9

10 MR. SCHWANTES: Rick, what time does
11 that Alaska flight get in?

12

13 MR. KOSO: It gets into Adak about 5:00
14 o'clock, 5:30. Anyway, between 4:30 and 5:30. It
15 leaves Anchorage around 2:00 o'clock. It's about.....

16

17 MR. SCHWANTES: Too late to start a
18 meeting that day.

19

20 MR. KOSO: Yeah, we wouldn't be able to
21 start the meeting then, but, you know, I think two days
22 is plenty for our meetings. We should be able to get
23 done in two days time easy enough.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We'd still have
26 two days.

27

28 MR. KOSO: Yeah. And I'll go ahead and
29 see what I could get for rooms and stuff pricewise and
30 places to handle the meeting. I'm going out on the
31 25th, so I can get all that stuff and all the
32 information on that. I think it wouldn't be a problem.
33 We've got plenty of spaces out there to have the
34 meeting. You can all have a house to ourself.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

37

38 MR. HOLMES: I guess we might want to
39 have in our minds that, you know, the reason we're
40 going to Cold Bay instead of Sand Point, because it's
41 been three years since we've been to Sand Point, and
42 that's a question in my mind on the fall-back of Cold
43 Bay is that we haven't been there for a while. The one
44 justification I can think about on Cold Bay is
45 continuing the dialogue with the Refuge folks on our
46 critical issues on caribou, wolves, and geese and the
47 other critters that are the main points of discussion.
48 And so I guess that would be a justification for Cold
49 Bay versus Sand Point, but we do need to think -- keep
50 in mind that we're due to have a meeting in Sand Point

1 sometime in the future, too. And so I don't think we
2 should forget that.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. The 24th
7 through the 27th in Adak.

8

9 MR. KOSO: That would be fine with me.

10

11 MR. HOLMES: September?

12

13 MR. KOSO: Yeah.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: What was the fall-
16 back? Sand Point?

17

18 MR. JOHNSON: The fall-back would Cold
19 Bay on September 29th and 30th, just because it's been
20 longer since the Council has met there than it has
21 since it was in Sand Point.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: And after you do
24 the cost analysis and stuff, you'll let us know if we
25 can go or not, and then we'll come back to Cold Bay if
26 not. Okay.

27

28 MR. HOLMES: And if I'm passionate
29 about going to False Pass, I could pay for it my own on
30 a teleconference.

31

32 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. The only
33 other calendar piece was the issue of any preference
34 for stating either dates you don't want to have a
35 meeting or you would like to have the winter, an all-
36 Council 2016 meeting. And the only reason why we need
37 it this far in advance is most places require you
38 contract it out at least a year in advance in order to
39 secure it for large meeting spaces and facilities, so
40 that's why we're asking the Councils at this fall
41 meeting, the preferred dates for a potential winter
42 2016 all Council meeting. So, yes, after that arduous
43 discussion about the more tangible, this is even more
44 intangible.

45

46 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. On the
47 discussion of the multiple Council meeting, Patty and I
48 usually go stateside to see our kids about the second
49 week of December, and I was wondering if, God knows, if
50 maybe like first week of December or late November in

1 2016 if that might fit with other Councils, because I
2 know a lot of people take their winter breaks in
3 December and pack it up to other places.

4

5 MR. JOHNSON: Well, the meeting would
6 be during the usual winter meeting cycle, which is
7 around the second week of February through the end of
8 March.

9

10 MS. TRUMBLE: Yeah, I just was going to
11 say you the BIA the end of November, first of December.
12 There was that.

13

14 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, early March, late
15 April would be good for me.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: What about the
18 Federal Board meeting, that happens in January.
19 Everybody's going to be in Anchorage.

20

21 MR. JOHNSON: Well, this is the -- so
22 winter of 2016 is when the Board would be having a
23 wildlife regulatory meeting, which it now holds in
24 early April. Early to mid April. And that's quite a
25 bit outside of the normal meeting cycle, and I think it
26 would be rather daunting to plan both an all-Council
27 meeting and a Federal Subsistence Board meeting for the
28 same time, or at least close to each other in the
29 calendar. We'd probably prefer to have some separation
30 in order to avoid some bad accidents at the office due
31 to stress or other factors.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom, did you have
34 something?

35

36 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, (indiscernible -
37 mic not on) looking at the calendar for 2016.

38

39 REPORTER: Microphone.

40

41 MR. SCHWANTES: How about this winter
42 meeting coming up? Is it too late to change that?

43

44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The March meeting?

45

46 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: It's set.

49

50 MR. SCHWANTES: It's set?

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: It's already in
2 the calendar.
3
4 MR. JOHNSON: Well, it's technically --
5 again, this is on the agenda for you to confirm that,
6 but your opportunities are very limited given that we
7 don't conduct more than two meetings in any given week.
8 And right now, and I know that the North Slope RAC at
9 it's more recent meeting confirmed it's winter meeting
10 for that last week where the Southeast is meeting in
11 Yakutat. So right now the only available week, if you
12 wanted to switch your meeting, will be the week of
13 February 9.
14
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: February 9.
16
17 MR. SCHWANTES: February 9th would be
18 perfect for me.
19
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Would it?
21
22 MR. SCHWANTES: Yes, it would.
23
24 MR. HOLMES: Are you going to be on the
25 Council?
26
27 MR. SCHWANTES: I'm going to be on the
28 Slope, but I should be home that week coming off the
29 Slope.
30
31 MR. KOSO: I don't have a problem with
32 it.
33
34 MS. TRUMBLE: I don't have a problem.
35
36 MR. HOLMES: (Indiscernible, microphone
37 not on) would be better for me. I can always
38 teleconference if you vote to pick a different date.
39
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Do you want to
41 change the March meeting date.
42
43 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I'd like to
44 change the March meeting date for 2015 to that week of
45 February 9th if we can, the 9th through the 15th.
46
47 MR. KOSO: Pat, you won't be able to
48 make that?
49
50 MR. HOLMES: No.

1 MR. SCHWANTES: In fact, if we could
2 change it so we could meet on the 10th and 11th, or
3 something like that, 11th and 12th, whatever, that
4 would work better for me.
5
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: It's got to be
7 later in the week than Monday. The 11th, 12th and
8 13th.
9
10 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. I probably won't
11 make it. I can teleconference.
12
13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Is that a problem
14 with you, Pat?
15
16 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I won't be on the
17 Island. Yeah, I'll be gone at that time in February.
18
19 MR. SCHWANTES: It's your call, Mitch.
20 If I'm on the Slope, I won't be able to attend even
21 through teleconference. If I'm back, I'd be able to
22 attend.
23
24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: You'll be out of
25 state, Pat, is that what you mean?
26
27 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Uh-huh.
28
29 MR. KOSO: You'd be able to call in?
30
31 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I can try and call
32 in. Yeah.
33
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Teleconference a
35 possibility?
36
37 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, that's possible.
38
39 MR. KOSO: That way we'd be able to get
40 everybody here, because he won't be able to
41 teleconference.
42
43 MR. HOLMES: Oh, I'm sorry, I'm deaf.
44 You're on the Slope in the first week of March, or the
45 schedule for March.
46
47 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah.
48
49 MR. HOLMES: Okay. I see.
50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: What say you?
2
3 MR. KOSO: It doesn't matter to me.
4 I'll go in whatever, but if we change it, Tom will be
5 able to attend. If we don't change it, he won't be
6 able to. Pat will be able to teleconference if we
7 changed it, so we'll be able to get everybody in
8 contact.
9
10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Would you be able
11 to teleconference?
12
13 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. They'd come down on
14 you, be there in your guard shack or your patrols or
15 whatever, walk and talking on the phone. Yeah, that's
16 a reasonable compromise.
17
18 MS. TRUMBLE: So we change it to
19 February, what day?
20
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: My only concern is
22 we've got to go later in the week. If we go for
23 Monday, then I've got a problem the week before.
24
25 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, I would suggest the
26 10th and 11th, because than that accommodates the
27 schedule for Adak on the Thursday and Sunday flights,
28 because then you could fly out on the 12th after the
29 meeting.
30
31 MR. KOSO: Yeah. Because I won't be
32 able to get out without flying on Sunday and Thursday.
33
34 MR. HOLMES: And you might check on Old
35 Harbor, you know, get.....
36
37 REPORTER: Microphones, please.
38
39 MR. HOLMES: You might check on Old
40 Harbor with Melissa to see which lodges might be open
41 and, you know, which ones would meet the standards and
42 meeting place and all that for Old Harbor, you know,
43 for those dates in February, because we might have to
44 punt.
45
46 MR. KOSO: We've got Kodiak for
47 alternate there.
48
49 MR. JOHNSON: We would run into the
50 same issue either for February or March for Old Harbor,

1 so I don't think that's going to change it.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Well, some of the folks
4 that own the lodges there, some of them, you know, pack
5 it up December, January and February. They go to
6 Hawaii. And others don't.

7

8 MR. KOSO: I can go anytime that week.
9 I can go on Sunday, too.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Let's finish, get
12 'er done. Pick a date.

13

14 MR. KOSO: All right. I'll say -- you
15 said that for you the 10th.....

16

17 REPORTER: Microphones. Rick, your
18 microphone.

19

20 MR. KOSO: Could you do the 10th,
21 Mitch?

22

23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, February?

24

25 MR. KOSO: 10th. That's what he
26 suggested, 10th and 11th, and I could come in on a
27 Sunday, the 8th, and I could get back out there the
28 12th, so then I won't have to be hung up too long.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. February
31 10th and 11th, Old Harbor. Got it.

32

33 MR. KOSO: Okay. Great.

34

35 MR. JOHNSON: And I'll just work on
36 that winter 2016 thing via email rather than trying to
37 agonize over that now.

38

39 MR. KOSO: Good idea. One more thing
40 on the agenda?

41

42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No. Just board
43 comments. Board comments. We've got the calendar set.
44 Yeah. That's it. Closing comments.

45

46 MR. HOLMES: I have a business
47 question.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della. Carl,
50 you've got something else?

1 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. Unfortunately we're
2 reaching that point in time where it takes more than
3 one brain to function. Chris McKee just reminded me
4 that the Council had deferred discussion on annual
5 reports until after the agency reports were given.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Oh, right on.
8 Thanks for that. So we do have one more agenda item.

9
10 MS. TRUMBLE: Thanks, Chris.

11
12 MR. KOSO: You didn't need to do that,
13 Chris.

14
15 (Laughter)

16
17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Identify issues
18 for annual report. We can make a directive.

19
20 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I have on my
21 list of things to do with individual.....

22
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pat.

24
25 MR. HOLMES: With individual items that
26 I'll be working on. For example, and we could probably
27 build from there for our letter. I will be working
28 with Carl and Della on the emperor geese, on a
29 resolution, and then the question of the survey
30 technique, deciding to combine that or have two
31 separate items. The threshold number we'll address on
32 the emperor geese project.

33
34 We probably would still -- I don't know
35 if we got everything answered on caribou and wolves,
36 but that's, you know, a continuing discussion.

37
38 And I can't read what else I wrote
39 here, what I'm supposed to be doing, but at least those
40 are a couple topics that would continuing ones.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: And we also
43 produce a letter of concern to Kodiak National Wildlife
44 Refuge and the ADF&G for the deer population on the
45 south end of Kodiak Island.

46
47 MR. HOLMES: We're concerned, southeast
48 Kodiak or more than that? Kodiak deer.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: East side and

1 south end, Tom?
2
3 MR. HOLMES: South and east.
4
5 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah. I think we ought
6 to put something in there.....
7
8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Push your button.
9
10 MR. HOLMES: Deer population.
11
12 MR. SCHWANTES: He's right. It takes
13 two brains now this time of day.
14
15 MR. HOLMES: Okay. And then on that
16 deer thing, we'd be exploring the potential.....
17
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Wait. Tom's going.
19
20 MR. HOLMES: I'm sorry. I'm just
21 trying to.....
22
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.
24
25 MR. SCHWANTES: I think we need to put
26 something in there about the increased cooperation
27 we've seen between Fish and Game and the Refuge and
28 this Council. And we'd like to continue to see that
29 effort continued on that Unimak Caribou Herd. I think
30 that's still -- to me that's still a huge priority,
31 and, you know, I think we're seeing a big improvement
32 in the working relationship, and I think we should put
33 that in the report.
34
35 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Okay. Increased
36 working.....
37
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pat.
39
40 MR. HOLMES: I'm just trying to finish
41 up on what Tom was saying. On Izembek Refuge. Okay.
42 I have a question back on a previous.....
43
44 REPORTER: Your microphone.
45
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Push your button.
47
48 MR. HOLMES: A question on -- okay. I
49 just was finishing up Tom's comment was Fish and Game
50 integrated work on Unimak with the Fish and Wildlife

1 Service. And then there was -- before that, we were
2 talking about a letter of concern to Fish and Game and
3 Fish and Wildlife Service on declining deer
4 populations. And I was wondering, do we want to state
5 what we'd like to see, or give some options that we'd
6 like feedback on, total closure, subsistence priority,
7 bucks only. You know, do we want to be making some
8 suggestions, or just saying that we feel some action
9 needs to be taking place.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Some kind of
12 action needs to take place. And if we do need to take
13 action, we'd always preserve the subsistence priority.

14

15 MR. KOSO: Maybe you should add, you
16 know, that the people over there do a more thorough
17 survey of the caribou instead of just the lower end of
18 it. It sounded like they never did any surveys up
19 above the treeline -- or in the trees, so that
20 might.....

21

22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Wasn't that on
23 bears? I don't.....

24

25 MR. KOSO: No, it was caribou, yeah.
26 Yeah, that was the south end there.

27

28 MR. HOLMES: Oh, deer.

29

30 MR. KOSO: Or deer, excuse me. That
31 was on deer, yeah. Yeah.

32

33 MR. HOLMES: I think I'm going to have
34 to work on a draft and bounce it around, and then we
35 can see if we're all on the same page, as long as we
36 get the discussion here, that gets it.

37

38 And then I was thinking also a letter
39 of concern.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Push your button.

42

43 MR. HOLMES: Oops. I was thinking -- I
44 guess I was clarifying, Carl, as long as we get some
45 general debate on the topic of the items relating to
46 the topic, then we can cut a draft and then iron out to
47 make sure we've gotten all the details in.

48

49 And I was going to suggest -- I figured
50 out what my note was down bottom scribble, and that was

1 continued concern about the ducks populations in Uyak
2 and a desire for harvest data.

3

4 And I did have a discussion, one person
5 that works at the local Native corporation was
6 suggesting, and I asked Alec Paramanoff if he could
7 follow up and see what folks in Larsen Bay would think
8 of it, but the Koniag Corporation has a research
9 biologist on their staff and a resource group, and
10 there's a potential that we could ask on this harvest
11 information if we might -- I'll cut a draft, but I
12 might mention that if it's not feasible for the Service
13 to do it immediately or maybe not, Koniag -- it would
14 be to ask Koniag if they would do a program that would
15 support the folks in Larsen Bay, and then have a Native
16 corporation do the harvest information, because it
17 doesn't seem like -- the difficulties for Kodiak to
18 come up with it. That might be another option to
19 explore.

20

21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Carl.

24

25 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, regarding the deer
26 population on the east side of Kodiak, I wanted to just
27 remind the Council that there's more specific concrete
28 action you could take. You could either submit a
29 request for a special action regarding that to close to
30 non-Federally-qualified users, and then as part of
31 that, they would have to do an analysis of the
32 biological data to determine whether or not there is a
33 population biological concern. Or wait to see if any
34 new information comes in the next few months, and then
35 next year is a wildlife regulatory year. You could
36 submit a proposal as part of the regular process next
37 year regarding the closure for non-Federally-qualified
38 users, or any other action the Council may desire. But
39 those are additional options that the Council may take
40 regarding the deer on Kodiak.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Go ahead,
43 Tom.

44

45 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I think before we
46 put any proposal together, we ought to get with those
47 State biologists in Kodiak, because those guys are
48 really sharp and they know what's going on with that
49 deer herd, so I think we need to get their input, too,
50 included in whatever we're working on there.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I would echo
4 Tom's thoughts there. And we've in the past, you know,
5 worked closely with them, and also with the Fish and
6 Game Advisory Committee. And I usually try to brief
7 them after our meetings that we have as to the major
8 topics we've discussed, and I could mention to them,
9 you know, our concern and one of the options was a
10 special action type of thing, and maybe suggest that
11 they, you know, do one of our little mutual informal
12 study groups to discuss what type of thing, because if
13 we've already discussed this, then that might move them
14 to look at something and compromise on some specific
15 areas that would be something like bucks only, or
16 something like that. And so, you know, would be a way
17 of working together, not only the agencies, but the
18 Councils, because it always works out better to find a
19 compromise that will work for both groups. That would
20 be my thought.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Carl, you
23 mentioned we can recommend action now and then if they
24 don't do anything, then we can follow up with a
25 proposal next year. Tell me that again.

26

27 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. So
28 there's the regular regulatory cycle where you can
29 submit a proposal on wildlife is next year, so at your
30 winter meeting, you could discuss submitting a regular
31 proposal, which would permanently -- would actually
32 change the regulations for the harvest; or you could
33 now before then, or anytime between now and then,
34 submit a special action request, temporary or
35 emergency, so that would be either more than or less
36 than 60 days, to take that particular action. And
37 then, of course as part of that the Staff biologist
38 would do an analysis. They would look at the
39 biological information, and then there's criteria in
40 Section .815 of ANILCA that determines, you know, what
41 are the things you're supposed to look at when
42 determining whether or not you're going to close an
43 area to non-Federally-qualified subsistence users. So
44 the analysis would also include whether or not those
45 criteria were met under the circumstances.

46

47 And it looks like Chris is ready to say
48 something or answer questions.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Chris.

1 MR. McKEE: I'd just like to point out
2 that the special action process is kind of the several
3 version of an emergency order by the State, with the
4 exception that unfortunately for us, the State
5 biologists have quite a bit more autonomy to be able to
6 make those kind of decisions, in effect change
7 immediately through the emergency order process,
8 whereas on the Federal side, the special action process
9 that Carl's just describing, it takes a little while.
10 Now, I'm not saying weeks, but even an emergency
11 special action -- I would probably be -- at this point,
12 I would be the one doing the analysis. It has to go
13 through multiple layers of review both internally in
14 our office and through other -- the InterAgency Staff
15 Committee. That can take some time depending on where
16 people are and what's going on. So even if you did
17 submit something like that, and I'm not discouraging
18 you from doing that if you think that's something you
19 want to do, it just takes a little bit longer than the
20 State side. And at this point for us, that's the
21 process, the regulatory process we have to go through
22 to do that. And I just wanted to make you aware that
23 it's not as immediate as the State would be able to do.
24 So I just wanted to clarify that.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: How much time are
27 we looking at.

28
29 MR. McKEE: It depends. You know, we
30 just did one for sheep in Unit 23 and a portion of 26A
31 from the Park Service after they found out that the
32 numbers had completely tanked, and we got a special
33 action for a season, we got two days before the season
34 was supposed to start, and it still took us about nine
35 days to go through the process. That was a temporary
36 special action. That's another layer. If you go with
37 a temporary special action longer than 60 days, we're
38 required by regulation to have a public meeting before
39 we can take action on it, and so the analysis is not
40 complete until we incorporate those public comments, so
41 that adds another layer of time in order to complete
42 that analysis if we go that route. So I just wanted to
43 make you aware of the time involved on the Federal
44 side. Unfortunately that's just kind of the regulatory
45 process that we have to deal with at this point.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: So the timeframe,
48 then it doesn't matter what we do, because by the time
49 we get anything done, the season will be over.
50

1 Peter.

2

3 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. Well, Mitch,
4 you know, I really feel that something needs to be done
5 in that area. I really do. And I don't care who does
6 it, but as winter's coming on, as soon as we start
7 getting snow, the deer move down to the beaches,
8 especially the does and fawns. And that's when these
9 outside hunters are just knocking them. I mean, you
10 know, having a good harvest when they come -- when it
11 snows. When there's no snow, they're not that easy to
12 see, but once that snow comes, when the deer move down
13 to the beaches, or close to the beaches, they're
14 accessed real easy I mean. But anyway, I just really
15 feel something needs to be done in that area to slow
16 down the harvest of the deer in that area, because the
17 local residents aren't being able to get their deer.
18 And to me, that's wrong.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Chris.

21

22 MR. McKEE: Again I would just --
23 through the Chair. I would just say it's a matter of
24 how immediate you think the problem is. If it's
25 something that you really feel action needs to be done
26 now, then you go through the special action process.
27 If you think it's something that can wait for a little
28 while, then we go through submitting a regulatory
29 proposal. But again, if you did that, we wouldn't be
30 meeting until -- the Board wouldn't be meeting to make
31 a decision on a proposal like that until April of 2016.
32 So there would still be some time in there. And, you
33 know, then once you do put it in regulation, then who
34 knows what happens with the population. You might have
35 to do something else. So, you know, it's a complicated
36 process.

37

38 And other times we've used delegation
39 of authority through the Refuge that allows them to
40 have a little bit more flexibility to set harvest
41 limits, harvest restrictions, those kind of things.
42 But, you know, that's a whole another layer.

43

44 So it depends on the timeframe I guess
45 is what I'm trying to get across, is how immediate you
46 think the issue is. If you think it's a real
47 emergency, then I would say probably the special action
48 process would be something to go through now rather
49 than wait the year or more year and a half or so until
50 the Board will meet and, you know, go through the whole

1 regulatory proposal process.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Is there a
4 difference, or is there a difference between the
5 special action request and asking them to make an
6 emergency order?

7

8 MR. McKEE: Well, again, like I said,
9 the special action request process is kind of the
10 emergency order -- it's kind of the Federal version of
11 an emergency order, except that through the State the
12 area biologist has that authority to do it themselves,
13 and they can do it immediately, whereas we don't have
14 that kind of quick process. We have to go through this
15 analysis writing, review process, in order to get it
16 done. Now, the difference being an emergency order,
17 like Carl mentioned, would be for less than 60 days,
18 and a temporary would be for more than 60 days. That's
19 the only difference. The words temporary and emergency
20 shouldn't be confused in terms of the immediacy of the
21 problem. It's just a terminology that defines
22 different type periods, less than or greater than 60
23 days. It's a complicated process I realize. I just
24 wanted to make you aware of the convolution involved in
25 the process.

26

27 MR. KOSO: So, Mr. Chair, could you
28 just go through the State then maybe? It sounded like
29 the State's the way to go. And could the State
30 actually do an emergency order on that?

31

32 MR. McKEE: Not on Federal lands.

33

34 MR. KOSO: Not on Federal lands. So I
35 guess this is a done deal.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Carl.

38

39 MR. JOHNSON: And the State also
40 wouldn't be able to do what the Council would like to
41 do, and that is to close to non-Federally-qualified
42 subsistence users. They wouldn't be able to make that
43 distinction.

44

45 And one not uncommon tandem is to do a
46 temporary special action request which would say, you
47 know, would be longer than 60 days, maybe go through
48 the end of a season, and then also in addition to that,
49 you submit a regular proposal at the next cycle, so
50 that you tie them together so you're meeting one gap

1 with the temporary special action in lieu of, and then
2 also pursuing the full more long-term process of a
3 regular regulatory proposal.

4

5 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.

8

9 MR. HOLMES: I would suggest that we
10 approach this cautiously. And I understand your
11 passion and pain, because you folks are much more
12 related to folks in Old Harbor. But the thing is, is
13 we've had worse population reductions before, and I
14 think we would be better to communicate to the Refuge
15 and to Fish and Game that we're very concerned about
16 this, and we'd like to start a dialogue to explore it,
17 because, you know, if -- you know, I trust Nate and I
18 trust Van Daele and John, and, you know, myself, I
19 would like to do something right now and shut it down.
20 I agree with you. But I think if we do that and then
21 we end up with them saying, gee, you know, we've done
22 some flying, and, you know, the deer are all up at 1800
23 feet or 2,000 feet. I don't know. But I think I would
24 urge caution and not to take an action like this,
25 because it would really stir things up, and if we're
26 wrong, we'll have egg on our face in terms of what
27 we're trying to achieve. And it's taken years to get
28 -- solving some of these problems like we've had with
29 the -- we've opened -- dropped the deer harvest by the
30 back, dropped it before. And I would suggest looking
31 at things in terms of bucks or does or reducing total
32 numbers for part of the Island, and asking the
33 Department to address it from that point rather than go
34 to total subsistence. Because it won't be just
35 subsistence for people from Old Harbor. You're going
36 to get the whole gang of folks that can afford boats
37 from town, you know. And it just would make a mess and
38 I think make it much more difficult for us in the
39 future on other issues.

40

41 And so I would suggest, as I said,
42 communicating to both the State and to the Refuge that
43 we're very concerned about the deer populations.
44 People are having to go other places for their deer,
45 and we really need them to take a good strong look at
46 this and consider some emergency action that would
47 reduce the harvest for that area. And in that way I
48 think we can achieve it. And if it doesn't happen,
49 well, then we can go ahead and go to some more severe
50 action or the special action.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Take emergency
4 action. Suggest this emergency action within 60 days,
5 and then if that doesn't happen, we can continue on
6 with the proposal for next season.

7

8 MR. JOHNSON: Well, Mr. Chair, this is
9 something that would have to be dealt with by a motion.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

12

13 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom.

16

17 MR. SCHWANTES: I've got to tell you, I
18 hear where you're coming from, but I don't think we're
19 going to have any support right now to do the type of
20 closure we're looking to do, because the reports are
21 showing that the numbers are coming up. And so if we
22 go in there now and say we want to shut this thing
23 down, I think the better process might be to go through
24 the proposal process and try to limit it, you know, to
25 eliminate the taking of any does and fawns, and maybe
26 drop the limit on bucks to two down in that area, or
27 even one or whatever. And I think, you know, we might
28 have a greater effect on the population doing that than
29 we would this other way, because I just don't see that
30 we're going to get any support out of that Refuge or
31 Fish and Game up there, especially with these numbers
32 indicating that, you know, their surveys are saying,
33 well, this year was much better than last years. So,
34 you know, that's my concern.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Go ahead,
37 Chris.

38

39 MR. McKEE: Mr. Chair. One advantage
40 of going through the regular proposal process starting
41 next year is that we probably would have more recent
42 data available to us to do that kind of analysis. So
43 that's -- I mean, you're kind of weighing your options
44 there, and, you know, cost/benefit of that, but that
45 would be one benefit of maybe going through the
46 regulatory process with a regular proposal is that we'd
47 probably be able to get the latest information about
48 what that population is doing, and have a little bit
49 better idea, make a -- be able to better make a more
50 fully informed analysis than we might be able to do

1 now. And it might be more difficult to get buy-in from
2 everybody as Mitch and -- immediately right now.

3
4 MR. KOSO: Just my two cents, Mitch,
5 but, you know, I'm not from Kodiak. I don't fish
6 there, and I haven't been -- I feel like Tom over there
7 listening to those guys make their report. They were
8 not very receptive to you guys wanting to have them
9 shut it down, and the reason being that the population
10 looks fairly strong in their minds, and it's rising.
11 And they weren't even able to do a total survey. So I
12 guess I'll be kind of with Tom on this thing.

13
14 But, you know, I'm here to represent
15 your guys area, but to do it on a final closure like
16 you request, I think maybe that's not the right way to
17 do it in my mind. To do, maybe a suggestion of cutting
18 the harvest rate down. If you cut it down to one bull
19 or something, then it's not going to be worth the guy's
20 effort to come from another region to get it, because
21 there's not enough they could get. It wouldn't be
22 feasible for them to do that. I think by doing that,
23 and not shutting the season down, it will create a
24 local hunt, because it wouldn't be feasible for other
25 people in other regions to come to that area if you cut
26 the harvest rate down to say one bull or something.
27 That would be my suggestion. I'm just throwing it in.
28 I know I'm not there, but I'll just toss that out, but
29 that makes sense to me.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Rick, thank
32 you.

33
34 Hey, Vince, Antone, what about you
35 guys? Are you guys there? Maybe they went.....

36
37 MR. SHELIKOFF: Yeah. I can hear
38 sometimes. Antone.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Peter.

41
42 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Mitch. You
43 know, I was just concerned about the people on the east
44 side. And like Mitch said, he hunted and didn't get a
45 deer. His boy hunted and didn't get a deer. But yet
46 all these outside hunters are coming in and hunting a
47 little ways from their village and taking what there is
48 regardless of sex or size or whatever. So that's my
49 big concern. If we can like Rick -- I mean, hey, if we
50 can get Fish and Game to make an emergency order to go

1 to one deer, you know, I think that would discourage a
2 lot of outside hunters from coming in the area, and
3 help the population increase.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom.

6

7 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I really think
8 that that's probably the better way to go, because
9 those guys, the guys that are running those big crab
10 boats and draggers and stuff aren't going to spend that
11 extra money to run down here if they can only shoot one
12 deer. So I think, you know, when they switched the
13 limit back from seven to five, it made a huge
14 difference in the number of people that were coming
15 over from the mainland to hunt, and I think that's --
16 in my mind, that's the way to go. And I don't really
17 see that we would get any support right now from Fish
18 and Game or from the Feds to do an emergency order or
19 anything. I just don't see it.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

22

23 MR. SQUARTSOFF: He mentioned it's up
24 to you guys.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah. Well, I'm
27 outnumbered. So I'll go with the majority. We'll take
28 a little subtle route and communicate.

29

30 Okay.

31

32 MR. JOHNSON: Well, Mr. Chair, we do
33 have on the record the Council expressing desire to
34 send a letter of concern to the Refuge and to ADF&G
35 regarding the status of this population.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom.

38

39 MR. SCHWANTES: We'll just have to take
40 a trip to Port Lions and hunt with Pete.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: There you go.
43 Pete will shoot me.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. That's
48 done. We know what we're going to do there.

49

50 MR. HOLMES: Okay, I had no idea, Mr.

1 Chairman that my question qualifying on what we're
2 going to do about deer would take so long. And so it's
3 good to get that discussion and I can work on that with
4 Carl and come up with a letter of concern. And do we
5 want to have a suggestion in there that they explore, I
6 think that was the feeling, reduced harvest levels for
7 -- and we would need to have some.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Well, that will
10 come from.....

11
12 MR. HOLMES: Okay.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF:a proposal.

15
16 MR. HOLMES: Okay, that'll come in a
17 proposal.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes.

20
21 MR. HOLMES: Now, the concern now --
22 and then.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I wouldn't ask
25 them to arbitrarily do it.

26
27 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, okay. And then we
28 can just verbalize the concern from this Council that
29 ranged -- in the broad range of potential actions going
30 from reducing levels to total closure with the
31 exception of subsistence and then I think that will get
32 quite a bit of action if we keep that on a verbal level
33 and not do it in a written statement.

34
35 Okay, so we got that done.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Do we have all the
38 information we need for our annual report then.

39
40 Carl.

41
42 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. I definitely
43 do have a range of topics that I could glean not only
44 from this discussion but themes from earlier in the
45 meeting.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

48
49 MR. HOLMES: Oh, I had one thing that I
50 was going to bring up and Tom and I were discussing

1 this before when we had the discussion on Woman's Bay
2 subsistence crab and it's an area where the NOAA folks
3 have said that they do diving out there every year and
4 they said that their feeling was is that the
5 populations were reduced -- was declining and it's the
6 one small area near town where you can get crab. And
7 Tom had a very good discussion at a previous meeting on
8 different approaches. But the big problem is, and
9 correct me if I'm wrong, Tom, the big problem there is
10 ghost pots that are left in year-round and then the ice
11 pulling the buoys off and leaving the pots to
12 continually fishing. Is that.....

13

14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Well, last year we
15 had that topic come up and there was an organization
16 that said they were removing those.

17

18 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Yeah, they are
19 removing them.

20

21 And I guess what I'd like to suggest
22 based on when Tom and I were chatting about this, that
23 we write a letter to, or personally talk, if you want
24 to assign this as a committee, with Fish and Game, Fish
25 and Wildlife, and NOAA to -- or whoever's going to do
26 it, consider to utilize emergency order closures of
27 Woman's Bay for some time when the ice would probably
28 occur and then people would have to remove their gear
29 so it wouldn't become a problem in the future.

30

31 Is that a reasonable summary, Tom.

32

33 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I don't know
34 about an emergency order, but I think what we suggested
35 to them at the time was, if that's your concern about
36 the ghost pots, then come back with a proposal that
37 would allow us to close the season during that
38 particular time of the year but certainly not a year-
39 round closure.

40

41 MR. HOLMES: Oh, no. No.

42

43 MR. SCHWANTES: Because that is
44 the.....

45

46 MR. HOLMES: No. Yeah.

47

48 MR. SCHWANTES:only area really
49 close where the elders can get out there and get crab.
50 And the proposal that they brought forward at that time

1 didn't accomplish what they wanted to do and so I
2 think, you know, we did put it back in their hands and
3 I talked to the biologist about it and I told him, I
4 said, hey, you know, if you bring another proposal
5 before us, you know, that deals with closing it during
6 that winter season when the ice is going to be a
7 problem, then the Board would probably take a good
8 close look at that but, you know, I, for one, am not
9 going to do anything to shut that thing down entirely
10 and fight that tooth and nail.

11

12 Thanks.

13

14 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I wasn't talking
15 about entirely, just like for two months of the winter
16 or three months of the winter when the ice, and I had
17 talked to them on the same thing, about coming back to
18 us with another proposal but it's been -- this is what,
19 the second year, I don't know what the cycle is on a
20 fishery proposal on the State regs, but maybe that's
21 something -- maybe I think taking the clue from you,
22 that maybe what we should be doing is looking out for
23 the next Federal Board cycle to submit a proposal that
24 it would be closed from -- we could check with the
25 weather service and see when the ice usually occurs,
26 and that it simply be closed for that period. And in
27 the process of putting that proposal together and,
28 Carl, in a minute can tell us when we'd need to do that
29 and then we can advise the local staff that our Council
30 is going to be submitting a proposal for a closure for
31 X months in mid-winter to prevent fishing while the ice
32 is there, and I think that would solve things.

33

34 Do you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Well, no, that
37 don't make sense to me, Pat. Because subsistence users
38 don't do things like that.

39

40 MR. HOLMES: They do, that's the --
41 excuse me, Mr. Chair, they do.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I mean I have bays
44 around my area and I do not go put my crab pot where
45 the ice is going to take my crab pot out. I mean I
46 have that knowledge, my kids have that knowledge, I
47 mean we learned it from our elders, you know, it's not
48 the elders that are telling their kids to go put your
49 crab pot and lose it to the ice flow, that doesn't make
50 sense.

1 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, well, some of the --
2 I mean there's -- I've talked to the divers and I don't
3 know what they've got now but there's hundreds of pots,
4 both commercial dungees and subsistence pots down there
5 and, you know, I wouldn't do that, I don't do it, Tom
6 fishes, he pulls his pots out, I don't even go there
7 because I just, you know, am concerned about the crab,
8 and I agree that the normal rationale subsistence
9 person wouldn't do that, but they do and there's piles
10 of them, that's the problem.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Peter.

13
14 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, I just thought
15 on that issue about the dungee pots, I thought there
16 was talk about closing the dungee season down in
17 Woman's Bay.

18
19 MR. HOLMES: They haven't done that.

20
21 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Because that was the
22 biggest mortality on the crab was in the dungeness
23 pots.

24
25 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, it's both pots and I
26 don't think they've done anything, have they -- oh,
27 yes, I agree with -- with Pete and the dungee pots are
28 a big part of it but the divers have said there are
29 both types of pots that are a problem and then I was
30 going to refer my comments over to Tom.

31
32 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, in that report,
33 by their own information over 50 percent of the pots
34 that they were concerned about, the lost pots, were
35 dungeness pots, commercial dungeness pots so it wasn't
36 -- it wasn't the -- the subsistence users weren't the
37 primary problem.

38
39 The other thing we don't know, and they
40 were going to work on, they had a group that was going
41 to go out there and try and clean those pots out and we
42 don't have any information. I haven't gotten any
43 information back on that, what's been done or what
44 hasn't been done. But -- and so I think we need --
45 before we jump in to making proposals we need to gather
46 some more information but it's certainly worth looking
47 at.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. So we need
50 to find out if derelict pots have been cleaned out or

1 not. Because the last time we had this discussion
2 there was somebody in the audience or somebody had
3 given a report that were picking those -- that there
4 were divers down there collecting those pots or just --
5 so that they don't fish anymore.

6
7 MR. HOLMES: Okay. So we've gone in
8 our discussions from potential proposal to a letter of
9 concern to respective parties and asking them to
10 followup on what they said they would be doing.....

11
12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah.

13
14 MR. HOLMES:and advise us as to
15 whether pots, advise if derelict pots are still a
16 problem, pots, and then what they've done or will be
17 done, what done -- or will be doing to rectify the
18 problem if it hasn't been taken care of.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

21
22 MR. HOLMES: And then if something
23 hasn't happened, then we'll followup when we get to the
24 Federal fisheries proposals, of submitting a proposal
25 for whatever, some kind of closure of all gear during
26 the potential ice months.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Carl.

29
30 MR. JOHNSON: And the deadline for
31 submitting -- the next round of Federal fisheries
32 proposals would be -- we typically set it one week
33 after the end of the winter meeting cycle, so that
34 would be at the end of the winter meeting cycle, 2016,
35 will be the next time to submit regulatory fishery
36 proposals.

37
38 MR. SCHWANTES: That was 2016?

39
40 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, 2016.

41
42 MR. SCHWANTES: Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We're on fisheries
45 proposals right now, aren't we?

46
47 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, but these are
48 proposals that have already been submitted and analyzed
49 for this cycle, so the next open window for submitting
50 new fisheries proposals would be the winter meeting

1 cycle 2016.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Well, can we
4 produce letters of support for the proposals that are
5 in there.

6

7 MR. JOHNSON: Are you referring to
8 existing State proposals?

9

10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah.

11

12 MR. JOHNSON: If there.....

13

14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The fish proposals
15 that we heard earlier today and there was two for
16 Akalura and Olga Lakes.

17

18 MR. HOLMES: Oh, that's on research.

19

20 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, those are research.

21

22 MR. KOSO: That's research.

23

24 MR. HOLMES: I don't know what's --
25 what's cooking on the State regs or the Federal cycle.

26

27 But if, you know, the agency -- I think
28 our letter focusing in on it asking them to provide us
29 information and let us know what they decided on
30 management options and then that would allow us to
31 either take some action, or if they've come up with
32 something that they could do and they just simply have
33 forgotten it, then I think the State cycle is like one
34 year ahead of ours, and so then our letter would
35 provide encouragement for them to take action. If they
36 don't then we'll go ahead and do it through the Federal
37 process.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: All right. Okay.
40 I'm getting hungry.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 MR. SCHWANTES: I agree.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: It is there
47 anything else you need for our annual report, you've
48 got it all?

49

50 MR. JOHNSON: Not that I'm aware of,

1 Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Right on.

4

5 MR. SCHWANTES: Motion to adjourn.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No.

8

9 MR. KOSO: Second.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We're going to go
12 through Board comments before we adjourn.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We're going to
17 finish that. So you got to speak kindly of our hosts
18 before we go.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Peter.

23

24 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, I want to thank
25 the people of King Cove and I really enjoyed coming out
26 here and working with you guys and I really enjoyed it.
27 But sometimes I didn't agree with what was happening or
28 where the meeting locations were and everything, but
29 I'm not going to take back about going to State
30 basketball.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 MR. SQUARTSOFF: That's it.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yep.

37

38 MR. KOSO: Well, I'd just like to thank
39 all of the Refuge Federal people, you know, for being
40 so good with the kids and stuff here at King Cove and
41 presenting yourself as a real normal person here
42 instead of walking around with your suit and gun on
43 your side, it makes people a lot more comfortable and I
44 just appreciate you guys coming on over and doing that
45 stuff. It makes a big impact on this community. So
46 there's a lot of people here who will feel a lot more
47 comfortable now when they go over to Cold Bay and visit
48 or see you around, walking around or whatever, so I'd
49 just like to thank you guys for that.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah. Well, I --
2 go ahead, Tom.

3
4 MR. SCHWANTES: I, too, I'd like to
5 thank the community and I spoke to Della earlier, you
6 know, the table was set up out there and lots of food
7 and -- but just the feeling, to me, this has felt like
8 one of the most positive meetings we've had in a long
9 time. And it's by far the most positive meeting we've
10 had with the Refuge for years, and so I really
11 appreciate that. Really appreciate the work you're
12 doing and just encourage you to keep it up and anything
13 we can do to help you, let us know. But it's been a
14 good meeting, and, Pete, it's been a pleasure working
15 with you. Vince, it's been a good time, so thanks.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes. Well, I'd
18 like to say that I got on this Council at the turn of
19 the century and we've been trying, since then, to come
20 to King Cove, we made it.

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I hope we can keep
25 on making it.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: You know, when I
30 got on they were talking about, man, remember that time
31 we went to King Cove and got stuck.

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: That was just
36 proof positive that, you know, getting in and out of
37 here is a difficult task, and it's also proof positive
38 that they need a road out here.

39
40 Yeah, you know, and I do appreciate the
41 city of King Cove, and the village of King Cove for
42 having us here.

43
44 And to reiterate the positive dialogue
45 we've had with Izembek. It's been years, it's been
46 years, you know, every year, we've sat up here and
47 talked with Izembek, and I don't know maybe it's the
48 fact that you presented yourself without a uniform and
49 sitting there at attention, you know, we appreciate it,
50 you know, I was comfortable. I felt like I could say

1 anything to you and, you know, it's just a working
2 dialogue that's positive for us, and that's good.

3
4
5 anyway.

I appreciate you getting us here

6
7 Della.

8
9 MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you, Mitch. Yeah,
10 I'm thankful you all made it and it's nice to actually
11 have a meeting here, it's been awhile and it's good.
12 And it's actually -- this is -- I've been on this
13 Council for five -- well, five years this last time,
14 this is my second face to face meetings with you guys
15 -- I think my first meeting was in Kodiak, I couldn't
16 get in and out of here on a couple of occasions because
17 of work, but, yeah, if it takes once every five years,
18 hey, I can wait for a plaque, and come back to King
19 Cove.

20
21 (Laughter)

22
23 MS. TRUMBLE: But other than that, I
24 really do want to thank everybody, this has been really
25 good.

26
27 Izembek Staff, I thank both of you very
28 much and I think we made some headway this past couple
29 of days and we'll definitely be working with you to
30 continue that dialogue and how we can collaborate and
31 work together on a number of issues that are important
32 to both us.

33
34 And I thank everybody else for being
35 here, Glenn, it was good to see you again, and Glenn's
36 always getting me silver salmon when I see him so I got
37 my silver salmon again.

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 MS. TRUMBLE: But other than that Pete
42 is -- and Vince, I think, I'm going to miss you guys, I
43 think I've got one more year on here and I haven't
44 decided what my plans are but I guess every time I sit
45 down like this, I just realize how much -- and remind
46 myself how important that fish and wildlife is to our
47 people, and our communities and that we need to be here
48 for that very reason, but, yes, thank you, and I'm
49 glad you all made it.

50

1 MR. KOSO: Hey, Della, don't forget to
2 give them the new weather report.

3
4 MS. TRUMBLE: Oh, weather report. I
5 went on line earlier and they kept having no updates,
6 no updates, well, we went from 45 today to 50 -- or 45
7 last night to 50 today, to 65 -- 50 today to 65
8 tonight, it's supposed to go down tomorrow but to 40s,
9 so we'll see what happens. We may be having coffee
10 here all day, not a lot of food, but hopefully it does
11 come down.

12
13 (Laughter)

14
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

16
17 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. You know,
18 Della, I think it blows harder here than the years I
19 worked out on Shemya and projects I've had on that too.
20 I think it's just the mountains that surround things
21 and keep it cozy.

22
23 I -- this is a nice meeting room. I
24 came here hoping to reconnect with some folks that I
25 knew from 30 years ago or longer, 35 when I worked
26 here, and found new connections and running in and
27 having that testimony from the young Ms. Mack, how
28 exciting to see children and grandchildren of people I
29 knew back then moving ahead to help their community and
30 working on a Ph.D, how exciting. And, I agree with my
31 colleagues that this has been the most positive meeting
32 and I -- that's one thing I enjoy about our group is
33 that, you know, we can politely disagree with each
34 other and still develop some solutions and it is very
35 rewarding for the -- you know the Izembek Staff. And,
36 anyway, this has probably been one of the more
37 enjoyable meetings for me to be able to get back out to
38 what I consider some of my spiritual roots out here and
39 get to talk to folks and meet new people that are
40 trying to solve problems and so I'm going to have to
41 add a whole new bunch of folks to my good guy list
42 beyond Glenn Chen back there in the corner.

43
44 So thank you so much everybody.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.

47
48 Peter.

49
50 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, just one more

1 quick comment. I really want to urge this Council to
2 please continue protecting the resource for our future
3 generations.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Now, I'll
6 entertain your motion.

7
8 MR. SCHWANTES: Seconded. Okay, I'm
9 going to make a comment first if you don't mind -- and
10 then I'll end up with a motion.

11
12 But I want to express my appreciation
13 to Mitch, too, for the way you lead this group and
14 conduct the meetings, I really appreciate that.

15
16 MR. HOLMES: Amen.

17
18 MR. SCHWANTES: And now I'll make a
19 motion to adjourn.

20
21 MS. TRUMBLE: Second.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We're adjourned,
24 7:30. We're done.

25
26 (Off record)

27
28 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

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DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 23rd day of September 2014.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 9/16/18