

1 KODIAK/ALEUTIANS FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2  
3 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
4  
5 PUBLIC MEETING  
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7  
8  
9 Best Western Hotel  
10 Kodiak, Alaska  
11 March 20, 2014  
12 9:00 a.m.  
13

14  
15  
16 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:  
17

18 Mitch Simeonoff, Chair  
19 Melissa Berns  
20 Patrick Holmes  
21 Rick Kosko  
22 Tom Schwantes  
23 Antone Shelikoff  
24 Della Trumble  
25  
26 Regional Council Coordinator, Carl Johnson (Acting)  
27  
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Kodiak, Alaska - 3/20/2014)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Good morning.  
I'll call the meeting to order.

Can we have a roll call, please.

MR. JOHNSON: Certainly, Mr. Chair.  
Roll call to establish quorum. Antone Shelikoff.

MR. SHELIKOFF: Here.

MR. JOHNSON: Patrick Holmes.

MR. HOLMES: Here.

MR. JOHNSON: Rick Koso.

MR. KOSO: Here.

MR. JOHNSON: Sam Rohrer.

(No comment)

MR. JOHNSON: He indicated he would not  
be able to attend this meeting, Mr. Chair.

Tom Schwantes.

MR. SCHWANTES: Here.

MR. JOHNSON: Pete Squartsoff, who also  
indicated he would not be attending, Mr. Chair. The  
next one, Vince Tutiakoff, also indicated he would not  
be attending.

Della Trumble.

MS. TRUMBLE: Here.

MR. JOHNSON: Mitch Simeonoff.

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Here.

MR. JOHNSON: And Melissa Berns.

1 MS. BERNS: Here.  
2  
3 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair, you do have a  
4 quorum.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Carl.  
7 Once again, good morning. Welcome. Thank you all for  
8 coming. I'd just like to remind everyone if there's  
9 anyone in the audience that would like to make public  
10 comments, there's cards in the back there you can fill  
11 out and give it to Carl.  
12  
13 At this time I'll entertain a motion to  
14 accept the agenda.  
15  
16 MR. HOLMES: Move to accept the agenda.  
17  
18 MR. KOSO: Do you have an extra copy of  
19 the agenda?  
20  
21 MR. JOHNSON: I do have extra copies.  
22 Do you need an extra.....  
23  
24 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I don't have one.  
25  
26 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Let me get you an  
27 agenda and a meeting book.  
28  
29 MR. KOSO: That would be nice. Sorry,  
30 I didn't know they were back there or I would have got  
31 it myself. Thanks.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I didn't hear a  
34 second. Can I get a second for that motion.  
35  
36 MR. KOSO: I'll second.  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and  
39 seconded. Any discussion or additions.  
40  
41 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman. Can you  
42 hear me? This is Tom Schwantes down in Juneau.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, go ahead,  
45 Tom.  
46  
47 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, we can barely  
48 hear. I can barely hear you guys. You might have to  
49 get a little closer to the mic or something if you can.  
50 I'm just getting whispers.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. How's that?

2

3 MR. SCHWANTES: That's much better.

4 Thank you, Mitch.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Last week I talked  
7 with Bill Pyle. He mentioned someone coming from OSM  
8 or Fish and Wildlife somewhere who wanted to talk about  
9 the Akalura River in South Kodiak. Did he talk to you?  
10 Okay.

11

12 MR. JOHNSON: No, I don't have any  
13 information about that presentation, Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Yeah, I  
16 forget his name. I left my notes at home. If someone  
17 shows up, we'll make room for him. Any other additions  
18 to the agenda.

19

20 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. I do  
21 have two things. First of all, as Council members  
22 recall, last fall you voted to submit a letter  
23 regarding Proposal 337 before the Board of Fisheries.  
24 There's been some modifications to the language that  
25 has been handed out to you. Our acting fisheries  
26 chief, George Pappas, actually provided this to Rick  
27 Koso at the Board of Fisheries meeting. It includes  
28 some changed language and a map and I do know that the  
29 Board of Fish was planning on acting on this today, so  
30 Mr. Pappas suggested if we could put this up top on the  
31 agenda, then we could act on it and I could communicate  
32 the Council's action to him.

33

34 The other item I have is under agency  
35 reports for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Steve  
36 Delahanty requested a time certain and that would be  
37 for 9:00 a.m. tomorrow to do that presentation  
38 regarding the current status on the unauthorized cattle  
39 issue. Those are the only additions that I have at  
40 this time. Mr. Chair.

41

42 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Pat.

45

46 MR. HOLMES: I got a little text here  
47 from George Pappas that he wanted me to give him a call  
48 back. I'll do that when we have a break, but I imagine  
49 it's in relation to this 337. Council person Rick Koso  
50 also pointed out to me that also at the Board of Fish

1 there's going to be discussions on Proposal 338,  
2 subsistence king crab fishing, subsistence tanner crab  
3 fishing, closed waters and Registration Area K, close  
4 Alitak Bay to subsistence king crab and tanner crab  
5 fishing. I think we probably want to talk about that  
6 proposal and see what that means. Also Proposal 339,  
7 which is a description of Registration Area K, amend  
8 district description, so I assume that's what Carl was  
9 talking about as far as a map. Maybe we might want to  
10 move that early in our agenda if the Board of Fish is  
11 going to be discussing that so we can give them some  
12 comment.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Where would I put  
15 that?

16

17 MR. HOLMES: Just a moment.

18

19 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Carl.

22

23 MR. JOHNSON: I have an update from  
24 George Pappas. He indicated that he anticipates that  
25 the Board of Fish will address Prop. 337 as modified  
26 within the next 30 minutes or so.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Next 30 minutes or  
29 so. So we better get on it right now then. Yes, Don.

30

31 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don  
32 Rivard with the Office of Subsistence Management. You  
33 mentioned Akalura a little earlier.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes.

36

37 MR. RIVARD: Last week I had a  
38 discussion with Bill Pyle, the Kodiak National Wildlife  
39 Refuge, about that and maybe that's what you're  
40 referring to.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes.

43

44 MR. RIVARD: That will come up when you  
45 discuss possible fisheries priority information needs  
46 later in the agenda.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you.  
49 That discussion that's going to happen in the next 30  
50 minutes, let's take that up right now and then we'll

1 move on to the other part of the agenda.

2

3 MR. JOHNSON: I suggest, Mr. Chair, we  
4 complete adopting the agenda and then we can put that  
5 in before election of officers if the Council desires  
6 and then just proceed accordingly.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Any other  
9 additions to the agenda.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If there are no  
14 other additions, are there any objections to the  
15 additions.

16

17 (No objections)

18

19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing none, then  
20 the motion carries. Pat, what was that proposal from  
21 George.

22

23 MR. HOLMES: What I have from Rick that  
24 he got from George Pappas is Proposal 337 is before the  
25 Board of Fish and our Council had previously rejected  
26 this. It says subsistence tanner crab fishery. Repeal  
27 prohibition on subsistence tanner crab fishing 14 days  
28 before participating in a king or tanner crab  
29 commercial opening as follows, and then it goes down  
30 and says repeal subsistence regulations that prohibits  
31 tanner crab fishing in waters greater than 25 fathoms  
32 or more in depth 14 days immediately prior to the start  
33 of the commercial king or tanner crab season.

34

35 The issue that's put in here by Ed  
36 Monkiewicz, who did the proposal originally, was  
37 subsistence fishing for tanner crab in Kodiak area is  
38 prohibited for two weeks before the start of the  
39 commercial tanner crab fishing. Commercial regs  
40 prohibited commercial fishermen from subsistence or  
41 sport fishing for tanner crabs prior to the start of  
42 the commercial season to prevent vessels from  
43 prospecting of preempting the fishing grounds. There  
44 is no reason to hold subsistence fishermen to the same  
45 standards as they do not participate in the commercial  
46 fishing.

47

48 That's what the proposal reads. Mr.  
49 Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: You said we took  
2 action on this before. We opposed it. What are they  
3 asking of us now?

4  
5 MR. HOLMES: I'd refer back to Carl or  
6 Rick because I haven't been able to talk to George yet.

7  
8 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair. Yeah, I talked  
9 to George a little bit about this here because I told  
10 him I wasn't all that familiar with the Kodiak region  
11 crab areas, but he just told me that this issue was  
12 coming up. It's going to be voted on by the Board this  
13 morning. So what you see in the proposal book is what  
14 they're going to be voting on.

15  
16 As a matter of fact, the three  
17 proposals that you see there, that's going to be coming  
18 up this morning. The Board is going to be either  
19 adopting them or rejecting them. I think he wanted to  
20 know if we wanted to participate or let the Board know  
21 prior to their decision-making if we had any changes or  
22 if we wanted to approve or disapprove those particular  
23 motions.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. I would  
26 certainly oppose Proposal 338, close Alitak Bay to  
27 subsistence and commercial king and tanner crab  
28 fishing. Subsistence has never been the cause of any  
29 decline of any resource. If they want to close  
30 commercial tanner and king crab, that would be fine,  
31 but I'd take the word subsistence out of there. I  
32 wouldn't take that subsistence opportunity away from  
33 the people of Alitak Bay.

34  
35 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Tom. Was  
38 that you, Tom? Go ahead. (Pause) Did we lose him?  
39

40 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman. Tom  
41 Schwantes here in Juneau. Can you hear me?

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, I can, Tom.  
44 Go ahead. (Pause) You try, Carl.

45  
46 MR. JOHNSON: We can hear you, Tom. Go  
47 ahead.

48  
49 MR. SCHWANTES: I would definitely  
50 agree with Mitch's comments. I certainly think that we

1 don't want to close that bay to subsistence fishing.  
2 That would be theoretically shutting down the  
3 subsistence fishery for the people in Akhiok down  
4 there. I would think we would definitely want to have  
5 some comment before the Board on that to oppose the --  
6 if they want to close it for commercial king and tanner  
7 crab fishing, I certainly don't have a problem with  
8 that, but I definitely have a problem with them closing  
9 it for subsistence. Again, that would shut down  
10 the.....

11

(Phone interruption)

12

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The  
15 teleconferencing system definitely got to improve.

16

17 MR. JOHNSON: Do you want me to call  
18 him and tell him to go ahead?

19

20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Is that the only  
21 way it's going to work if you call him on his phone?

22

23 MR. JOHNSON: If I may, Mr. Chair,  
24 perhaps we should move from one proposal to the next.  
25 Take action on one, vote, then move on to the next so  
26 -- we didn't really finish taking any particular action  
27 on Prop. 337, so I know that was the one coming up  
28 soon. So perhaps the Council could take action on that  
29 and continue on. Note the adjusted language in the  
30 handout labeled RC 39 and then see if there's anything  
31 that changes the Council's previous opinion.

32

33 For the Council's benefit, your letter  
34 regarding Prop. 337 is on Page 136 of your book.

35

36 MR. PAPPAS: Carl, George Pappas just  
37 signed on.

38

39 MR. JOHNSON: Hi, George.

40

41 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning, sir.

42

43 MR. JOHNSON: We're just starting to  
44 address Prop. 337 and we're also talking about Prop.  
45 338.

46

47 MR. PAPPAS: Okay.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thanks for joining  
50 us, George.

1 MR. PAPPAS: Oh, you bet. This is real  
2 time. They're about to go take this up on the record.  
3 The Kodiak AC submitted the RC that you have in front  
4 of you and they indicated that -- is this a good time  
5 for me, Mr. Chair, to speak?

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We'll take these  
8 proposals one at a time. The first one on top there is  
9 Proposition 337 -- not a proposition, a proposal. This  
10 says repeal prohibition on subsistence tanner crab  
11 fishing 14 days before participating in a king or  
12 tanner crab commercial opening. May I have a motion to  
13 accept so we can discuss it and vote it up or down.

14  
15 MR. HOLMES: I'll make a motion.

16  
17 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. If we follow  
18 our normal procedure for dealing with proposals,  
19 perhaps we should hear a presentation on it first from  
20 Mr. Pappas regarding the changed language from what the  
21 previous version was this Council voted on and then the  
22 Council can make a motion.

23  
24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Then we'll  
27 suspend that motion. George, would you give us a  
28 review on the Proposal 337.

29  
30 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, Mr. Chair. Your last  
31 meeting you voted to oppose the idea of removing the  
32 14-day closure before commercial fishery. The letter  
33 you submitted to the Board stating that you didn't want  
34 folks prospecting and possibly impacting subsistence  
35 communities by having a commercial fishery that would  
36 come and clean out a school of crab near a community.

37  
38 At the Board of Fish meeting, we just  
39 had the committee process yesterday and the Kodiak  
40 Advisory Committee, the State advisory committee,  
41 submitted substitute language to say, well, what about  
42 the areas that are closed to commercial fishing should  
43 subsistence users be restricted from there.

44  
45 I guess some areas around Kodiak  
46 haven't been open for 20 years and their modified  
47 language said, well, if there's a district and I  
48 believe I recall about the maps in there, if one of  
49 those districts is open to commercial fishing, then  
50 keep that 14-day prohibition in place. If the district

1 is closed to commercial fishing for the year, then let  
2 subsistence users fish all year.

3

4                   That's the simple modification that  
5 they offered and it looks like it's gaining support  
6 here, but my point to them was what if one of those  
7 district lines fall next to a community and the line is  
8 right near the community and then people prospect just  
9 on the other side of the line on the traditional  
10 grounds of that community. So we've got to look at the  
11 map there.

12

13                   The place by Karluk, if you look on the  
14 far end of the island there, Karluk is somewhat near a  
15 line, but that line is probably outside a Federal  
16 subsistence fisheries jurisdiction, so that's not an  
17 issue.

18

19                   If you look towards the town of Kodiak,  
20 well, as I understand it's explained to me there really  
21 hasn't been much commercial tanner crab fishing right  
22 there in the town of Kodiak, especially in the waters  
23 under Federal subsistence jurisdiction because local  
24 folks there harvest those fish -- crabs.

25

26                   So you look up at Afognak and we have  
27 Port Lions in there. That could be an issue, but that  
28 whole district, if you look at it closely, just about  
29 all around the island there is the commercial tanner  
30 crab district and if it's open that 14-day would stay  
31 in place. If this amendment went through, if that  
32 whole area was closed to commercial fishing, then the  
33 folks in Port Lions can go basically all year and then  
34 not have to worry about those two weeks.

35

36                   What's the impact of this? I'm not  
37 certain how many people actually go crab fishing for  
38 subsistence in two weeks in January. I would assume  
39 it's a pretty rough time of year. But I wanted to  
40 bounce it off you guys and get your opinion.

41

42                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43

44                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, George.

45

46                   Pat.

47

48                   MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I think this  
49 amendment has some merit because at least around the  
50 town of Kodiak there's a few places you might be able

1 to dip out into Federal waters here around the maritime  
2 and off the Buskin and be able to get in some fishing.  
3 I think this probably accommodates what the original  
4 proposal by Ed Monkiewicz, he's a retired commercial  
5 fisherman, had put in. I think that's probably what he  
6 was intending. I'm pretty sure that that will not  
7 allow -- this will still keep commercial fishing or  
8 people prospecting away from the subsistence areas and  
9 allow people a chance to go out and get a few crab.

10

11 So I feel that it has some merit and  
12 solves some of the problems that we addressed earlier  
13 when we voted against 337. So I'd be inclined to  
14 consider this amendment as being a positive solution.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.

17

18 Any other questions.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Can we have  
23 a motion to Proposal 337 and the amendment.

24

25 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I would  
26 move that our council reconsider our negative vote on  
27 Proposal 337 and accept the amendment as written with  
28 the addition of (2) in a section of the Kodiak district  
29 that will open to a commercial tanner crab fishery the  
30 subsistence taking of tanner crab is prohibited in  
31 waters 25 fathoms or more in depth during 14 days  
32 immediately before the scheduled opening of a  
33 commercial king crab or tanner crab fishing in that  
34 section. This would allow subsistence folks to do  
35 their subsistence but if a district does open, then it  
36 would keep the commercial folks away from that.

37

38 So I move that we would adopt this  
39 amended language.

40

41 MR. KOSO: Second.

42

43 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Carl.

46

47 MR. JOHNSON: If I might recommend to  
48 Mr. Holmes, procedurally, you might want to withdraw  
49 that part of your motion where you moved to reconsider  
50 your previous position because that would be an

1 elaborated Robert's Rules procedure we'd have to follow  
2 before completing your motion.

3

4 MR. HOLMES: Okay. I'd like to  
5 eliminate that language from my comment if you can  
6 arrange that.

7

8 MR. JOHNSON: We'll just state for the  
9 record that the motion is to adopt the amended language  
10 that's before the Council in a document marked RC 39.

11

12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Moved by  
15 Pat, seconded by Rick. Any other discussion.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing none. All  
20 those in favor of Proposal 337 say aye.

21

22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Those opposed same  
25 sign.

26

27 (No opposing votes)

28

29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Motion carries.

30

31 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. Members of the  
32 Kodiak/Aleutians RAC. You guys just made history.  
33 I've got to get back in there. It's coming up in about  
34 two minutes. It's never been this close before.

35

36 Thank you very, very much.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, George.

39 Thank you.

40

41 MR. PAPPAS: You're welcome. Thank you  
42 very much.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Before you go can  
45 you tell us about Proposal 338 and 339.

46

47 MR. PAPPAS: Let me see here. Let me  
48 get my notes right here. During the committee process,  
49 Proposal 338, closed waters in Registration Area K,  
50 close Alitak Bay to subsistence and commercial king and

1 tanner crab fishing. The Department proposed closed  
2 area supports commercial tanner crab fishing and  
3 subsistence king and tanner crab fisheries. Over 50  
4 percent of all subsistence king crab are taken in the  
5 proposed closed area.

6

7 The Department of Law had no comments.  
8 I had no comments because we don't have any Federal  
9 subsistence jurisdiction down there. The public --  
10 there was no consensus. There's no biological  
11 conservation reason to close Alitak to crab fishing.  
12 One of the comments was only State waters should be  
13 closed. About 50 percent of the crab stocks in this  
14 area are outside the State waters.

15

16 Another comment was the Kodiak -- at  
17 least two sections must open to have fishery and this  
18 section was using one of them, so that's a concern they  
19 had. When you do have an opening around Kodiak you  
20 have to have at least two sections open at a time and  
21 this is primarily one that opens. The proposal would  
22 reduce the chances of having commercial tanner crab  
23 fishery in the entire Kodiak district. The Semidi  
24 Islands overlap section is located within the Kodiak  
25 and Chignik Management Districts and opens if either  
26 Alitak Bay or Chignik District Commercial tanner crab  
27 fishing is open. This proposal would reduce the chance  
28 of Semidi Island overlap section from opening. The crab  
29 stocks are rebounding. There's no reason to close this  
30 area at this time.

31

32 There was no consensus to support or  
33 oppose it and there's very limited discussion from the  
34 committee. That's what I have for Proposal 338.

35

36 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair. George, this is  
37 Rick Koso here. When there's no consensus, when the  
38 Board takes this up, in your mind, would they approve  
39 this as status quo or would they -- how would they do  
40 this on their vote?

41

42 MR. PAPPAS: Through the Chair. They  
43 would go into deeper deliberations if there was not a  
44 consensus from the committee. If there's a consensus  
45 from the committee, it actually moves it along a lot  
46 faster. I don't know how deep we'll get into this. My  
47 recollection from sitting in that process most folks  
48 thought it just wasn't necessary to wholesale close the  
49 area that people depend upon for subsistence and  
50 commercial.

1                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: George, this is  
2 Mitch. I don't have much on the Proposal 338, but I  
3 would suggest that you let them know that we do not  
4 want the word subsistence in there. I'm from Akhiok  
5 and I don't think the people would be too happy if they  
6 closed a subsistence commercial -- or subsistence king  
7 and tanner crab fishing.

8  
9                   MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair.

10  
11                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

12  
13                   MR. HOLMES: I think, you know, our  
14 Council before -- even though this isn't Federal  
15 waters, we have provided comments that relate to  
16 subsistence to folks all through our area to the Board  
17 of Fish and I'd like to propose that we -- our Council  
18 send to the Board through George our comments that we  
19 are against Proposal 338, so I'd like to make a motion  
20 that we adopt that and then vote it down. I guess  
21 that's proper procedure, Carl.

22  
23                   MR. JOHNSON: Yes, that would be  
24 correct.

25  
26                   MR. SCHWANTES: I'll second that  
27 motion.

28  
29                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and  
30 seconded. Any discussion.

31  
32                   (No comments)

33  
34                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No discussion.  
35 All those in favor say aye.

36  
37                   IN UNISON: Aye.

38  
39                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Those opposed  
40 say.....

41  
42                   MR. JOHNSON: To clarify, Council  
43 members, it's a motion to support 338, so if you're  
44 opposed to it, you'll want to say nay and if you  
45 support it, say aye.

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Once again, those  
48 in favor of Proposal 338 signify by saying aye.

49  
50                   MR. SHELIKOFF: Aye.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Those opposed say  
2 nay.

3  
4 IN UNISON: Nay.

5  
6 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
7 have your position on that recorded. If you want to  
8 move to Proposal 339.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes.

11  
12 MR. PAPPAS: Proposal 339 amends a  
13 description in area and districts of the Registration  
14 Area K. There was no comments on this. The Department  
15 had no comments, Law had no comments, the public panel  
16 said it doesn't change the line significantly and there  
17 hasn't been a commercial king crab since the 1980s and  
18 the public panel here committee process has consensus  
19 to support this proposal. I don't have anymore  
20 information with me at this time beyond that, sir.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Where is Area K?  
23 The little map we have here it's not on here.

24  
25 MR. HOLMES: This is all Area K.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: All of Kodiak  
28 Island?

29  
30 MR. HOLMES: Yeah.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. The only  
33 question I would have on that proposal is there's a  
34 line at the top of Afognak Island and Shuyak, 152  
35 degrees 20 west and then there's a line from Cape  
36 Chiniak. The next line is way over here at Cape  
37 Ikolik. There's no line that intercedes across Afognak  
38 and onto Kodiak Island.

39  
40 MR. HOLMES: It's everything south of  
41 Cape Douglas down to Kilokak Rocks basically is Area K.  
42 The whole shebang is Area K.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. This whole  
45 area is -- okay. I got it now. I would entertain a  
46 motion for Proposal 339.

47  
48 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. It looks  
49 like, from reading through this, that this is a  
50 Department proposal to just clarify the definition of

1 management area lines and that they feel it would be  
2 more definitive than what they've got already, so I  
3 don't see any problem with adopting this. I would like  
4 to bring it on the table. I move to adopt Proposal  
5 339.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Do I hear a  
8 second.

9  
10 MR. KOSO: Second.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and seconded.  
13 Any discussion.

14  
15 (No comments)

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no  
18 discussion. Is there any objections.

19  
20 (No opposing votes)

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No objections, so  
23 the motion carries.

24  
25 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
26 I'll bring that forward too. There's been a lot of  
27 proposals that have been put forth like this that the  
28 Department put in that they're using GPS. It will make  
29 things a little more accurate and more enforceable.  
30 The only comments I did hear during this process is why  
31 don't you use three significant figures, three decimal  
32 places on GPS instead of two. Well, the Department  
33 says we're not ready for that yet. You guys want to  
34 manage a fishery from three feet?

35  
36 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37  
38 I better get back in.

39  
40 Okay?

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you,  
43 George. Let them know we need a little more than 30  
44 minutes next time.

45  
46 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, sir, I understand  
47 that.

48  
49 Thank you, sir. Goodbye.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Go ahead,  
2 Car.

3  
4 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. I'll  
5 suggest we can resume the agenda and I note that we did  
6 skip over welcome and introductions because we were  
7 rushing to get to these fisheries proposals.

8  
9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We'll take a step  
12 back and have some introductions and probably slow down  
13 a little bit now. I'll start. I'm Speridon Simeonoff.  
14 I'm from the Native Village of Akhiok. I've been with  
15 the Kodiak RAC, I don't know, almost 10, 12 years now.

16  
17 MR. KOSO: I'm Rick Koso from Adak  
18 representing the RAC out west. I've been on here now  
19 going on the second or third term. I'm not quite sure  
20 now. Yeah, I guess I've been here about four years.

21  
22 Thank you.

23  
24 MS. BERNS: My name is Melissa Berns  
25 and I'm from the community of Old Harbor, southeast  
26 side of Kodiak Island.

27  
28 MR. HOLMES: I'm Pat Holmes from  
29 Kodiak. I did a long shift on a Fish and Game AC and  
30 then I've been, I think, on this Council for, I don't  
31 know, 12 or 15 years. Anyway, I have no conflicts on  
32 lodges or anything else or commercial/sport. I'm  
33 purely a subsistence advocate and I love it and believe  
34 it.

35  
36 MR. SHELIKOFF: Antone Shelikoff. I'm  
37 from the Native Village of Akutan. I've been on this  
38 Council since 2010.

39  
40 DR. CHEN: Hello, Council members. My  
41 name is Glenn Chen. I'm with the Bureau of Indian  
42 Affairs.

43  
44 MR. SCHWANTES: I'm Tom Schwantes. I'm  
45 from Kodiak and have been on the Council for six years  
46 now and enjoy working with the group and I'm a strong  
47 supporter of subsistence.

48  
49 MS. TRUMBLE: Good morning. My name is  
50 Della Trumble. I'm from King Cove and I work with King

1 Cove Corporation down south of King Cove. I've been  
2 part of this process off and on for many numbers of  
3 years.

4

5 MR. LORRIGAN: Good morning, Mr.  
6 Chairman. Council members. My name is Jack Lorrigan.  
7 I'm the Native liaison for the Office of Subsistence  
8 Management and I'm also the leadership team lead here  
9 today.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MR. RIVARD: Good morning, everyone.  
14 I'm Don Rivard. I'm a fish biologist with the Office  
15 of Subsistence Management and I've been working with  
16 OSM since 2000.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MR. COBB: Good morning, Council. My  
21 name is McCrea Cobb. I'm a wildlife biologist with  
22 Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge.

23

24 MS. LAROSA: Good morning, Council. My  
25 name is Anne Marie LaRosa and I'm the manager at Kodiak  
26 National Wildlife Refuge. I've been here since January  
27 and I came from Arctic Refuge.

28

29 MR. EVANS: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
30 My name is Tom Evans. I'm the wildlife biologist for  
31 the Kodiak/Aleutian Region. I work with OSM.

32

33 MS. LOWE: Good morning, Council. My  
34 name is Stacey Lowe and I'm the wildlife biologist from  
35 Izembek Refuge.

36

37 MR. POLUM: Good morning. My name is  
38 Tyler Polum. I'm the assistant area biologist for  
39 Sport Fish with Fish and Game here in Kodiak.

40

41 DR. BUMSTED: Camai. I'm Pamela  
42 Bumsted with Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak.

43

44 MS. SKINNER: Rebecca Skinner,  
45 concerned citizen.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. We'll  
48 take introductions as they come, I guess.

49

50 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.  
2  
3 MR. HOLMES: I'd like to also recognize  
4 Johnny Reft. He's the vice chair of the Sun'aq Tribe  
5 and one of our Kodiak elders that's passionately  
6 supported our process.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Morning, John. I  
9 didn't see you behind that post.  
10  
11 MR. REFT: Good morning.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. At this  
14 time we'll take up the  
15 Council elections. I'll open the floor up for  
16 chairman. Carl, you have something.  
17  
18 MR. JOHNSON: Yes.  
19  
20 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.  
23  
24 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman. I'd like  
25 to nominate Speridon Simeonoff as the chair.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you.  
28  
29 Carl.  
30  
31 Go ahead, Carl.  
32  
33 MR. JOHNSON: Procedurally, at this  
34 time, Mr. Chair, you should pass the gavel of the Chair  
35 over to me and I will conduct the Chair elections.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.  
38  
39 MR. JOHNSON: So you don't conduct the  
40 election for yourself.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: You got it.  
43  
44 MR. JOHNSON: Now I will at this time  
45 accept nominations for the position of Chair of  
46 Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory Council.  
47  
48 MR. SCHWANTES: Carl. Tom Schwantes.  
49 I'd like to nominate Speridon Simeonoff as the Chair.  
50

1 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. That's one  
2 nomination. Anyone second that nomination.  
3  
4 MR. KOSO: I second.  
5  
6 MR. SHELIKOFF: Call the question.  
7  
8 MR. JOHNSON: I'll consider that a  
9 request to close nominations for Chair.  
10  
11 MS. TRUMBLE: I'll second.  
12  
13 MR. JOHNSON: That's seconded. Since  
14 we have -- let's confirm that we have unanimous consent  
15 on that. Are there any objections to the nomination as  
16 stated.  
17  
18 (No objections)  
19  
20 MR. JOHNSON: Hearing none. Mr.  
21 Simeonoff you are now the Chair for the next year and I  
22 pass the gavel back over to you.  
23  
24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Carl.  
27 The floor is now open for nominations for vice chair.  
28  
29 MR. KOSO: I'd like to nominate Vince  
30 Tutiakoff for vice chair.  
31  
32 MR. SCHWANTES: I second.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and  
35 seconded. Any other nominations.  
36  
37 MR. HOLMES: I'd like to ask Della if  
38 she'd like to get back into the action as vice chair.  
39 If she is, I'd like to nominate her.  
40  
41 MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat, but, no,  
42 I don't believe I can at this time.  
43  
44 MR. HOLMES: Withdraw.  
45  
46 MR. SCHWANTES: I move to close  
47 nominations for vice chair.  
48  
49 MR. KOSO: Second.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Nominations for  
2 vice chair are closed. Vince Tutiakoff by unanimous  
3 consent is the vice chair. Nominations are now open  
4 for secretary.  
5  
6 MR. HOLMES: If there's nobody.....  
7  
8 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chair.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Tom.  
11  
12 MR. SCHWANTES: I'd like to nominate  
13 Pat Holmes as secretary.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat Holmes is  
16 nominated. Any other nominations.  
17  
18 MR. SCHWANTES: Move to close  
19 nominations.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Nominations for  
22 secretary are closed by unanimous consent. Pat Holmes  
23 is secretary. That takes care of the elections for  
24 officers for the Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory  
25 Council. I'd like to thank everyone for the vote of  
26 support here.  
27  
28 Without further ado, we'll just move  
29 right along with our agenda. The next is approval of  
30 the minutes of our last meeting. Has anyone had a  
31 chance to go over those minutes. May I have a motion  
32 to accept the minutes of our last meeting.  
33  
34 MR. HOLMES: Move to accept the minutes  
35 of the last meeting.  
36  
37 MR. KOSO: Second.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and  
40 seconded. Discussion or corrections.  
41  
42 (No comments)  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I had one little  
45 tiny correction on there. When we were taking  
46 testimony, I think Melissa Borton's name was spelled  
47 wrong. That was just that one.  
48  
49 Any other corrections, discussion on  
50 the minutes.

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If there's no  
4 further discussion, all those in favor of approving the  
5 minutes of our last meeting say aye.  
6  
7 IN UNISON: Aye.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Those opposed.  
10  
11 (No opposing votes)  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Motion carries.  
14 Council member reports.  
15  
16 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Tom.  
19  
20 MR. SCHWANTES: The only concern that  
21 I've heard -- I've been talking to a lot of people in  
22 Kodiak area and around the villages and the big concern  
23 now is the low deer population on Kodiak Island and the  
24 difficulty that some of the people are experiencing and  
25 being able to harvest subsistence because of the deer  
26 population being so low.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Tom. I  
29 think that everybody is experiencing that. I haven't  
30 gotten a deer this year because of the low population.  
31  
32  
33 Do you want to go next, Melissa.  
34  
35 MS. BERNS: My name is Melissa Berns  
36 and I'm from the community of Old Harbor. I'll just  
37 kind of start there with the deer harvest being very  
38 low in our area on the southeast side of Kodiak Island.  
39 I, myself, have not harvested deer in my area. I had  
40 to go to the north end and hunt out of Port Lions this  
41 year to get my supplies for my family.  
42  
43 We did have -- McCrea, did you come out  
44 with Tonya? McCrea and Tonya Lee came out to Old  
45 Harbor and did some outreach on deer harvesting. They  
46 also had met with community members and with the school  
47 in regards to the goat hunts and the extended goat  
48 season and I believe that was well received. We were  
49 able to use some of the materials that they provided to  
50 do additional outreach within our community by posting

1 different signs and whatnot throughout the community  
2 and then in our community store.

3

4                   And then also to have all of our  
5 permits in a centralized location at the store as well  
6 so that they're easily accessed by all in the  
7 community.

8

9                   There was one fall bear taken for our  
10 community, a subsistence bear. Many community members  
11 have taken advantage of the extended hunting season for  
12 goats. We've had a really weird winter. We didn't  
13 have any snow in the beginning and now that we are  
14 starting to get snow within the last couple months the  
15 goats have kind of been pushed down and are easily  
16 accessible. They've kind of moved a little bit closer  
17 to the village and people are able to harvest them.

18

19                   This was a great dietary addition for  
20 many families because of the deer harvest being low.  
21 We actually have this added nutrients in our freezer.  
22 I have more goat meat in my freezer than I do deer  
23 right now and it's great. It's a great thing to fall  
24 back on.

25

26                   And, as always, harvesting fish and  
27 shellfish. They're a really important resource for our  
28 people and we continue to do it year round, the  
29 crabbing and clams and halibut and salmon. Halibut has  
30 been pretty slim too. I haven't gotten very much  
31 halibut this year, but I know that springtime is  
32 coming. Hopefully they'll come back in.

33

34                   That's all I've got.

35

36                   Thank you.

37

38                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you,

39 Melissa.

40

41                   Rick.

42

43                   MR. KOSO: Yeah, Rick Koso from Adak.  
44 I've been there since 2001 now. I watch a caribou herd  
45 that seemed to be flourishing at one time. This past  
46 year we've been having a lot of hunters that's been  
47 coming to Adak. Almost on every airplane you see  
48 hunters coming in. So the caribou has been harvested  
49 down substantially in my mind.

50

1 I know on the north end when we get  
2 snow we used to get 500,000 caribou that would move  
3 down behind town. Today you don't see one. I think  
4 it's due to the hunting that's been going on there.  
5 Even looking out into the straits, there's not much  
6 there and that's usually the places that people could  
7 get to.

8  
9 The south end of the island, which is  
10 all Refuge, it's very hard to get to and I think that's  
11 where most of the caribou are hanging out. I do think  
12 we need to do a survey and find out what's there. I  
13 know the Feds were probably happy to hear that the  
14 caribou population is down. It was quite high.

15  
16 As far as the fisheries go, we got a  
17 new plant owner in Adak. He's been processing cod now,  
18 doing very well. The subsistence, we have no problem  
19 with subsistence. Adak, logistically, is a little  
20 different than the rest of the world. It's quite hard  
21 to get there and quite expensive, so we don't have a  
22 lot of people that's really into the subsistence  
23 outside of locals, which is about 130 people, but they  
24 don't have any problem harvesting their crab, salmon  
25 and halibut for subsistence out there yet. In the  
26 future, maybe it will be different, but now we're okay.

27  
28 Thank you.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Rick.

31  
32 Pat.

33  
34 MR. HOLMES: I have a question for  
35 Rick. You mentioned Emperor Geese out there and that's  
36 something we'll talk about a lot later, but I was  
37 wondering -- it would be quite interesting to find out  
38 the timing of the overall Emperor Goose surveys and  
39 then see whether or not you folks have got Emperor  
40 Geese out at Adak at that time in Atka and Nikolski and  
41 some of the other places because I know the Council  
42 feels they're not getting a good survey. Do you have  
43 any kind of observations on Emperor Geese out there?  
44 Are they increasing? When do they show up in that neck  
45 of the woods, do you know?

46  
47 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Pat. I've  
48 observed, you know, in December, January, February.  
49 I've called it in excess of probably 1,500 to 2,000 in  
50 different areas on the island and around the island. I

1 haven't gone beyond Adak to the other islands, so what  
2 I see is just -- it's hard to tell if they're  
3 increasing or not.

4  
5                   You know, you see the same group or  
6 flocks that hang out in Clam Lagoon and down into some  
7 of the bays that are around the area there. But they  
8 seem to be holding if not gaining strength out there.  
9 I don't know if they've been counted as part of the  
10 overall population. I don't think so because I think  
11 they stop end of Unimak Island. I think they need to  
12 count farther west for their total population.

13  
14                   MR. HOLMES: In my mind, it would be  
15 interesting of the AMBCC or whoever funds those surveys  
16 would -- when they do their surveys, would be to  
17 allocate a couple hundred bucks to each of the villages  
18 out there for gas and see if the tribal councils would  
19 be willing to go out and do impromptu counts just to  
20 see how wide that distribution is. It would be, I  
21 think, something that would merit the validity of their  
22 counts.

23  
24                   Anyway, I'll go on with my talk. North  
25 end of the island, a real shortage on deer. My skiff  
26 is broke down, so all I did is hike the road. I'm  
27 becoming more of a consumptive hunter and can only go  
28 so far up the mountain. Then there still is concern in  
29 our community about geese and from folks that I've  
30 heard on the Peninsula on Emperor Geese.

31  
32                   I think the big thing that I've worked  
33 on a lot this year was with the local community and  
34 tribes on the rural criteria redefinition and we had a  
35 really good turnout. We had probably more than 80  
36 people show up here for the hearing and we had 18, 20  
37 testify. I thought that was a pretty good turnout and  
38 I think at the Rural Roundtable we did a whole lot of  
39 work trying to develop a community consensus.

40  
41                   I found it quite heartwarming to read  
42 the summary that we got from Carl on the other Councils  
43 and that there's so much similarity around the state  
44 and what people look at as to how the definition of  
45 rural ought to be laid out. So I'm looking forward to  
46 more discussions on that during our meeting.

47  
48                   I did help out the Native Village of  
49 Afognak. I didn't get to dig Afognak like I like to do  
50 this summer because of my grandson and other family

1 things, but I did give the folks up there, Ms. Nelson,  
2 a bunch of materials that I helped collect for their  
3 programs.

4

5 I hardly got anything in the way of  
6 subsistence fish other than some bidarkis and things.  
7 My neighbor came down and said, gee, I didn't see your  
8 skiff going and you were gone and brought me down a  
9 couple bags of sockeye filets and some other friends  
10 gave me some silvers, so I guess I'm getting to be the  
11 geezer on the receiving end rather than the harvester  
12 that gives things out to everybody in the neighborhood.  
13 So that was very, very reinforcing for me and my wife.  
14 I want to thank all my friends for helping us keep our  
15 canned fish up.

16

17 MR. SHELIKOFF: Antone Shelikoff from  
18 Akutan. Mostly we have probably just one or two  
19 hunters only. The focus seems to be on jobs. Tanner  
20 crabs have been fished out locally since the early or  
21 late 1980s. With the hovercraft gone, most of the  
22 animals are returning. I see more geese. The hunters  
23 are probably able to take more seals because of the  
24 hovercraft being gone. It's a good thing because the  
25 hovercraft made a lot of racket and the animals seem to  
26 avoid racket. So I'm glad to see the animals returning  
27 because of one machine.

28

29 The focus seems to be on jobs, work.  
30 This past winter there was probably just hunters only  
31 and I'm just saying, well, with my other job I'm able  
32 to see more animals returning. But, yes, I've got to  
33 see animals returning. All right. Thanks.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. I'm  
36 from Akhiok. Like Old Harbor, the deer population is  
37 so low hardly anybody got their deer this year. Even  
38 with the extended goat season the winter has been so  
39 mild the animals -- we see a lot of goat down there,  
40 but when you start going up after them they just take  
41 off. We did that a couple times. We took the kids out  
42 and started hiking up the mountain. They mill around a  
43 little bit and then, when you start walking up to them,  
44 they take off. When we got to the top, they were  
45 already down the valley and up the other mountain  
46 range. There's a lot of goat, but we didn't want to go  
47 chasing after them.

48

49 We thought they were kind of spooked.  
50 You know, I think they were hit pretty hard. There was

1 a few goats down there, but also this fall we had a lot  
2 of hunters out there. There was a lot. One of the  
3 guys that hunts out there made a comment to me that  
4 some of those guys that bring their hunters out on a  
5 boat they take out a lot of does. They get like six,  
6 seven hunters a week. You know, they charter a plane  
7 out and pick them up anywhere the plane can land. If  
8 you're taking the does, aside from the bad winters,  
9 that's just hurting the population.

10

11 Akhiok also we did not get our  
12 subsistence bear this year. We seen a couple hanging  
13 around the village, but nobody applied for a permit to  
14 go out bear hunting. We have Emperor Geese right in  
15 the bay where Akhiok sits. Akhiok sits in a little  
16 cove. Whenever it's low tide that place is usually  
17 filled with geese.

18

19 We have a few places that are like that  
20 cove. I know there's Sukhoi and there's Rodman Reach  
21 and there's the narrows just on the other side of the  
22 village. At nighttime, everyone has a low tide, you  
23 hear the geese out there. There's a lot of them. It  
24 makes me wonder. If we can get them to lower the  
25 population threshold, you know, I think we can get a  
26 subsistence Emperor Goose hunt on Kodiak.

27

28 It's just a matter of submitting a  
29 proposal to AMBCC, that 80,000 bird population  
30 threshold and you need to be up there for a three-year  
31 average. Every time we get close to that it doesn't  
32 last very long. I think we got close once. If we  
33 lower that population threshold, I think we can see a  
34 subsistence goose hunt on Kodiak.

35

36 The Village of Akhiok annually has what  
37 we call our Alutiiq Week in the school. They take the  
38 kids out. I think this year the minus tides are a week  
39 before the Alutiiq Week, so the whole school goes out  
40 to the beaches and collects bidarkis or clams. They  
41 bring it all in to the school and it's all culture. The  
42 kids enjoy it and they apply their school curriculum to  
43 all the projects they do during that week.

44

45 That's all I've got.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MR. HOLMES: I have a question, Mitch.  
50 The folks in town here are saying the halibut they're

1 getting for subsistence are a lot smaller and a lot  
2 fewer numbers. I was wondering what it's like on your  
3 end of the island.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The halibut we get  
6 down there are -- it started we were getting 40 pounds  
7 and that's pretty small. Then later on we started  
8 getting 30 and 20 and said, wow, what's happening here.  
9 We used to go just outside the village and we'd catch,  
10 you know, 100-pounders, you know, barn doors even.  
11 Everybody goes out and they -- when they catch a good  
12 sized halibut, they find themselves way out there, like  
13 four, five miles out, they say they've never had to go  
14 this far to catch a halibut before.

15

16 And catching the baby halibut, you  
17 know, they like them, but they feel kind of bad taking  
18 the babies out. Some of them they don't go halibut  
19 fishing anymore because they don't like taking small  
20 halibut. They're good tasting and all, you know, but  
21 if they take them all, then pretty soon there won't be  
22 any left.

23

24 One interesting thing is I was catching  
25 some female crabs for the Seward hatchery so that they  
26 can repopulate crab in Cozy Cove by Old Harbor. When  
27 we had a crab pot out, we caught a nice big 50-pound  
28 halibut in there. That was in November. That was kind  
29 of interesting to see a halibut that late in the year.

30

31 That's it. Questions, anything else.  
32 Della.

33

34 MS. TRUMBLE: If you can hear me okay.  
35 I think, as we all experienced this past winter and the  
36 weather has been interesting, 2013 caribou, people were  
37 able to harvest some caribou and we were very happy and  
38 thankful for that. The State has done the drawing for  
39 2014 and we're also very happy with that process and  
40 looking forward to a harvest this year.

41

42 The Agdaagux Tribe has been successful  
43 in getting two grants. The first one is a tribal  
44 wildlife grant for two years. Basically what our target  
45 specifically is the observations of the Northern Sea  
46 Otter, Steller's Eiders, Black Brant and Emperor Geese  
47 and basically what this program is kind of set up as is  
48 an offshoot of the Aleut Marine Mammal Commission which  
49 I worked with a few years back and we have sentinels  
50 that work in King Cove and Akutan. Antone actually

1 works with us. Amberly Weiss is our coordinator. We  
2 haven't gotten someone to work in Cold Bay. We're  
3 working on how we fill that gap at this time. I'm also  
4 looking at trying to find somebody with 10, 15 hours a  
5 week in False Pass I think to tie some of these pieces  
6 together.

7

8                   The other part that goes with this  
9 grant is the NPRB grant that we were awarded.  
10 Basically this is also utilizing the Aleutian Sentinel  
11 Program that technically -- and the species, of course  
12 -- primary species on this is focused on the Steller  
13 sea lions, killer whale occurrence and predation events  
14 particularly involving Steller sea lions and Northern  
15 sea otters. We have set up a protocol that we work  
16 with the local fishermen and the sentinels in the area  
17 traveling between False Pass and, of course, Sand Point  
18 and the Shumagins. Being able to take the observation,  
19 taking pictures, getting all the data and the GPS  
20 information and what they're seeing.

21

22                   We started off a little slow in January  
23 this year and the guys say, you know, things really  
24 don't start showing up until probably this month, so  
25 we're looking forward to that project going through in  
26 the summer and then I'm also going to be looking for a  
27 couple fishermen up in the Port Moller area, Nelson  
28 Lagoon area, just to kind of take a look at this and  
29 this also ties into the issue of global warming.

30

31                   So it's pretty exciting to be able to  
32 do these and look forward to the outcome on this and to  
33 watch it closely. The tribes and the King Cove  
34 Corporation finished the Culture Center, which also is  
35 going to tie into a lot of our educational programs  
36 that surround the people in King Cove, number one, and  
37 language and also looking at our environment and  
38 resource programs that we have and also working with  
39 students in the school. So we look forward to that.

40

41                   We continue, of course, on this road.  
42 I'm sure many of you are aware of the issues  
43 surrounding that. I'll just basically say that there  
44 are a number of issues that surround whether there are  
45 concerns with specific species in Cold Bay and I think  
46 the issues surrounding the number of birds that  
47 basically are allowed by sport hunters. The other  
48 piece that goes to this issue is the daily take and the  
49 taking of the breast meat only, instead of giving that  
50 out to other communities. That's not the way we

1 subsist and the impacts of that I think is something  
2 that our tribe is going to take a close look at.

3  
4 With that, that is all I have to say at  
5 this point.

6  
7 Thank you.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Della.

10  
11 Anyone have questions for Della.

12  
13 MR. HOLMES: Say, Della, I was  
14 rereading that EIS for that area up at the head of the  
15 bay there towards Thin Point and there was a comment in  
16 there saying that it was an important area for grizzly  
17 bears. Are grizzly bears moving down on the Peninsula?  
18 I know there's brown bears, but grizzlies are an  
19 Interior subspecies and that kind of struck me as being  
20 odd or did somebody make a mistake on that EIS?

21  
22 MS. TRUMBLE: I would say there  
23 probably is a mistake on that.

24  
25 MR. HOLMES: Thank you.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom, did you have  
28 something more to add to your report?

29  
30 MR. SCHWANTES: Nothing else, Mr.  
31 Chair.

32  
33 Thank you.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you.  
36 Anything else under Council member reports.

37  
38 (No comments)

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Carl.

41  
42 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
43 just threw in a Council Coordinator report in there as  
44 well just for a couple administrative items. First,  
45 for the Council members here in the room who traveled,  
46 you'll see on the left side of your folder a travel  
47 form to fill out if you have any expenses related to  
48 travel that are outside of your per diem and there's an  
49 envelope there and it also has your full travel  
50 itinerary.

1  
2                   There are also additional materials  
3 that are in your folder, one of which is a report that  
4 was mentioned in the annual report reply regarding  
5 predator control and Council member Holmes requested  
6 two of the reports that were cited there. We have both  
7 of them. I was able to get one copied off and printed  
8 out before I came down here and that's in your folder.  
9 We have the other one at the office and I'll make sure  
10 that we get those out to you.

11  
12                   The other issue I wanted to mention is  
13 regarding a migratory bird issue. At the last meeting,  
14 the Council asked for a status update on what happened  
15 with your Emperor Geese proposal and also to have  
16 somebody available to answer some questions about the  
17 geese populations and some of the biology that's at  
18 issue. I've been working on trying to get somebody  
19 from migratory birds to give a presentation to the  
20 Council on that. Hopefully we will at some point in  
21 time during this meeting and I'll update the Council as  
22 that occurs.

23  
24                   That's all I had for administrative  
25 items.

26  
27                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28  
29                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Carl.

30  
31                   Anyone have any questions for Carl on  
32 the Coordinator's report.

33  
34                   MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I'd like to,  
35 for the record, compliment Carl on his hard work and  
36 really detailed approach in trying to help us with our  
37 concerns. I've worked with him quite a bit since our  
38 last meeting on correspondence that went to you and I  
39 think he's probably the best Coordinator we've had as  
40 far as trying to get down to the nitty-gritty of the  
41 concerns of our Council.

42  
43                   So I'll take my halibut hat and put it  
44 back on and formally take it off and publicly thank  
45 Carl for all his hard work in supporting our Council.  
46 I think we're really starting to make some progress on  
47 some of these issues and it's all because of his help.

48  
49                   You can send a transcript of that to  
50 your boss.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. As for  
2 the Chair's Report, Federal Subsistence Board is  
3 meeting in April, so we'll probably have to wait for  
4 next meeting, which will happen hopefully in King Cove.  
5 I was looking at the schedule and that's the location  
6 of our next meeting. Hopefully we'll make it there  
7 this time. Do the weather dance, Della.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 MS. TRUMBLE: Yeah, we do it all the  
12 time. You're welcome to join us.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. With that  
15 we have public and tribal comments on non-agenda items.  
16 Do you have a list, Carl?

17

18 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. Pam  
19 Bumsted has presented a request to provide a comment or  
20 testimony at this time.

21

22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23

24 DR. BUMSTED: Thank you. I'm Pam  
25 Bumsted. I'm the Natural Resources Director for Sun'aq  
26 Tribe of Kodiak. Part of that responsibility is  
27 coordinating the Rural Roundtable, which is an ad hoc  
28 group of local residents and we do communicate across  
29 the island on subsistence issues and in particular the  
30 rural determination process.

31

32 As you just mentioned, Chairman, the  
33 Board is meeting in April and it would be really nice,  
34 I think, and I'm not sure about your procedures, but if  
35 there could be a RAC representative up there and Pat  
36 Holmes has been on the Rural Roundtable and it's been  
37 very effective and you may wish to consider him to  
38 represent the RAC.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah. When the  
43 Federal Subsistence Board has their meeting, I'm  
44 usually the one that goes and if I can't make it out of  
45 Akhiok, I usually call Carl to get one of the Board  
46 members that are available to attend that.

47

48 DR. BUMSTED: That would be really good  
49 to have the RAC there.

50

1 Thank you.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other.  
4  
5 (No comments)  
6  
7 MR. JOHNSON: I have no other requests  
8 at this time, Mr. Chair.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Say again.  
11  
12 MR. JOHNSON: I have no other requests  
13 to present testimony at this time, Mr. Chair.  
14  
15 Thank you.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. If there  
18 are no others, then we'll go into old business.  
19 Customary and traditional use determination update.  
20  
21 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
22 will just kind of give you a highlight on this agenda  
23 item, the status of where we are right now. If I could  
24 take just a couple minutes here, I did get a report  
25 from the Southeast Council. As you recall, this issue  
26 was before the Council twice previously last year.  
27 Most of the discussion centered around the fall meeting  
28 cycle. That was the request of the Southeast Council  
29 to have all 10 Regional Advisory Councils kind of  
30 reconsider and take another look at how we currently do  
31 customary and traditional use determinations.  
32  
33 There's a background briefing that you  
34 can find in your meeting book starting on Page 17 and  
35 it includes some new material that was not in the books  
36 last year and that is, if you go a few pages into the  
37 presentation, you'll see that there is a briefing also  
38 on Section .804 under ANILCA.  
39  
40 One of the reasons why that is there is  
41 because the Southeast Council suggested -- one of their  
42 suggestions was to get rid of the current method of  
43 doing customary and traditional use determinations and  
44 to replace it with what was already there when ANILCA  
45 passed and that was Section .804, which is how we  
46 allocate harvest in times of shortage.  
47  
48 So you have a new briefing material in  
49 there that gives a little bit more information on  
50 Section .804, including on Page 25 a side-by-side

1 comparison of how and when we use the customary and  
2 traditional use determination process that's set forth  
3 in our regulations for how we use Section .804 and when  
4 and how we use that. So that's just some new  
5 information.

6

7 Then you'll also see starting on Page  
8 26 there's kind of a summary of the action that the  
9 different Councils took. As you can expect, there's no  
10 real consensus at this time among the Councils as to  
11 what should be done. Some agree that we should keep it  
12 in place and others made some different suggested  
13 changes, including this Council.

14

15 This Council was one of the ones that  
16 suggested things should stay in place, but the  
17 Southeast and the Southcentral Council and also I  
18 believe the Seward Pen Council made some suggested  
19 modifications. At that point in time, still there was  
20 no formal proposal that had been submitted.

21

22 Now the Southeast Council had a joint  
23 meeting last week with the Southcentral Council. Part  
24 of the reason why they had a joint meeting is because  
25 they seem to be getting close to a consensus as to a  
26 modified suggestion on how to change current customary  
27 and traditional use determinations. Out of that  
28 meeting the Southeast did come up with a formal  
29 proposal, which is being finalized and I will keep you  
30 updated as to where that proposal goes.

31

32 If they do submit a formal proposal to  
33 the Federal Subsistence Board on changing the current  
34 customary and traditional use regulations, then that  
35 proposal, like any other regulatory proposal, would go  
36 through a public process where this Council would get a  
37 chance to discuss that at a future meeting. I don't  
38 know what the timing is on what the Southeast would  
39 like to do with that proposal, but it could be as early  
40 as your fall meeting cycle. I'll keep the Council up  
41 to date on the status of that.

42

43 I think I did receive via email a copy  
44 from the Southeast Council coordinator what their  
45 proposal is, so I can make copies of that and get it to  
46 the Council so you can have a look at that. I'll answer  
47 any questions that the Council may have about where  
48 we're at right now in the process.

49

50 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pat.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Carl, what exactly is the  
4 Southeast Council -- I've read the materials and I  
5 don't quite understand what are their misgivings or not  
6 wanting to use the current C&T process? Why do they  
7 think it doesn't work for them?

8

9 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. Through the  
10 Chair, Mr. Holmes. I think there are two issues at  
11 stake. One, I think the nature of how we adopted our  
12 current customary and traditional use determination is  
13 part of the problem. Because when the Federal program  
14 was created in 1992, it was formally created after the  
15 State had its subsistence program taken away by a court  
16 decision.

17

18 It was believed at the time that the  
19 Federal program would be short-lived, that there would  
20 be processes that would take place that would amend the  
21 State constitution to then make it constitutional to  
22 have a rural preference under the Alaska Constitution.  
23 So a lot of the early regulations, including the  
24 customary and traditional use regulations, were modeled  
25 after the State regulations so as to minimize the  
26 regulatory confusion between the Federal program and  
27 the State program.

28

29 Obviously now 20 years since the  
30 Federal program is no longer conceived as temporary, so  
31 part of the problem is that the original basis for  
32 adopting the regulations is no longer valid because now  
33 we have a long-standing Federal program. But they also  
34 believe that it conflicts with the spirit of Section  
35 .804, which says that you only start to allocate  
36 harvest in particular communities during times of  
37 shortage.

38

39 Under the Southeast belief with the  
40 current C&T regulations you actually end up creating  
41 allocations during the time when there is no shortage  
42 and thus creating a preference among qualified rural  
43 subsistence users under the Federal program saying that  
44 certain people can get it and other people can't during  
45 a time when there is no shortage and they seem to think  
46 that conflicts with the spirit of .804, which says you  
47 only do that when there's a shortage.

48

49 I think those are the two big points in  
50 general. I don't know if Mr. Chen may disagree with

1 that or not, but I think that fairly summarizes it.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other  
4 questions for Carl.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If not, keep on  
9 moving, Carl. Get into that rural determination  
10 process update.

11

12 MR. LORRIGAN: Good morning, Mr.  
13 Chairman. Council members. Jack Lorrigan, Native  
14 liaison, Office of Subsistence Management. I'll be  
15 presenting the rural determination process to you. It  
16 starts on Page 29 of your book.

17

18 Here you'll find the actions taken by  
19 the various Councils around the state. All 10 regions  
20 have chimed in on this. I won't go into the details of  
21 this. What I will tell you is that we accepted  
22 comments up until December 2nd of last year as the  
23 furlough put us back a month, so we extended the  
24 timeline from November 1st to December 2nd.

25

26 Currently right now Staff at our office  
27 have been parceled to take all the comments from around  
28 the state, public, tribal and corporation comments, on  
29 the five criteria that the Federal Subsistence Board  
30 was asking for questions on. They involved timelines,  
31 population thresholds, information sources, aggregation  
32 of communities and rural characteristics. We've  
33 received 300-plus comments on these five criteria.

34

35 Right now Staff is working to make sure  
36 that the comments fit into each category and then we  
37 received a significant number of comments that don't  
38 fit the specific questions that were asked. To  
39 acknowledge people's time and effort for having  
40 commented, they're trying to find another category to  
41 help fit some of the information into.

42

43 We're one-third shy of a full  
44 complement of staff at OSM, so we're scrambling to do  
45 the RAC cycle and the upcoming Board cycle. Our lead  
46 Staff member that was going to do the analysis had a  
47 family emergency, so the Board will be taking up the  
48 rural determination process question at their Board  
49 meeting. However, they probably won't have a  
50 recommendation quite yet.

1                   So all this information is still being  
2 compiled and then the analysis will come when we get  
3 staff and the OSM report will show that we're trying to  
4 hire to fill all those positions that we need filled to  
5 bring us back up to snuff.

6  
7                   That's pretty much where we're at with  
8 the process right now, Mr. Chairman.

9  
10                  CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: You said you'll  
11 have updated material for the Board meeting which  
12 happens in April?

13  
14                  MR. LORRIGAN: Mr. Chairman. Yes,  
15 we'll have more information. Right now, as we speak,  
16 there are Staff members that are compiling that  
17 information for a report to the Board. It wasn't  
18 available for the RACs yet, but the RACs have had a lot  
19 of their say already on this issue. So when the RAC  
20 Chairs attend the Board meeting, they'll hear it too.  
21 Mr. Chair.

22  
23                  CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you.

24  
25                  Questions for Jack on the rural  
26 determination process.

27  
28                  (No comments)

29  
30                  MR. LORRIGAN: Mr. Chair. I also want  
31 to note that your letter starts on Page 37 for the  
32 Council's comments on rural in the book.

33  
34                  CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. If  
35 there are no questions, thank you, Jack. Appreciate  
36 it.

37  
38                  MR. LORRIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39  
40                  MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair.

41  
42                  CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

43  
44                  MR. HOLMES: No question, but a  
45 comment. I read through these things from the  
46 different regions and have corresponded with a lot of  
47 those folks and I find it very interesting that there's  
48 so much similarities in the thoughts of what people  
49 think are appropriate for defining what's rural and  
50 what's not rural and I would strongly urge all of my

1 colleagues to read through this with a great deal of  
2 interest because there's some real defined  
3 commonalities in terms of not doing this every 10  
4 years, coming up with definitions that define what  
5 people actually do rather than things that attribute  
6 whether or not you've got a Safeway or not.

7  
8 Also population thresholds, a lot of  
9 concern on that and also concern on looking at remote  
10 areas and the idea of aggregation was pretty much  
11 tossed out all the way across the board. Anyway, it  
12 made me feel good that all the work we did in Kodiak  
13 trying to develop a community consensus on what's  
14 important or not, a lot of those points are echoed  
15 throughout the state.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat. I  
18 have a question for Carl. What are the asterisks for  
19 on these?

20  
21 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. The asterisks  
22 indicates an action item. Since the Councils are  
23 unique in the process, you know, there's the public  
24 process, but then the Councils also have their input.  
25 There's several Councils that have just only recently  
26 finalized their official comment to the Federal  
27 Subsistence Board on the rural determination process.

28  
29 Here is the draft that I worked during  
30 the off cycle with Pat about this Council's comments on  
31 rural determination. So I wanted to give the Council  
32 as a whole to take a look at that and see the work that  
33 Pat and I did on this letter and to see if everybody  
34 was in agreement on it and then we could finalize it.

35  
36 It's not a requirement of our  
37 correspondence policy that this Council take a look at  
38 the final draft, but given that this issue is of such  
39 importance to the region I wanted the Council to have  
40 an opportunity to take a look at it to make sure that  
41 it reflected the concerns and the highlights of the  
42 issues on rural determination that are important to  
43 this Council. Then, if the Council is in agreement,  
44 then we can go ahead and finalize it at this meeting  
45 and we'll get your real ink signature on it and take it  
46 back and submit it along with the other Council  
47 comments.

48  
49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Carl.  
2 It's 10:35. Does anybody need to take a break?

3

4 MR. HOLMES: Yes.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We'll take a 10-  
7 minute break and then we'll come back and probably use  
8 this time to review the letter if you haven't already,  
9 then we'll take it up when we get back.

10

11 (Off record)

12

13 (On record)

14

15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: At this time we'll  
16 go through the  
17 approval of the rural comment letter from the  
18 Kodiak/Aleutians Advisory Council. Has the board had a  
19 chance to review that letter? If so, I'd entertain a  
20 motion to accept that letter.

21

22 MS. BERNS: I'll make a motion to  
23 accept the letter.

24

25 MR. KOSO: I'll second it.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and  
28 seconded. Discussion.

29

30 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. As a  
31 description of this letter, in working with Carl, we  
32 both made a lot of notes at the hearing we had here in  
33 Kodiak and then we went through the transcripts of the  
34 RAC and then we also took the letter from the Rural  
35 Roundtable and tried to incorporate all the comments in  
36 a regionally logical way into our letter.

37

38 I think if you compare this to some of  
39 the other regions, we have some unique requests for  
40 them to consider, one basing determination on geography  
41 and the fact that Kodiak is an island and it's hard to  
42 get here. I think if I make it to the meeting, I'll  
43 probably make a joke about it in that us, like Sitka,  
44 we've been doing subsistence for more than seven or  
45 eight thousand years and the population on Kodiak has  
46 grown and declined.

47

48 I think Patrick Saltonstall said at one  
49 time we probably had a total population on the island  
50 of 50,000 people back in the Koniag period, yet we

1 still have adequate resources. If you were to compare  
2 us to -- I think if you wanted to -- I didn't put it in  
3 here, but an urban area, what do you have to eat other  
4 than each other and here we've got plenty to eat  
5 without causing any kind of problems and we could get  
6 by if we did have another apocalypse.

7  
8                   Anyway, with that thought in mind, I  
9 think this quite adequately reflects the perspective of  
10 folks in the community of Kodiak and it's also  
11 important -- Rick was teasing me about maybe moving to  
12 Adak where I wouldn't have to worry about this. Maybe  
13 Akutan if my wife would let me.

14  
15                   But it does indirectly affect the folks  
16 that have moved in from the villages. Places like  
17 Larsen Bay that used to have maybe 400 people are down  
18 to 40 in the winter because they can't afford to live  
19 there, but they do live in town, so we can't  
20 necessarily -- it hurts our whole island community if  
21 we end up with definitions that make Kodiak nonrural,  
22 so I think this is the best shot that we've been able  
23 to put together and reflects a lot of work of the whole  
24 town. So I think it pretty well gets the point across,  
25 Mr. Chair.

26  
27                   Thank you.

28  
29                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat. I  
30 do appreciate you and Carl working diligently on this.  
31 Is there any other comments or questions. Tom, are you  
32 still online? Do you have any comments or questions on  
33 the rural comment letter?

34  
35                   (No comments)

36  
37                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: How about you,  
38 Della?

39  
40                   MS. TRUMBLE: No, I'm good. Thank you.

41  
42  
43                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If there are no  
44 other questions or  
45 comments.

46  
47                   Carl.

48  
49                   MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
50 would just like to make one, Mr. Chair, and that is to

1 compliment the Kodiak community for the process that it  
2 followed through the Kodiak Roundtable to come up with  
3 essentially consensus comments on issues of concern  
4 from the community. I think it's a good example of how  
5 a community-driven process can benefit the Regional  
6 Advisory Councils in their own deliberative process in  
7 preparing issues of concern for the community and then  
8 helping the Council to aid as a voice for the  
9 community. I think that the way this rural  
10 determination process came about with Kodiak and  
11 through this Council is a good example of how the  
12 communities and the Councils can work together on  
13 issues of importance.

14

15 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you for  
18 that, Carl.

19

20 If there are no further comments.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: All those in favor  
25 signify by saying aye.

26

27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Those opposed.

30

31 (No opposing votes)

32

33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Motion carries.

34 The briefing on the Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
35 Program. Don Rivard.

36

37 MR. RIVARD: Good morning again. Don  
38 Rivard with the Office of Subsistence Management. The  
39 briefing starts on Page 41, which is a general overview  
40 of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. I think  
41 most of you are familiar with that. What I wanted to  
42 get into with the Council here today starts on Page 45.  
43 This is just reporting back to you that the two  
44 projects in your region were approved for funding by  
45 the Federal Subsistence Board. These are a couple of  
46 long-term projects. The Buskin River Sockeye Salmon  
47 Stock Assessment and Monitoring and Afognak Lake  
48 Sockeye Salmon Stock Monitoring. So those have been  
49 renewed basically for another four years and they will  
50 continue as long as there's funding each year for

1 those. I know your Council recommended that these be  
2 funded last fall.

3

4 On the next page, the 2016 notice of  
5 funding is coming up already. We're doing scoping for  
6 priority information needs. I show you the 2014 what  
7 was listed for the one we just completed. I think there  
8 was a little typo there. Obtain reliable estimates of  
9 -- probably take out the word chinook and just say  
10 salmon escapements. Then a description and analysis of  
11 social networks underlying the allocation of management  
12 of subsistence salmon fisheries in villages in the  
13 Bristol Bay-Chignik Area.

14

15 For 2016, I wanted to hear from your  
16 Council if you have any priority information needs, if  
17 you want to continue with any of the ones that were  
18 previously funded. I know salmon is an important  
19 subsistence resource in this region. Then I just left  
20 some bullets there so that I could make some notes if  
21 you come up with some other priority information needs  
22 you would like to see addressed through the Fisheries  
23 Resource Monitoring Program of OSM.

24

25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Don. I  
28 had a discussion last week with Bill Pyle and he said  
29 you guys had a discussion and were talking about doing  
30 something with Akalura Lake and Olga Bay. He said the  
31 idea was to do some kind of a study to see if that can  
32 be brought back as a viable salmon stream. I know  
33 there's some salmon in there now, but they're very  
34 little. It used to be one of our major subsistence  
35 salmon fishery areas.

36

37 Now we go up to Upper Station. We used  
38 to go to Silver Salmon, but there's no silvers at  
39 Silver Salmon, at least not enough to subsist on. We'd  
40 go up there and spend a whole day and we're lucky if we  
41 get eight coho. Before we used to go up there a couple  
42 hours and you'd get enough for the family for the year.  
43 Bill said there was some interest in revitalizing the  
44 Akalura system. Can you tell us about that.

45

46 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
47 don't know enough about it myself. I did have a  
48 discussion with Bill Pyle last week as well. He  
49 mentioned that the Akalura system is one of the largest  
50 lakes on the island and that it was an important source

1 for subsistence salmon harvest at one time. Apparently  
2 the ADF&G counted salmon in the past in that system.  
3 He also mentioned to me that it's completely within the  
4 Refuge itself, so that's all on Federal lands and  
5 waters basically.

6  
7 If your Council believes that that  
8 ought to be looked into, that's something we could put  
9 on the priority information needs for 2016. I would  
10 just need kind of a little bit more information on  
11 specifically what you would like to see done. We don't  
12 do -- through this program, we don't do restoration  
13 work in a system, but there could be some kind of  
14 research need on that system to understand what's going  
15 on and what may need to be done in order to help bring  
16 it back.

17  
18 Thank you.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: With that new  
21 information, then I would shift our interest over to  
22 Upper Station. That system now is crashing and we need  
23 some studies done to find out what is happening to that  
24 system or find out if there's enough food up in the  
25 lake for the returning salmon.

26  
27 I think Fish and Game has  
28 systematically managed for the lowering escapement.  
29 Like they were managing for a high number, then, when  
30 the numbers got less, they just managed for that. I  
31 think the lowest they're going to go is they're going  
32 to manage for 25,000 return and a 25,000 fish return in  
33 Upper Station it does not support even the subsistence  
34 fishing.

35  
36 One thing I would like to point out is  
37 there's a lodge right there at the Upper Station River  
38 right at the mouth. The people from the village go up  
39 there every year and they noticed that they get less  
40 and less. They've got to make several stops along the  
41 way to get their winter subsistence fish.

42  
43 I think there's some interest by  
44 commercial and subsistence to find out what is wrong  
45 with Upper Station and they also want to work with  
46 Frazer as well because both those systems are -- Frazer  
47 might be still pretty good, but Upper Station is the  
48 one that's really hurting right now.

49  
50 MR. RIVARD: So noted.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I would  
4 suggest that the Council send a note to the ADF&G  
5 salmon research as well as the Kodiak Regional  
6 Aquaculture because they have had plans and the FRED  
7 Division did a lot of studies on Akalura Lake and part  
8 of the problem in Akalura was the fact that there's so  
9 much competition between the stickleback and the  
10 sockeye fry in the lake.

11

12 I remember, oh, 30 years ago they even  
13 did one brief project and they gave up on it on making  
14 just a little dam with sand bags so that the  
15 stickleback, once they went out into the bay, they'd go  
16 in and out of that lake, would reduce their ability to  
17 get back in. Anyway, I would suggest asking Fish and  
18 Game salmon research and the Kodiak Regional  
19 Aquaculture to give our Council an update on those  
20 systems that you're concerned about.

21

22 I know, Don, you're just kind of  
23 winging it on a new job, but Akalura is a pretty small,  
24 shallow lake down in the south end of the island and  
25 it's right between Frazer, which was an enhanced run  
26 into Frazer Lake, and then Upper Station, which is a  
27 couple of small lakes that -- but the timing sometimes  
28 is difficult because you have a strong early run to  
29 Frazer and then part of the Upper Station run is  
30 earlier. The timing of the Akalura run falls in  
31 between. So it's something that I think our Council  
32 could use a good discussion on.

33

34 My thoughts on this priority  
35 development. We did provide comments at our last  
36 meeting that it would be good to develop a brood table  
37 or a forecast for McLees Lake and there's 13 years of  
38 data there, so that's two life cycles. I would like to  
39 suggest that you folks solicit someone going over the  
40 existing information and doing a comparative escapement  
41 analysis with other small lakes that are similar to  
42 that on the Alaska Peninsula and see what would work on  
43 that system.

44

45 Myself, that was one that I was working  
46 on when all my projects were cut and I retired from the  
47 Department. You know, fisheries management is a bit of  
48 an art as well as a science and that system seemed to  
49 the area manager, and I was his assistant for the  
50 Aleutians, that whenever that McLees Lake got above

1 maybe 20,000, 25,000, then two or three years after  
2 that it would crash again, so we've had some  
3 escapements at 60,000 in there and then a half life  
4 cycle later when those fish return, there's nothing.  
5 So it's an area where it needs to have some comparative  
6 analysis.

7  
8 Also I think their escapement goal is  
9 8-60,000 and it's just not a reasonable number. It's a  
10 place where there used to be a commercial fishery, a  
11 very small one, two boats, as well as subsistence, but  
12 the lake opens up into basically the Bering Sea, so  
13 it's very exposed. It probably would need to have some  
14 creative management. Fish and Game does have a weir  
15 there and your department funded one for several years.

16  
17  
18 So there could be a way in my mind that  
19 if you had the right escapement goals, let's just open  
20 it to the mouth for subsistence. If you have a  
21 commercial fishery, then you have the markers out a  
22 little farther. Once you got up to 10,000 or so into  
23 the lake, then just leave it open for people to fish  
24 because if Vince Tutiakoff was here, he's from  
25 Unalaska, that's the major sockeye system for the folks  
26 in Unalaska. So it would take a little extra work, but  
27 it could be managed more efficiently for subsistence.

28  
29 I would like to comment, some of your  
30 staff that developed this 2016 notice asked me about  
31 chinook and there was a big push statewide on chinook  
32 escapements and I know on the Yukon River that's a big  
33 item, but I would note if you go back to our previous  
34 records that chinook salmon escapements, chinook is not  
35 a major subsistence species for our island.

36  
37 I have to identify it for the record  
38 that it's a sport fishing issue on our island. Quite  
39 frankly, the escapements are pretty darn well monitored  
40 here on the island with the weirs and aerial surveys.  
41 So I honestly don't see, other than perhaps some small  
42 projects, a need for enhancing that.

43  
44 On a regional basis, continuing the  
45 Buskin Sockeye Program and Afognak. To me, an  
46 enhancement and getting back to doing smolt work on the  
47 Buskin because this year we went way above double the  
48 escapement goal on the Buskin again. So my prediction  
49 is in two to three years we'll see the Buskin drop off  
50 again and have very poor returns. That's something you

1 don't do with putting eggs in or adding fish because  
2 sockeye you don't mess with. You'd play with the  
3 escapement goals.

4  
5                   So that's something that I think our  
6 Council can provide some suggestions to Fish and Game  
7 to make that work a little better. The Buskin and  
8 Afognak, those are two important systems in this neck  
9 of the woods. Out west is McLees Lake. It's  
10 unfortunate that we don't have some good sockeye runs  
11 for Akutan or other places. Adak is fairly well off on  
12 sockeye.

13  
14                   Anyway, I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman. I'm  
15 too windy. I had some tea. I apologize to everyone  
16 for talking too much, but salmon is my passion and the  
17 folks at Atka had a name for me in Unangan that was the  
18 old geezer that talks too much about salmon. So I  
19 apologize.

20  
21                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thanks for all  
22 that, Pat. Yeah, I would agree that the chinook salmon  
23 are pretty darn well monitored because in the Ayakulik  
24 and the Karluk they will close commercial fishing if  
25 the chinook salmon returns are pretty low.  
26 If there's an interest in Olga Bay, I would focus that  
27 interest in the Upper Station system.

28  
29                   Any questions or comments for Don.

30  
31                   (No comments)

32  
33                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della, do you have  
34 any questions for Don Rivard?

35  
36                   MS. TRUMBLE: No, not at this time.

37  
38                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you.

39  
40                   How about you, Tom?

41  
42                   (No comments)

43  
44                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom's gone. Go  
45 ahead, Pat.

46  
47                   MR. HOLMES: We had a long chat at our  
48 last meeting and we also had a follow-up teleconference  
49 on the subsistence survey funding for out west and  
50 there was a pretty grandiose project there, but I think

1 there is a pretty well identified need, at least for  
2 your announcements for potential funding, for  
3 subsistence salmon surveys for the Alaska Peninsula,  
4 King Cove, Sand Point. Anyway, you can go back to our  
5 transcripts from our last meeting and our  
6 teleconference, but that's an area of, I think,  
7 significant concern for our region and particularly for  
8 Della and Rick's from King Cove as well. They need  
9 that information for some of their discussions on the  
10 road EIS and other things.

11  
12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.

15  
16 Go ahead, Don.

17  
18 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We  
19 will be drafting up a 2016 plan and you'll get to  
20 review that again at your fall meeting to see if we've  
21 captured what you've presented here.

22  
23 Thank you.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Have  
26 you got more?

27  
28 MR. RIVARD: Not on that particular  
29 subject.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. If there  
32 are no more questions or comments, we'll move on. Don,  
33 you've got the floor.

34  
35 MR. RIVARD: I don't know if our  
36 Partner's Program lead, Palma Ingles, is online or not.

37  
38 MS. INGLES: I'm online. Can you hear  
39 me?

40  
41 MR. RIVARD: Okay. So she's going to  
42 do the Partner's Program briefing, Mr. Chair.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I'm sorry?

45  
46 MR. RIVARD: Palma Ingles from our  
47 office is going to give the next agenda item briefing,  
48 which is the Partner's Program.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Is that who

1 that.....

2

3 MR. RIVARD: She just spoke up, yes.

4

5 MS. INGLES: Good morning. Can  
6 everybody hear me? This is Palma Ingles. I'm the  
7 coordinator for the Fisheries Monitoring Program and we  
8 call it the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program.  
9 I gave you a bit of an overview of the program at your  
10 last meeting and I just want to remind people that  
11 we'll have our next call for proposals in November this  
12 year, we'll put out the call. The proposals will be  
13 due May 2015.

14

15 If you look on Page 47 of your RAC  
16 book, we have a full briefing on it. I will give you  
17 more information at your fall meeting regarding this  
18 program. So feel free, if anybody has questions or  
19 comments or anything, you can contact me and find out  
20 more about this program.

21

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

23

24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any questions from  
25 the board.

26

27 MR. HOLMES: This type of program has  
28 worked really well all over the state. Pardon me. Pat  
29 Holmes. I think it's really a beneficial arrangement,  
30 particularly with the agencies having more difficulty  
31 getting funding and the need for tribal governments and  
32 other non-profits to participate. I think it's just  
33 really a swell program and I hope that some of the  
34 folks in our region are able to take advantage of it.

35

36 I think there's a similar mentorship  
37 going on with Fish and Game's Sport Fish for many years  
38 on their program with the high school kids and interns.  
39 This is a way in which you can build community strength  
40 and educate kids and then get kids that become future  
41 employees of the different agencies and really have a  
42 love and a commitment for their region. This is a very  
43 exciting program, Mr. Chairman.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other  
46 questions or comments.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing none.

1 Thank you.

2

3 MS. INGLES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. The next item  
6 on your agenda is the call for the 2015-2017 Federal  
7 subsistence fish and shellfish regulatory proposals.  
8 So the Office of Subsistence Management is accepting  
9 proposals through March 28, 2014 to change Federal  
10 regulations for the subsistence harvest of fish and  
11 shellfish on Federal public lands. Proposed changes  
12 are for April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2017. This can  
13 be found on Page 50 in your book. I apologize for not  
14 pointing that out first.

15

16 Then the actual form that people can  
17 use and they need to answer these questions is on Page  
18 51. This is an opportunity for your Council at this  
19 meeting if you have any proposals to change these fish  
20 and shellfish regulations that you could do this now at  
21 your meeting if you so choose or else you can give me a  
22 call and I can work with you to develop one.

23

24 We do have -- again the proposal  
25 deadline is March 28th, so we're just over a week away  
26 from that.

27

28 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Is there any  
31 concerns on Kodiak for taking of shellfish, clams and  
32 crab.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I know we did the  
37 crab one. I haven't looked at the regulations. What  
38 are the limits on the clams, like razors, butter clams,  
39 cockles?

40

41 MR. RIVARD: Let me get my book. Mr.  
42 Chair. Don Rivard. I don't see any of that in our  
43 regulation pamphlet here as far as limits on that. I'd  
44 have to do some research to see if there is any, but I  
45 don't see it here.

46

47 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Pat.

50

1 MR. HOLMES: The one fisheries issue,  
2 and it can't really be solved on the Federal side, is  
3 the problem that Tom Schwantes and I reported on before  
4 on the retention of gray cod on halibut longlines and  
5 we need to go through the State Board of Fish to get  
6 some exemptions on that because the Federal regs allow  
7 for it but the State regs don't, keeping gray cod when  
8 you're doing halibut.

9  
10 So that's something that I would  
11 suggest that maybe you ask Tom and I to work on that  
12 and prepare something for the next meeting so it could  
13 go into the next Board of Fish cycle so that we could  
14 try to solve that inconsistency between the State and  
15 the Federal regs. That's the only fish thing I can  
16 think of.

17  
18 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19  
20 That's all I have.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Don.  
23 It would be the direction of this board to have Pat and  
24 Tom work on the shellfish.

25  
26 MR. HOLMES: It would be a finfish  
27 regulation change for the State Board of Fisheries that  
28 would allow for the retention of gray cod on halibut  
29 longlines. Because right now you can do that if you're  
30 fishing under Federal regs, but the State enforcement  
31 officers here in Kodiak feel that it's not kosher. We  
32 really didn't end up getting that answer until it was  
33 too late in this Board cycle to pursue it, so it will  
34 have to go in probably in another year and a half or  
35 something to get it solved by the next Board cycle.

36  
37 Do you know when that is, Donn?

38  
39 MR. TRACY: Mr. Chair, Pat. I'm Donn  
40 Tracy from Sport Fish Division here in Kodiak. I think  
41 the next statewide finfish meeting is -- I think it's  
42 next year. I'd have to double check, but that would be  
43 one, and probably from the State's perspective, the  
44 preferred venue for addressing that issue, so it could  
45 be taken care of on a statewide basis rather than just  
46 for the Kodiak area for example. But I'd have to  
47 double check on that. And if that's the case, then a  
48 proposal to the Board of Fisheries would be due by  
49 April 10th of this year. The proposals are always due  
50 approximately a year in advance of the meeting within

1 that cycle.  
2  
3 But I can double check and actually  
4 have that information available shortly. I could  
5 probably grab my Iphone and step out and check the  
6 Board meeting schedule.  
7  
8 MR. HOLMES: That would be great.  
9 Thank you.  
10  
11 MR. TRACY: Yeah. I can have that for  
12 you in just a minute.  
13  
14 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I could  
15 probably get something together before we adjourn and  
16 I'll see if I can get -- Tom?  
17  
18 MR. SCHWANTES: Yes.  
19  
20 MR. HOLMES: Do you have my cell phone?  
21  
22 MR. SCHWANTES: I believe I do, Pat.  
23 Give it to me again.  
24  
25 MR. HOLMES: Okay. (971)xxx-xxxx.  
26 I'll see what I can put together and maybe text me your  
27 email address.  
28  
29 MR. SCHWANTES: Okay.  
30  
31 MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chair. This is Drew  
32 Crawford. Alaska Department of Fish and Game in  
33 Anchorage.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, go ahead.  
36  
37 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, Mr. Chair. I'm  
38 looking at the Alaska Fisheries meeting schedule and  
39 currently they don't have any posting for 2015 here,  
40 but I'll run down the hall here in a little bit and see  
41 if I can catch one of the Board support folks and get  
42 any information they have for you.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you.  
45 So the board directive was to have Pat and Tom work on  
46 the finfish regulation for the next cycle and you'll  
47 have probably a proposal for the September meeting.  
48  
49 MR. HOLMES: Yes, for sure. If this  
50 April 10th is the deadline, I'll try and get something

1 for you today. Will we still be going tomorrow, you  
2 think? I'll work on it tonight.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We're getting  
5 pretty close. We could save something for tomorrow.

6

7 MR. HOLMES: Okay. I could have it for  
8 you tomorrow.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Anything  
11 else on that agenda item.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We need to step  
16 back on priority information needs development for  
17 2016. That had an asterisk on it.

18

19 MR. JOHNSON: That was really just for  
20 the Council to provide input to Mr. Rivard and  
21 fisheries staff on specific things that the Council  
22 might want to see on their priority information needs.  
23 It's not necessarily something that the Council needs  
24 to take a motion on. As Mr. Rivard noted, we'll work  
25 on developing that list of priority information needs  
26 and then the Council can take a look at it at its fall  
27 meeting cycle.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. When I  
30 asked for the shift from Akalura to Upper Station,  
31 should that have been an action item of the board?

32

33 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. Typically not  
34 when you're kind of brainstorming your issues that you  
35 want to include on your priority information needs.  
36 I'll let Don here talk about it a little more, but  
37 that's just kind of the beginning of the process of  
38 developing your priority information needs.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

41

42 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. It's not  
43 necessary that you have to do a formal vote on it.  
44 It's basically getting some ideas on what your priority  
45 information needs. Again, as Carl just pointed out,  
46 we'll come back to you in the fall with a draft plan  
47 for you to look at to see that we've captured kind of  
48 the intent of what you'd like to see done and you can  
49 weigh in again in the fall. So that's taken care of.  
50 We've already had that discussion.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you,  
4 Don. With that, we're at new business. It's 11:30.  
5 There's a call for Federal fisheries regulatory  
6 proposals, Page 47.

7

8 Carl.

9

10 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. You actually  
11 just completed that agenda item. Mr. Rivard was up  
12 here and talked about the call for proposals and that  
13 led to the discussion with Mr. Holmes about perhaps  
14 developing a State proposal.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, that's what  
17 I was thinking. We can move on to the review draft  
18 2013 annual report.

19

20 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We  
21 can take that up now or if the Council desires we can  
22 break for lunch and take care of it after. I do know  
23 there are some specific additions that Mr. Holmes  
24 wanted to make to the first issue. So, at Council's  
25 discretion, we can proceed with that now or after  
26 lunch.

27

28 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I think we should  
31 take a break for lunch and come back at 1:00 o'clock.  
32 Thank you.

33

34 We'll recess until 1:00.

35

36 (Off record)

37

38 (On record)

39

40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Good afternoon.  
41 Let's call the meeting back to order. It's 1:10. I  
42 believe the next item on our agenda was the annual  
43 report. Has the board had time to review the annual  
44 report, which is on Page 70 with a lot of other  
45 materials that starts on Page 53, but our annual report  
46 is on Page 70. Have you had time to review that? A  
47 motion would be in order to accept that annual report  
48 from the Kodiak/Aleutians Council.

49

50 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I guess one of

1 the advantages of being Chair is you can boogie out and  
2 assign things to people, so that's why I was late and  
3 missed lunch with you guys. But Carl and I went  
4 through and we added a few sentences to things and if I  
5 can remember what we did. We were going to expand the  
6 bureaucratic response, but I think that it gets the  
7 gist across.

8

9                   The impacts of declining budgets. We  
10 thought that we should add a sentence in there  
11 discussing the -- that we agree with the North Slope  
12 Council and the necessity for funding the chief  
13 anthropologist position because the whole OSM Staff is  
14 only -- you know, they're functioning at 50, 60  
15 percent. Particularly the anthropology folks often are  
16 the ones that can do that communication with the  
17 Regional Councils. So we discussed some wording and  
18 Carl will pop that out on that one, the necessity for  
19 additional funding for OSM.

20

21                   The meetings in remote locations. Carl  
22 was going to insert a phrase in there that because our  
23 Council for years -- and I know I've talked to Della  
24 when she started, which predates me a bit even though  
25 she's much younger, and that's getting out to remote  
26 locations. Carl pointed out to me that in 2012 one of  
27 the Interior RACs was able to do exactly what we were  
28 able to do, so he's going to give us a sentence in  
29 there that will state that as an example so that  
30 hopefully that will allow us to get the RAC out to  
31 remote places and have the Staff that doesn't have to  
32 be there teleconference.

33

34                   On the important rural status, that's  
35 pretty well summed up nicely. I've got some good  
36 feedback from folks on the absorption of the Roundtable  
37 and the Kodiak community's comments on rural status.

38

39                   On the Emperor Geese, we're inserting a  
40 partial sentence after -- it would be second to the  
41 last sentence and it would basically say that we've  
42 asked for feedback in the past on survey design from  
43 the AMBCC and have not received that information on how  
44 they do their survey and this goes back to Rick's  
45 questions on how viable is this 80,000 number. So Carl  
46 was working on a sentence there.

47

48                   On caribou population management, into  
49 the second sentence, right in the middle, it starts out  
50 with, it appears the Department's efforts, including

1 predator control measures identified in our 2012 annual  
2 report, have made progress in improving the herd's  
3 numbers.

4  
5 I was thinking we could add a sentence  
6 that said we would like to see a similar scientific  
7 evaluative process for the other 60 percent of Unit 9  
8 calving grounds that fall on Refuge lands because I'm  
9 sure you remember a few years back when we were talking  
10 about that EA for Unimak Island and the deputy -- the  
11 number two guy for Refuges, and I asked him then is the  
12 only reason that they did not allow for any adjustments  
13 was because -- or predator control was because it was  
14 wilderness and he said, yes, that was the main reason  
15 and then they went through their EA process.

16  
17 Well, it got me thinking about some of  
18 our other conversations and a presentation from Lem  
19 Butler and his successor that that removal of only 23  
20 adult wolves from 40 percent of the calving grounds and  
21 only those wolves that were going after the calves  
22 that's just done such a remarkable improvement. I  
23 would suggest to our Council that we ask them to  
24 explore doing that on the Federal Refuge lands if that  
25 seems agreeable for the Council.

26  
27 And there's one other point that we  
28 didn't get to that we have talked about a lot and that  
29 was sea duck mortality in Uyak Bay. Our former  
30 colleague, Alex Panamaroff, Jr., that was one of his  
31 big concerns from Larsen Bay on sea ducks and then  
32 what's being removed by guides and lodges.

33  
34 We were informed by the -- we'd asked  
35 the Refuge about four years prior in a row about having  
36 a log book program and we were told -- I think when I  
37 teleconferenced, I don't remember which session that  
38 was, that we needed to go to the State for that, but I  
39 did talk to the State game biologist during a break and  
40 he said, no, it would be the Federal government that  
41 would need to implement a log book program to determine  
42 what the mortality is on sea ducks because harlequins  
43 on Kodiak Island is one of the few places where the  
44 population is relatively stable. We had the survey  
45 last year, so it will be interesting to see how the  
46 ducks are doing there. On a previous survey harlequins  
47 have dropped only in Uyak.

48  
49 So I would suggest -- and this might be  
50 a sentence we could hold until after that report, but I

1 would suggest that it would be good for one of the  
2 Federal agencies, whether it's AMBCC or Fish and  
3 Wildlife, to implement a sea duck mortality study if  
4 the problem continues on a decline in harlequins. We  
5 talked about this at so many meetings I can't even  
6 remember which ones they were.

7

8 So that, Mr. Chair, was the points that  
9 we discussed and Carl could probably knock us off a  
10 revised draft if those topics are acceptable to the  
11 Council. Did that cover it, Carl?

12

13 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, it did.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. So before I  
16 entertain a motion on this report, can I get a new  
17 draft from you.

18

19 MR. JOHNSON: Sure can do that.  
20 Ideally I could display it on this screen behind you,  
21 but I'm missing a crucial adapter in order to make my  
22 laptop talk to the projector. So what I'll do is I'll  
23 quickly print out this revision and then pass it out to  
24 the Council for them to review.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. We'll delay  
27 on that one and we'll go to the next topic and come  
28 back to it when we get it. That is -- next on the  
29 agenda would be the tribal consultation information  
30 guidelines and draft on the ANCSA consultation policy.  
31 Jack.

32

33 MR. LORRIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
34 For the record, my name is Jack Lorrigan, Native  
35 liaison, Office of Subsistence Management and the  
36 presentation starts on Page 75 of your book.

37

38 Mr. Chairman. The Tribal  
39 Implementation Workgroup is requesting Council action  
40 or comment on the draft tribal consultation  
41 implementation guidelines and the draft ANCSA  
42 consultation policy. We'll be seeking comment from the  
43 tribes and the corporations also. We were originally  
44 scheduled to have this occur by the April 2014 Board  
45 meeting, but the Board agenda is very full and we're  
46 very understaffed and we're going to have to push this  
47 off until the summer meeting, which has not been  
48 determined yet.

49

50

1                   The guideline summaries are intended to  
2 provide Federal Staff additional guidance on the  
3 Federal Subsistence Board Tribal Consultation Policy.  
4 It includes when consultation should be regularly  
5 offered, meeting protocols, including meeting flow,  
6 room set-up suggestions, topics for consultation,  
7 preparation and follow up for the meetings,  
8 communication and collaboration with tribes throughout  
9 the regulatory cycle, training guidance and topics for  
10 Federal staff and the Board, reporting on  
11 consultations, how to make changes to the policy or  
12 guidance as needed or requested.

13  
14                   The draft ANCSA Corporation  
15 Consultation Policy. This policy is adopted from the  
16 Department of Interior policy in consultation with  
17 ANCSA corporations. It includes a preamble, guiding  
18 principals and policy. For your awareness, please read  
19 the policy section.

20  
21                   The draft policy has been improved on  
22 by the workgroup, which now has representatives from  
23 the villages and regional ANCSA corporations thereby  
24 adding meaning to this policy for the Board. It was  
25 originally drafted in December 2011.

26  
27                   Mr. Chairman.

28  
29                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you.

30  
31                   Any questions.

32  
33                   MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair. Jack, you said  
34 this will be coming to us here for the fall meeting  
35 then? You mentioned that it's not ready and it will  
36 come out for our next meeting in the fall, September.

37  
38                   MR. LORRIGAN: Through the Chair. Mr.  
39 Koso. What is intended for this to happen -- this has  
40 been sent to the RACs before. We added the comments  
41 from the last cycle. Comments have come in. The work  
42 group has worked on them. The original intent was to  
43 have more comments from the Regional Advisory Councils  
44 and the tribes ready for the April meeting, which is  
45 just not going to happen. The Board hasn't set a  
46 summer meeting date yet and we're hoping to have  
47 comments from the RACs, the tribes and the corporations  
48 by that time to present to the Board.

49  
50                   The intent of this document, it's a

1 living document. It will be changed as we run into  
2 bumps and glitches over time, so it will go through  
3 some different manifestations as we try to work to make  
4 it fit what OSM can do and what the RACs and tribes  
5 expect. Mr. Chairman.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat, did you have  
8 a question.

9

10 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. Jack. I'm  
11 not a tribal person, but I've spent a good part of my  
12 life out in remote Alaska and I might suggest under  
13 your Page 81, item 4, discusses OSM and Federal working  
14 directly with tribal consultation as part of their work  
15 responsibilities to attend regional cross-cultural  
16 training to learn the unique communication and cultural  
17 protocols.

18

19 I would suggest that if it's at all  
20 possible, that at least the decision-makers and the  
21 folks that are working on the grounds, like Refuge  
22 managers and assistants, you know, the folks that are  
23 calling the shots, that their cultural training not  
24 take place in an office or a conference room, but that  
25 they go out to a regional hub or some of the villages  
26 that are in their area of responsibility and get to  
27 know folks and talk directly to the people in those  
28 locations.

29

30 They might not be all that tickled  
31 about it, but I think that's the way you really get to  
32 understand other folks and particularly rural folks and  
33 rural Natives, is to go out and actually talk to them,  
34 you know. Go down to Akhiok or Quinhagak or wherever  
35 and just go and say, hi, folks, what do I need to know.  
36 But that's just a thought from the lost Scandinavian  
37 here.

38

39 MR. LORRIGAN: Through the Chair.

40

41 Thank you, Mr. Holmes.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom, are you  
44 online? Della, are you on?

45

46 MR. SCHWANTES: Yes, I'm online.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Oh, there you are.  
49 Do you have any questions for Jack Lorrigan?

50

1 MR. SCHWANTES: No, not at this time.  
2 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: How about you,  
4 Della? Are you there?  
5  
6 MS. TRUMBLE: Yeah, I'm here. I don't  
7 have anything right now. I know with Crystal there was  
8 supposed to be a meeting today, but I told her I'd be  
9 on this meeting, so I wasn't able to sit on the  
10 workgroup meeting, but I don't have anything.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you.  
13  
14 Anyone here have any questions or  
15 comments.  
16  
17 (No comments)  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I guess not.  
20  
21 Thank you, Jack. Unless you have more.  
22  
23 MR. LORRIGAN: Mr. Chairman, yes. It  
24 had an asterisk, so it was an action item if the  
25 Council wishes to endorse or table or whatever. I'd  
26 just point that out.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Has the Council  
29 had an opportunity to review -- Carl.  
30  
31 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. I'll note  
32 that Pam Bumsted wanted to provide from the tribal  
33 perspective some comments on the draft implementation  
34 guidelines and ANCSA draft policy.  
35  
36 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Pat -- or  
39 Pam. Sorry.  
40  
41 DR. BUMSTED: Thank you. Pamela  
42 Bumsted from Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak. We will be  
43 sending other comments as well, but some things that  
44 occurred to me as I was looking through this, one is  
45 trying to get communications out to tribes. We had the  
46 issue with the rural determination and all the hearings  
47 and the meetings last year that in the middle of all of  
48 this suddenly the website was completely overhauled and  
49 still you cannot find any of the subsistence stuff from  
50 the old address. They haven't made the little

1 breadcrumbs where it goes to the new page. That's not  
2 difficult to do and I know Alaska folks were really  
3 shocked to see everything had suddenly disappeared.  
4 That's one reason why Sun'aq had its own collection of  
5 materials, so people could find it if they couldn't  
6 easily find it on the Federal site.

7  
8 Facebook is getting very much better  
9 for getting information out and I know a lot of people  
10 in the communities do read that and we do share it, so  
11 a lot of the tribes in our area we do share our  
12 Facebook posts and things.

13  
14 The LISTSERV was another opportunity  
15 you could get email communications, but that's been  
16 very spotty. We often get nothing and then somebody  
17 else, fortunately, will forward what they've seen. So  
18 there are better ways, I think, of making sure those  
19 kind of alternative communications are done just to get  
20 the word out.

21  
22 The other thing, which I think is  
23 really needed, is probably more in the range of  
24 training. One is that there are resources with the  
25 Department of Agriculture. I know the Forest Service  
26 is on the Board and participates in the Office of  
27 Subsistence Management. It was interesting to me in  
28 looking at a lot of these things under rural  
29 determination that the expertise in geography, the  
30 expertise in how rural communities are defined, all of  
31 that work that's been going on for 20 years has been  
32 out of USDA, but Forest Service didn't have any access  
33 to that kind of technical staff and we were able to  
34 request -- as a tribe, we requested the technical  
35 expertise to help us look at these classifications.

36  
37 It would be really nice if the Board  
38 and the RACs had that ability to use some of those same  
39 technical expertise, which ordinarily members of the  
40 staff would not have received because they don't deal  
41 with human biology, they don't deal with demography, so  
42 all those disciplines that would normally be aware of  
43 these kinds of things they would not have ready access  
44 to.

45  
46 The Institute of the North is one that  
47 has been running training in ANILCA. They do have a  
48 little section on Title VIII. It's pretty good overall  
49 except that there were several of us there about two  
50 years ago and it has a lot of Federal staff show up

1 there when they first get to Alaska. They are coming  
2 in from usually outside of the state. They are coming  
3 in from what is to them a usual way of managing land,  
4 like the Parks and other places. You know, you don't  
5 hunt, you don't pick up rocks, that stuff.

6  
7 I feel strongly that they need to  
8 increase the Title VIII exposure or training in that  
9 area. The Institute has been running this for a number  
10 of years. They do have a very strong State component.  
11 You could hear that in the room with some of the  
12 presentations, so there needs to be a strong Federal  
13 aspect that's from the communities, from the tribal  
14 point of view, to make sure that gets into their  
15 curriculum.

16  
17 Also, I think it would help a lot for  
18 the Federal folks coming in if they knew even some of  
19 the history of their own dealings with communities.  
20 The two things that strike me very strongly is the  
21 Shenandoah Valley and when that was taken over by the  
22 Feds in the '30s and '40s they locked everybody out.  
23 These were people who had been there for hundreds of  
24 years. They wouldn't allow them to keep their homes,  
25 they couldn't keep their farmlands. These were poor  
26 people who depended upon the land. At this point, it's  
27 been long enough. There's a long history of how it  
28 should not have been done. I think that's important  
29 for folks coming in to understand that there are other  
30 cases similar to what ANILCA does and to learn from  
31 their own history.

32  
33 The other great example are the lands  
34 in New Mexico. In New Mexico, before the Americans  
35 invaded and took over, had grants that both -- the  
36 Native people had Pueblo grants to use the lands and  
37 there were also the Hispanic communities who had been  
38 there before the Americans came in. Having the Feds  
39 suddenly taking over the lands and instituting their  
40 rules that they were used to from outside, there was an  
41 armed revolt, there was a number of other things. It  
42 settled down a little bit, but it still is a difficult  
43 process of working with communities and I feel strongly  
44 that that would help a lot, especially new folks coming  
45 in.

46  
47 Thank you.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pam.  
50 Any other questions or comments.

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Do we have anyone  
4 else that would like to make a public comment, Carl?  
5  
6 MR. JOHNSON: Not on this agenda topic,  
7 Mr. Chair, but I do have a request for a non-agenda  
8 topic that can be put in any time at the Chair's  
9 discretion.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Does it  
12 relate to the topic we're on now?  
13  
14 MR. JOHNSON: No, it does not, Mr.  
15 Chair.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. We'll  
18 finish with this first. Seeing as there's no other  
19 questions, thank you, Jack. I guess I'd entertain a  
20 motion to move forward with this.  
21  
22 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I'd like to  
23 move that we endorse the development of the tribal  
24 communications protocol, if that's the correct  
25 phraseology or implementation of guidelines of Federal  
26 Subsistence Board Government-to-Government Tribal  
27 Consultation Policy. I think they're making some  
28 really good progress on that.  
29  
30 MR. KOSO: Second.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and  
33 seconded. Discussion.  
34  
35 (No comments)  
36  
37 MR. KOSO: Question.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The question is  
40 called. You called for the question, right?  
41  
42 MR. KOSO: I called for question.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. All those  
45 in favor say aye.  
46  
47 IN UNISON: Aye.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Those on the  
50 phone, Tom, Della.

1 MR. SCHWANTES: Aye.  
2  
3 MS. TRUMBLE: Aye.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Those opposed.  
6  
7 (No opposing votes)  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Motion carries.  
10 So we support this. I guess you'll have more  
11 information about this on -- we're not going to have a  
12 summer meeting. We'll have our meeting next September.  
13 Hopefully, Mother Nature considered, we'll be in King  
14 Cove.  
15  
16 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I'd like to  
17 add that Melissa Borton is usually quite active in the  
18 Kodiak subsistence thing. She's the CEO of the Native  
19 Village of Afognak, but I believe she's out of town for  
20 some family business and couldn't attend, but I'm sure  
21 that she's probably got her staff writing up some  
22 comments for you.  
23  
24 MR. LORRIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
25 I was just curious if you had any thoughts on the ANCSA  
26 policy. It was also attached to this. It starts on  
27 Page 84. What will happen is once the board accepts  
28 the implementation guidelines for tribal consultation,  
29 the workgroup will switch its focus in efforts to  
30 drafting up draft implementation guidelines for the  
31 corporation consultation policy. So this is just the  
32 beginning of that.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Sorry, I don't  
35 have ANCSA guidelines on Page 84. There it is. Okay.  
36 I got it. I'm sorry. Start over, please.  
37  
38 MR. LORRIGAN: A similar situation, Mr.  
39 Chairman. The workgroup was hoping to get some RAC  
40 input on the draft ANCSA guidelines if you had any. If  
41 you didn't, that would be fine. We just wanted to put  
42 it in front of you and let you know that is the next  
43 chore for the workgroup once the implementation  
44 guidelines have been accepted and finalized by the  
45 Board.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Questions,  
48 comments on the ANCSA guidelines.  
49  
50 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair. Are you looking

1 for a motion to accept this or what?

2

3 MR. LORRIGAN: Through the Chair. Yes,  
4 I believe the workgroup was anticipating having either  
5 a comment or direction from the RACs to proceed on the  
6 next policy document that they're going to be working  
7 on.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: They don't  
10 conflict, do they?

11

12 MR. LORRIGAN: We hope not. We're  
13 acutely aware of the difference between government-to-  
14 government consultation versus government-to-ANCSA-  
15 corporation consultations, so we're trying to make sure  
16 that as these get applied throughout the OSM regulatory  
17 cycle that everybody is treated correctly.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We just voted to  
20 support this one. Now we're on ANCSA consultation  
21 guidelines. My concern is if they conflict with one  
22 another and we support both, then we'd be kind of in  
23 conflict with ourselves. When I read them, I didn't  
24 see anything to be concerned with, but I just wanted to  
25 make sure.

26

27 MR. LORRIGAN: Mr. Chairman. I  
28 anticipate you'll see this document again in the future  
29 as we work on it and there will be time for the tribes,  
30 corporations and the Regional Advisory Councils to  
31 comment on it. If there are conflicts detected, we  
32 edit them and take care of them, but it's not anywhere  
33 near a final draft yet. So there's plenty of time to  
34 comment on them in the future.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. When I read  
37 through them, I didn't see anything that stuck out to  
38 me. I guess I'd entertain a motion to accept the  
39 guidelines from ANILCA.

40

41 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Tom.

44

45 MR. SCHWANTES: I'm having a hard time  
46 hearing, so I have a question. I think we're being  
47 asked to support this as is and yet I think I'm hearing  
48 that there's still going to be a number of changes to  
49 this. So I'm reluctant to step out and say I support  
50 this without seeing what the other changes are. Maybe

1 I'm missing something because I'm not hearing the whole  
2 conversation.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom, I believe  
5 there's going to be more information added at our next  
6 meeting in September. At that time we'll look at it  
7 again. If we're still in support of it, I think our  
8 motion will continue. Carl.

9

10 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
11 think Jack would agree with this. To express Tom's  
12 concerns, what could change, if anything, would be the  
13 Federal Subsistence Board seeing this draft ANCSA  
14 policy and then hearing the feedback from the RACs and  
15 tribes and the various ANCSA corporations themselves,  
16 might make provisions to it as a part of that process,  
17 and then there would be a different version, but it  
18 wouldn't be -- there wouldn't be any additional drafts  
19 by the working group or anything like that until after  
20 this review process and the Federal Subsistence Board  
21 review of it is complete.

22

23 So this would be a good time, if any,  
24 for the Council to provide its feedback on the draft in  
25 its current form because this will be the last  
26 opportunity to provide at this stage in the review  
27 process.

28

29 MR. SCHWANTES: Thanks, Carl. That  
30 helped clear things up for me.

31

32 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair.

33

34 (Cell phone interference)

35

36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Then.....

37

38 MR. KOSO: Della was online.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I'd still  
41 entertain a motion for the.....

42

43 MR. KOSO: I think Della was talking,  
44 but she got cut off with the noise.

45

46 (Cell phone interference)

47

48 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair, can you hear  
49 me?

50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, we can hear  
2 you. I think whatever this machine is is picking up  
3 people's phones.  
4  
5 MS. TRUMBLE: I'm not sure what's going  
6 on. It seems I'm cutting in and out there.  
7  
8 MR. JOHNSON: Della, this is Carl. We  
9 may be getting a lot of feedback from your phone.  
10 That's interfering with us hearing what you're saying.  
11  
12 (Ms. Trumble disconnected)  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Are you still  
15 there, Della? No, I guess not. I guess Rick made the  
16 motion to support the ANCSA proposal on the  
17 consultation. I didn't hear a second.  
18  
19 MR. SCHWANTES: I'll second that.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and  
22 seconded. Any discussion.  
23  
24 MR. KOSO: I'd like the motion, Mr.  
25 Chair, to accept it as is with the understanding that  
26 we may see some changes in it and we would have a  
27 chance to act on those changes.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, I was going  
30 to point that out because it's going to come before us  
31 again in September. Any other discussion.  
32  
33 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chair.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes.  
36  
37 MR. SCHWANTES: With that in mind that  
38 we'll have another opportunity to take a look at this  
39 and, if necessary, change our position in it, then I  
40 would definitely support this.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Tom.  
43  
44 Any other discussions.  
45  
46 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair. This is  
47 Della. I couldn't hear you on the line and then the  
48 line went dead, so I must have got disconnected.  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: There's feedback

1 once in a while that's really, really bad, but we hear  
2 you pretty good now.

3

4 MS. TRUMBLE: I just wanted to make a  
5 comment. I think there were some possible  
6 recommendations from a couple of the regions is what  
7 they were going to look at today. I think this is  
8 probably still a bit of a work in progress.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, it is a work  
11 in progress. Jack called it a living document. All  
12 this information will come back to us in September and  
13 we'll take action on it again at that time.

14

15 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rick.

18

19 MR. KOSO: Della, I made a motion to  
20 accept this here with the understanding that there will  
21 possibly be changes in the future and we'll have a  
22 chance to look them changes over and have another  
23 opportunity to act on it.

24

25 MS. TRUMBLE: I guess, Mr. Chair, that  
26 was my point, that this probably isn't the final  
27 document that the Board will make a final decision on,  
28 so I didn't know if we would need to be approving it or  
29 accepting it at this point given that it is subject to  
30 possible more changes. I'm fine with whatever you  
31 decide.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you,  
34 Della. We're still discussing the motion to support  
35 with the understanding that changes will come -- this  
36 process will come to us again in September.

37

38 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chair. My  
39 understanding is at that point -- that was my concern,  
40 what Della has just raised. I think that's in the  
41 motion that, as I understand it, if we approve this  
42 motion, we'll still have an opportunity to come back  
43 and if we see something in there we don't like, we'd  
44 have an opportunity to change our position on this vote  
45 at that time, is that correct?

46

47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: That is correct.  
48 It will come back to us in September when we have our  
49 meeting in King Cove.

50

1 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chair. With that  
2 in mind, then I will second the motion on the floor.  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Any further  
5 discussion.  
6  
7 (No comments)  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no further  
10 discussion, is there any objections.  
11  
12 (No opposing votes)  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Seeing no  
15 objections, then the motion carries.  
16  
17 Thank you, Jack.  
18  
19 MR. LORRIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, we did  
22 these. We can get back to our annual report with the  
23 changes made on there. Give us a minute or two to read  
24 through it and then we'll take it up.  
25  
26 (Pause)  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: While we're doing  
29 that, we can take that public comment.  
30  
31 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. John Reft.  
32  
33 MR. REFT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
34 Council. Just a few statements from this morning is  
35 basically what I'm speaking on. I'd like to acknowledge  
36 Dr. Chen, who I consider a friend of mine, and a  
37 greeting which I usually give him when we do meet.  
38 There are no clams or shellfish in Palmer. We need the  
39 research technician across here so we can eat our food.  
40 Basically from this morning on the deer  
41 situation in the islands, villages, I realize what the  
42 people are going through there. Like for 20 years I  
43 had this whole island to myself as a charter boat.  
44 Nobody else chartered and it was great. I confronted a  
45 lot of airplanes and stuff flying in and the pressure  
46 was on the game.  
47  
48 As you know, they don't allow elk, deer  
49 and stuff to be hunted the day they get in there.  
50 They've got to wait. I argued when we used to have the

1 meetings over here at the harbormaster's office that  
2 this shouldn't be allowed on deer with the airplanes to  
3 fly right in and shoot them right there. When you've  
4 got hunters trying to go in to get their deer and a  
5 plane just zips in and bam, bam, bam, six, eight deer.  
6 When they jump off on a pontoon, they're done. The  
7 boat going in there, anchoring up and gonna get the  
8 deer, doesn't even have a chance.

9  
10 But this situation I argued about years  
11 ago was because they had a lot of deer then, but my  
12 statement to them before I agreed to go with the fly-in  
13 and shoot, land right then on deer, was that if we ever  
14 got into a situation where the deer population was down  
15 and in jeopardy, that this would be taken out, that  
16 they would not be allowed to go in and hunt the same  
17 day. They'd have to wait just like deer or elk, big  
18 game.

19  
20 It sounds to me like the villages are  
21 experiencing a lot of pressure for their subsistence  
22 and the pressure comes from a lot of the fly-ins and  
23 hunters. So my recommendation is to take that off and  
24 allow the population to have a chance, especially when  
25 you get into the does and stuff like this morning. The  
26 people in the villages need this for their existence.  
27 It's not just a hunt. They need this food in their  
28 diet. They've been born with it, grown up with it.

29  
30 Just like Alaska Native Medical Center,  
31 they couldn't figure out why the recovery rate wasn't  
32 that good of the Native people, especially from up  
33 north. They came to find out that they weren't getting  
34 the foods that they were used to to recover. Once they  
35 introduced that food to them, the recovery rate in the  
36 hospital was a lot better.

37  
38 This is where I sympathize with the  
39 Natives, you know, the villages. I think this  
40 situation on the deer should be lifted on the fly-in  
41 shoot the same day, just like big game.

42  
43 And I'm speaking basically from  
44 experience, you know. I'm a pretty old guy in  
45 comparison to a lot of you. I've had a lot of  
46 experiences in commercial fishing and chartering and  
47 everything. When I was a kid on salmon, there used to  
48 be a 5 cent a tail bounty on Dolly Varden because they,  
49 back when we were a territory, realized that Dollies  
50 are detrimental to the salmon industry, so they kept it

1 down, you know. Later they introduced Dollies into a  
2 sport fishing category and you couldn't eliminate or  
3 keep them down.

4

5 My experience with them is just right  
6 here in the Buskin. Once I took a 20-inch Dolly and  
7 cut the stomach open and counted the fingerlings that  
8 the Dollies were eating in the river there in the  
9 spring and I counted 90 fingerlings in one Dolly.  
10 That's just in the spring. Then, when it comes to the  
11 fall, they really knock into the eggs when the salmon  
12 are spawning.

13

14 So my personal opinion is they ought to  
15 go back and look and knock this Dolly population down  
16 to enhance the recovery rate of our salmon for all  
17 categories because we never really had big problems  
18 with salmon until the Dolly Varden were made into a  
19 sport fish category.

20

21 And the Emperor Geese. Right out here  
22 in the Womens Bay area, years ago when I hunted out of  
23 a skiff and different things, you'd count 12, 15  
24 Emperors flying around periodically and then all of a  
25 sudden there was 50 and 75 and 150. Last year out here  
26 that whole ice floe up in the head of Womens Bay was  
27 just loaded with Emperors. The shoreline had Emperors.  
28 Everywhere along the shoreline.

29

30 We noticed that our duck hunting was  
31 getting tougher because the rest of the ducks, you  
32 know, the blue bills and the whistlers, scoters,  
33 different categories of ducks, weren't in there,  
34 goldeneyes, buffleheads, because all these Emperor  
35 Geese are so big and probably intimidating. My opinion  
36 is they're eating up food and they're pushing the rest  
37 of these birds out of here because the population is  
38 getting so big.

39

40 There are flocks, you know, out there  
41 flying, 75, 150. I mean Emperor Geese scattered all  
42 through Womens Bay. When they come in to feed, they  
43 eat up all that food and they drive the rest of the  
44 birds out that locally people utilize to eat. You  
45 know, that's a lot of pressure from geese that are  
46 being protected that now, in my opinion, are  
47 overabundance and they should be curtailed somewhat so  
48 the rest of the birds can stay in this area and not be  
49 scared away or driven away because of lack of food.

50

1                   Last is the rural/urban fight that we  
2 usually have. I've had some village people comment,  
3 reps, you know, on boards, oh, Kodiak doesn't have to  
4 worry about losing their rural status. Well, if that  
5 was the case, Mr. Chair, why do we have these meetings.  
6 Dr. Bumsted here, Pam, Melissa Borton, Pat Holmes, we  
7 have meetings and discuss and worry about it because if  
8 we lose that status of rural, it's not just a food  
9 we're going to lose, it's a way of life.

10  
11                   This little piece of ground out here in  
12 Buskin, the only piece of Federal that we survive on  
13 and this whole town does. I don't care what  
14 nationality you are, whether you sport fish, whether  
15 you commercial fish, this is a valuable piece of  
16 ground. Not only for salmon, but there's herring and  
17 crab and halibut, all these different species. They  
18 thrive out here. When they do, then we thrive and  
19 that's how we exist and we share. It's just not my  
20 personal gain to go out there and get it, but I share  
21 it with the older people and so on and it goes on  
22 because the way of life of a Native is to share and  
23 make sure the elders are taken care of. They can't  
24 hunt.

25  
26                   The expense of skiffs, outboards,  
27 everything is tremendous now and most of them aren't  
28 capable of getting out and fending for themselves  
29 anymore. So there are pressures from here and there,  
30 but I just want you to know from personal experience  
31 what I surmise out here and what we have we need to  
32 retain and I do not believe that Kodiak could be in  
33 jeopardy of losing their rural status, otherwise all of  
34 us wouldn't go through this extreme amount of meetings  
35 and getting together to protect our way of life. Our  
36 way of life is the Native food that we're used to to  
37 exist and survive. Take it away and there would be a  
38 lot of sick people. On the other hand, probably a lot  
39 of people starving.

40  
41                   That's all I have, Mr. Chair. I thank  
42 you and the Council for giving me a few minutes.

43  
44                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, John.  
45 I appreciate that. We all understand our way of life  
46 has never been the cause for  
47 decline of any resource. It never has been. The  
48 numbers speak. Subsistence has always been a 1 percent  
49 harvest on the resources. It is true that if we lose  
50 our way of life, there will be a lot of sick people and

1 I'm pretty sure that we'll lose a lot of people.  
2  
3 MR. REFT: Exactly.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. I  
6 appreciate it.  
7  
8 MR. REFT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. If we've  
11 all had the opportunity to review this annual report  
12 letter. If it's okay with the Council members, a  
13 motion to approve would be in order.  
14  
15 MR. KOSO: I make that motion to  
16 approve with the additions to it.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Do I hear a  
19 second.  
20  
21 MR. SHELIKOFF: Second.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and  
24 seconded. Any discussion.  
25  
26 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Pat.  
29  
30 MR. HOLMES: I was thinking one phrase  
31 that I forgot to have on the Emperor Goose and I'd like  
32 to add these few words onto that first sentence. I'll  
33 just read the whole thing. As you may recall, this  
34 Council included an item about Emperor Geese in its  
35 FY2011 Annual Report and, as a result of the Board's  
36 reply, submitted a proposal to the Alaska Migratory  
37 Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC) to initiate -- and  
38 what we need to insert here is a small, 2-3 goose  
39 harvest for each village in our region. There should  
40 be a stepped approach for reopening harvest of Emperor  
41 Geese. We had discussed this a bunch in 2011 and I had  
42 just forgot that. Unless a person went back and reread  
43 that, they were thinking we were pushing for a  
44 reopening of everything, when all we were trying to do  
45 is just get a few geese for some of the elders before  
46 they died.  
47  
48 So I would like to give you that as an  
49 amendment on number five if that's acceptable to the  
50 Council. I think that will really nail it right on the

1 head. I learned that some of the Bristol Bay villages  
2 -- I was talking to my good friend Jim Fall with the  
3 State Subsistence and they are putting a proposal  
4 through to AMBCC for an Emperor Goose subsistence  
5 harvest.

6  
7 So I think this would show our support  
8 with them and vice versa, that they need to be looking  
9 at this as a -- you know, because every other critter  
10 that's managed by the Federal government the first  
11 place you open when you reach a threshold is your  
12 subsistence. Like Mitch was saying, we take less than  
13 1 percent of the resource. So having just a small, 2-3  
14 goose harvest, that gets us started. Anyway, I'll be  
15 quiet.

16  
17 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair. When I made the  
18 motion, it was to add the additions and I'd like to put  
19 that in as part of the additions rather than have  
20 another motion.

21  
22 MR. HOLMES: That would be fine with  
23 me.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Would that require  
26 an amendment? Go ahead, Carl.

27  
28 MR. JOHNSON: No, I don't think it  
29 would, Mr. Chair. I was going to ask Mr. Holmes if he  
30 could restate that language he was reading because I  
31 was distracted briefly and didn't hear all of that, so  
32 I can include it in the amended annual report.

33  
34 MR. HOLMES: Okay. To initiate a small  
35 (2 or 3) goose harvest for each village in our region.  
36 There should be a stepped approach for reopening  
37 Emperor Geese harvest.

38  
39 MR. JOHNSON: That language to  
40 initiate, was that to scratch out a subsistence harvest  
41 at the end of that first sentence and to complete that  
42 sentence to initiate a small.....

43  
44 MR. HOLMES: Yes, that's correct.

45  
46 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Does everyone  
49 understand the amendments and the additions?

50

1 MR. SHELIKOFF: I have a question.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Antone.  
4  
5 MR. SHELIKOFF: It says a small harvest  
6 of 2-3 geese per village. What if there's 100  
7 households in the village. That means you get 300  
8 geese?  
9  
10 MR. HOLMES: The whole idea was, when  
11 we brought the topic up a while back, was just to try  
12 to get some kind of a harvest so that there could be a  
13 few geese for the elders because this has drug on so  
14 long, a closure, that -- we could leave the number out  
15 as far as I'm concerned, just a small goose harvest for  
16 each village.  
17  
18 What I was trying to get at was that  
19 the way they estimate the population the error in their  
20 survey is probably well more than -- I was just trying  
21 to come up with something that would sell to them where  
22 we'd just have a little opening and be able to have a  
23 few geese. We had chatted before about having two or  
24 three just so that when you're having a special potluck  
25 or something like that that the old-timers could at  
26 least get to eat some geese before they, you know, die.  
27  
28 I guess it's in the transcript, but in  
29 a way it's kind of poking a little bit of fun at the  
30 whole system in that, you know, we've had people that  
31 have depended on these, you know, for their entire  
32 lives and here they've spent the last 15 or 20 years  
33 waiting for it to reopen and it's never reopened. Who  
34 can complain about having two or three geese if we've  
35 got, what, 30 villages in our whole region. That's not  
36 very many geese. I guess that was the strategy that I  
37 was kind of spinning off from our earlier meetings.  
38  
39 If we can get them to think about a  
40 stepped approach, well then -- and Bristol Bay is  
41 talking about something like that, then at least get it  
42 open and then have some good, strong arguments on  
43 whether or not this 80,000 was ever a reasonable goal  
44 to try to achieve because it may not be.  
45  
46 Those were my thoughts, Antone.  
47  
48 MR. SHELIKOFF: I'm kind of confused  
49 about two to three per village.  
50

1 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, that was the idea,  
2 is just two to three per village, but we can just leave  
3 that out. If that number is too small, we'll just say  
4 a small goose harvest for each village and then bring  
5 that up as a discussion. Is that a reasonable  
6 approach?

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, two to three  
9 per village is not adequate. I was thinking household.

10  
11 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Why don't we go for  
12 just a small goose harvest for each village and then if  
13 they accept the proposal, then they'll come back and  
14 say, well, you know, what would it be. Because if you  
15 -- I was thinking from the village point of view two or  
16 three per household would be okay, but, you know, if we  
17 had two or three for everybody in Kodiak, that could  
18 knock off the whole quota for the region.

19  
20 So having a small number available for  
21 small potlucks or some small community celebration or  
22 like when we have our multi-ethnic thing here in town  
23 where the Filipinos do their thing and everybody brings  
24 in special dishes, you know, or the Sun'aq Tribe or  
25 Native Village of Afognak or something has a special  
26 celebration and we could have a few geese cooked up so  
27 that everybody could go and have a little bit.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Take the number  
30 three off and just leave it at two. Two per household.  
31 A household will eat two geese before they'll have time  
32 to bring it to a potluck, I think.

33  
34 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Tom.

37  
38 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I think I would  
39 support Pat's wording of a small harvest per village  
40 rather than setting a number of two or three birds per  
41 household. I think just for right now just a small  
42 harvest per village would make more sense. And then,  
43 like he said, if they accept that, then we can go in  
44 and take a closer look at where we want to go with  
45 numbers and maybe get some feedback from them on what  
46 they would even consider. But before we start saying  
47 we want this many birds per household.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, we could  
50 change that further, you know. We could say one and

1 put a time limit on it, maybe one per day. If there  
2 was a season, it would be a short season. A household  
3 can get one per day. If you get two, then you had a  
4 season, they're going to get two a day. No matter how  
5 you look at it, one or two birds per household and if  
6 you talk about Kodiak, you're talking two or three  
7 thousand households. That is a lot of birds. If you  
8 come out to Akhiok where you have 35, 40 household,  
9 that's still 80 birds, but a smaller number.

10

MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair.

11

12

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rick.

13

14

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CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Does that  
work with you, Pat.

MR. HOLMES: I think that would be  
swell and then once we -- you know, we can get this  
going and then if we can ever get their details on  
their survey design, if I can get that, then I'll poke  
around and find some statisticians and some folks that  
really know survey design and have them take a look at  
their survey design and look at what kind of error  
they've got around their estimate on the numbers of  
critters and see if we can't get somebody to -- you  
know, that's a good biological statistician to just see  
whether or not what they're doing is valid or not.

If it's not or that they consistently  
have a large error on their estimate and let's say that  
error is off 10,000 geese and the threshold is 80, then  
what's a harvest of, let's say, 1,000 birds in our  
whole region going to mean. It means nothing as far as  
numbers go, but it would mean a whole lot to Anton

1 Stokes or I'd just as soon see my goose go down to you.  
2 But at least we can come in and say, gee, a small  
3 number isn't going to hurt anything and that's the  
4 whole gist. So I think we're on the right point right  
5 now, Mr. Chairman.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any further  
8 discussion.

9  
10 (No comments)

11  
12 MR. KOSO: Question.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The question is  
15 called. All those in favor say aye.

16  
17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Those opposed.

20  
21 (No opposing votes)

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Motion carries.

24 Go ahead, Carl.

25  
26 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. I just want  
27 to also, back to this Emperor Geese paragraph, thanks  
28 to Don Rivard pointing out one bit of confusing  
29 language. That is the sentence that starts with the  
30 Council is perplexed. I think that should be changed  
31 to as to how a population level of 80,000 was  
32 established rather than harvest level because that  
33 would be a lot of geese to harvest.

34  
35 MR. HOLMES: Yes, that's right. Yeah,  
36 that is a threshold.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. You can go  
39 ahead and make that change.

40  
41 MR. JOHNSON: Will do, Mr. Chair.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Nominations. I'll  
44 refer to you, Carl.

45  
46 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
47 put this item on all the Councils' agendas because --  
48 the materials for this starts on Page 87 of your book.  
49 The reason why this is in here is really illustrated in  
50 the graph -- the table that's on Page 89. What you're

1 going to see is a steady -- an up and down, but overall  
2 steady decline in the number of Regional Advisory  
3 Council applications for all 10 regions. You can also  
4 see specifically where Kodiak/Aleutians fits in. We've  
5 had a low of only having one application one year of  
6 2006 and a high of 15 applications in 1998.

7  
8 I just wanted to have the opportunity  
9 here to just kind of remind -- inform the public about  
10 how this application process works. Typically most  
11 people submit an application themselves if they're  
12 interested in joining on a Regional Advisory Council.  
13 They're three-year terms unless you're filling a term  
14 that's not complete. We do this on an annual basis.  
15 Every year we go through this process of starting a new  
16 nomination cycle, which we start in the fall, and it's  
17 still being opened before the previous nomination cycle  
18 is complete.

19  
20 This year and last year we've had an  
21 additional problem of the appointments coming out of  
22 D.C. coming very late. You know, the terms expire  
23 December 2nd every year, so last year was December 2nd,  
24 2013. Yet here we are March 20th and we're still  
25 waiting for decisions on five appointments for several  
26 different regions.

27  
28 So I wanted to give the Council a heads  
29 up that there will be some suggestions coming to you  
30 this fall on what we can do to improve our nominations  
31 and appointment process and we'll be looking for the  
32 Council's input on that at this time.

33  
34 I also wanted to bring to everyone's  
35 attention that there is another way, in addition to  
36 submitting an application to yourself if you're  
37 interested in serving on a Council, that you, as an  
38 individual or tribal governments or tribal  
39 organizations or any organization, can nominate someone  
40 to serve on a Council. This is a very underutilized  
41 part of this program. Last year out of 77 applications  
42 we only had five nominations.

43  
44 So there's a lot of untapped potential  
45 in there because I'm sure everybody in this room knows  
46 someone who they think could make a great contribution  
47 to a Regional Advisory Council, but they don't take the  
48 next step and say, hey, are you interested in serving,  
49 I could nominate you or you could apply, encourage  
50 somebody to apply.

1 My only suggestion is that if you do  
2 nominate someone, please consult with them because  
3 we've had in the past people withdraw once they get the  
4 phone call from the person on the nominations panel who  
5 is doing the interviews. They decline the nomination  
6 and I guess it's because nobody actually checked with  
7 them first to see if they'd be interested in being  
8 nominated to a Council.

9  
10 So I just wanted to highlight this as  
11 an issue that's very important to the Federal  
12 Subsistence Management Program, getting people from the  
13 regions to participate not only as public coming to  
14 these meetings but also as members of the Council and  
15 taking the opportunity to serve on these Councils and  
16 provide their own valuable insights into the very  
17 important matters that the Councils discuss.

18  
19 That's all I have really on this  
20 particular agenda item. I do want to remind those  
21 Council members, and you know who you are, whose terms  
22 expire this year that you need to submit your  
23 application to me. You have not done so yet. If you  
24 know of anybody in your region who you think would make  
25 a good contribution to this Council to encourage them  
26 to apply. There still is time.

27  
28 I do want to note another thing for  
29 this particular Council that one thing I'm going to try  
30 to be doing in the future is working to recruit from  
31 some areas in this region that are underrepresented  
32 because this Council is very unique in that it is the  
33 only Council that specifies the objective number of  
34 seats that should come from the certain subregions  
35 within its region.

36  
37 So your charter specifies an objective  
38 number of seats that should come from the Kodiak  
39 Archipelago, a certain number of seats from the  
40 Peninsula and a certain number of seats out from the  
41 islands. So far we really haven't met those objective  
42 guidelines. I'm going to hopefully be working with  
43 members of this Council and also the different tribes  
44 and communities who are not represented to see if we  
45 can get more people from those parts of this region to  
46 apply for a seat on the Council.

47  
48 I'll answer any questions.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: That seat

1 specification, does it also include who represents  
2 commercial, sport fishermen or is that already written  
3 in there?

4  
5 MR. JOHNSON: No, that is not specified  
6 in any of the charters. What that is is an objective  
7 guideline that we look for in that -- for all the  
8 Councils, we look for a representation of 70 percent  
9 subsistence users and 30 percent commercial/sport users  
10 within the region. When they submit their application,  
11 they identify which of those two they want to be,  
12 either subsistence or commercial/sport. When they  
13 receive their appointment letter from the Secretary of  
14 Interior, that letter says you are appointed to  
15 represent subsistence users in your region or  
16 commercial/sport users in your region.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you,  
19 Carl.

20  
21 Pat.

22  
23 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Carl. Being able  
24 to nominate was something I was totally unaware of.  
25 You're the first coordinator that's ever mentioned that  
26 to us. When I first got on the Council, I was vetted  
27 by a very eager, young employee of the Service who had  
28 been in Alaska like two and a half years and didn't  
29 even know the places that I have lived and worked,  
30 where they were. I thought this is a bizarre process.

31  
32 Where as opposed on the State AC where  
33 I'd been secretary before, I did my six years with  
34 them, basically what happens is if you have a meeting  
35 and you get somebody who is very vociferous, like Rick  
36 Koso when he was in King Cove, coming to the Fish and  
37 Game AC meeting, the Chairman would say, okay, you're  
38 on the committee because they knew they were passionate  
39 and concerned about it. So I think that's really  
40 swell. I'd like to grab off on Johnny Reft, but he's  
41 way over-committed.

42  
43 There's been a couple of folks that  
44 have been coming to our meetings in the last couple  
45 years, Coral Chernoff, is a local Kodiak lady and a  
46 really smart gal. Then Rebecca Skinner I think is also  
47 going to apply for our Council. Rebecca was a  
48 coordinator and kind of a worker, co-chair of our  
49 Roundtable six or eight years ago when she was working  
50 with Sun'aq. She was the gal that really helped us get

1 all the details done. You know, I think both those  
2 ladies are really smart and well concerned and would be  
3 good future people to serve on our committee.

4  
5 I would think that as far as your  
6 outreach, I would also suggest that you send your  
7 outreach notices -- I forget the gal that's the  
8 coordinator now for the Fish and Game ACs. I know,  
9 Rick, you used to be on an AC out west, didn't you, at  
10 one time? I know Mitch has commented on our AC here  
11 many, many, many times. I don't know what's out west  
12 at Akutan, but those folks already have a background of  
13 understanding, consensus and compromise. Somebody out  
14 west that I could see, Della might agree, might be Tom  
15 Hoblet out at False Pass. I should probably give him a  
16 call and see if I could get him interested again  
17 because I believe he's got their AC going. Get a  
18 little experience on these councils once you figure out  
19 how the game is played, I think that can really enhance  
20 the productivity of a Council.

21  
22 So that's good news. That's really  
23 good news.

24  
25 Thank you.

26  
27 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. I fear I have  
28 to correct myself for the record that, in fact, the  
29 charter does specify that 70 percent/30 percent split  
30 that I discussed regarding subsistence and  
31 commercial/sport users, and that's in paragraph 12 of  
32 the charter.

33  
34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Carl.

37  
38 Do you have more information on these  
39 nominations or is that it?

40  
41 MR. JOHNSON: Not at this time, Mr.  
42 Chair, other than, again, I have a very detailed  
43 recommendation I've developed that's going to be  
44 forwarded to the Federal Subsistence Board on changes  
45 to make to our nominations and appointment process. If  
46 the Board adopts any of those suggestions for  
47 forwarding to the Councils, then we'll discuss this  
48 again, likely in the fall meeting cycle.

49  
50 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Carl.

2

3 Go ahead, Antone.

4

5 MR. SHELIKOFF: How I got on this board  
6 was online with Anchorage Daily News. If you're having  
7 a problem, have the Council members themselves put up a  
8 poster saying that they need more members. The current  
9 Council members should be helping you. That's just a  
10 suggestion.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Antone.  
13 If there's nothing further on the nominations for  
14 membership on the RAC, we'll move on. Does anyone need  
15 to take a short break before we get into agency  
16 reports.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No. We'll move  
21 on. Agency reports, OSM.

22

23 MR. LORRIGAN: - Good afternoon, Mr.  
24 Chairman. Again, Jack Lorrigan, Native liaison for the  
25 Office of Subsistence Management. I'll be giving you a  
26 brief report on OSM.

27

28 Currently for budget we have no  
29 significant budget changes to report. Staffing, like I  
30 mentioned earlier in my report, we're one-third of our  
31 total complement for our office. We have 14 vacancies  
32 in our organizational chart and a hiring decision has  
33 been made for the subsistence outreach coordinator,  
34 which was vacated by Andrea Medeiros. There's an  
35 application period currently open for the Deputy  
36 Assistant Regional Director just recently vacated by  
37 Kathy O'Reilly-Doyle. The application period closed on  
38 Monday, February 24th, for the lead secretary position.

39

40 Waivers are in the works for the  
41 Wildlife Division chiefs, fisheries biologist,  
42 administrative staff and Council coordinator. A  
43 Fisheries Division chief is currently open for  
44 applications. The Anthropology chief waiver has not  
45 been forwarded to D.C. yet. The Acting Deputy  
46 Assistant Regional Director is Chuck Ardizzone and the  
47 Acting Fisheries Division Chief right now is George  
48 Pappas.

49

50 Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Jack.  
2  
3 Any questions.  
4  
5 (No comments)  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No. Thank you.  
8  
9 U.S. Fish and Wildlife.  
10  
11 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. I indicated  
12 to Steve Delahanty that he could provide his report at  
13 2:30 and, wow, did I guess that luckily because it's  
14 2:27 according to my laptop. So I'll ask if he's on  
15 the line. Are you there, Steve?  
16  
17 MR. DELAHANTY: Yes, I am. Thank you.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. We're going  
20 to take a step back. It looks like we have a commitment  
21 here. Okay. We're ready for you.  
22  
23 MR. DELAHANTY: Thank you, Mr.  
24 Chairman. My name is Steve Delahanty. I'm in Homer,  
25 Alaska, with the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife  
26 Refuge. I just wanted to give a report on a project,  
27 an investigation we're undertaking to evaluate options  
28 about what, if anything, we should do regarding cattle  
29 on two islands. They are Chirikof Island, kind of  
30 southwest of Kodiak, and Wosnesenski Island, sort of  
31 off the Peninsula not too far from Sand Point.  
32  
33 The Fish and Wildlife Service or the  
34 Refuge's concerns about possible damage to wildlife  
35 habitat and archaeological resources and things like  
36 that, but we also recognized that there are values to  
37 the cattle and we've been meeting with people. We went  
38 to -- we had meetings in Homer and Kodiak and Sand  
39 Point and many, many phone calls and letters and things  
40 like that. Just really listening to people at this  
41 point about what they think we ought to do with  
42 anything about the cattle situation out there. Also  
43 trying to investigate the actual ownership of the  
44 cattle. There's been some disputes about ownership and  
45 we're trying to get to the bottom of that.  
46  
47 So I just wanted to make the Council  
48 aware of the fact that we were beginning this planning  
49 process, trying to decide what to do and would welcome  
50 any kind of questions or input from any of the members.

1 We're really trying to listen and learn as we go  
2 through this project. So that is my report and I would  
3 welcome any comments or questions.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Steve.  
8 Have you made any progress in locating the owners of  
9 this cattle?

10

11 MR. DELAHANTY: Yes, I think so. On  
12 both islands we've had somebody coming forward and  
13 saying those cattle belong to me. On Wosnesenski  
14 Island that's Mr. David Osterback and I don't think it  
15 was really any surprise, frankly. We've had a long  
16 history of working with him in the past back when there  
17 were permits issued to allow the cattle to be on the  
18 island.

19

20 On Chirikof Island, a gentleman named  
21 Mr. James McCormick has said that he is the rightful  
22 owner to the cattle. In the end, those are really  
23 legal questions and I'm not an attorney, but I'm in  
24 consultation with the government's attorney to try and  
25 figure out how we determine the actual ownership. In  
26 both cases, we have somebody saying, yes, they belong  
27 to them as private property.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: What is their idea  
30 as to getting the cattle off those islands?

31

32 MR. DELAHANTY: I don't know yet. I  
33 guess, talking to Mr. Osterback, his preference would  
34 be, I think, clearly to leave them on the island. If  
35 it came down to it that they needed to come off, I  
36 don't know what he would propose to do.

37

38 On the other island, on Chirikof, Mr.  
39 McCormick has expressed an interest in trying to remove  
40 live animals, barge them off, but whether that -- it's  
41 hard to know how much of that is practical and how much  
42 of it might be kind of wishful thinking. To my way of  
43 thinking, if they're determined to be private property,  
44 we'll do our best to work with them and let them either  
45 remove or do something with their property.

46

47 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman. I've got  
48 a question for Steve.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Tom.

1 MR. SCHWANTES: Steve, you've said  
2 you've had several meetings. Can you tell us what the  
3 public comments -- the majority of public comments  
4 regarding how to handle this situation?

5  
6 MR. DELAHANTY: That's a great  
7 question. They really have been mixed and I don't know  
8 the exact count, but it is roughly split about equally  
9 between people who are saying the cultural resources  
10 and the wildlife habitat have to be considered first  
11 and foremost and the cattle don't belong out on these  
12 islands, but I've also had a lot of people tell me that  
13 they value the cattle.

14  
15 In the community of Sand Point, there's  
16 a lot of expression of concern for the value of the  
17 cattle as a meat source for people. On Chirikof, there  
18 really isn't so much of the use of the animals  
19 currently for meat that has been told to me, but more  
20 an expression of concern over the possible genetic  
21 value of that herd of cattle and that should somehow be  
22 preserved, whether that be on the island or elsewhere.

23  
24 So I guess I've heard both perspectives  
25 and from quite a number of people. Expressions of  
26 desire to maintain the cattle on the islands and  
27 expressions of concern over damage that might be done  
28 and a desire that they not be allowed to remain on the  
29 island for any significant amount of time. It's going  
30 to be hard to make everybody happy.

31  
32 MR. SCHWANTES: Thank you.

33  
34 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair. This is  
35 Della.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Della.

38  
39 MS. TRUMBLE: I wasn't able to attend  
40 the conference hearing because I was traveling at the  
41 time. I just want to kind of make a comment or a  
42 couple comments. We mentioned that there are people  
43 that want to believe that these animals do not belong  
44 on these islands because technically they weren't there  
45 at some point in time and it would be my guess that  
46 they are people that do not live in this region.

47  
48 In talking to a number of people in  
49 Sand Point and even in King Cove, they would like to  
50 maintain that cattle stay there because they utilize it

1 for subsistence. We know that with caribou that  
2 population is down and for many years we weren't able  
3 to utilize caribou as a subsistence food. In these  
4 cases and times, that's when this cattle is being used.  
5 Over and above that, it's being used yearly anyway.

6  
7 This is an issue that we came up with  
8 that's ongoing on a number of EISs within these  
9 regions. You look at False Pass and the issue with the  
10 wolf. You look at King Cove and the issue with the  
11 road. When you've got the majority of people that do  
12 not live here that have no concept of what we're about  
13 and what we live off and how we survive, this is what  
14 happens.

15  
16 It goes back to the majority of the  
17 comments of people and it really is disheartening to me  
18 that we continue to go through this process time and  
19 time again. Really, in my opinion, walking through  
20 steps that have no impact don't do us any good. I  
21 think it's a sad process and it's a disheartening  
22 process and it's really technically a slap in the face  
23 of the people that live in this region because it  
24 affects them first and foremost.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you for  
27 that, Della

28  
29 MR. DELAHANTY: Steve, you have owners  
30 of the cattle. Is there ownership of land on those  
31 islands? Does somebody own land on those islands?

32  
33 MR. DELAHANTY: The Chirikof Island is  
34 entirely Federally owned and assigned to be a part of  
35 the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, so it's  
36 Federal ownership. Wosnesenski Island, it is pretty  
37 close to 100 percent Federal ownership assigned to the  
38 Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, but there is  
39 a small parcel, like an acre and a half approximately,  
40 I don't remember the exact size, 1.8, 1.9 acres, that  
41 is owned by the Orthodox Church. It's the site of a  
42 former church. There also is about a 10-acre selection  
43 but not conveyed to each one, a heritage site, but  
44 other than that the island is under Federal  
45 administration.

46  
47 MR. SCHWANTES: Steve, this is Tom.  
48 Can you tell me, are there any grazing leases -- any  
49 Federal grazing leases on either of those islands?  
50

1 MR. DELAHANTY: No, not currently.  
2 Before ANILCA, before 1980, they were both -- well,  
3 Chirikof Island had a BLM grazing lease, so after 1980  
4 when the Fish and Wildlife Service was told to be  
5 responsible for the island, we honored that lease and  
6 it ran through the year 2000, so we were issuing  
7 grazing permits to that organization. It was -- well,  
8 that individual, until eventually he moved off the  
9 island and no more permits were issued in the mid '90s,  
10 but he knew all along that there would be no more  
11 grazing permits issued on Chirikof after the year 2000.

12  
13 On Wosnesenski, we issued permits under  
14 similar circumstances to Mr. Osterback for a number of  
15 years until about 1987 or 1988. This listening process  
16 we've been going through has been very helpful to me  
17 because from my perspective, looking in the records  
18 here, I thought that we weren't getting paid and we  
19 were saying pay for the permit or you have to remove  
20 the cattle. From Mr. Osterback's perspective, there  
21 was uncertainty related to the land status and whether  
22 or not it would be selected and whether or not it would  
23 end up in private ownership versus Federal ownership.  
24 So that's been very helpful to me and he's been really  
25 excellent to work with in this whole process.

26  
27 But the short answer, I guess, is that  
28 there has not been any grazing authorized, no permits  
29 or lease or anything, for many years on either island.

30  
31 MR. SCHWANTES: Thank you.

32  
33 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair. I have a  
34 question.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Della.

37  
38 MS. TRUMBLE: Is it possible to try to  
39 create those land use agreements to lease them? I know  
40 Sand Point won't because I know the interest is to try  
41 to keep the animals there and I do recall -- Rick, you  
42 could help me on this -- quite a number of years back  
43 when some animals were killed off by the Federal  
44 government on another island that people were very,  
45 very upset about. Is there anything that can be done  
46 to try to maintain some sort of partnership with Mr.  
47 Osterback in order to keep the cattle there?

48  
49 MR. DELAHANTY: That's one of the -- we  
50 were asked that in Sand Point and through written

1 comments, so that's one of the things we need to go  
2 through and consider as an alternative in these  
3 documents. So the short, yes, we can explore that.  
4 What I told people in Sand Point is that we will have  
5 to be able to -- there's just laws in place about  
6 National Wildlife Refuges. I have to be able to say  
7 that that grazing is compatible with the purposes for  
8 which the Refuge was established. So, if I can do  
9 that, then I can authorize grazing and we can issue  
10 permits and work with Mr. Osterback or somebody else.  
11 We did have those kinds of discussions in Sand Point  
12 and elsewhere as well. Frankly, the folks on Chirikof  
13 are interested in something similar to that if  
14 possible.

15  
16 MS. TRUMBLE: I guess the other  
17 question I have is -- and you'll have to forgive me, I  
18 haven't -- I was trying to pull this stuff up on the  
19 internet to try to get a little -- refresh my memory on  
20 some of this. Those cattle in the Shumagins, were  
21 those there prior to that being designated wilderness?

22  
23 MR. DELAHANTY: The Wosnesenski is not  
24 designated as wilderness I don't believe. I'd have to  
25 double check, but I don't think it is. The cattle were  
26 there before it was designated as a National Wildlife  
27 Refuge. The cattle were brought to Wosnesenski in 1938  
28 and they were brought to Chirikof in the late 1800s.

29  
30 MS. TRUMBLE: I'm sorry. Refuge. The  
31 reason I bring this up is because if it was there prior  
32 to the designation -- I don't know if this Council has  
33 any input or can help with this process, but I'd  
34 recommend that they support an effort to continue to  
35 work with Sand Point because it is a community to Sand  
36 Point and King Cove and False Pass, that they basically  
37 do harvest that and it does help. Like I say, there's  
38 no caribou. That beef helps.

39  
40 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Rick.

43  
44 MR. KOSO: Della, that was out by Sanak  
45 there. I certainly wasn't aware that they were going  
46 to kill them off. By the time I did become aware of  
47 that, they were already dead. I think they shot around  
48 350 of them with a helicopter. The way I understood  
49 it, they left them right on the island there. So if  
50 they are going to get rid of these cows, I think there

1 should be some sort of a plan to at least get them to  
2 the villages to where people could utilize them. That  
3 was a pretty big tragedy for people in False Pass and  
4 King Cove that used to go out every year, two or three  
5 times a year, and get their meat from that group of  
6 animals.

7

8 MS. TRUMBLE: I recall, I think, in one  
9 of my trips to D.C. when we did meet with U.S. Fish and  
10 Wildlife, there was a lot of anger from both the people  
11 that were with us from Sand Point. I would hope that  
12 we can try to figure out a way to keep the animals  
13 there. They've been there this long. If there's an  
14 issue at keeping them at a certain population, try to  
15 figure out a plan, but try to work to maintain the  
16 animals there because they are being utilized for  
17 subsistence.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

20

21 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I really  
22 strongly agree with Della and with -- excuse me, I'm  
23 just getting old and tired -- my colleague on the other  
24 side of you there, Rick. I've had Chirni beef out  
25 there and it's certainly something else. I think you  
26 should also be in contact there Steve with the mayor of  
27 the Aleutians East Borough and perhaps he may be able  
28 to help you on coordinating things. If a decision does  
29 come to remove them, I think the last time of just  
30 killing them was a total tragedy and with the increase  
31 in wolves and my 50, 60 years of going out in that neck  
32 of the woods, I think that folks are really dependent  
33 on those animals for food.

34

35 So if you have to remove them, perhaps  
36 there's some tribal or borough land there on Popof or  
37 Unga and take the more politically acceptable expertise  
38 of you folks get a barge and move them rather than kill  
39 them. If you're going to kill them, then get a  
40 portable abattoir and get the carcasses to where the  
41 folks can make use of those for food because that's so  
42 important.

43

44 I'd like to make one comment beings  
45 you're with the Maritimes. It was a comment from Rick.  
46 He's working out at Adak. He's from King Cove. About  
47 caribou numbers out there. Any suggestion on how you  
48 folks might be able to get a handle on the population.  
49 '82 I gave the Maritimes -- when I did a survey of the  
50 Chain for salmon, I gave them a whole half day of -- in

1 fact, I gave them a whole day and I only used a half  
2 day of helicopter time to count the critters.

3  
4 But I would suggest that if you're  
5 interested in the numbers that you talk with the Coast  
6 Guard Air Station at Kodiak and see when they do have  
7 movement of cutters. They have in the past been very  
8 gracious with the needs that I had when I worked with  
9 Fish and Game and also with -- I remember they did some  
10 things for John Martin when he was with your shop.  
11 Just see if they couldn't arrange if they're in the  
12 Adak area sometime to spend -- all it takes is three  
13 hours of time to do a flight and count the caribou up  
14 there.

15  
16 I think I'd like to end this whole  
17 conversation beings it's getting late and tired with a  
18 little bit of biological black humor. I can recall  
19 probably close to 30 years ago when the wolf population  
20 started to build in the statewide and Collinsworth was  
21 the commissioner of Fish and Game and he assigned a  
22 young fellow that I knew in Juneau and his task was to  
23 call every State Fish and Game type of management  
24 agency in the U.S. and ask them if they would like to  
25 have some Alaska wolves and the State would sedate them  
26 and fly them to them in perfect health. There was not  
27 one single state that would accept Alaska wolves.

28  
29 I think it would be a beautiful  
30 exercise in ecology to take maybe 50 wolves from there  
31 around Nelson Lagoon or Cold Bay and fly them down to  
32 the San Francisco Golden Gate Park and let them loose  
33 so they could reestablish an actual equilibrium in  
34 California.

35  
36 Anyway, a little tongue in cheek, but  
37 the humor is there to indicate that one needs to think  
38 in a broad manner. I appreciate you, Steve, and your  
39 verbiage here and your attempts to try to find some mid  
40 grounds on things and not to be leaping off in  
41 reactionary and just going out and blowing away all the  
42 critters without getting community input. So hats off  
43 to you and a big attaboy there. Take care.

44  
45 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chair. One last  
46 comment. Steve, I have to strongly agree with Della.  
47 I think it would be an absolute shame to have to  
48 destroy those animals. Even if we were able to get the  
49 carcasses to the villages, I just think anything that  
50 you guys can do to help with a permit or whatever it

1 takes to allow for those cattle to remain out there,  
2 especially out in the Shumagins area, you know, with  
3 the caribou populations like they are, those animals  
4 are a valuable food resource and I would certainly urge  
5 you to go everything you can to work with those people  
6 and try to work that out to where those animals can  
7 remain there.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other  
12 questions for Steve.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing none.  
17 Thank you, Steve. Appreciate your report.

18

19 MR. DELAHANTY: Mr. Chairman. Thank  
20 you and to all the members for giving me -- I know this  
21 is a lot of time out of an agenda, so thank you for  
22 that. I don't know what the final decision is going to  
23 be, but I just want to let you know how valuable it is  
24 to hear these perspectives. I hadn't been to Sand  
25 Point before and going there really kind of opened my  
26 eyes. It was very helpful to me. We did meet with  
27 Aleutians East and other people, so we're trying to  
28 have those conversations.

29

30 Again, I don't know where it's all  
31 going to end up, but we're trying to be as open and  
32 reasonable as possible. In the end, we'll have to make  
33 some kind of decision and I'm sure there's going to be  
34 groups of people who are unhappy, but we'll do the best  
35 we can to at least be open and listen and try to  
36 accommodate needs as best we can.

37

38 Thank you so much for the time you gave  
39 me.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, thank you.  
42 Have a good day. You're on again.

43

44 MS. LAROSA: Good afternoon. I wanted  
45 to talk quickly about a couple of staffing changes at  
46 Kodiak Refuge and then turn it over to McCrea to give  
47 the wildlife report. I apologize, I have the same  
48 meeting that Steve has. I have at 3:30, so I'll have  
49 to leave around quarter after.

50

1 I arrived in Kodiak a couple of months  
2 ago, so I'm still here to listen and learn and  
3 appreciate the opportunity to come talk to you folks.  
4 My door is always open, so come see me any time with  
5 your issues.

6  
7 Kent Sundseth, who some of you probably  
8 know, who was the deputy manager there and spent the  
9 last year filling in for a vacancy in the manager  
10 position, has recently as of a week ago moved to North  
11 Dakota. So we'll be refilling his position as soon as  
12 we can. There's an announcement out right now, so  
13 hopefully by the end of the summer we'll have somebody  
14 and then we'll be fully staffed again in our management  
15 capacity. Elsewhere in the Refuge we're fully staffed  
16 and all the biologists are there working.

17  
18 I think I'll turn it over to McCrea to  
19 give the report.

20  
21 MR. COBB: Good afternoon, Council. My  
22 name is McCrea Cobb. I'm a wildlife biologist for the  
23 Kodiak Refuge. I will be giving the Refuge's  
24 subsistence activity report between September of 2013  
25 and February 2014, which is on Page 100.

26  
27 I'll start out with a rundown of the  
28 subsistence permit summary. We all know here on Kodiak  
29 there are three different species, deer, bear and elk,  
30 which fall under Federal subsistence regulations.  
31 Probably the most important for most people are deer.  
32 Just to focus on Table 1, this past year with the  
33 season that ended the end of January, we had 46 permits  
34 issued and of that 21 deer harvested. This is the  
35 Federal designated deer hunter harvest, so you can  
36 harvest up to three deer per person for yourself or for  
37 someone else and that person doesn't have to be elderly  
38 or disabled.

39  
40 One interesting thing about this is  
41 that the trend over the last two years has been  
42 slightly increasing. You can kind of look at this as a  
43 very rough, crude index of deer abundance. With the  
44 hard winter we had, the number of permits declined  
45 substantially. People weren't going out for deer and  
46 it's increase this past year suggests that the deer are  
47 likely responding to the last two mild winters that  
48 we've had and are increasing.

49  
50 We do two surveys on brown bear that

1 we've been doing for a number of years. First is  
2 called the intensive aerial survey. It happens in May  
3 of every year. The past two years were focused on  
4 Karluk. Both surveys showed the same result, which was  
5 approximately 40 percent decline in bear abundance in  
6 that area. This year we'll be surveying a region a  
7 little bit further south, Frazer Lake, Red Lake and  
8 Sturgeon River drainages.

9

10 In addition to the intensive aerial  
11 survey we do what we call stream surveys, which are  
12 aerial surveys of anadromous streams in southwestern  
13 Kodiak. This is more of an index of an estimate of  
14 composition of bears, so single, family groups and  
15 number of cubs.

16

17 In addition to our monitoring work, we  
18 have a research project continuing this coming summer.  
19 It's a cooperative study with the USGS and the  
20 University of Montana. It will result in a Ph.D.  
21 dissertation. The main goals of the study are on Page  
22 101, but they include quantifying brown bear responses  
23 to salmon abundance and stream morphology, looking at a  
24 responsiveness of bears to salmon running time and  
25 examining variations in salmon run time and abundance  
26 and their influence on bear movement, foraging  
27 strategies and salmon consumption.

28

29 We recognize that Sitka black-tailed  
30 deer are a very important subsistence species and some  
31 of the most fundamental data that are needed to be able  
32 to manage deer in a scientific way or to know how many  
33 we have. There have been a number of methods over the  
34 last many years to try to get at that goal. We've  
35 initiated a new one that looks very promising for areas  
36 in southern Kodiak that are open terrain, meaning it's  
37 not covered in trees.

38

39 This past year we expanded on an aerial  
40 survey method which is based on a distant sampling  
41 approach, so basically we fly straight line transects  
42 and count deer out the window and then record the  
43 distance those deer are from the plane and from that  
44 you can estimate how many deer that you're not seeing  
45 during the survey to be able to get an estimate of the  
46 total number of deer that are in that area.

47

48 So the survey started in the Aliulik  
49 Peninsula as a sort of pilot study. This past year we  
50 expanded it out to include Ayakulik and Aliulik as well

1 as Alitak. The survey intensity this past year wasn't  
2 as great as it could have been just because we had  
3 severe funding shortages. We plan on continuing this  
4 effort this coming spring with a more intense survey  
5 effort. I've been in discussions with Nate Svoboda, the  
6 area biologist here for the State and they plan on  
7 chipping in and helping out with that survey as well.

8  
9 Elk are another subsistence species and  
10 these are primarily managed by ADF&G. They have a  
11 radio-collared sample of elk that they use to locate  
12 the herds and count them. Their most recent population  
13 count was approximately 765 elk. Of those, there are  
14 about 60 elk that were in the Waterfall Herd on Federal  
15 lands. Those are the ones available for subsistence  
16 harvest in 2013. That dropped down to about 40 elk in  
17 -- sorry, that increased from about 40 elk the previous  
18 year. This past subsistence season we had two bulls  
19 that were harvested.

20  
21 We do a number of projects and  
22 collaborate on a number of projects on sea otters.  
23 This coming summer, this July we're planning on doing  
24 the first aerial survey of sea otters across the Kodiak  
25 Archipelago since 2005. We were able to successfully  
26 get funding. We applied for a grant to support this  
27 work. The last full survey was in 2004 and that showed  
28 a slight decline from the one before that, which was in  
29 1989, so from about 11,000 sea otters that were counted  
30 and then previously in 1989 they were about 13,526.

31  
32 Some anecdotal evidence that we've been  
33 hearing from the villages and locals is that the  
34 population is likely grown and expanded southward. So  
35 we're going to be responding to that and increasing the  
36 sampling area where we fly for sea otters and hope to  
37 get a good handle on what those numbers are.

38  
39 We've continued on a number of other  
40 projects that are mainly run by Fish and Wildlife  
41 Service's Marine Mammals Management Division in  
42 Anchorage. These include ones looking at diets of sea  
43 otters. If we find beached otters or hunter harvested  
44 otters, we'll get the whiskers from those and they're  
45 able to use a process to identify the diet from that.

46  
47 We also collect -- again, when the  
48 public reports dead sea otters, we collect those and if  
49 they're fresh enough, we'll send them to Anchorage  
50 where they perform a necropsy to try to identify the

1 cause of mortality.

2

3                   We're part of the Marine Mammals  
4 Marking and Tagging Program. Tonya Lee and myself are  
5 taggers and there are a number of other taggers in the  
6 local villages. At the Refuge headquarters this past  
7 six months we tagged 14 sea otters.

8

9                   We do a large-scale survey on coastal  
10 waterbird surveys that was initiated in 2011 and it  
11 focuses on marine nearshore birds in the intertidal  
12 zone and shallow inshore waters. This past summer  
13 surveys were conducted on the west side of Kodiak from  
14 Viekoda Bay to Halibut Bay and included 85 transects  
15 covering about 1,000 kilometers of shoreline. The  
16 results of that are on Page 103 in Table 2.

17

18                   In addition, we do other work with  
19 migratory birds. These include projects banding sea  
20 ducks on a near annual basis, which is focused  
21 primarily on harlequin duck. We've banded about 1,400  
22 ducks since 1996. From recapture of birds we're able  
23 to get estimates of annual survival rates and local  
24 movements.

25

26                   We've also worked with the Fish and  
27 Wildlife Service Avian Health and Disease Program,  
28 which we're taking blood samples from subsets of birds  
29 banded for contaminants analysis. So we're going to be  
30 comparing birds that reside closer to villages or towns  
31 versus those away and see whether or not there's  
32 differences in the contaminant level. When the results  
33 are available, they'll be added to the report.

34

35                   I'm not going to talk too much about  
36 fisheries because mainly it will be talked about a  
37 little later here by ADF&G, but we do have three  
38 projects tentatively scheduled for this coming field  
39 season. Those are on Page 104. One is quantifying the  
40 spatial distribution of chinook smolts in the Ayakulik.  
41 Second is estimating sockeye escapement in Akalura. We  
42 touched on that a little bit earlier today. Third is  
43 estimating steelhead population size on Ayakulik.

44

45                   Secondly we're doing a project -- this  
46 is more of a large-scale Alaska-wide project. It's  
47 looking at monitoring lake and river temperatures in  
48 response to climate change. So we're trying to get  
49 baseline monitoring information on lake and river  
50 temperatures and that's obviously important also for

1 salmon and has direct impacts on salmon spawning.

2

3                   As usual, we're involved in a lot of  
4 education and outreach. In January, Tonya Lee and I  
5 traveled out to Old Harbor. Melissa Berns talked a  
6 little bit about that earlier. It was great to get  
7 out. We had two goals. One was to advertise the  
8 designated deer harvest. Just make sure people know  
9 about it and also to get people signed up and try to  
10 get that more localized within the villages so that  
11 it's easier for people to use. So we went to Old  
12 Harbor and then we also got to Larsen Bay. We had  
13 plans to get to Akhiok. Unfortunately the weather  
14 during that time didn't coincide with our plans.

15

16                   The second goal was to talk about the  
17 State's change in mountain goat harvest regulations.  
18 As you all know, they've increased the bag limit for  
19 480, which includes most of the Refuge and then they've  
20 extended the season, which just ended I believe  
21 yesterday. I don't have the results from the State  
22 back on how many additional mountain goats were  
23 harvested after the close of the normal season, but I  
24 get the impression from talking with people that it was  
25 a successful hunt and well used. A number of people  
26 took advantage of the increase in bag limit to two  
27 mountain goats.

28

29                   We're also involved in a lot of  
30 community outreach and education with local youth. We  
31 use volunteers on a number of projects, local  
32 volunteers, and lead youth educational programs. For  
33 example, those with the Girl Scouts, the Kodiak Area  
34 Native Association, and KIBSD Rural Schools.

35

36                   The Federal Emergency Management Agency  
37 (FEMA) has proposed a Tribal Consultation Policy. If  
38 approved, the policy would establish a process to guide  
39 FEMA-tribal consultation actions. FEMA is currently  
40 seeking feedback from tribes on this proposed  
41 consultation. So we just wanted to bring that to the  
42 Council's attention.

43

44                   Finally, we've been receiving a number  
45 of questions recently regarding marine mammal and  
46 subsistence handicraft regulations, so we wanted to let  
47 the Council know and if you could pass this on to your  
48 communities as well that at the Refuge headquarters we  
49 have fact sheets for sea otters, walrus, migratory  
50 birds available if you're in that area and we can also

1 get that out to you if you need it. It includes terms  
2 like significantly altered, some of those terms that  
3 are in the regulations, to name a few.

4

5 With that, thank you very much.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you.

8 Questions for McCrea.

9

10 Pat.

11

12 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Start at the back  
13 and work the other way. I think your Ursa Major and  
14 your outreach programs are really swell. I heard some  
15 really positive comments about your trip down to Old  
16 Harbor from folks in Larsen Bay. Tonya is definitely  
17 the queen of the educators of the island. I know every  
18 place she goes that she is a person of great respect.

19

20 I related a story a while back from my  
21 friend Melissa and she received so many government  
22 communications that she spends a half a day getting it  
23 piled from the left side to the right side of her desk.  
24 But if Tonya calls her up and says, gee, this is an  
25 important issue on subsistence, then she knows, boy,  
26 that's the important thing to go for. So I have to  
27 really commend you folks on all that work.

28

29 Your salmon habitat monitoring and  
30 climate change, that's swell. The sea duck  
31 contaminants, that's probably going to be some good  
32 information. One thing our Council has asked the  
33 Refuge several times is reflecting our concern on Uyak  
34 Bay and it goes back even before Alex Panamaroff, Jr.  
35 of Larsen Bay was on our Council and the conflicts and  
36 the concern because, at least from what we've been  
37 presented at our Council before, Kodiak is one of the  
38 few areas in Alaska where the harlequin populations are  
39 reasonably stable. The one exception has been Uyak Bay  
40 and most of the previous surveys show a slight downward  
41 trend every year. So we would really appreciate it if  
42 you'd come back to us as to what the sea duck  
43 population was for Uyak this year.

44

45 I did do some research. I had asked at  
46 prior meetings and at the last meeting I had a  
47 teleconference, I believe I was told that it was the --  
48 we had asked if the Refuge could initiate a log book  
49 program with the guides and the lodges because the  
50 folks in the village of Larsen Bay and folks that live

1 around Uyak that aren't in the villages, some feel  
2 there's a conflict and that the decline or the  
3 mortality of harlequins and other soup ducks has been  
4 occurring and they really want to know what's being  
5 removed.

6

7 I believe at the last meeting I  
8 inquired and I was advised by the Refuge staff that  
9 that was the State prerogative. I spoke with the State  
10 biologist today and they said, no, that's a Federal  
11 project or prerogative to implement a log book program.  
12 I really would ask you folks to look into that because  
13 if the population has gone down again in sea ducks for  
14 Uyak, then there needs to be a reason. Intuitively, if  
15 that's the only place on the island that has had this  
16 consistent change, something is happening.

17

18 So I know most of the guides over there  
19 are very conscientious and say, you know, if they were  
20 out guiding Glenn Chen, they'd say, Glenn, you're only  
21 allowed two harlequins, Glenn would shoot and wound one  
22 and he'd say, well, that's one gone. Then if they take  
23 them and a person is not going to eat them, then a lot  
24 of the guides will bring those birds into Larsen Bay  
25 for the old-timers. Sea duck soup is a really, really  
26 important thing and I would ask that you folks put some  
27 serious thought into evaluating that because that's  
28 part of your role, obviously, as well as the biological  
29 information.

30

31 Sea otters. That's good to be doing  
32 surveys. It would be really interesting to know from  
33 your marine mammal people if they just fly straight  
34 land transects or if they do adaptive strategies for  
35 their surveys because I spent not as much time out as  
36 Rick or Mitch in boats, but hundreds and thousands of  
37 hours out around the island. Otters will move  
38 depending on the predominant wind patterns and food  
39 availability. They may move completely from one side  
40 of Uganik Bay to the other depending on the wind.

41

42 If you're just shooting a straight line  
43 transect, maybe this change that you saw and reported  
44 between '89 and 2004, if you're looking at your  
45 confidence intervals there, that difference of 2,000,  
46 your confidence interval is more than 2,000, so it  
47 could be sampling error or just not finding them. The  
48 beauty, I think, of adaptive stratification is you go  
49 in and do a general estimate of your area and you say,  
50 ah, well, they're over on the west side rather than the

1 east side of the bay. So then you go and spend the  
2 rest of your time looking at that to get a good solid  
3 count. So that's an important thing for them to  
4 consider over time.

5  
6 Your analysis looking at the whiskers  
7 and everything, that's really swell. You might -- and  
8 I'm sure you will, McCrea, because you have your folks  
9 do really good sciences to look at the lowest common  
10 denominator on the locations because there have been  
11 pockets around the island where I've watched otters  
12 where the kind crab populations have stayed up longer  
13 than they have in other areas and they stayed and fed  
14 on crab more extensively, so you might find things that  
15 were from Womens Bay, Chiniak. Otters harvest from  
16 there might have a larger portion of -- I don't know  
17 which isomers they're going to test -- of crab in their  
18 diet as opposed to ones from northwest Afognak where  
19 the otters basically showed up when they were  
20 reestablished here and then moved out from there. So  
21 you might look at the fine denominators if you've got a  
22 big enough sample size and then, you know, cluster  
23 analysis after that.

24  
25 I think your open terrain deer hunting  
26 thing is really swell. I hope you can find some way to  
27 look at things in terms of the other parts of the  
28 island and find some way to adapt that. Now, if I  
29 understand right, you dropped your winter mortality  
30 studies that the Refuge did for 20, 30 years. I know  
31 it's hard to get good solid replication on that, but  
32 management is an art, so let me toss the mic back to  
33 you on that one.

34  
35 MR. COBB: Through the Chair. This is  
36 McCrea. In regards to your question about the deer  
37 winter mortality survey, yes, we decided to focus our  
38 efforts on getting a population estimate, so that's  
39 right now the focus on where our funding is going and  
40 our research efforts are going rather than do the  
41 winter mortality survey. The main reason for that is  
42 that count during the winter or during the spring in  
43 those areas does assess the number of carcasses within  
44 those regions, but without an estimate of abundance  
45 within those areas it doesn't tell you as much about  
46 the rates of winter mortality. So if you say you had a  
47 small population and then you're seeing small  
48 mortality, was that because mortality rate was low or  
49 just because the population was small that year.

50

1                   So the real fundamental data need for  
2 deer that I believe is getting an abundance estimate  
3 and then from there, once we have a good abundance  
4 estimate, then we can start looking at winter  
5 mortality, which has been identified as a primary  
6 environmental factor eliminating population growth of  
7 the deer here in Kodiak.

8  
9                   MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I can see that  
10 because if you were -- it's a relative index and more  
11 on the art of wildlife than the science of wildlife  
12 management and the way things have been going around  
13 Chi Cove for deer populations I hear from folks is you  
14 might not find many dead deer because there just flat  
15 aren't any left in that neck of the woods. So that  
16 could lead one astray unless you're looking at the  
17 broad picture.

18  
19                   It's good to see you're expanding the  
20 work on bears and taking the lead that Vic Barnes did  
21 30 years ago or so in his work, you know, was the first  
22 to identify variations in salmon and bear abundance and  
23 they're shifting.

24  
25                   And I was wondering, it will probably  
26 be my last question, on your aerial surveys of the  
27 bears. You focused really heavily on Karluk and I  
28 watched, because I used to have -- Frazer used to be  
29 one of my projects and the bears moving back and forth  
30 from Frazer to Karluk and also Red Lake, Sturgeon, it  
31 would be really cool to see what you guys get on your  
32 collared bears and see where those guys or girls are  
33 going.

34  
35                   At the Department, we'd always joke  
36 about an old lady bear called Dopey. She was so dumb  
37 that she never really raised a cub that we ever saw,  
38 but yet you'd see Dopey over at O'Malley or at the head  
39 of Frazer or down at the Frazer fish pass and she just  
40 kind of ambled along. So it would be really neat to  
41 get some good solid info on that.

42  
43                   My hat is off to all the complicated  
44 things you folks have to do and sometimes I raise some  
45 questions, but you guys work real hard.

46  
47                   Thank you.

48  
49                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.  
50

1 Other questions.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I've got one. In  
6 your bird surveys, you said you surveyed from Viekoda  
7 Bay to Halibut Bay. The numbers in parentheses, is  
8 that the totals? In June of 2013 they're 146, in  
9 parentheses they're 62-230. Is that total population  
10 from Viekoda Bay to Halibut Bay?

11

12 MR. COBB: Robin Corcoran, our bird  
13 biologist, will better answer that question for you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

16

17 MS. CORCORAN: Hello, I'm Robin and I  
18 conducted the survey. So we've been doing the survey  
19 since 2011, but this past summer 2013 we did the west  
20 side of Kodiak only from Viekoda Bay to Halibut Bay.  
21 In June, these numbers represent a population estimate.  
22 So the first number in the table for harlequin duck  
23 146. That is our population estimate in June for that  
24 whole region. You'll see that in August the number  
25 increases to almost 2,000 is our population estimate.  
26 What's in parentheses, that's how confident we are. So  
27 we're willing to say that that estimate of 2,000 in  
28 August we're 95 percent confident that that estimate  
29 really falls somewhere between 818 and about 3,121.

30

31 We no longer do the historic survey  
32 where we attempted to count every bird. We just take a  
33 systematic random sample. So I'm only censussing 25  
34 percent of the habitat and then I take my density  
35 estimates and I expand them out across that region. So  
36 that's how I get those numbers. So the numbers are so  
37 low in June because the birds have probably -- the  
38 majority of them that are breeding are probably on  
39 their nesting sites inland, so we're not going to count  
40 them in the marine environment. But then they've  
41 pretty much finished breeding efforts in August, so  
42 they've moved back into the marine environment and a  
43 lot of them are in small groups molting. That's why  
44 we're seeing such a big change in numbers just for  
45 harlequin ducks.

46

47 I haven't broken down these estimates  
48 by bay yet. I'm still in the process of working with  
49 this data, so I don't have like a bay specific estimate  
50 for Uyak Bay, but I will be able to do that. I just

1 have to sub-sample the transects and then I can compare  
2 them to the last time we did the complete survey in  
3 Uyak Bay, which was 2010. So we will be able to  
4 compare what our estimate is now. It's a different  
5 survey back in 2010. We were making an effort to cover  
6 the entire shoreline and count everything we saw on the  
7 shoreline.

8

9 The survey has changed. The reason  
10 being is that instead of focusing on inter bays and  
11 Refuge lands only we've tried to make it an  
12 Archipelago-wide survey. So now we're surveying the  
13 entire Archipelago, including Afognak and Shuyak, so  
14 we've had to change the way we sample.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you.  
17 With your surveys on all these water birds, I don't see  
18 Emperor Geese in here. Are you not counting those?

19

20 MS. CORCORAN: We count them in the  
21 winter, so the June/August surveys are just the  
22 breeding bird surveys and the Emperor Geese have moved  
23 to their breeding grounds on the Yukon Delta. We count  
24 the Emperor Geese in the winter. We do that with an  
25 aerial survey and because of funding constraints and  
26 because of an analysis of the previous survey data we  
27 only do that on a five-year basis, so it's the most  
28 economical way as far as we determined based on  
29 previous data in trend detection. It's the most  
30 economical way to survey.

31

32 So we surveyed -- it's a survey that's  
33 really targeting Steller's Eiders, but overlap in  
34 habitat between Emperor Geese and Steller's Eider is  
35 real tight, so we can use it as an Emperor Geese survey  
36 as well. We did that survey in 2010 and we intend to  
37 do it about a year from now in either late January or  
38 early February of 2015. That would be our five-year  
39 mark.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Are those numbers  
42 added to the population threshold of Emperor Geese?

43

44 MS. CORCORAN: No, they're not.  
45 Migratory Bird Management, they have their own group of  
46 primarily pilot biologists and they count those birds  
47 along the Alaska Peninsula during migration. I believe  
48 they do a pretty small window of time where they go  
49 every fall and they get that population estimate that  
50 they use to determine what that population is. They

1 have that goal for the three-year average to be above  
2 80,000, I believe.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: You're saying the  
5 migrating birds. We have a population out there by  
6 Akhiok that seems to be increasing. When they do their  
7 counts out there, they're not going to come to Kodiak  
8 and count the birds on Kodiak, is that what I'm  
9 hearing?

10

11 MS. CORCORAN: I think the timing of  
12 it, the idea is that the birds have moved out of Akhiok  
13 and have made that move towards the Yukon Delta because  
14 the birds breed either on the Yukon Delta or they move  
15 even further west. There's a small segment of the  
16 population that breeds in Siberia, but there shouldn't  
17 be birds after a certain point in the Akhiok region.  
18 They'll move out.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The geese I see  
21 there never seem to leave the area. When the AMBCC or  
22 whoever, when they do the counts, I think they should  
23 cover the whole region. Wherever the Emperor Geese is  
24 at they should go and make an effort to count them. As  
25 you've heard, there's a lot of push to get a  
26 subsistence harvest of Emperor Geese. If they're not  
27 counting all the birds, then that threshold not  
28 correct.

29

30 I had one other question or probably a  
31 comment. With the mountain goats, it was great to have  
32 an extended season and an increase of two goats. For  
33 those of us that were fishing during the summer and  
34 those that have jobs that can't get out as often or as  
35 long as the hunters that fly in, they had an  
36 opportunity to hunt the goats from August all the way  
37 up to September. Those of us in the village that are  
38 fishermen, we have our opportunities come after the  
39 fishing season and into the fall and into the winter.  
40 By that time, like I explained earlier when I gave my  
41 village report, that the mountain goats, when we go in  
42 to hunt mountain goats and they see us coming, they  
43 start moving. That tells me that those populations are  
44 hit pretty hard by earlier hunters.

45

46 I smell gas. I'm sorry. No. Do you  
47 smell gasoline? But, yeah, it's a good opportunity for  
48 us to have a longer season and a two goat bag limit,  
49 but it's kind of difficult to go in after everybody  
50 else has gone in in the earlier parts of the season and

1 the goats we go after, when they see us, they take off.

2

3 It was kind of frustrating because we  
4 took some young boys out and we saw some goats on a  
5 mountain and we started going up after them. You know,  
6 we thought they'd just go over the ridge and get out of  
7 sight, but we got up there and we find out they were  
8 down the valley and up the other mountain range. That  
9 tells me they were hit pretty hard and they were pretty  
10 spooked late in the season.

11

12 I wanted to hear a little bit about  
13 that significantly altered. Is there a final rule on  
14 that?

15

16 MR. COBB: This is McCrea. Yes, we  
17 have information on that that we can get to you that  
18 goes through the specific definitions.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Do we have copies  
21 in our packet? I didn't see one. May we have them?

22

23 MR. COBB: I apologize. I didn't bring  
24 them with me here, but we have them at the Refuge  
25 headquarters. I can go back and either get you that  
26 tomorrow or.....

27

28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Get our addresses  
29 from Carl and mail some to each Board member. Wherever  
30 there's sea otter, I think they'd like that  
31 information. I can tell you down in Akhiok they are  
32 increasing. They're moving in and we're getting pretty  
33 worried about our clam beds and our geoducks and sea  
34 urchins. Where there used to be no sea otters there  
35 are pods of them now.

36

37 Any other questions for McCrea.  
38 Antone.

39

40 MR. SHELIKOFF: On the Steller sea lion  
41 I notice you have in June 56 and then in August  
42 nothing, why?

43

44 MS. CORCORAN: I included the Steller  
45 sea lion estimate because in previous years our  
46 transects have fallen on some better habitats and on  
47 some haul-outs, but for the west side this is not a  
48 very good survey for Steller sea lions. Because  
49 they're so clustered at the haul-outs, this survey in  
50 general isn't a good survey for them. Of the marine

1 mammals that we survey, I think our estimates for sea  
2 otters are probably the best and to some degree harbor  
3 seals. Because we only survey 25 percent of the  
4 coastline, the survey is designed to be systematic from  
5 a random starting point, but because of the  
6 distribution of harbor seal haul-outs we miss a lot.  
7 So these aren't the most well designed surveys for the  
8 mammals. It's definitely more of a bird survey where  
9 we just count everything we see.

10

11 MR. SHELIKOFF: Yeah, I was going to  
12 say it was a bird survey.

13

14 MS. CORCORAN: Yes.

15

16 MR. HOLMES: Well, May/June is when sea  
17 lions are getting together to have their fun spring  
18 thing and by August they're all done and out looking  
19 for grub, so they may not well be within your survey  
20 transects at all. Probably out having a snack  
21 somewhere else or sniffing around Mitch's house hoping  
22 he'd forget his net out and go for his silvers.

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other  
27 questions.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: One little  
32 question. Tell me a little bit more about that study  
33 you're doing in Akalura. That system has been down for  
34 a few years and we have Upper Station that's going  
35 down. I would think that we would try to recapture  
36 what is there, you know, like Upper Station. I don't  
37 know. Tell me a little more about it.

38

39 MR. COBB: I wish our supervisory  
40 biologist Bill Pyle was here. He has more information  
41 on this and I can get back to you with it. From my  
42 understanding, it's still early in the works. The idea  
43 would be to expand some work that's being done  
44 monitoring salmon runs in the bear research to that  
45 area. So it would be putting a camera over the stream  
46 and counting the salmon using the same method that has  
47 been used in the Karluk and Frazer area.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: So you're  
50 basically talking about setting up a weir with

1 different counting methods, is that it?

2

3 MR. COBB: That's the idea from my  
4 understanding. It's basically a white panel and the  
5 fish swim over the panel and get photographed as they  
6 go. With the photos, they've worked out an equation to  
7 be able to estimate the number of fish that have  
8 passed.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. It doesn't  
11 have anything to do with studying nutrients in the lake  
12 or the stream itself?

13

14 MR. COBB: I haven't heard anything  
15 about that portion of the study, no, but Bill Pyle  
16 would know more.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. I talked  
19 with him last week. He didn't mention something about  
20 setting up a different sort of weir up near the lake so  
21 the float planes can get in and out without regards to  
22 the weather. I was kind of hoping he would do some  
23 nutrient studies in the lake itself to see if it can  
24 sustain the populations of inbound fish. I would also  
25 hope they could do the same thing with the Upper  
26 Station since that's in a bad declining stage right  
27 now. Can you expand that study and go over there too?  
28 It's just across the bay.

29

30 MR. COBB: I will pass that on to Bill  
31 Pyle and have him give you a call.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you.

34

35 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

38

39 MR. HOLMES: When these folks are done,  
40 I see a Fish and Game fellow in the back there that's  
41 done some limnology and things around. You might want  
42 to have him give you a little briefing on your  
43 questions there.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Any other  
46 questions, comments for McCrea.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If not, thank you

1 very much. Appreciate your report.

2

3 MR. COBB: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Carl.

6

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

8 I'm going to make a bold suggestion maybe we take a  
9 short break since we've been going for about two and a  
10 half hours.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Take a 10-  
13 minute break.

14

15 (Off record)

16

17 (On record)

18

19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Can we all come

20 back to the table. Call the meeting back to order.

21 Where are we at? Kodiak?

22

23 MR. JOHNSON: Izembek.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Izembek. Here we  
26 go.

27

28 MS. LOWE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My  
29 name is Stacey Lowe. I'm the wildlife biologist at  
30 Izembek. The report we submitted is on Page 107 of  
31 your package. I'm just going to run through and try to  
32 reiterate some of the highlights. Also there was some  
33 information that we received after the report was  
34 printed, so I'll try to fill you in on some more  
35 numbers from some additional surveys as well.

36

37 Starting out with the caribou in Unit  
38 9D, that's on the southern Peninsula, in the fall we  
39 collaborated with Fish and Game and helped them do the  
40 composition survey. A total of 600 caribou were  
41 surveyed for the composition portion of the survey  
42 where they determine if it's a bull or a cow and the  
43 number of calves as well. This is where the ratios in  
44 Table 1 come from.

45

46 As you can see, the fall bull per 100  
47 cow ratio was 50 and for the calves it was 40 per 100  
48 cows. These numbers are both an increase from the  
49 previous year. Unfortunately we did not get a complete  
50 winter count done this year. It seems to be a

1 continuing pattern where we just haven't had complete  
2 snow cover conditions to do this. We will be working  
3 in April with the State to put out some additional  
4 radio collars to continue the population monitoring  
5 study. This will include collars on calves as well.

6  
7 For Unit 9D, both the State and Federal  
8 subsistence hunts were opened this year. We gave out a  
9 total of 40 permits. Twenty of those permits were  
10 issued through the Federal subsistence hunt with five  
11 permits being allocated to each community. The hunt  
12 doesn't close until March 31st, so I don't have any  
13 harvest numbers for you yet, but we will have those at  
14 the fall meeting.

15  
16 In Unit 10 on Unimak Island, the State  
17 also completed the composition survey there. We  
18 assisted with that by going out prior to their arrival  
19 and pre-locating the large groups of caribou to speed  
20 up the surveys. We were also able to count some of the  
21 groups. We were able to get some calf ratios on our  
22 own. If you look at Table 2. We definitely saw an  
23 increase in both the bull per 100 cow ratio and the  
24 calf per 100 cow ratio. We counted 19 calves per 100  
25 cows, which is a large increase from the previous  
26 almost 10 years. That's the highest number we've seen.

27  
28 In case it's confusing in the wording,  
29 we listed two numbers, both the Fish and Wildlife's and  
30 the Fish and Game's numbers in the paragraph. In the  
31 table, those are only reflecting the State surveys. So  
32 hopefully that's not confusing.  
33 We found a minimum of 24 calves, which is about 13  
34 percent of the total caribou that we observed and they  
35 found 15 percent calves.

36  
37 The next survey is the brown bear  
38 survey. Each fall we attempt to conduct a survey along  
39 the salmon streams to estimate brown bear productivity  
40 and get an index of what the population size is doing.  
41 This year the survey was conducted approximately two  
42 weeks later than usual due to weather and other  
43 circumstances. We believe that may have something to  
44 do with seeing the lowest number for each of the bear  
45 indexes, including total number of bears, sows with  
46 cubs, so the family groups, and the number of cubs.

47  
48 If you look at Figure 2, it shows the  
49 numbers just for the Izembek/Cold Bay area and Figure 3  
50 shows the Unimak Island numbers. Both of those

1 indicate the lowest numbers that we've seen in a while.  
2 We believe this is partially due to conducting the  
3 survey later than normal.

4  
5                   The last complete line transect survey  
6 that was conducted in this area was in 2002, so we hope  
7 to work with Fish and Game to accomplish another  
8 complete population count next year in May of 2015.

9  
10                   Moving on to the waterfowl for the  
11 Pacific black brant surveys. In Figure 4, we've got  
12 several numbers that we graph on there. The solid  
13 black line is the three-year average count. The dashed  
14 gray line is indicating the 38-year average. So it's  
15 averaging all the surveys back to 1975. Then the black  
16 dotted line shows the annual count average.

17  
18                   This is from the surveys conducted in  
19 the fall in October by the Migratory Bird Management  
20 office. For this year, the average count was 157,781  
21 brant and this is about a 2 percent increase from the  
22 2012 estimate.

23  
24                   Also in the fall we go out and conduct  
25 the productivity index estimates by counting the number  
26 of adult versus juvenile brant. This year we counted  
27 close to 47,000 brant for the age ratio index. That's  
28 indicated in Figure 5. Again, this figure has two  
29 different lines. One is indicated the percent juvenile  
30 brant for the current year and the solid black line is  
31 indicating the three-year average. So this year  
32 juveniles comprised about 18 percent of the population.  
33 This is an increase from 2012 where there was about 14  
34 percent.

35  
36                   Also after the submission of this  
37 report we did receive the winter brant survey results  
38 and this is the number of birds that have overwintered  
39 in the Izembek Lagoon and Sanak area. This year  
40 yielded approximately 50,000 brant, which is the  
41 highest number ever recorded that have overwintered.  
42 So that's not indicated in the report, but it will be  
43 in the fall report. I'll add that to the graph that we  
44 usually include.

45  
46                   For the Emperor Goose surveys. In the  
47 fall, kind of in conjunction with the brant survey, we  
48 also conduct the productivity estimates looking at the  
49 number of adults versus juveniles. I don't have the  
50 spring report numbers yet, so if you look at the graph

1 on the following page for Figure 6. I know we've  
2 discussed earlier the Emperor Goose numbers and needing  
3 that 80,000 for the three-year average. I don't have  
4 the numbers from this year's spring count, so I don't  
5 have an update on where that's at at this point.

6  
7 Last fall we also continued to  
8 collaborate with the USGS to conduct the avian  
9 influenza and blood parasite monitoring. Those come  
10 mostly from hunter harvested birds. To date, I'm not  
11 sure if all the samples have been analyzed from last  
12 year yet, but they have not detected the H5N1.

13  
14 Last year we also continued our eel  
15 grass monitoring efforts. This occurs at Grants Point  
16 location where we go out and measure the production and  
17 growth rates of the eel grass just at Grants Point. We  
18 plan to continue that this year. That's done every  
19 month from April through October. In April and  
20 September only the samples are sent in to the USGS lab  
21 where they're analyzing the nutrient content of the  
22 grass.

23  
24 Last summer we also initiated a Steller  
25 sea lion monitoring effort on Unimak Island where we  
26 deployed remote cameras to monitor the sea lions at the  
27 haul-out sites. We haven't recovered the photos from  
28 that. We'll be doing that here probably June or July.  
29 We hope to expand that operation this summer and deploy  
30 cameras at two additional haul-out sites.

31  
32 Under our research section we have  
33 three studies that were ongoing with different  
34 university collaborations. The first one being with  
35 the University of Alaska looking at the nutritional  
36 quality of forage for caribou on Unimak Island and  
37 we're still awaiting the final results of that study.  
38 We hope to get those this summer and be able to report  
39 those to you this fall. The lab analysis is still  
40 ongoing, but the field work has been completed.

41  
42 We've also been collaborating with  
43 Pennsylvania State University to develop a long-term  
44 biodiversity inventory and monitoring plan for Izembek  
45 Refuge. Basically this plan will help us prioritize  
46 other research studies. It won't change sort of our  
47 base surveys that we've been doing for 20, 30 years.  
48 It will help guide our research for additional projects  
49 in the future.

50

1                   Our third project is a collaboration  
2 with the University of Notre Dame where the student was  
3 examining the characteristics of lakes and streams on  
4 the Refuge and she was examining the different nutrient  
5 qualities of the different lake systems and looking at  
6 differences between lakes with salmon-derived nutrients  
7 only and those that receive inputs from both waterfowl  
8 and salmon. These data are serving both as a baseline  
9 for future research on these water bodies.

10  
11                   In addition to our surveys and our  
12 research, we've also spent a lot of time last fall and  
13 this winter doing some education and outreach  
14 activities. We haven't quite made it to all the  
15 different locations yet, but we did have a field trip  
16 with the Cold Bay school where the kids went out and  
17 helped deploy a remote camera to monitor a waterfowl  
18 lake as part of the Notre Dame study.

19  
20                   Continuing with that theme, we went  
21 over to False Pass and we put up a camera there as well  
22 that the students are monitoring a bear and wolf trail  
23 with.

24  
25                   Just a few weeks ago we hosted our  
26 Refuge open house event where we had a lot of folks  
27 from the community stop in and tour the Refuge. We had  
28 a big display on all the biological projects that are  
29 going on and we let people tour our airplane hangar and  
30 it was a lot of fun. We also judged our waterfowl  
31 decoy-making contest, which both the kids and adults  
32 created their own waterfowl decoys and we held a  
33 contest for that, so that was a lot of fun.

34  
35                   In December, we also had our annual  
36 Christmas Bird Count and we had seven people volunteer  
37 this year to help out. In the upcoming summer we're  
38 planning the construction of three new kiosks that will  
39 be on display throughout the Refuge. Each kiosk is  
40 going to feature an educational display about the  
41 history and origins of Izembek and information about  
42 the species found on the Refuge. The locations of  
43 these will include at the entrance of the Refuge,  
44 nearest to the airport, at the end of Outermarker Road  
45 overlooking Izembek Lagoon, and on Frosty Creek Road  
46 near First Bridge.

47  
48                   In addition, I've also reported the  
49 number of brown bears. We only had two in the fall  
50 that were sealed. That was largely due to our

1 furlough. We were unavailable to seal the remainder of  
2 the bears. We had one female gray wolf that we sealed  
3 at the Refuge. No river otters, one sea otter and 11  
4 tusks from walruses.

5  
6 That completes our report. Thank you,  
7 Mr. Chair.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Any  
10 questions.

11  
12 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rick.

15  
16 MR. KOSO: Stacey, I was looking at  
17 your counts here. I guess maybe I'm just a little  
18 confused. I notice your overall count out there was  
19 1,720 caribou in 9D. I guess the 600 was what you just  
20 examined. Is that how you do that?

21  
22 MS. LOWE: Yeah, let me explain that a  
23 bit. There's a couple different numbers in there. The  
24 first number, the 877, was the number of caribou that  
25 we counted in the Fish and Wildlife plane prior to Fish  
26 and Game arriving. We do that as an effort to pre-  
27 locate the large groups of caribou to speed up the  
28 process of the composition surveys. So that serves as  
29 just sort of a minimum count. There was probably a lot  
30 more caribou out there, but we didn't fly line  
31 transects for this survey.

32  
33 The same goes for the Fish and Game.  
34 There was four fixed wing aircraft and so that's the  
35 total number of caribou that they saw collectively.  
36 The 600 is the number that they actually did the  
37 composition survey on where they're flying up closer to  
38 them with the helicopter and determining age and sex.  
39 So, again, that's sort of like a minimum population  
40 count, but it's not a complete population survey.

41  
42 MR. KOSO: So when do you expect to get  
43 that full survey done to get a full population?

44  
45 MS. LOWE: Generally we attempt to do  
46 the survey in the winter when there's complete snow  
47 cover. We were hoping to do it again this year and we  
48 just didn't get the conditions. So the next complete  
49 survey will be done next winter if the conditions  
50 allow.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Hi. Welcome to the ball  
4 game. I'll ask you a question I've asked the last  
5 three or four biologists out there on the population  
6 surveys. Why do you do a winter count? Because you  
7 miss 60 percent. First, before I elaborate on that,  
8 I'd like to give you a bit of a history. If you go  
9 back and look in our transcripts, we did get -- because  
10 those counts out there, the caribou are so important to  
11 folks as far as subsistence and being able to get the  
12 food they need. A lot of folks have basically moved  
13 out because they can't live there anymore and have gone  
14 to Anchorage. I even know a family from False Pass  
15 here in Kodiak and just because they can no longer get  
16 that protein source.

17

18 I understand that most of the other  
19 Refuges do their peak count in the spring. I've been  
20 admittedly critical about trying to survey in the  
21 winter because -- well, I worked for Fish and Game many  
22 years and I've been out in that neck of the woods since  
23 '63 and I know it's trouble to fly in the winter and in  
24 the summer you get fog and rain and things like that.

25

26 But I would heartily suggest that you  
27 examine and see what the other Refuges do for when they  
28 fly their peak counts because it's so easy and any  
29 management agency to be stuck in the rut, we've always  
30 tried to do it in the winter, but if you try to do it  
31 in the winter for so many years and most of the time  
32 not get it done or you get just a little piece of it  
33 done, then it's really not showing anybody anything  
34 other than you drink a lot of coffee waiting for the  
35 weather to clear.

36

37 So I might suggest that you folks  
38 examine doing it at a time of the year -- because  
39 during the calving period everybody is going to be  
40 tight together. In the winter, my experiences out at  
41 Unimak is the critters are going to be huddled up  
42 against the best place to get out of the wind and if  
43 you can't get there with an airplane, I know trying to  
44 fly stream surveys out there you always got to go to  
45 the top of the pass and fly out, but if it's blocked  
46 off at the bottom, you don't want to be going the other  
47 way and have it blocked off and then you're dead, you  
48 know.

49

50 So it's a tough thing to do and I

1 understand that, but you might look at considering or  
2 exploring or if you need us to do some help on getting  
3 you funding on another time of the year to get that  
4 done or maybe do it in the spring, that really might  
5 get you better success.

6  
7 We did get a commitment from either the  
8 head of Refuges or the deputy head of the Refuges when  
9 we were talking about this three or four meetings ago,  
10 I think Tom Jennings' first time as our coordinator,  
11 and we did ask them for his commitment from the Refuges  
12 that you guys would have a priority to have working  
13 planes and pilots because some of these surveys haven't  
14 been flown because, A, one time the plane needed to  
15 have it's 100 hour. Well, golly, you had the whole  
16 year to get the 100 hour done or it could have been  
17 done before.

18  
19 Another time the pilot -- didn't have a  
20 certified pilot. Well, there's probably -- McCrea, how  
21 many certified pilots are there in the Refuge system in  
22 Alaska? There must be 40 or 50 of them. And they  
23 couldn't arrange to have one guy get down there  
24 sometime and move that plane.

25  
26 So he did give our Council his  
27 commitment that you guys have a priority for planes and  
28 pilots to do the caribou. So if you guys start trying  
29 to do that and they say no money, then just say please  
30 go back to the transcripts of the Kodiak/Aleutians RAC  
31 because we had a commitment there that you guys would  
32 have that because it's so important.

33  
34 It would be nice to see on your -- the  
35 problem is with such small sample sizes it's really  
36 tough to come up with a standard error on your  
37 population survey to kind of let you know whether it's  
38 good or not or for us to know whether it was a good or  
39 not survey. Like on your Table 2, the sample sizes in  
40 2012-13, 2013-14 of 83 and 67. I mean either there's  
41 just a total disaster in the amount of caribou on  
42 Unimak.

43  
44 You get down to really small numbers  
45 like that, it's hard to really make a statement other  
46 than, gee, we looked at a few critters that we could  
47 find. So, again, if we can provide you that support to  
48 get -- that extra effort to get better counts, please,  
49 please let us know and we'll do that part of the  
50 politicking that you can't do internally.

1                   Let's see. You said that on some of  
2 your surveys there on the bears that they were late.  
3 Was that a plane problem or a weather problem or what?  
4 Because I think your deduction that there may have been  
5 those composition numbers and population numbers on  
6 bears were probably down because of the change in the  
7 abundance of salmon and particularly if they're keying  
8 in on the chums and coho or, you know, that two weeks,  
9 as McCrea can tell you, make a big difference in the  
10 amount of critters.

11  
12                   So instead of saying it might have  
13 caused that, I would just plain say based on the  
14 experience of blah, blah, blah, I mean there's tons of  
15 literature and the stuff they're coming up with here in  
16 Kodiak would support your observations.

17  
18                   Oh, I didn't give you a chance to  
19 answer my question. I'll be quiet. Like I joked  
20 before, the Unangan folks just call me Gabby Hayes sort  
21 of.

22  
23                   MS. LOWE: Okay. I'm going back to the  
24 caribou here aside from the bears. Yes, it's  
25 definitely been made very clear to me that the caribou  
26 counts are a very high priority for us and funding is  
27 not an issue for achieving that. We had hoped to do  
28 the winter count, as I mentioned, this year and it  
29 didn't happen. In the future, we may look to implement  
30 either sort of a July, post-calving aggregate photo  
31 census. We're exploring other options. Definitely  
32 there's more times than just the winter to get the best  
33 counts.

34  
35                   We are going to be flying around quite  
36 a bit in May assisting the State. They're going to be  
37 doing caribou calf survival study again. So perhaps we  
38 could get some more, sort of the minimum population  
39 counts out of that survey, but it might not be the  
40 complete line transect survey that we had planned to do  
41 in the winter.

42  
43                   There's definitely efforts going on.  
44 It's not always easy to display those when failed  
45 attempts happen. They don't make it on the table or  
46 the graphs. I can appreciate your concern about us  
47 getting those surveys done, but I definitely assure you  
48 it is a priority for us and we're working towards that.

49  
50                   Thank you.

1 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rick.  
4  
5 MR. KOSO: Hi, Stacey. Just one more  
6 question I have. You said you're going to do another  
7 survey in May and you'll be able to get that info to us  
8 on our September meeting on the new numbers?  
9  
10 MS. LOWE: Are you referring to the  
11 caribou?  
12  
13 MR. KOSO: Yeah.  
14  
15 MS. LOWE: Yes. It will be done in  
16 conjunction with the collaring effort that's going on.  
17  
18 MR. KOSO: Okay. Thank you very much.  
19  
20 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Della, go  
23 ahead.  
24  
25 MS. TRUMBLE: This is Della. A couple  
26 things. First, going to the caribou, if I recall  
27 correctly, when there was discussion in the past on  
28 this winter survey, the idea I think a year ago or more  
29 was to change that timeframe because at the time the  
30 weather was too bad and wasn't able to get it done.  
31 Now we're hearing again the issue that involves the  
32 snow on being able to get a survey done again.  
33  
34 So I guess it's kind of tough and  
35 confusing to understand either the weather is too bad  
36 or you don't have enough snow because it's always one  
37 or the other. To change that timeframe to doing those  
38 surveys I think is important because it's apparent over  
39 the past five or six years that this winter survey has  
40 not been very successful.  
41  
42 That being one thing, but the other  
43 thing that I had brought up in the past in regard to  
44 this survey when the State did this, to take a close  
45 look at the wolf population while they're doing this  
46 and I don't see any kind of information attached and I  
47 believe that had to do with -- I can't recall her name  
48 from King Salmon, but I had discussed that with her  
49 when she did her report and being able to look at if  
50 those numbers are available. We have, as I had shared

1 in the past, continued to see a large number of wolves  
2 in both this area, King Cove and the Nelson Lagoon  
3 area, and was curious as to why there aren't any  
4 information in regards to that.

5  
6                   Maybe I'll stop there because I also  
7 have some questions in regard to the survey on the  
8 bear.

9  
10                   MS. LOWE: Thank you, Della. In  
11 regards to the timeframe of the surveys, maybe I  
12 haven't made it clear. Kind of our attempt was to  
13 hopefully get it done in the winter. In the event that  
14 it doesn't get done in the winter, then we would use  
15 alternative times to accomplish a survey so that one or  
16 more years don't go by without any numbers at all.

17  
18                   In response to the wolf numbers, I was  
19 unaware of that request. The numbers that we have are  
20 extracted from the State's report and I didn't recall  
21 seeing wolf numbers in their report either. But I can  
22 talk with Chris Peterson and see about getting that in  
23 our future report.

24  
25                   MS. TRUMBLE: The reason I brought it  
26 up is we kind of discussed this because the State  
27 mandate on the removal of the wolves I believe is still  
28 in place on State lands, and that was my discussion  
29 with her, so I would appreciate, I think, probably  
30 sooner than later trying to get that information would  
31 be helpful to the people in that community. Locally,  
32 people continue to try to remove what they can, but we  
33 still have a problem.

34  
35                   Going to the bear. On these counts, I  
36 know last year may not be such -- I'm trying to recall  
37 and, God help me, I just sometimes get too busy and I'm  
38 starting to be like Pat, I can't remember things in  
39 what order. Just kidding, Pat.

40  
41                   (Laughter)

42  
43                   MS. TRUMBLE: I'm trying to remember  
44 whether it was last year or I think it was the year  
45 before where there were no salmon in the streams and we  
46 had a large problem with the bears. That fall there  
47 were a lot of the cubs and bears period that basically  
48 looked like they were starving, so it was the year  
49 before. They just did not have the fish. Then we did  
50 have technically a harsh winter that year. Whether

1 they had survived. Looking at these numbers, that  
2 might have contributed to the count numbers being down.

3  
4 I guess this is some of the things that  
5 concern me when you're looking at some of this stuff  
6 and not working closely with the communities and  
7 figuring out and sharing exactly what people are  
8 seeing. I'm wondering if part of that not only being  
9 the late count timeframe is because they're not eating  
10 at the creeks anymore, they're moving on looking for  
11 other sources, but whether the prior year with the lack  
12 of salmon had contributed to some of the survival rate  
13 in probably the winter, I think, of 2012-13.

14  
15 MR. HOLMES: Della, this is Pat. I'll  
16 give you the biologist of the afternoon award on that  
17 one. That's a really good point. Very good point.

18  
19 MS. TRUMBLE: Anyway, those are the  
20 questions I had. I think the only other thing -- well,  
21 I'm not even going to go there because -- I'll leave it  
22 at that at this point.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other  
25 questions, comments.

26  
27 MR. KOSO: One quick question. Do you  
28 do this survey in Adak or is that done at Maritime?

29  
30 MS. LOWE: That's under Maritime.

31  
32 MR. KOSO: Okay. So I should have  
33 talked to Steven at the time, huh? Okay.

34  
35 Thank you.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pat.

38  
39 MR. HOLMES: I was wondering if you  
40 could get me or us a copy of the Emperor Goose survey.  
41 And that Figure 5 on the Pacific brant productivity  
42 index, it might be interesting on your tables, like you  
43 did -- would be to plot a slope so that one could see  
44 if there's a trend because looking at this Black Brant  
45 productivity index I just kind of eyeballed the line  
46 and it looks like it might be going downhill even  
47 though your numbers are good, you know. That could be  
48 some kind of a little warning quiver or something like  
49 that to be thinking about.

50

1 I would really very much like to get  
2 the Emperor Goose survey information, the whole shebang  
3 with the sampling design and everything, if that's  
4 available somewhere. We did ask your colleagues for  
5 that last year and it didn't ever show up. So maybe  
6 we'll go through you and see if it will work better.

7  
8 MS. LOWE: Sure. I assume you're  
9 referring to the report distributed by migratory bird  
10 folks that conduct the survey, not the one that I've  
11 provided here.

12  
13 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, the one that kind of  
14 goes into it in depth.

15  
16 MS. LOWE: Sure. Yeah, I'd be happy to  
17 get that for you.

18  
19 MR. HOLMES: Thank you so much.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Can you include  
22 the flight tracks of the bird surveys from north and  
23 south Alaska Peninsula for Emperor Geese.

24  
25 MS. LOWE: You mean the line transects  
26 that they fly or the actual.....

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Flight tracks or  
29 transects, whatever.

30  
31 MS. LOWE: Yeah, I can ask them for  
32 that, sure.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Any other  
35 questions.

36  
37 MR. HOLMES: One last one.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pat.

40  
41 MR. HOLMES: I want to give you really  
42 positive feedback on your outreach to the local school.  
43 I think that's so, so important. Tonya Lee here has  
44 been doing that for quite a while and I just know when  
45 I've been able to go out to schools out west that's  
46 just something those kids treasure for their whole  
47 lives and really have to salute you folks for taking  
48 that effort. If you get any chance to go out to the  
49 villages for any reason, please just toodle out there  
50 and leave your brown jacket behind and just ask Della

1 who to go visit, go visit the Hoblets at False Pass and  
2 have coffee with them and just have a chat with them  
3 and say, hey, Tom, what are you concerned about and  
4 what should I think about, what should I know to be  
5 better at my job and I think you'll gain a tremendous  
6 insight into the wonderful place that you're working.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you.

9

10 Carl.

11

12 MR. JOHNSON: I did just a little while  
13 ago receive -- this is under Fish and Wildlife Service  
14 reports -- a two-page report prepared by Migratory Bird  
15 Management Office at Fish and Wildlife Service  
16 regarding specifically this Council's harvest proposal,  
17 which was actually tabled at the April 2013 meeting.  
18 It was not voted down. It's actually going to be  
19 discussed at the upcoming meeting in April with the  
20 Migratory Bird Co-management Council.

21

22 So I'll go ahead and distribute this.  
23 There's definitely some interesting information here  
24 about current population, population trends and kind of  
25 the certain factors believed to be contributing to the  
26 low population of the Emperor Geese.

27

28 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Carl.

31

32 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. We had  
33 discussed at our last meeting about the potential of  
34 having someone from our Council go to that AMBCC  
35 meeting. I know there's not enough money to even do  
36 our meetings, but I think it would be really good to  
37 get someone from our Council, yourself or Rick or maybe  
38 Tom Schwantes, he never backs down, to be able to  
39 attend that AMBCC and present our Council's thoughts.  
40 Just something for whenever we can talk about that.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. We've got  
43 to move on here. I think that AMBCC sends out requests  
44 to Kodiak or the Sun'aq Tribe and the Sun'aq Tribe then  
45 contacts villages. Sun'aq Tribe has a migratory bird  
46 council made up of people from local tribal councils.  
47 If we're interested in sending someone from the RAC,  
48 we'd have to discuss costs and that's where Carl comes  
49 in.

50

1 MR. JOHNSON: That's correct, Mr.  
2 Chair. The general rule right now is if Councils want  
3 to have a Council member attend any other  
4 organizational meetings that they should say so on the  
5 record and then it's my job to put together a  
6 justification and a cost analysis and present it to the  
7 Assistant Regional Director for his decision on whether  
8 or not we have the travel money available at the time.

9  
10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah. I think  
13 we'd also have to consider the idea that RAC members  
14 can also go to different regions to RAC meetings. I  
15 don't know how that would interfere with that idea.

16  
17 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. The same  
18 thing. If the Council would like to send somebody to  
19 an adjacent Regional Council meeting, discuss it on the  
20 record and then come up with a plan for what the  
21 purpose of that visit would be and then I'll put that  
22 together and again do the cost analysis and present it  
23 to the Assistant Regional Director.

24  
25 This is something that's been happening  
26 lately. We did have  
27 two Southeast Council members visit the Southcentral  
28 Council in the fall. During a recent joint  
29 Southeast/Southcentral meeting, there was a member of  
30 the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council who came and  
31 visited that Council meeting. So the opportunities do  
32 exist. It's just a matter of organizing and getting  
33 the approval. Mr. Chair.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Would that  
36 require Council action to select and send someone to a  
37 different RAC meeting to AMBCC?

38  
39 MR. JOHNSON: At the very least, a  
40 discussion on the record as to who should go, the  
41 purpose of the visit and what the Council would hope to  
42 get from that visit. Mr. Chair.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Carl.  
45 Should we have a little discussion right now? I think  
46 the AMBCC is having a meeting soon.

47  
48 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. The AMBCC meeting  
49 is April 16th and I think that's almost the same time  
50 as the Federal spring Board hearing on rural. I'm

1 passionately interested in the rural definitions. If  
2 I'd known we could travel to other areas, I could see  
3 on a question in interaction with other regions going  
4 and attending the Southeast Council meeting  
5 particularly because of Sitka. The island groups they  
6 have down there are just absolute parallels to Kodiak.  
7 They've been doing subsistence for 7,000 years. What,  
8 20 years after Kodiak was established Sitka became a  
9 European community and they had the same political  
10 problems we've had on rural, so that would be a good  
11 justification to do that.

12

13                   To me, making sure we've got somebody  
14 who can speak for our Council on the rural definition  
15 process for Kodiak folks is probably the most  
16 important. The second importance and maybe a broader  
17 perspective for our region is the Emperor Goose issue.  
18 Tom Schwantes and Rick Koso have been our big advocates  
19 on that and I think it would be really important,  
20 probably more important than the other two things, to  
21 have a good advocate at the AMBCC because we've been  
22 trying to get this concept across of is their survey  
23 valid, are the thresholds valid, should there be  
24 multiple thresholds.

25

26                   So I think if we could get anything, it  
27 would be someone to be a good advocate at the AMBCC,  
28 then the second would be the rural definition  
29 discussion with the Feds. But I think the ability chat  
30 with other Councils on parallel issues -- you know, if  
31 this AMBCC thing, I can see we're going to spend some  
32 time and years on it and I can see that getting someone  
33 to this initial one so that this proposal is explored.  
34 Then Jim Fall, as I'd mentioned with the State, had  
35 mentioned -- he's on the advisory group for the AMBCC,  
36 he said that Bristol Bay has a proposal coming up for  
37 subsistence goose. So I could see next year our goose  
38 person going up to Bristol Bay RAC meeting and talking  
39 to them.

40

41                   Is that enough chatter to cover the  
42 topic?

43

44                   MR. KOSO: Yeah, I nominate you.

45

46                   (Laughter)

47

48                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, I was just  
49 going to say is that your way of expressing interest in  
50 being the AMBCC?

1 MR. HOLMES: Well, I think the AMBCC  
2 would be maybe a better one for Tom Schwantes or Rick  
3 Koso. The one I'm really interested in is the rural  
4 definitions. So that's where I'm at. I just wanted to  
5 get something on the record so that we could get some  
6 approval or analysis on getting some folks. I would  
7 say two different people.

8  
9 MR. KOSO: I'm really tied up next  
10 month in Adak and it's awful expensive to send me from  
11 Adak. So if Tom is willing or someone else, I would be  
12 willing to vote them to do it.

13  
14 MR. HOLMES: Tom is pretty feisty. I  
15 think he'd do a good job at it. Are you still there,  
16 Tom?

17  
18 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I am. What was  
19 the date on that?

20  
21 MR. HOLMES: The AMBCC is the 16th.

22  
23 MS. BERNS: No. It states here that  
24 AMBCC meeting is in Anchorage April 10th and 11th and  
25 the proposal from Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory  
26 Council on Emperor Goose will be discussed on Thursday,  
27 the 10th of April.

28  
29 MR. KOSO: Carl, do you have time to  
30 pursue funding for that?

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: That would be  
33 Carl's department. He'd do a funding analysis and see  
34 if we can get someone there. I'll be there for the  
35 Subsistence Board meeting.

36  
37 MR. SCHWANTES: Why don't we just have  
38 Mitch attend? If he's going to be there anyway,  
39 instead of spending extra money, why don't we just have  
40 Mitch do the AMBCC one as well?

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, I'll check  
43 the calendar. I think we have a Board meeting at that  
44 time, but I'll look into it.

45  
46 MR. SCHWANTES: If it doesn't work, get  
47 a hold of me and I'll see if I can do it. That's not a  
48 good time for me, but I think it's important we have  
49 somebody there as well.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Give me  
2 your phone number and I'll call you. I'll check my  
3 calendar when we're done tonight.  
4  
5 MR. SCHWANTES: Okay. It's 942-xxxx.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thanks,  
8 Tom.  
9  
10 MR. SCHWANTES: You bet, Mr. Chair.  
11  
12 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Mitch, if you did  
13 decide to do the AMBCC one and didn't have time or  
14 conflicts on the definition, that's something I've  
15 spent bunches and bunches of days on locally and I  
16 wouldn't mind being an alternate to do that one because  
17 that's a point of real passion for folks in town and  
18 spent lots of time on it.  
19  
20 Thank you.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thanks, Pat. Are  
23 we done with this and move on. National Park Service.  
24 Is someone here, Carl? Is it all on paper?  
25  
26 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. These are  
27 just placeholders and I have not been approached with  
28 any requests to provide a report either by the National  
29 Park Service or the Bureau of Land Management. Mr.  
30 Chair.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. We can move  
33 on to ADF&G. Here comes the man.  
34  
35 MR. POLUM: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair.  
36 Members of the Council. It's good to be back with you  
37 again. My name is Tyler Polum. I'm with Sport Fish  
38 here in Kodiak with Fish and Game. I'm just going to  
39 give you a quick update on our Buskin River stock  
40 assessment project that's been funded by OSM since  
41 2000. There's a report in your meeting materials, an  
42 update to the RAC about that project. I gave you an  
43 update in September as well and really I'll just  
44 quickly go over the latest information. It's basically  
45 the same except that all of our season summary  
46 information is in there. The only thing you won't find  
47 in there is last year's subsistence harvest from the  
48 Buskin because permits haven't been returned yet.  
49  
50 I'm sure most of you are familiar with

1 the Buskin and heard my report in the fall that it's  
2 been funded through OSM since 2000. We operate two  
3 weirs on the Buskin River drainage right here in town.  
4 The one is at the outlet of Buskin Lake and the other  
5 one is on the Lake Louise Creek drainage that flows  
6 into the Buskin River.

7  
8 Typically the Buskin is the largest  
9 subsistence sockeye fishery in the Kodiak/Aleutian  
10 regions. It's been a little lower in recent years and  
11 has averaged about 2,600 sockeye harvested from there  
12 annually in the last five years that we have  
13 information for, which is about 25 percent of the  
14 sockeye harvest reported in the Kodiak/Aleutians area.  
15 A lot of the effort in 2008-2009 the Buskin had lower  
16 escapements and a lot of that subsistence effort was  
17 shifted to places like Port Lions and Afognak.

18  
19 The 2013 subsistence harvest will be  
20 out this spring, so I'll have those numbers for you in  
21 your fall meeting in September.

22  
23 At the Buskin, our final escapement  
24 number for sockeye salmon was 16,189, which was  
25 substantially higher than in recent years. Our  
26 escapement goal was lowered from 8,000-13,000 to 5,000-  
27 8,000 at the 2011 Board of Fisheries cycle, so it was  
28 about double our upper escapement goal. Both the  
29 Commercial Fisheries Division and Sport Fish Division  
30 liberalized harvest on Buskin sockeye. The subsistence  
31 markers were moved right up to the mouth of the river  
32 and the sport fish bag limits increased to five fish  
33 per day, so there was lots of opportunity this year for  
34 harvest on sockeye.

35  
36 The Lake Louise tributary has been one  
37 that the run has been quite small in recent years, down  
38 to just a couple hundred fish, but this year we  
39 actually counted 900 sockeye salmon, which was about  
40 three times what the previous three years was. We  
41 don't have an escapement goal for that stream, but  
42 that's one that shows a lot of fluctuation. We've  
43 counted over 3,000 fish in that creek as well too since  
44 2002.

45  
46 There's some figures in here that show  
47 average escapement and run timing of those two, Buskin  
48 and Lake Louise. They're pretty much the same as they  
49 were in the fall. The only difference is that we were  
50 able to age the scales we collected since then. The

1 age composition of the Buskin River fish, the Buskin  
2 Lake escapement was about 34 percent age 2.3 fish, so  
3 the 6-year-old fish, and about 25 percent age 2.2,  
4 while the age 1.3 made up about 12 percent, and age 1.2  
5 about 19 percent. Typically we see primarily age 2.2  
6 and 1.3 fish in there and there was a little bit more  
7 of a shift towards the age 2.3 fish and that's just my  
8 anecdotal assessment right now.

9

10 I have some comparative numbers, but  
11 we're working on a final report for this project for  
12 OSM right now. A draft has been submitted to them and  
13 right now we're working on finalizing that, so there  
14 will be some more analysis of those kinds of numbers  
15 here when that report is published in the beginning of  
16 May.

17

18 The Lake Louise -- oh, real quick  
19 before I get on the Lake Louise and subsistence. We  
20 also have been collecting genetic samples from the  
21 subsistence fishery and to try to apportion the harvest  
22 between the Lake Louise and the Buskin Lake components.  
23 Those samples are being analyzed right now. So very  
24 soon we'll have a pretty good idea of what components  
25 of the Buskin Lake and Lake Louise fish get harvested  
26 out in front of the Buskin in the subsistence fishery.

27

28 The Lake Louise fish -- let me find my  
29 page here. You know, I apologize, I'm actually missing  
30 a couple pages out of my report, but the report that's  
31 in your meeting materials is the complete report. The  
32 Lake Louise drainage continues to see really late run  
33 timing. It's due primarily to low water conditions we  
34 experience in the fall. Those fish haven't showed up  
35 in the creek until late August or September, so we  
36 haven't been able to get a large number of scale  
37 samples from those fish like we hoped. So there is a  
38 little bit of a shift in the ages of those fish that  
39 we've seen, but that's probably more due to small  
40 sample size.

41

42 We also continue to collect scales from  
43 the subsistence fishery out in front of Buskin and  
44 those fish are primarily age 2.3 and 1.3 fish, the  
45 oldest of the sockeye and that's the same as it has  
46 been for the last several years, so didn't really  
47 notice a shift in that.

48

49 We've also been collecting along with  
50 the genetic and scale samples in the subsistence

1 fishery, we've been interviewing subsistence users  
2 there, as requested by the RAC several years ago.  
3 We've continued to do that. This year we were able to  
4 interview 32 subsistence users. We found that 28 of  
5 those had listed the Buskin River as their traditional  
6 subsistence area.

7  
8 This year and last year are similar.  
9 We had fewer interviews, but we typically do those  
10 opportunistically as we sample salmon and most people  
11 caught a lot more sockeye this year. So we actually  
12 interviewed fewer people because we were able to  
13 fulfill our scale sample requirements a lot sooner.

14  
15 We also hired two high school interns  
16 this year, as we have since 2001. Those two interns  
17 were able to work from June 1st through the end of July  
18 and they worked with our technicians and were able to  
19 learn about fisheries management and the data  
20 collection processes we use. That's been a really  
21 successful program for Fish and Game and for this  
22 project. We've rehired numerous interns that have gone  
23 through the program.

24  
25 I, myself, was an intern at the Buskin  
26 and we've hired -- I think 15 of the 20 interns we've  
27 had so far have returned and we may have some return  
28 this year. We're in the process of hiring new interns  
29 and hiring new seasonal employees for the Buskin River  
30 this year.

31  
32 In the fall I mentioned to you that we  
33 submitted a proposal to OSM to refund the Buskin and as  
34 you heard today it was refunded for another four-year  
35 cycle. So we will be continuing this project in  
36 virtually the same as it has been the last four years.  
37 We're going to keep doing the genetic sampling and  
38 subsistence interviews as well as our normal weir  
39 project activities.

40  
41 That's all I had. If you guys have any  
42 questions, I'd be glad to answer them.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

45  
46 MR. HOLMES: Going backwards, Tyler.  
47 I'm really tickled that Buskin got refunded. In the  
48 past, you folks had a smolt program, but the problem  
49 came on applying for the smolt money of not having  
50 staff. Are you guys still short-staffed? Do you know

1 of any chance of getting the smolt work or that's just  
2 not going to happen?

3

4 MR. POLUM: Mr. Holmes, through the  
5 Chair. At this point, we haven't reapplied for funding  
6 for that project. At the moment, it's just Don and I.  
7 Our Sport Fish Program is expanding a little bit this  
8 summer due to the Chinook Research Initiative, the  
9 money appropriated by the Legislature for Fish and Game  
10 to do research on chinook. So we're starting a project  
11 on the Karluk and then some chinook dockside sampling  
12 here in town. So we'll be able to hire a short-term  
13 biologist for that and several technicians. I can't  
14 say at this time how much that will expand our  
15 resources in terms of other time for those people.  
16 Probably not much, but we are expanding a little bit at  
17 this time.

18

19 MR. HOLMES: I'll be blatantly  
20 political. I'd rather see the money for chinook going  
21 into sockeye where it's going to affect subsistence,  
22 but your job in Sport Fish is a much broader  
23 perspective.

24

25 I thought your success with the interns  
26 is wonderful. I wish that sort of thing could get  
27 going with other agencies and other divisions. I think  
28 it's very complimentary and your getting information on  
29 subsistence is really good.

30

31 I have one question and then I'll make  
32 a comment. My question is if the Buskin escapement is  
33 primarily 2.3 and 2.2, does that mean beings we've more  
34 than doubled the escapement goal potential of having a  
35 drop in returns in two to three years? I'll hold you  
36 to just a best guess.

37

38 MR. POLUM: That's a really good  
39 question. That's actually something I'm interested in  
40 looking at. I've been trying to compile these numbers  
41 for the OSM report, so I haven't looked into a lot of  
42 those yet. My best guess is I don't think -- well, I  
43 don't know. It's hard to say my best guess I should  
44 say. We've seen escapements like this for sustained  
45 periods of time up in the 12-15,000 range in the late  
46 '90s and early 2000s and that was in the period when  
47 the -- right after that period is when we had  
48 escapements up into the 20,000s and then following that  
49 the very low escapements in 5-7,000 range.

50

1                   So the Buskin system is highly variable  
2 over the years. It's hard to say if an escapement of  
3 this number will produce high or low or mediocre  
4 returns. Now that we have a lower escapement goal I  
5 think we can feel confident we would rather be in that  
6 escapement goal, but we'll have to wait and see how it  
7 plays out.

8  
9                   MR. HOLMES: Okay. I have a couple  
10 suggestions. On your Page 121 you're talking about  
11 doing a long-term escapement goal analysis. You may  
12 wish to look at -- I don't know exactly how to pull  
13 that out. I know you could do it by looking at average  
14 growth per year, but if there's some way to look at  
15 marine growth and survival or marine sea surface  
16 temperatures or something like that to see -- kind of  
17 cross check some of those escapements because when we  
18 got some of those really good, really large, humongous  
19 escapements and still got really good returns, one  
20 can't help but think that there was some really good  
21 marine survival. So each data point isn't going to  
22 necessarily be solid, you know, as far as holding true  
23 to the present time if the age composition has shifted  
24 or any other things reflected with that.

25  
26                   I might suggest to you on management  
27 strategy to consider because I did -- I didn't do it  
28 this year, but the previous time when they opened to  
29 the mouth. The weir used to be down much lower and so  
30 your escapements back then were based on passing  
31 through the weir at that point. It's up at the lake,  
32 so at least back in the mid '80s we were guessing, you  
33 know, four to six days for passage from the mouth up.

34  
35                   So if you hit your escapement goal at  
36 8,000 and you open it to the mouth -- when I did that  
37 before I went down and one of my buddies, one of your  
38 neighbors from Akhiok had moved up. He was high boat  
39 fishing at the mouth and he and I had it corked off and  
40 I tried everything I could. I think I got one fish and  
41 he got eight. So that meant to me that there were  
42 probably 8,000 fish already up the river.

43  
44                   So you should consider if you're real  
45 serious -- I shouldn't lecture, but I would suggest  
46 that you consider if you want to be trying to cut it  
47 off at 8,000 that maybe at some point lower than that  
48 hitting the threshold you might want to start moving  
49 your markers in before then rather than wait until it's  
50 already in the lake because then, when it's already in

1 the lake, if you want to keep it at that, then you  
2 either close the weir and open it up to dipnet and  
3 jigging. I'll call Mitch and he'll come up and we'll  
4 round haul with my beach seine, you know. That's  
5 another way.

6  
7 But it might be more constructive and  
8 more acceptable to the sport fishing population to  
9 maybe do some adjustments at that time. I know you've  
10 got to work that out with Comm Fish too, but you might  
11 consider more flexible time openings in relation to the  
12 escapement goal in order to achieve that. Then, from a  
13 purely subsistence point of view, that gives  
14 subsistence folks more of a chance to get some fish.

15  
16 Thank you.

17  
18 Great report.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.

21  
22 MR. POLUM: Mr. Holmes, through the  
23 Chair. I appreciate those comments and I'll pass those  
24 on to the Commercial Fisheries. I know you know this,  
25 but for those who don't, we do coordinate closely  
26 between Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries, so any  
27 input that we can get on that is great. We always have  
28 an open door if anybody wants to come in and chat with  
29 us.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Tyler.  
32 I've got one question. When you receive your four-year  
33 cycle funding, do you use any of those fundings to  
34 check the nutrients in both Louise and Buskin Lakes.

35  
36 MR. POLUM: Mr. Chair. We do not do  
37 any limnology work with this money. There has been  
38 other entities in Kodiak that have been interested in  
39 the past, but to my knowledge that's not in the works  
40 at this moment. Steve, do you know of anybody -- are  
41 you guys going to do any limnology work on Buskin in  
42 the future.....

43  
44 MR. THOMPSON: No.

45  
46 MR. POLUM: .....or anybody else?  
47 Yeah. At this point I don't think there's any planned.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Any  
50 questions. Tom and Della, do you have questions for

1 Tyler?

2

3 MS. TRUMBLE: No, I'm good. Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I guess Tom  
6 doesn't have any. Thank you very much. I appreciate  
7 your report.

8

9 I take it you're next.

10

11 MR. THOMPSON: At your pleasure, sure.  
12 I wasn't on the agenda, but I run Afognak and Frazer.  
13 Afognak is a subsistence system you guys are highly  
14 interested in. We've had OSM funding recently for that  
15 as well as the Buskin. We went through a different  
16 cycle. It got redone. We got funding again through  
17 OSM for the limnology and the smolt and then I pulled  
18 out the -- oh, sorry. Steve Thompson, Department of  
19 Fish and Game. Then got funding through AKSSF, the  
20 Alaska Sustainable Fund for the weir portion of it.

21

22 I presented the data on that in the  
23 fall when you guys had your meeting and I just came by  
24 to see if you had any questions. Probably the main  
25 reason I'm up here is you guys were asking about Upper  
26 Station and Akalura, so I'm up here to answer anything  
27 I can answer.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The question I had  
30 for Akalura and Upper Station was that the Upper  
31 Station system is, in my mind, crashing because they  
32 keep managing for a lower population that returns every  
33 year. Akalura has not had a weir in there for maybe  
34 10, 15 years. My concern would be if you're going to  
35 do something in Olga Bay, Upper Station or in Olga Bay  
36 systems, I would suggest that they do something to find  
37 out what's wrong with Upper Station system.

38

39 We don't know if the fish are being  
40 intercepted or if the system is just crashing because  
41 it can't support the returning fish. I would suggest  
42 that if we're going to do something in Olga Bay, let's  
43 do something with Upper Station before it totally  
44 crashes.

45

46 Akalura, I guess we can do something  
47 with that later. It will take extensive work to try to  
48 revitalize Akalura. But Upper Station has fish in  
49 there now and we've got to find out why the returning  
50 fish are declining. So the question, I guess, would be

1 can we -- instead of doing something with Akalura, can  
2 we do something with Upper Station?

3

4 MR. THOMPSON: Okay. Yeah. Mr. Chair.  
5 In Upper Station, we have been for the last three years  
6 taking limnology samples there, so there's a background  
7 on that. We also are going to move the smolt project  
8 from Karluk to Upper Station next year, not this year.  
9 They did do a few grab samples. I'm not familiar with  
10 what happened with that, but I can find out. I know  
11 Mary Beth Lowen wrote a report a little bit about what  
12 was going on in Upper Station, what the history of the  
13 data was and stuff like that. So I can get that for  
14 you if that would help you. So we are working towards  
15 that as a goal. I can tell you that for sure and  
16 that's our intention to run a full-fledged smolt  
17 project there starting next year.

18

19 As far as Akalura, we're doing  
20 limnology there again because of how it's been going.  
21 I did not know they were going to do a counting project  
22 on there, the Feds were, so that's kind of nice to  
23 hear. You thinking about this and you raising these  
24 questions made me come up with another idea that I'll  
25 suggest and maybe you guys could too, Fish and Game, is  
26 that next year when they run the Upper Station smolt  
27 project, they could easily cross over with a boat and  
28 do a grab sample of smolt exiting Akalura.

29

30 If you want any of that information, I  
31 can dig up as much information as I can and send that  
32 to you guys.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I'd appreciate  
35 that. Okay. Any questions for Steve. Pat.

36

37 MR. HOLMES: Am I correct -- I didn't  
38 get to all the Kodiak Regional Aquaculture meeting, but  
39 I think Akalura is one of the things that's on their  
40 wish list, isn't it?

41

42 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, there's been --  
43 through the Chair, sorry. There's been fairly  
44 extensive talk between Fish and Game and the KRPT board  
45 about what we're going to do with those. I've heard  
46 parts of it, but I haven't been directly involved with  
47 that, but I will find out some of that and let you guys  
48 know some of it.

49

50 MR. HOLMES: That would be really good

1 to know, particularly folks on the south end of the  
2 island and then beings you are doing the work up at  
3 Litnik and Afognak, what's kind of your feelings or gut  
4 feeling for returning sockeye this year? Does it look  
5 like it would be a good potential for subsistence  
6 fishery, commercial fishery, no fishery? What's your  
7 best guess?

8  
9 MR. THOMPSON: My best guess, through  
10 the Chair, it's going to be a little lower probably.  
11 The smolt migration this year -- this last year was  
12 average for the last 10 years, but the previous one was  
13 well below average. It's going to depend on ocean  
14 survival, of course. Recently that's been fairly high,  
15 so it may turn out okay, but my best guess on that was  
16 you're probably going to be more in the low to mid  
17 30,000's, which would be still pretty reasonable for  
18 subsistence.

19  
20 MR. HOLMES: Thank you very much.  
21 That's encouraging.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I don't know. For  
24 Alitak Bay, the last number I heard was 100,000 for the  
25 whole system. That's pretty poor. We have setnetters  
26 out there that are wondering if they should even come  
27 over there or not, open their camp. Wait and see what  
28 happens.

29  
30 Thank you, Steve.

31  
32 Any other questions.

33  
34 (No comments)

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you.  
37 We appreciate the information you'll be forwarding to  
38 us.

39  
40 Next is tribal governments.

41  
42 MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chair. Drew  
43 Crawford, Fish and Game in Anchorage.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: What? Say again.  
46 I didn't get you.

47  
48 MR. CRAWFORD: This is Drew Crawford  
49 with Fish and Game in Anchorage. I just wanted to  
50 check back with you and find out if somebody provided

1 that Board of Fisheries finfish dates for you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No, they didn't.  
4 Are you the person that's going to do it?

5

6 MR. CRAWFORD: Yeah. I found the  
7 information on our website here that the next statewide  
8 finfish Board of Fish meeting is going to be March 8th  
9 through 12th, 2016 in Anchorage. The comment deadline  
10 for that meeting is February 18th, 2016.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Give me the dates  
13 again, please.

14

15 MR. CRAWFORD: It's March 8th to the  
16 12th, 2016 in Anchorage.

17

18 MR. HOLMES: That's for the next  
19 statewide Board meeting?

20

21 MR. CRAWFORD: That's the next  
22 statewide finfish. The next statewide Board meeting is  
23 dungeness crab, shrimp and shellfish, March 17th  
24 through 20th, 2015 in Anchorage.

25

26 MR. HOLMES: Thank you.

27

28 MR. CRAWFORD: You're welcome.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, thanks  
31 again. That's it, then. Next on the agenda is tribal  
32 governments.

33

34 MR. HOLMES: I think they went home.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hmm?

37

38 MR. HOLMES: I think she went home.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: She went home.  
41 Native organizations.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Calendar. We're  
46 going to set our calendar and I'd like to stress the  
47 fact that when we set our calendar, we make a  
48 commitment. We set this calendar last year. We knew  
49 these dates were coming. We knew when we made this  
50 commitment to be here, it's kind of a self-enforced

1 responsibility to serve the people that ask you to join  
2 the Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory Council. If  
3 we're going to set another calendar, those not in  
4 attendance there's not much we can do about that, but  
5 for ourselves, when we set this calendar, it's charging  
6 ourselves to stand up and take this responsibility.

7  
8 I think it's pretty serious for me  
9 because I see myself as setting a stage for the  
10 children that are coming up. You know, it's my  
11 responsibility to see that they have a way of life that  
12 I have lived. If I don't set it for them, somebody  
13 from Outside will set it for them and they may not like  
14 that. They won't like somebody else giving them the  
15 rules. But if I'm here and I say these are the rules  
16 that I helped make, they'll look at me and say, okay,  
17 you did something that ensures our future. I take  
18 pride in that.

19  
20 If I commit myself to a calendar,  
21 that's part of the responsibility. I have two other  
22 boards that I serve on and we set calendars and I try  
23 to make sure that those calendars don't conflict  
24 because I charge myself to serve on those boards and I  
25 accept the responsibility that comes with them.

26  
27 I'm saying this because I'm a little  
28 disappointed that two of our main players are not here  
29 today. One is Vince Tutiakoff from out in the  
30 Aleutians. He might have had something important to  
31 attend to and couldn't make it. And Pete Squartsoff  
32 from Port Lions. Those two gentlemen usually have a  
33 lot of comments and good insights to contribute to our  
34 meetings. What disappoints me most is one of them did  
35 not attend because he wanted to attend a basketball  
36 game.

37  
38 That leads me to ask the Council here  
39 if we should move on the excused or unexcused absences  
40 of the members that did not attend. Did Vincent get a  
41 hold of you again before the meeting started?

42  
43 MR. JOHNSON: No, Mr. Chair. I did  
44 leave a message back with him inquiring as to the  
45 nature of his conflict and I haven't heard back. So  
46 that answers that question, Mr. Chair.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: What were his  
49 initial comments for not being able to make it?  
50

1 MR. JOHNSON: Just generally that he  
2 had a conflict and he couldn't make it.

3

4 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Rick.

7

8 MR. KOSO: I did talk to Vince  
9 Tutiakoff and he indicated that there was another  
10 corporation meeting that he had to attend. So I guess  
11 it's his responsibility to weigh which one is more  
12 important at the moment, I guess. I guess the other  
13 meeting was, so not much we could do about that. He  
14 initially tried to contact you and let you know that  
15 there was a problem. You know, we're making meetings  
16 six, eight months in advance and there are things that  
17 come to play that can deter whether or not you can make  
18 it here. As far as Vince goes, I've known him a lot of  
19 years and I'm sure that he's not going to miss this  
20 meeting if there wasn't something important that came  
21 up.

22

23 I don't know what Pete's deal is.  
24 That's another thing. As far as Vince goes, I could  
25 speak on behalf of him that he's a pretty sincere  
26 person and I think the only reason he'd miss this is  
27 that something very important came up.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Pat.

30

31 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. I think that if  
32 we've got a calendar down, you need to try and go.  
33 Sometimes family business comes up or other things. I  
34 don't think going to a ball game quite falls into my  
35 category of reasonable reasons not to show up. Kind of  
36 like we've had some colleagues before that were  
37 appointed to represent some broad areas on the  
38 Peninsula that made one meeting out of five or would  
39 show up and then disappear. I think if you're coming  
40 to the meeting and you get to town, then you jolly well  
41 ought to get to the meeting if you're in town and not  
42 go off and enjoy yourself. I, myself, would think as  
43 being a non-excused absence.

44

45 I think if your business takes you  
46 there then -- you know, Sam Rohrer, I think, is a very  
47 active member and when we get to discussing our  
48 February calendar for 2015, I might suggest we take the  
49 early part of February because I think that's before  
50 the bear season started. He wasn't here to vote on our

1 meeting for this meeting, so it ended up in the middle  
2 of his bear season, so we might want to -- if you want,  
3 I can call and see what the dates of the bear season is  
4 so we can give him a window that would work better,  
5 maybe earlier in February.

6  
7 I had a whole bunch of things, family  
8 stuff going on down in Seattle that kept us down there  
9 twice as long as we'd planned and I flew back yesterday  
10 just to make this meeting because, to me, it's why I'm  
11 on this Council. So I really did my best to get here.  
12 I can agree with your disconcerted feelings, Mitch.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: It looks like have  
15 February 10th to the 13th or 17th to the 20th.

16  
17 MR. HOLMES: I'd like to move that we  
18 do.....

19  
20 MR. KOSO: Where are you? We're on  
21 September 9th and 10th is what I see here for our next  
22 one for King Cove/Cold Bay.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, September  
25 9th and 10th for King Cove.

26  
27 MR. KOSO: Or Cold Bay, whichever  
28 weather decides us to do.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: That one is  
31 already set.

32  
33 MR. KOSO: Oh, you're setting the other  
34 one for the fall one now. Oh, okay.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, the winter  
37 2015.

38  
39 MR. KOSO: So that's still a go then?  
40 That's a firm date?

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah.

43  
44 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. We always have these  
45 on. Even though Councils have already set that,  
46 Councils do tend to change their minds. So we always  
47 want to give the Councils another opportunity to  
48 revisit their future schedule to make sure it still  
49 works.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I was thinking  
2 that September schedule was still on. It works for me.

3  
4 MR. HOLMES: I'd suggest sticking with  
5 the early September. Mid September -- and Della could  
6 probably step on my tongue -- but once you get mid  
7 September, then you're getting close to that equinox  
8 storms and it always seemed to me that between the 15th  
9 and the 26th there was often some just big molly-  
10 hopping, ripping, semi-typhoon coming in to the Gulf of  
11 Alaska. So I'd kind of go with that earlier part of  
12 September for King Cove/Cold Bay to maybe give us  
13 better odds. That's my best guess.

14  
15 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair. I think the 9th  
16 and 10th would be a good time. Salmon season is over  
17 and still have decent weather. I think we'll have a  
18 much better chance of getting to King Cove in the  
19 earlier part. I don't have any problem with the 9th  
20 and 10th.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. The 9th and  
23 10th is still good.

24  
25 MR. SHELIKOFF: It's a good idea.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The 8th is a  
28 holiday. Will you be working, Carl?

29  
30 MR. JOHNSON: If the Council wants to  
31 meet on September 9th, then I will be working, Mr.  
32 Chair.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The reason I ask  
35 because it's a Monday, it's a holiday, and that's our  
36 travel day. We're not going to get stuck anywhere  
37 because of planes not flying, are we?

38  
39 MR. KOSO: They don't stop on holidays.

40  
41 MS. BERNS: To piggy-back on that with  
42 it being a holiday, would it be a conflict to move it  
43 to the 11th and 12th so we're traveling the day  
44 afterwards? The only reason why I'm suggesting this is  
45 I've got an Old Harbor Native Corporation meeting on  
46 the 9th that conflicts that I didn't realize. It  
47 popped up on my calendar.

48  
49 MR. KOSO: I could live with the 11th  
50 and 12th.

1 MS. TRUMBLE: This is Della. I think  
2 you might want to consider going with the day after  
3 Labor Day because Cold Bay does have the Silver Salmon  
4 Derby during the Labor Day weekend.

5  
6 MR. KOSO: So would you be okay with  
7 the 11th and 12th, Della?

8  
9 MS. TRUMBLE: Yes, that will be fine.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: How about you,  
12 Tom? Do you feel good with 11th and 12th?

13  
14 (No comments)

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, 11th and  
17 12th September.

18  
19 MR. HOLMES: Hey, Melissa, if you're  
20 having that meeting then, perhaps you might want to  
21 inquire beings we have gotten a potential of other RACs  
22 going to remote places, the technique to do that.  
23 Maybe you might want to check with folks then if they'd  
24 like to have us show up there for our next adventure in  
25 March or something.

26  
27 MS. BERNS: Will do. I know years past  
28 as well we tried to have the meetings in Old Harbor  
29 when Al sat on the board and things just didn't work  
30 out with weather and accommodations and whatnot. If  
31 it's able to work out in the future, I will extend my  
32 help in making it happen. I do have other resources  
33 that you might not have access to. I know a lot of  
34 people leave and the lodge owners take off and they  
35 leave other caretakers to watch their facilities and I  
36 have a lot of their phone numbers and their personal  
37 contacts that I can track them down and try to make  
38 that happen. I can't control the weather though.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Do we go one more  
41 meeting out from September?

42  
43 MR. JOHNSON: You mean to the winter  
44 meeting cycle? Certainly. You definitely want to at  
45 least pick some dates.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: February and  
48 March.

49  
50 MR. JOHNSON: Just to fill in the

1 Council, since this meeting book was printed four other  
2 Councils have picked their dates. Currently the week  
3 of February 15th is no longer available. Now also the  
4 week of March 1st is off limits because Eastern  
5 Interior chose March 4th and 5th. They're going to  
6 work on coordinating a joint meeting with Western  
7 Interior. Now also Southeast has chosen March 17  
8 through 19th with a location of Yakutat.

9

10 MR. KOSO: What about the 10th and  
11 11th?

12

13 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. In response to  
14 the 10th and 11th, I would like to suggest that  
15 tentatively we plan for that February 8th because you  
16 said February 1st -- that week was gone. I would  
17 suggest that we try to do it that first block on maybe  
18 February 10th and 11th or somewhere in there to  
19 hopefully get a greater potential for Sam not to have a  
20 conflict with his bear hunting because he's a really  
21 good member. Once we get into March I think he's out  
22 chasing those great hairies around. At least  
23 tentatively try for that and if that isn't going to  
24 look, then we can consider March or something.

25

26 MR. KOSO: It's good for me.

27

28 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. I'll note,  
29 just so that his voice is heard, I received a text from  
30 Tom indicating a preference for March 11th and 12th.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: So we're looking  
33 at February 11th and 12th and March 11th and 12th.

34

35 MR. KOSO: March 10th and 11th, wasn't  
36 it?

37

38 MR. JOHNSON: Tom's preference was for  
39 March 11th and 12th, which brings up the issue that Pat  
40 mentioned about bear season.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: So we're good with  
43 March 11th and 12th.

44

45 MR. KOSO: But we've got a conflict  
46 with what's his name bear hunting.

47

48 MS. BERNS: When does the bear season  
49 open?

50

1 MR. KOSO: I thought it was later in  
2 the year.  
3  
4 MS. BERNS: I thought it was later too.  
5  
6 MR. KOSO: I thought it was open in  
7 May. I don't think it's open in March. I think bear  
8 season is in May.  
9  
10 MR. HOLMES: Okay. I'm probably all  
11 wet then. I don't know.  
12  
13 MR. KOSO: They're still sleeping. So  
14 it will be 11th and 12th of March.  
15  
16 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair. I have  
17 another meeting I need to go to here real soon. Are we  
18 going to be much longer?  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: As soon as we get  
21 March 11th, then we're working on adjournment.  
22  
23 MR. HOLMES: We have one thing.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Or sometime in  
26 March. What day in March works for you, Della?  
27  
28 MS. TRUMBLE: At this time, any day. I  
29 don't have anything right now.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Carl will  
32 contact you if you need to take off. That's cool.  
33  
34 MR. TRUMBLE: Okay.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Carl will email  
37 you the date for March.  
38  
39 MR. KOSO: I thought we were talking  
40 March 11th and 12th here. We all agreed March 11th and  
41 12th. Della is still here, we might as well get that  
42 finalized.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I heard somebody  
45 say conflict with a bear hunt.  
46  
47 MR. KOSO: No, that's not till May.  
48  
49 MR. HOLMES: I was mistaken.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. March 11th  
2 and 12th, Della.  
3  
4 MS. TRUMBLE: Okay.  
5  
6 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. We had the  
7 one item that came up earlier in the day and that was  
8 coming up with a draft on the gray cod halibut longline  
9 and I drafted a rough statement and I don't know -- now  
10 I'm all tired and confused and don't know if we've got  
11 to wait a year or if it's something that needs to go in  
12 soon. But I did talk to Fish and Game folks, game up  
13 with a regulation point and then some draft legislation  
14 or draft language I could read to you. If we approve  
15 that, then we can work it out with the Fish and Game  
16 folks as to when it goes in.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Is this it  
19 here?  
20  
21 MR. HOLMES: Yes.  
22  
23 MR. KOSO: Where is our meeting going  
24 to be held, Mr. Chair?  
25  
26 MS. BERNS: Mr. Chairman. Are we  
27 backtracking?  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Location. Is that  
30 you, Della? Go ahead.  
31  
32 MS. BERNS: That's me, Mitch, over  
33 here.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Melissa, go ahead.  
36  
37 MS. BERNS: I'll wait until we go over  
38 the location and then comment on the letter.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Where are we  
41 heading, Carl?  
42  
43 MR. JOHNSON: The Council has not yet  
44 expressed a desire as to where it would like to hold  
45 its winter 2015 meeting, just the dates.  
46  
47 MR. HOLMES: Old Harbor.  
48  
49 MS. BERNS: Try Old Harbor again.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Old Harbor. It's  
2 becoming a norm. We're going to make it to one of them  
3 sooner or later.

4  
5 MR. HOLMES: Mitch asked what I handed  
6 him and that was a draft regulation proposal for the  
7 joint Boards of -- for the Fish Board statewide  
8 proposal that would allow the retention of gray cod on  
9 halibut longlines while fishing in State waters and I  
10 got some advice from -- couldn't talk to the management  
11 folks that manage that because they're all up at the  
12 Board meeting, but I did find a regulation and just  
13 wrote out some kind of general boilerplate that could  
14 be amended later, but at least it would get it into the  
15 regulation proposals.

16  
17 I'm confused because one Fish and Game  
18 person told me that we needed to have it in by just a  
19 couple days here and then somebody else just called in  
20 and told us it was next year. So I think I'd just like  
21 to read that and see if the Council agrees with it and  
22 then we'll at least have an endorsement for getting a  
23 proposal in to the Board of Fish and hopefully we can  
24 get something done before 2016.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Which is it? In a  
27 couple days or is it next year?

28  
29 MR. HOLMES: I don't know. We had two  
30 conflicting things here today. We had the guy call  
31 back from Anchorage and then had one of the other folks  
32 earlier say that it was coming up here in April.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Don.

35  
36 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
37 What I heard from Drew of ADF&G was that the statewide  
38 Board of Fisheries meeting is March 8th through the  
39 12th, 2016 in Anchorage. Typically, from my  
40 understanding, proposals need to be in about a year  
41 ahead of time, so we're talking March 2015 that you  
42 have to have this submitted, so you have about a year.  
43 Thank you. And I'll double check that when I get back  
44 to the office or I could probably do it on the internet  
45 and let you know.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. So it looks  
48 like you have plenty of time to clear that up.

49  
50 MR. HOLMES: That's what I got from

1 that one source.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: You can give us a  
4 draft copy in September. Right?

5

6 MS. BERNES: Can we add that to our  
7 agenda for the next meeting in September.

8

9 MR. KOSO: Thanks for working on it  
10 though, Pat.

11

12 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Well, I was going  
13 on what the other guy said because there's another  
14 meeting coming up in a couple months that we might have  
15 been able to get it into, so that's what I was hoping  
16 for.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We've set our  
19 calendar for September and March.

20

21 MR. KOSO: We have done that already.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Closing comments.

24

25 MR. KOSO: I make a motion to adjourn.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Is that your  
28 closing comment?

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 MR. SHELIKOFF: I have a comment.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Antone.

35

36 MR. SHELIKOFF: Outreach, I notice  
37 Melissa Berns does outreach and the lady from Izembek  
38 and that's basically planting seeds for future  
39 generations to be interested. I just want to say thank  
40 you. You're doing something I couldn't do.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Antone.

45

46 Anyone else.

47

48 Pat.

49

50 MR. HOLMES: I probably said too much,

1 but I always do. I think that we've got probably one  
2 of the most dynamic Councils as far as looking at other  
3 people's notes and summaries. We get a whole lot of  
4 stuff done and I think it's because of your direction  
5 there, Mitch, and I would like to say, like I opened  
6 up, I was really impressed with the assistance I got, a  
7 secretary with Carl. He can listen to all my blather  
8 and pull it down to a sentence instantly and I think  
9 really captures what we're trying to accomplish as a  
10 Council for the people in our region.

11

12 I think we're kind of blessed by the  
13 Federal budget cuts because we ended up with the boss  
14 here to help us first and I think that's swell. We're  
15 going to be able to make a step ahead with Carl's help  
16 on exploring the potential for going someplace like Old  
17 Harbor and I'm confident we're going to get somewhere  
18 with Emperor Geese, but it's going to take a couple  
19 years, so I'm just really proud to be part of this  
20 group. I really am.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.

23

24 Anyone else.

25

26 Carl.

27

28 MR. JOHNSON: Just to put Pat at ease,  
29 I've just been looking at the Board of Fisheries  
30 website and for upcoming meetings the next comment  
31 deadline is November 21st, 2014. For the Prince  
32 William Sound and Upper Copper, Upper Susitna finfish  
33 meeting. So there's a ways to go yet and obviously  
34 that wouldn't be a meeting that you'd be concerned  
35 about anyway.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Just a  
38 small comment. I'd like to extend my appreciation to  
39 the Council for electing me as Chairman again. I'd  
40 like to reiterate the fact that the service we provide  
41 to our people I feel is all important. I really feel  
42 that if we do not take the steps to set an example and  
43 fix the way of life that we want our children to live,  
44 it won't be a culturally sound future for our children.  
45 That's what we're striving to accomplish.

46

47 We've got to work with many different  
48 agencies and many different aspects and groups that use  
49 the same resources that we grew up on. I just feel  
50 that it's important for me to be here and it's

1 important that I try to make it better for our children  
2 and their children. Simple, what manner of man are we  
3 if we do not try to make it better. The children are  
4 the ones that will either suffer or gain from our  
5 efforts.

6

7 Thanks again and have a good flight  
8 home if we can fly. Okay, Rick, we'll entertain your  
9 comment now.

10

11 MR. KOSO: No comment.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MR. KOSO: I make a motion to adjourn.

16

17 MR. SHELIKOFF: Second.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and  
20 seconded. We're adjourned. It's 5:40.

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22 (Off record)

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24 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
 )ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA )

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 2 through 147 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the KODIAK/ALEUTIANS FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically by Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC on the 20th day of March 2014;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 3rd day of March 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 9/16/14