

1 KODIAK/ALEUTIANS FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME II

7
8 Cold Bay, Alaska
9 September 21, 2011
10 8:33 a.m.

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13
14 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

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16
17 Speridon Simeonoff, Chairman
18 Alfred Cratty
19 Patrick Holmes
20 Richard Koso
21 Richard Rowland
22 Antone Shelikoff
23 Della Trumble

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Cold Bay, Alaska - 9/21/2011)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: It's 8:33, let's call the meeting to order. First item of business this morning is to hear from Mr. Tyler so that he may catch a flight to school. Okay. I'll turn it over to you and you can just go right ahead.

MR. POLUM: Mr. Chair. Thanks for putting me on the agenda first thing. My name is Tyler Polum, I'm with the Department of Fish and Game at Kodiak with the Sport Fish Division. And we have two OSM funded projects there on the Buskin River. And I'd just like to give you a brief update on those. And I've got some pictures here hopefully that will pop up and you guys can see. If you're at the -- I gave a pretty similar update in the spring meeting there in Kodiak and I'll just show you -- give you the progress of our 2011 season.

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Can you speak up.

MR. POLUM: Yeah, I apologize for that. I'll go over the Buskin adult sockeye projects real quick first. We have a -- we've operated a weir on the Buskin River for -- to count sockeye salmon since 1985. And we -- 2011 was much the same as it has been. We have an OSM funded weir from approximately mid May until the end of July. Our -- this year we counted just shy of 12,000 sockeye so we're well above our escapement goal range of 5,000 to 8,000 sockeye. We also were above our last -- our previous three seasons. As you may know in 2008 and 2009 we missed our escapement goal objectives those two consecutive years and subsistence fishing was restricted in 2008, 2009 and 2010. In 2011 our season progressed pretty rapidly, we got most of our fish in June. And we -- subsistence was open to the mouth of the river for the first time in any of our recollection as well as sport fishing was -- the bag limit was increased from two to five a day. So we had a pretty good sockeye run this year. It was below our historical average of about 15,000, but it was still a very healthy run and well above our escapement goals.

1 I'm going to try and open this up real
2 quick and if it doesn't work then I'll just keep going.
3 Well, I'm not really sure how these things work that
4 well, but we'll keep going anyway. If it comes up I
5 have -- just have some pictures of the Buskin weir and
6 as well as some figures from the report. Do you all
7 have the report from our office and if not there's --
8 we can get you some copies that you can look at.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If you can't get
11 it to work you can forward a copy to Cole and she'll
12 make sure we get a copy of that.

13
14 MR. POLUM: Okay. That sounds good.
15 I'll do that, I'll forward that to you. Basically all
16 it shows is just some pictures of our adult weir.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: This one here, is
19 that the one?

20
21 MR. POLUM: Yeah, there should be one
22 for the adult weir and one for sock -- the smolt weir.

23
24 I've been asked to take a break for a
25 minute until we get the teleconference set up.

26
27 (Pause for teleconference problems)

28
29 Okay. Well, that was quick. As I was
30 saying the Powerpoint just has -- I'll forward that on
31 to you guys, but I'll -- that has some pictures of our
32 adult weir and our smolt traps. And then as well as
33 some of the figures, an electronic version of those
34 that are in the report there in front of you.

35
36 We -- these last two years we've moved
37 our Buskin weir down about 100 yards from its
38 traditional location. It was traditionally located at
39 the outlet of Buskin Lake which got very deep in high
40 water and fish tended to go around and over and so we
41 moved our weir down about 100 yards and have had much
42 better success in keeping it fish tight throughout the
43 season. There's some pictures on the slide show, when
44 you see that it'll illustrate that. The Buskin is very
45 prone to flash flooding so we've been constantly trying
46 to invent new methods of keeping things in the water
47 when the water gets deep. There's a picture there
48 you'll see the weir -- the water in one picture is
49 about a foot deep and the next picture it's about 10
50 feet deep. So and that happened in about a day this

1 year. We had extreme drought in the summer and extreme
2 flooding in the spring and the fall.

3

4 As for the Buskin River, a quick
5 overview is that it represents the largest sockeye
6 salmon subsistence fishery in the Kodiak/Aleutians
7 Region, about 40 percent -- typically about 40 percent
8 of the sockeye harvested in Kodiak/Aleutians comes from
9 the Buskin River for subsistence fishing. And as for
10 Kodiak about half of all subsistence permits issued in
11 Kodiak report some fishing effort on the Buskin, a
12 little more than do. So it's a very important
13 subsistence fishery for Kodiak Island and there's even
14 many -- this year we -- in the last several years we've
15 been asked by OSM to -- or by the Council to conduct
16 interviews on the fishing grounds of subsistence users.
17 And we've even seen that several people come down from
18 other parts of the State too as well do for the State
19 fishery.

20

21 And the last part that I'll talk about
22 is the adult real quick is we have an internship
23 program on that river, since 2003 we've hired two high
24 school interns every summer to assist on the Buskin
25 River with our two technicians that we hire. We also
26 -- this is a twofold project, we -- first is to educate
27 and inform members of the community, subsistence
28 qualify -- or qualified subsistence users from Kodiak
29 Island to about how fisheries management works on a
30 local subsistence stock as well as to recruit and to
31 provide future employees for the department. And so
32 far we've seen 10 of our interns, 10 of our 14 interns
33 come back to work for the department. Currently there
34 are, I believe, seven that are currently working for
35 the department. So we've seen a huge success rate from
36 that program as part of this OSM project. It's really
37 been a good program for our office, our Sport Fish
38 office because we can -- when we're looking for
39 employees we can call up our previous interns and a lot
40 of times they'll be interested in work. We -- I myself
41 was an intern in 2004, the second year of the program
42 and now I'm a biologist with the same office.

43

44 And we also have -- one part that I
45 left out was that on -- there's two -- a tributary of
46 Buskin River called Lake Louise that get the small
47 sockeye run. It's -- we've identified as a genetically
48 distinct run. It does have a later run timing and we
49 have a weir operating on that tributary from about mid
50 June until early September as it is a later run. In

1 the last several years we've seen that run decline from
2 a high of about 2,200 sockeye to about 360 this year.
3 And it's a very, very small creek and our counts -- we
4 basically only count fish when we get rain otherwise
5 the creek is so dry the fish can't move up the river.

6

7 From there I'll move on to talk about
8 our Buskin smolt project, but if you have any questions
9 about the adult project I'll take those now.

10

11 MR. HOLMES: I'd just like to comment
12 on how well that intern program has worked because, you
13 know, it has -- I've seen a whole spectrum of the
14 Kodiak community, Alutiiq kids and Filipinos and just
15 everybody in town gets a chance to see what's going on
16 and I've seen school teachers bring their kids down to
17 the weirs and watch it. So it's just been a wonderful
18 education process for the whole community to know
19 what's going on and to get young people interested in
20 responsible resource management. So hats off there.

21

22 MR. POLUM: Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, I got one
25 question.

26

27 MR. POLUM: Okay.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: You said you moved
30 the weir a couple times, is there restriction on where
31 that weir is located or does it -- you don't have any
32 restriction on where you put it?

33

34 MR. POLUM: We -- the weir -- Mr.
35 Chair. The weir is actually on Coast Guard land, it's
36 in the Buskin River, but we have a Coast Guard issued
37 permit for both of our weirs. We have a coho weir
38 later. And so we do consult with the Coast Guard about
39 that, but they give us -- for purposes of our weir they
40 give unrestricted access to that location. And it's
41 within maybe a 200 yard range that we can -- that we
42 use in the very outlet of the lake. Does that answer
43 your question?

44

45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Yeah. That
46 -- the location -- I know if it gets too deep it would
47 be hard to count the fish, and do you -- have you moved
48 it because of that or.....

49

50 MR. POLUM: We have. At the lake

1 outlet there was so little flow there and the water
2 would get so shallow in early July that fish would tend
3 to hold in pools behind the weir and -- as well as
4 early in the spring we would -- there's so little flow
5 there that Dollies would tend to build up in front of
6 the weir and steelhead and we could -- it was difficult
7 to pass those downstream. With the new location on the
8 weir there's more flow, not enough to make it dangerous
9 to put the weir in the water, but enough that it allows
10 us to pass Dollies and steelhead downstream while
11 allowing better passage of sockeye upstream. It's --
12 there's not as many places for fish to hold behind the
13 weir so they tend to move through it better is what
14 we've seen in the last two summers.

15
16 And one other thing I'd like to mention
17 real quick about our internship program, is one of the
18 things the interns help with and a lot of them have
19 been involved in is the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge
20 Salmon Camp. They come to the weir about four times
21 per summer, two to four times per summer to visit and
22 to tour the weir and we demonstrate our sampling
23 techniques and counting fish to them as well as about
24 salmon anatomy and habitat. And that happens several
25 times per summer and the interns are involved in that.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

28
29 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, and then I do
30 believe from what I understand in talking to the salmon
31 camp folks and they're integrating with the villages
32 and so this -- the Buskin weir ends up being kind of a
33 educational tool for the entire island. And I do
34 recall some teachers coming in from villages, you know,
35 and making that all part of their trip to town with the
36 kids. And I think it's a most commendable effort to be
37 doing that.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rowland.

40
41 MR. ROWLAND: Rick Rowland here.
42 Thanks for the presentation, appreciate all the work
43 you're doing out there. My question is about the weirs
44 and positioning in the streams and potentially being a
45 hazard or an obstacle that's created which is unnatural
46 to the salmon and their return to the spawning ground.
47 So look -- taking a look at all the weirs around Kodiak
48 Island and I haven't seen the data, I've looked for it,
49 about whether or not weirs could potentially create a
50 problem for salmon in their strength of return for

1 health reasons. So in the weir where you're at, where
2 you have those weirs at, are they in a position to
3 where they're causing the fish to hold up because in
4 they're in a spot to where the fish are holding up then
5 they're expending needed energy to finish their
6 spawning cycle. So they might be croaking off before
7 they're through their spawning cycle if the weir is an
8 obstacle.

9

10 MR. POLUM: Mr. Rowland. Something we
11 -- that is a concern that we've had in the past and not
12 -- mostly because of public concern. And so we
13 definitely keep an eye on those conditions throughout
14 the season from mid June until the end of July. While
15 the project runs we have seasonal technicians on from
16 7:00 in the morning until 10:00 at night 20 -- or seven
17 days a week to -- and they are basically nearby the
18 weir 24 -- or not 24/7, but those daylight hours. They
19 will check the weir as often as every hour and so any
20 fish building up behind the weir generally get passed
21 rather quickly. And so that is something we try to
22 minimize if at all possible. And that's pretty typical
23 for most weir facilities. Something later on too as
24 the fish -- we keep track of as the fish or the sockeye
25 mature and start to get towards their spawning, we
26 actually have a weir in the lower part of the river
27 aimed at counting coho and we keep track of -- and
28 fish, you know, pink salmon spawn right in front of the
29 weir and build up, accumulate. We actually try to keep
30 track of -- not numerically so much, but kind of
31 qualitatively to keep track of sockeye washing up on
32 the weir. And we rarely see many dead sockeye washing
33 up on that weir and so it seems that most of those fish
34 -- it seems that the weirs do not hold them back a lot
35 as we try to pass them as much as possible.

36

37 Now at Lake Louise fish -- that stream
38 the fish hold about an eighth of a mile below our weir
39 because of water conditions, they hold in a place
40 called the pumphouse hole and that is a natural
41 occurring feature of that creek because the stream is
42 so shallow in the summer months unless we have rain.
43 And so that's a case that -- area it could appear that
44 way, but our weir -- this summer there was for the
45 three or 400 yards below our weir there was just no
46 water in the creek for them to pass. So I hope that
47 answers your question.

48

49 MR. ROWLAND: So hopefully I understood
50 it correctly is that there is a possibility of a

1 potential problem in that it isn't a natural obstacle?

2

3 MR. POLUM: Mr. Rowland. We cannot --
4 we haven't studied that to rule it out, but we try to
5 minimize the impact as much as we possibly can.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pat.

8

9 MR. HOLMES: If I can answer your
10 question, Rick. You're implying that the weirs aren't
11 a natural thing and that that interferes with the run,
12 but if you look back at all the data going back pre-
13 statehood when they had no weirs, the biggest danger is
14 not knowing what your escapement is. And when you
15 don't know that then you can get over escapement or not
16 have enough fish in the river. So it's a tool to count
17 the critters. And so when you don't have a weir you
18 end up with much more radical fluctuations and returns
19 to the weir and that you get a lot less fish available.
20 And particularly the Buskin is one where it's been
21 dedicated to subsistence only for sockeye. And so it's
22 very, very critical to have the weir to know how many
23 fish came up. When the run crashed a couple of years
24 ago and for three years we had some very weak runs, the
25 problem occurred because there was -- ended up getting
26 over escapement and too many fish in the river. And so
27 once they got in the lake then they compete against
28 each other and so then you end up for a good part of
29 the life cycle coming up three years where you have
30 radically reduced runs. And so they had to close it
31 for subsistence for the first time. And so that was a
32 case where they were trying to maximize subsistence
33 potential and I think that year they got oh, 11, 12,000
34 reds back that got up into the lake with a huge harvest
35 as well.

36

37 So the weirs are a really important
38 thing and it's been proved in science for many, many
39 years. You can look at the University of Washington
40 website, F-R-I, there's numerous citations and long
41 term studies on the value of weirs.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.

44

45 MR. ROWLAND: Pat.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No, we're here for
48 his presentation not a discussion between you two.

49

50 MR. HOLMES: Excuse me, Mr. Chair.

1 MR. POLUM: I'll move on to the smolt
2 project, if that's okay. I -- my only other thing that
3 I was going to add about the Buskin weir is typ -- I
4 meant to mention our subsistence harvest, typically
5 that's about 30 percent of the run and this last year
6 was about -- not in 2011 because we don't have that
7 data yet, but in 2010 it was about 3,00 fish still I
8 believe. And typically it comprises about 30 percent
9 of the total run of the Buskin River.

10

11 And if there's any -- no more questions
12 I'll move on to the Buskin smolt project.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MR. POLUM: This is the second year of
17 our smolt study and our aim is to count the juvenile
18 salmon, sockeye salmon coming out of Buskin Lake and
19 Lake Louise tributary. We started this in 2010 as a
20 means to gain a better understanding of the Buskin run
21 in response to low returns that we saw in previous
22 returns. We have -- by counting smolt and sampling
23 them for age, weight, length and genetics we're able to
24 build a better -- get a better understanding of the
25 returns coming back. We can compare the numbers as
26 well as the age classes of fish leaving the system to
27 those that return and estimate survival, lake survival
28 from spawning or survival from every life stage all the
29 way from spawning until they return. So we're able to
30 get a much better idea of what's happening in the
31 system.

32

33 We -- in 2010 we had -- it was
34 definitely a learning experience, we had many setbacks
35 and things to work out which is often as expected with
36 a new project. The Buskin as I mentioned before is
37 prone to flash flooding and that causes all sorts of
38 problems when we're trying to count fish that are about
39 four to 12 millimeters long. There's -- we have -- for
40 2011 what we did is we built brand new smolt traps for
41 two of the locations that accommodated the water flow
42 much better and were able to count as much as four to
43 five times as many smolt coming out of the two lakes.
44 The way the project works is we have a trap at the
45 outlet of Buskin Lake below our typical sockeye weir
46 and we have one on the Lake Louise tributary. It
47 counts 100 percent of the smolt coming out as well as a
48 trap in the lower part of the river under a place
49 called bridge two that we use for a mark recapture
50 study to estimate the population. Since we have two

1 stocks coming out of the river we put our trap -- lower
2 trap below the confluence of the two systems in order
3 to do a dye test where we actually mark fish and
4 release them above the trap and recapture them in order
5 to estimate our total population coming out of the
6 Buskin River drainage. We also take genetic samples
7 from that location in order to try and differentiate
8 between the Lake Louise population and the Buskin River
9 population from that location. We've done an ongoing
10 genetic study with the adult fish and were able to
11 differentiate between Lake Louise bound fish and Buskin
12 Lake bound fish.

13

14 This year we counted at Lake Louise
15 where we have a trap that counts all the fish, the
16 river's about 20 feet wide there and we're able to
17 count all of the juveniles coming out and as the adult
18 run is so late there we don't interfere with the
19 returning adults. We were able to count almost 45,000
20 smolt coming out this year and opposed to 9,000 last
21 year. And we were able to get almost 1,000 scale
22 samples to determine their age. We also weigh and take
23 the length of them to determine their condition as we
24 take the ratio of their weight to their length to
25 determine their health coming out of the lakes.

26

27 At Buskin Lake we were able to count
28 42,000 -- over 42,000 smolt as opposed to 5,000 last
29 year. And that location there, we don't -- we count
30 fish, we don't get an population estimate there because
31 we cannot capture 100 percent of the fish -- of the
32 smolt exiting the lake because of the size of the
33 river, the amount of water. But we were able to
34 collect over 600 scale samples and smolt for sampling
35 there. And at the lower trap we were able to count
36 over 20,000 fish through there and collect 400 genetic
37 samples. With our dye test, mark, recapture study, we
38 haven't come up with a population estimate yet, that's
39 in the works on this -- there's a lot of data to sift
40 through this year. But we were able to get what's
41 called a trap efficiency where we were able to estimate
42 that we were catching between 10 and -- between 10 and
43 29 percent of the smolt exiting Buskin River at that
44 location. So we were -- as opposed to last season
45 where we were estimating we were catching between 1 and
46 4 percent of the smolt exiting Buskin River.

47

48 We found -- an interesting thing that
49 we found is that the -- in Buskin Lake it's dominated
50 by one year old smolt, age one smolt. These are fish

1 that have spent one winter in the freshwater or one
2 year in the freshwater feeding and that makes up about
3 74 percent of the out migration. And it's start -- the
4 most -- the last two years the run has started out
5 about 50/50 age one and age two smolt and then by the
6 end of the season is almost 100 percent age one smolt
7 as opposed to Lake Louise which is about almost 90
8 percent age two smolt coming out of that system. And
9 age one makes up a small percentage of that run whereas
10 by the end of the season there are almost no age one
11 fish exiting that system.

12
13 That's a pretty quick overview. We've
14 learned a lot, we're working on a lot. Unfortunately
15 our funding cycle is over. We -- this project started
16 out as -- was originally proposed as a four year OSM
17 funded project like our Buskin weir, adult weir. It
18 was -- the OSM Technical Review suggested -- encouraged
19 us to pursue a two year feasibility study where this is
20 the second year of this two year feasibility study.
21 And currently we're between OSM funding cycles and so
22 this project unless some other source of funding or the
23 project is extended, its funding expires this year and
24 will not continue this next season. And we -- right
25 now we're in a place that we could continue this
26 project as -- indefinitely with the equipment and
27 knowledge that we now have. This year indicated that
28 this is a feasible project and we hope that in the
29 future at some point we can continue this project.

30
31 And that's all I have, if you have any
32 questions.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah. How many
35 counting stations do you have on the weirs?

36
37 MR. POLUM: On the adult weir or the
38 smolt?

39
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Either or, all of
41 them.

42
43 MR. POLUM: On the adult weir we
44 typically have three counting stations as well as a
45 sampling trap to -- where we collect scale samples.
46 That's pretty standard for the Buskin. It's only about
47 130 feet wide at its widest, so we don't -- we don't
48 have a lot of room for a lot of counting stations, but
49 that seems to do pretty well. And for the smolt weirs,
50 they're very small, they're about -- there's room for

1 -- basically all the smolt get funneled into a box and
2 there's one counting station per trap. And our
3 technicians take a boardwalk out to the box and open
4 the box up and then count all the fish out of the box
5 by hand. So there's three for those.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah. The -- with
8 those counting stations are you part of the people that
9 go out there and count the fish that go by, in your
10 observations do you notice that the fish are being held
11 back by the weir or, you know, a lot of movement by the
12 fish counters?

13

14 MR. POLUM: I super -- I directly
15 supervise the technicians on the Buskin for both the
16 smolt and the adult sockeye weir. And I am personally
17 out there most of the time in May, June and July. And
18 we -- my job is to make sure that the technicians and
19 myself are out there counting fish as much as we
20 possibly can while we're not sampling or maintaining
21 the weir. So you -- when fish do -- fish do tend to
22 build up behind weirs, but that's -- when we're there
23 we count them through. And honestly a lot of times on
24 the Buskin the run isn't that big compared to a lot of
25 other systems and so we're able to count the majority
26 of the fish through when they -- as they show up which
27 is typically in the morning and the evening. Typically
28 we'll be there about 7:00 in the morning and count for
29 an hour or so and then there'll be maybe anywhere from
30 10 to 100 fish during the day until about 8:00 o'clock
31 at night where we'll count anywhere from 100 to 1,000
32 or so per day. And that's -- that doesn't -- that last
33 for basically the peak of the run.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Do you do smolt
36 trapping at all the weirs on the Buskin?

37

38 MR. POLUM: Smolt trapping?

39

40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah.

41

42 MR. POLUM: We do -- our traps are in
43 our weir locations, but they're not associated with the
44 weirs themselves. So we do, those three trapping
45 locations, but the project is separate from our adult
46 weirs.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Pat,
49 did you have a question?

50

1 MR. HOLMES: Rick was -- had his hand
2 up before I did. I'll go. I think it's really
3 interesting on your smolt out migrant age and if I
4 recall right generally if they spend longer in the
5 lake, like two or three years, then that's a reflection
6 of lower nutrition levels in that lake. And I find it
7 interesting that you're getting 75 percent one year
8 fish on the Buskin because I recall back at the end of
9 the '70s, early '80s, when they started sampling fish,
10 the adults, that a very large portion of them were to
11 ocean at that time. So that shows a shift now perhaps
12 to some better nutrient and better survival in the
13 lake. So that's very encouraging. I kind of wish we
14 had had a smolt program going long ago so that we would
15 have known when we had that crash for
16 three years that things were going to be bad. And it
17 was quite encouraging the first year of your project to
18 go down and find out about the age of the out migrants
19 and that they were basically fat and happy. So that
20 gives us some good information for this upcoming year
21 now even though your first year on the smolt was kind
22 of a learning thing and getting the bugs out and
23 figuring where to sample. So I think even though it
24 wasn't as successful as you wanted that first year
25 besides learning how to do smolt on the Buskin, I think
26 it gave the community a good idea on the fact that the
27 -- you know, the run strength would be turning around
28 and improving.

29
30 MR. POLUM: If I may add to.....

31
32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, go ahead.

33
34 MR. POLUM:Mr. Holmes' comment.
35 We -- it is interesting that -- as the major thing that
36 we learned from this season was the purport the age
37 composition of the out migration. We have sampled
38 adult sockeye there for many, many years and in the
39 last 10 years the dominant age class has been one year
40 in the freshwater as well as two years -- two or three
41 years in the saltwater. And so yeah, we have -- we
42 have seen that shift to one year fish. I haven't
43 looked at the data for the years that it crashed, but
44 seeing that we have one year old fish coming out of
45 Buskin Lake right now is definitely a good sign. We
46 also have our condition factor to measure the ratio of
47 the weight to the length. If the ratio -- if their
48 weight is -- if the ratio of the weight to the length
49 is closer to one that's a better condition for the
50 fish. We have to -- unfortunately we have to compare

1 that to itself so -- because every system is different.
2 So we have to pursue that for several more years, but
3 that may be another indicator that we can use of the
4 health of the lakes.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you.
7 Mr. Rowland, do you have a question?

8
9 MR. ROWLAND: Yeah. So I know that
10 they stock the Crescent Lake over that in Port Lions to
11 -- for a terminal run. There are a couple other
12 different spots that they do in the Kodiak system. Do
13 they -- do they -- at one point had sockeye stocked
14 into the Buskin?

15
16 MR. POLUM: No, sockeye have not been
17 stocked into the Buskin.

18
19 MR. ROWLAND: Okay. And what type of
20 species was?

21
22 MR. POLUM: In the 1950s and '60
23 rainbow trout were stocked into the Buskin River as
24 well as, I'm not sure of the dates, but king salmon
25 were at one point stocked into the Buskin River. But
26 those -- the stock -- rainbow trout stocking program
27 was quite extensive while the king salmon project was
28 fairly short lived.

29
30 MR. CRATTY: Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Al.

33
34 MR. CRATTY: Yeah, I'd just like to
35 commend the work you guys have been doing with OSM and
36 how valuable it is for the people. I mean, I sat on
37 this Board when -- them three years that crashed and
38 Litnik crashed and how important them resources are for
39 our people. I think you guys are doing a great job and
40 I hope it continues.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MR. POLUM: Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.

47
48 MR. ROWLAND: Rick Rowland. I had a
49 chat yesterday with the -- Glenn about potentially
50 doing a survey related to salmon subsistence. So if

1 that survey possibility comes through we'll be
2 contacting you to hopefully work with you guys to
3 figure out some way to enhance you guys' work that
4 you're doing over there with the surveys and stuff
5 because it is appreciated.

6

7 MR. POLUM: Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

10

11 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. You had mentioned
12 that in your senior staff consultation with OSM that
13 you had applied for four years and basically they
14 recommended -- they did recommend two and granted that.
15 And so now you've got your two year program online and
16 they're starting to get good data, but essentially
17 you're out of funds for smolt and when would be the
18 next cycle that you'd be able to go for money, we'll
19 have like a one or two year break?

20

21 MR. POLUM: The next time, I believe,
22 we'd be able to apply, Mr. Holmes, is that we would
23 apply in the fall of 2013 for funding in the spring of
24 2014, I believe. So that would be a two year break in
25 our project.

26

27 MR. HOLMES: Okay. I was just
28 wondering, Mr. Fried, you were talking about your
29 allocations there in the programs and that you had
30 about 40,000 that wasn't allocated from -- for the OSM
31 research programs. And I was wondering if perhaps with
32 some encouragement from our Council and I'm just
33 wondering if maybe the BIA might have a couple of bucks
34 or something to where you might be able to put together
35 a partnership that might include Sun'ag or NVA or
36 something where you could hire -- you know, maybe the
37 BIA could cover part of the personnel staffing and
38 maybe if that 40,000 isn't already dedicated to
39 rollover to something else, if there might be some way
40 of finding a way to fund this project for next year.
41 Because being an old smolt man yourself, gaps in your
42 data once you got something going, I'm just wondering
43 if you guys might be able to put your heads together
44 during a break or something and see if there might be
45 some way because what do you need, 40,000, 45,000 for a
46 smolt project, I don't know.....

47

48 MR. POLUM: I'd have to look, but it's
49 close.

50

1 MR. HOLMES: because you've got
2 all the mechanical and capital things done.
3
4 MR. POLUM: I'd have to look, but it's
5 close, something like that.
6
7 MR. FRIED: Are you looking for a
8 formal answer?
9
10 MR. HOLMES: Well, you guys can have a
11 coffee break or.....
12
13 MR. FRIED: I mean, I was actually
14 surprised when I didn't see your proposal come in this
15 cycle. I mean, there's a call for proposals and there
16 wasn't one for this project. So essentially they
17 missed the call. So at this point there's no
18 opportunity for any kind of, you know, public review,
19 Council reviews, anything like that. And we actually
20 don't know how much money we're going to have yet, I
21 mean, it's just an estimate. We don't know what we
22 have for 2012. We could have what we're projecting, we
23 could have less, I doubt if we'll have more, but.....
24
25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Uh-huh.
26
27 MR. FRIED: there is a process to
28 fund things out of cycle, but that's usually for like,
29 you know, a conservation problem or serious fishery
30 issue. So that's -- you know, because that takes it
31 out of that, you know, public cycle, competitive cycle
32 too. I think the TRC had recommended the two years of
33 funding because it was feasibility and we weren't sure
34 whether or not it would work. And looks like it works
35 now, I mean, the first year as any, you know,
36 feasibility study, was kind of rough and it was a
37 learning experience. And it appears now that the
38 project will work. So, I mean, there's not -- there's
39 no -- you're right, there's -- it's going to break, but
40 it's not like it's a break in a long chain of data,
41 we're just getting started. And so there are other
42 avenues. I don't know if the Alaska Sustainable Salmon
43 Fund is still having a call.
44
45 MR. POLUM: They are, but I don't -- we
46 determined it doesn't really fit.....
47
48 MR. FRIED: Doesn't fit.
49
50 MR. POLUM: the criteria for that,

1 yeah.

2

3 MR. FRIED: So yeah, I don't know other
4 than that. I don't know what to tell you at this
5 point.

6

7 MR. HOLMES: No, I was just wondering
8 if you -- excuse me, Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pat.

11

12 MR. HOLMES: I was just wondering if
13 there might be some way to find some off cycle things.
14 From talking to Tyler I think his immediate boss is
15 transferring and I think there was some confusion there
16 in the whole Sport Fish Division as to, you know, the
17 funding. I can't speak for him, but it would be pretty
18 cool if there'd be some way to kind of keep this
19 project rolling because, you know, in some respects
20 your smolt studies give you a darn good idea of what's
21 coming two years down the pike, you know, back to the
22 system. And anyway it's all I can say, I hope you can
23 find something. And I don't know.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
26 questions for Mr. Tyler?

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Glenn.

31

32 MR. CHEN: Good morning. Mr. Chair.
33 Mr. Holmes. Glenn Chen with the BIA. To answer Mr.
34 Holmes' question about potential for BIA funding, our
35 funds that come to the Alaska Region BIA Subsistence
36 Branch, come under the title of Tribal Management and
37 so forth. And so our -- we're directed to give our
38 funds to Alaska tribes to work on natural resource
39 projects. So there's a potential, Mr. Holmes, if
40 native organizations such as Sun'aq or Native Village
41 of Afognak wanted to participate in the study we could
42 potentially give them a grant to be partners in this
43 project. Of course, that's all dependent on the fiscal
44 situation for the next fiscal year which we don't know
45 yet. So this is definitely a topic we're pursuing for
46 -- further and warrants further discussion.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Glenn.

1 Any other questions?

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Mr.
6 Tyler, we appreciate your presentation.

7

8 MR. POLUM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Next order of
11 business is Izembek. I guess it's Nancy.

12

13 MR. PYLE: Excuse me. Mr. Chair. This
14 is Bill Pyle with Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge.
15 We're have a difficult time hearing the presentation
16 and we're wondering if it would be possible for the
17 speaker to get a little closer to the microphone.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Mr. Bill,
22 we'll speak louder or get closer. Appreciate that.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MS. BROWN: Hi. And who else besides
27 Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge do we have on the line?

28

29 MS. TRUMBLE: Della's here.

30

31 MS. BROWN: Hi, Della.

32

33 MS. TRUMBLE: Morning.

34

35 MS. BROWN: Morning. Anyone else?

36

37 MS. RILEY: Megan Riley with Alaska
38 Department of Fish and Game.

39

40 MS. BROWN: Good morning, Megan.

41

42 MR. PYLE: Here at Kodiak Refuge we
43 have Bill Pyle, Tonya Lee, McCrea Cobb and Kent
44 Sundseth.

45

46 MS. BROWN: Thank you. Good morning.

47

48 MR. BERG: Good morning, Cole. Jerry
49 Berg on the line here.

50

1 MS. BROWN: Morning, Jerry. Okay.
2 Thank you. We're going to be.....

3
4 MR. BERG: Cole, we need to talk to you
5 at some point about Richard Koso's travel. I talked to
6 Tom Jennings so maybe we can talk at a break.

7
8 MS. BROWN: Yep, no problem. So now we
9 have Izembek's report.

10
11 MS. PETERSON: Good morning. I'm Chris
12 Peterson, wildlife biologist at Izembek National
13 Wildlife Refuge and here to give our report for the
14 year or for the past few months.

15
16 As you see on the report, the first
17 item is the caribou in unit 9D. We conducted an aerial
18 population count of the Southern Peninsula Caribou Herd
19 in 9D in April of 2011 cooperatively working with
20 Alaska Fish and Game. We counted 790 caribou in 64
21 groups. And the conditions for this count were very
22 good, we had very good visibility. It took a couple
23 days to complete the count, but we felt like we were
24 not getting any duplication of groups or anything in
25 the count. So it went quite well. We counted 790
26 which is as you see from the table it's not a huge
27 increase, but we didn't feel like we were missing a lot
28 of caribou in any particular place. So it is in line
29 with the previous numbers and there is probably some
30 increase taking place, just need to keep counting and
31 see if we can pick that up.

32
33 Alaska Fish and Game conducted an
34 informal count at the same time and their numbers were
35 very similar to ours, indicating, you know, that we
36 probably did all -- see most of the caribou that were
37 there.

38
39 In Unit 10, Unimak Island, at the same
40 time that we were doing or just previous to the
41 southern peninsula count we did a count on Unimak
42 Island and counted 224 caribou. Again Alaska Fish and
43 Game and Izembek cooperated on this count and it was
44 excellent conditions for the count, good clear weather,
45 good visibility. And we felt that this was a pretty
46 good count. We weren't missing large numbers of
47 caribou in any place.

48
49 Also at the time that the count was
50 taking place on Unimak we also, working with Fish and

1 Game, captured quite a few caribou cows and put
2 satellite collars or VHF collars on the animals. We
3 conducted a body condition examination, checked them
4 for parasites, just an overall good health assessment
5 of the animals and found that most of them were in very
6 good condition, a few were perhaps moderate condition.
7 But this is in April after the winter. So it's a time
8 when if they were going to be in poor condition you
9 might expect it would have been at this time and these
10 animals were in good condition for an indirect
11 assessment. We also took blood samples and those are
12 being assessed in the lab for other dynamics of
13 condition such as protein metabolism or micronutrients.
14 These animals were captured and collared as part of a
15 project that Izembek is working on on Unimak Caribou,
16 assessing habitat conditions and impact of habitat on
17 the caribou herd on the island.

18
19 This fall in October we will again
20 capture some additional caribou, put out, I believe, it
21 is six -- seven more satellite collars and, I believe,
22 and I'm not certain of the number, but it's up to 10
23 more VHF collars. And that will give us a very good
24 sample size of the Unimak herd that has collars on
25 which will really enable us to do a good job of
26 tracking caribou down for the count, keeping track of
27 mortalities, survivorship of the animals and should
28 improve our abilities to assess productivity as well in
29 the spring when we go in.

30
31 For brown bear there was -- excuse me.
32 The State bear hunt took place May 10th to the 25th of
33 this year on Unimak. This was the spring hunt. The
34 Refuge guides' reports have not been received for 2011
35 for Unimak Island. There was one brown bear sealed at
36 Izembek that was taken on Unimak.

37
38 For waterfowl, to begin with we
39 discussed the brant. The number of brant found in the
40 Izembek area was 47,477. This number is considered to
41 be in line with the overall trend which has been
42 showing about a 4 and a half, 4 percent increase, I
43 believe it was about 4 percent increase per year. So
44 this number even though it shows a large jump from the
45 previous year, it's not a huge jump in the overall
46 trend, but it does show some increase and the black
47 brant are approaching the management goal of 162,000.

48
49 Waterfowl for the emperor goose. The
50 spring, 2011 survey found 74,166 emperor geese. This

1 shows a 14.9 percent increase from 2010. The three
2 year average however only shows a 4.2 percent increase.
3 And this is a -- it is an increase which is a good
4 thing and we're glad to be seeing it, but it's -- the
5 overall population is still under the goal of 80,000 in
6 order to open a hunt. Let's see, the population
7 estimate in 2010 is 24.8 percent below what was
8 observed in 2009. The three year population average of
9 72,591 is 5.9 percent below the previous three year
10 average. So we -- when we get the population counts we
11 put it into the annual count list and we compare the
12 three year averages so that if there is one year where
13 conditions simply suit having more birds for that count
14 at that time compared to the previous year, those
15 numbers won't stimulate opening the hunt when the
16 population really doesn't support doing that.

17
18 So I believe that's everything in our
19 report and appreciate it. If you have any questions,
20 please.

21
22 MR. CRATTY: Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Al.

25
26 MR. CRATTY: Yeah, I'm just wondering
27 about the emperor goose. Ever since I've been on this
28 Council, 16 years, numbers have always been at this,
29 they've never gone over 80,000. Is there a predator of
30 them or do some of them go to Russia and live there or
31 why doesn't the number -- I mean, in 16 years seem like
32 these guys have had -- always wanted to hunt here and
33 the numbers have never reached the goal.

34
35 MS. PETERSON: It's a good observation.
36 There are several things that are considered to
37 contribute to the failure of getting the numbers up
38 where we would like them to be. Emperor goose are a
39 long lived specie and they -- their reproduction is
40 somewhat later in their life cycle. The juveniles are
41 especially prone to predation and there is predation
42 that takes place. The main factor that is considered
43 to be keeping the efforts to get the population up, the
44 main factor considered to be keeping it from achieving
45 that is a failure to limit or stop the illegal harvest.
46 I'm trying to think of the word hunt. It is -- the
47 hunt has been closed since '87, but there is still a
48 considerable hunting that -- or harvesting that takes
49 place in the rural communities. Emperor goose is a
50 valuable subsistence specie and people continue to

1 utilize that. And when they do that at certain times
2 of the year in particular, it impacts the population
3 because the proportion of the population that is hunted
4 the most heavily is juveniles coming into the
5 reproductive age. So if we are removing those in an
6 illegal harvest then that's limiting the ability of the
7 specie, of the population, to make that jump up to a
8 higher level.

9

10 MS. HOFFMAN: A little more outreach
11 would be appropriate.

12

13 MS. PETERSON: Yes, I was just going to
14 say it would be really possibly very beneficial to have
15 more outreach that could reach these people and inform
16 them that we're not trying to keep them from hunting
17 emperor goose, we're trying to get the population to a
18 level where it can sustain opening a hunt and keeping
19 that hunt open on them. There's been some really good
20 results with other outreach programs, the one that
21 comes to mind is one up -- I believe it's in Togiak,
22 working with the moose population and the closures up
23 there. They went through a very good outreach
24 education program with the rural communities and were
25 able to get people to really buy in on not hunting this
26 specie for a few years, really leave it alone and let
27 it do what it needs to do. Then they were in a short
28 couple of years they were able to open the hunt in a
29 very limited degree and then each year from there they
30 were able to increase that and maintain that. Very
31 possible that some program such as that could help in
32 this situation where probably people do think we're
33 just trying to keep them from hunting and that's not
34 the case. We're trying to get the population up where
35 it sustain that harvest and we can keep that going.

36

37 MR. CRATTY: I have one more question.
38 If there was a goal for the subsistence user, a number
39 there, you use the same number for the sport hunter
40 too. So if you were to open the season you would open
41 it for the sport hunter and the subsistence user?

42

43 MS. PETERSON: I can't answer that.
44 Subsistence comes first in my understanding.

45

46 MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah, that would be the
47 Co-Management Council and that's not our jurisdiction
48 to -- we don't set -- Fish and Wildlife does, but with
49 the Co-Management Council. But subsistence is the.....

50

1 MS. PETERSON:priority.
2
3 MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah, and that should be
4 open first.
5
6 MR. CRATTY: Thank you.
7
8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat, do you have a
9 question?
10
11 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, a couple. And I
12 kind of follow-up on Al Cratty's question there and
13 obviously it does have to go through the Council, but
14 at our March meeting we had submitted a request from
15 our Council for limited subsistence hunt on emperor
16 geese for elders because it's been closed so long most
17 of them are going to be dead before it opens. And I
18 hope that Rick's -- you participate in that Council,
19 don't you, Rowland, aren't you on the Migratory Board
20 Group?
21
22 MR. ROWLAND: Yeah.
23
24 MR. HOLMES: I hope that you can track
25 that for us because it would seem that on emperor geese
26 like any other critter when you're -- you know, we're
27 talking about having a limited harvest on caribou with
28 800 animals, that, you know, a small subsistence
29 harvest for elders on emperor geese might be
30 appropriate. And so I hope that you can track it and
31 if you folks hear things.
32
33 I'd like to fall back to the migratory
34 bird biologist because at our two meetings back we
35 asked to have someone from that Council come and then
36 everybody was committed for the last meeting and I'm
37 wondering why they didn't come this time, do we need to
38 send a request every year that we want somebody from
39 the Migratory Bird Council to come and talk to us about
40 emperor geese? Now that's not your fault, but, I
41 mean.....
42
43 MS. HOFFMAN: Mr. Chair. I know if you
44 address it to -- you have to -- if you're on the -- do
45 you sit on that Council, Co-Management Council?
46
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah. Rick and I
48 serve on the Kodiak Island Migratory Bird Council.....
49
50 MS. HOFFMAN: Okay.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF:the statewide
2 organization is represented by somebody else.

3
4 MS. HOFFMAN: And I think I -- this
5 area's in Sand Point. I don't know the formal process
6 of requesting if the RAC would request it with a formal
7 letter, I'm not certain how that all works, the
8 process.

9
10 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Well, if you could
11 find out during our meeting maybe we could write a
12 letter and ask, you know, for the emperor goose
13 committee to come and chat with us.

14
15 And then I've asked at previous
16 meetings to have the confidence intervals on these
17 surveys. And I really would like to get those if you
18 could ask whoever does it to put that together and send
19 it to us, the confidence intervals on the survey
20 estimate.....

21
22 MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah, I talked to
23 Crystal.

24
25 MR. HOLMES:because if you're --
26 you know, if you're doing this at 85 percent confidence
27 level well, you know, what does it matter, but if
28 you're coming up with these numbers at 95 percent, you
29 know, you could well have enough of an overlap where
30 we're getting darn near close or if we get another 76
31 and the 78, you know, could be just the same. I mean,
32 because this is to open all the hunts.....

33
34 MS. PETERSON: Yes.

35
36 MR. HOLMES:and I guess where
37 we're looking at is something for subsistence. And so
38 if you're confidence intervals are high and we're
39 getting -- you know, in the last three years here we're
40 getting really close to 80,000, I mean, 2000 off in
41 2009, 7,000 last year, 4,000 this year, I mean, that's
42 like nothing. And so, you know, we're right at that
43 point practically and we're.....

44
45 MS. PETERSON: We're very close.

46
47 MR. HOLMES:probably closer on
48 geese than we are on any of the other critters that we
49 have subsistence hunts. So I know that's a point of
50 great passion on some of my -- as Cratty would say, my

1 geezer buddies down here on the peninsula and up in
2 Kodiak area.

3

4 And I was also wondering, Rick Koso
5 raised the question at a previous meeting, I think the
6 one -- last one here of his observations about seeing
7 emperor geese out at Adak early in the year. Do you --
8 when do you see those and -- because I get -- I guess
9 I'll refer it to Rick to restate his point from the
10 previous meeting.

11

12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13

14 MR. KOSO: Well, it's -- the previous
15 meeting was two meetings ago so that's about a year and
16 a half ago, I think, if I'm not mistaken. So anyway we
17 do see quite a bit of -- you know, I've seen them up
18 two, 300 emperors in Adak and I'm just trying to think
19 of the time. It seems like it was in October to
20 January, it seemed like, in December, January I see a
21 bit more that sit in the lagoon out there. So I've
22 seen, you know, up to anywhere from two to 400
23 probably, emperors sitting there. There's -- and I've
24 seen them every year for the past few years.

25 So I'll let you finish and then I'll
26 get down to my questions if that's okay.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Rick.
29 Rick Rowland.

30

31 MR. ROWLAND: Hi. Thank you for that
32 presentation. I'm looking at your report here and I'm
33 looking at the harvest of wildlife and I didn't notice
34 on your report any populations about the moose or the
35 fox or the wolf. Do you guys have that information
36 too?

37

38 MS. HOFFMAN: We don't have moose,
39 don't have the habitat here for moose. So I don't
40 really.....

41

42 MR. ROWLAND: Yeah, it says right here
43 Federal registration permits for the Unit 9D moose hunt
44 are available from the Izembek National Wildlife
45 Refuge.

46

47 MS. HOFFMAN: Right.

48

49 MR. ROWLAND: So.....

50

1 MS. HOFFMAN: We gave out one permit,
2 nothing was harvest.
3
4 MR. ROWLAND: So my -- I'm just
5 wondering -- I saw that and I'm wondering if we should
6 have a moose report too.
7
8 MS. HOFFMAN: Well, we really don't
9 have any moose habitat and very rarely do we have a --
10 issue a subsistence moose permit and so I think this
11 last year that we issued one.
12
13 MR. ROWLAND: Okay. So and then also
14 about the fox or the wolf, I mean, there's wolf and fox
15 in the.....
16
17 MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah.
18
19 MR. ROWLAND:in the Izembek,
20 right?
21
22 MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah, subsistence doesn't
23 -- subsistence users don't typically report fox.
24
25 MR. ROWLAND: Right. But geese eggs
26 are eaten by the fox, so.....
27
28 MS. HOFFMAN: They don't nest here.
29
30 MS. PETERSON: We -- yeah, we don't
31 have nesting.
32
33 MS. HOFFMAN: This is just a.....
34
35 MR. ROWLAND: Or the.....
36
37 MS. HOFFMAN:migratory stop.
38
39 MR. ROWLAND: I've seen them chasing
40 ptarmigan the other day so.....
41
42 MS. PETERSON: Well, they're here now.
43
44 MR. ROWLAND:it might be
45 interesting to see what those populations are too.
46
47 MS. PETERSON: Okay. Thank you.
48
49 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair.
50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Going back to caribou and
4 I'll just -- if whoever's summarizing this can go back
5 to the earlier -- my earlier sermon when I was over
6 caffeinated and pull the points out of that from the
7 transcript. I would like to commend you and Mike that
8 I understand that you did actually have additional
9 planes available and additional staff whereas in
10 previous years you ladies were kind of left holding the
11 bag when your pilots would have problems and things
12 like that. So it sounded like at least you did get
13 extra support from your headquarters to try to get the
14 Unimak work done. And like I said during the break, I
15 can appreciate some of the problems because we all have
16 -- well, I -- past tense for myself, problems doing
17 surveys. But I was wondering on your -- particularly
18 on your Unimak survey of 224 and obviously they were
19 spread out and hard to find, you said they had good
20 body condition, you're taking blood samples to look at
21 nutrients and micronutrients and I think your getting
22 more collars out will be just great because the small
23 populations just finding where they're at and being
24 able to turn on a beacon and locate them saves about
25 half of your survey time. So hopefully the next time
26 you get a chance to get out you'll be able to get some
27 better numbers on them. And I know when you get west
28 of Urillo Bay (ph) things get kind of dicey.

29

30 But the question I would have for you
31 is on those 224 what did you see in terms of cows to
32 bulls, any number -- any feeling on juveniles, I
33 understand the juveniles that were collared, the
34 collars stopped, does that indicate that the calves are
35 in reduced numbers or were reduced numbers. And then
36 particularly before on the earlier -- last couple of
37 surveys the number of bulls have dropped. I think 2010
38 the estimate was 20 out of the 400. I might be wrong,
39 but at what -- how did -- were there any bulls this
40 time because if you are -- not to get on my soapbox
41 about predation, but in a classic case you lose calves
42 and then you lose bulls in the post-rut period to
43 predators because they're both weak. So what were your
44 counts of bulls and cows and did you see any juveniles?

45

46 MS. PETERSON: Thank you. This is
47 Chris Peterson from Izembek. In this count that we did
48 in April which we are loosely calling our winter count
49 because we weren't able to conduct it in the winter,
50 but we were able to get it done in April. And that was

1 partially due to the extra efforts to get other
2 aircraft here and assist in this.

3
4 It was simply a population count and we
5 were following up on collars and placing collars also.
6 It was not a bull to cow count. The bulls at that time
7 of year are not neccess -- it's really difficult,
8 they've lost their antlers in April so it -- and as
9 well as a lot of cows have -- that were not pregnant
10 have lost their antlers as well. So it's very
11 difficult to get a bull count out of that count.

12
13 The calves, we did see a number of
14 calves, but again it's not a good count on which to be
15 trying to give numbers of calves or bulls to the
16 proportion to the herd. We did see some that had over
17 wintered and survived so that was a good sign. The
18 collars on the juveniles, there were still a couple
19 that were functioning, but the juveniles -- the calf
20 collars that were placed out the previous year are not
21 designed to necessarily last for a long time. So even
22 if they're not functioning that doesn't tell us -- we
23 can't come to any assumptions as to why they're not
24 functioning. They were put on specifically to track
25 survivorship over that first initial season and into
26 the fall. There were some of them still functioning,
27 but if they weren't functioning that doesn't mean that
28 the calf was no longer alive, it might just mean that
29 the collar was no longer working or had been shed at
30 some point. So from that count we can't really
31 extrapolate and make any statements as to the
32 proportion of calves or the proportion of bulls.

33
34 We did feel we had a pretty good
35 coverage and we're not missing any large groups. When
36 the populations gets that low on that large of a land
37 mass any small group that you miss has a -- an impact
38 on your overall numbers. And that is why it is
39 important to get as many collared as we can so that we
40 can keep track of those groups. But we had pretty good
41 coverage and I don't think that we were missing very
42 many animals. Undoubtedly we missed some, but I don't
43 think it was large numbers. I hope that answers your
44 question, it's just I can't say a proportion of bulls.

45
46 And as you see in previous years up to
47 2010 we had 28 -- excuse me, I'm on the wrong table,
48 for Unimak in 2010 we had about eight bulls per 100
49 cows and approximately eight calves per 100 cows. And
50 that would certainly be less -- have been less this

1 year. We are planning on conducting our fall count
2 this coming month in October and we will have better --
3 hopefully we can get out and do some good counts and
4 have more information available then. And we do have
5 all those collars out now so that should improve the
6 ability to get better numbers.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 MR. HOLMES: Thank you very much,
11 that.....

12
13 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Della.

16
17 MS. TRUMBLE: Do you have any
18 statistics on the collars at all or any numbers at all?

19
20 MS. PETERSON: This is Chris, Della.
21 Statistics in terms of survivorship or what do you
22 mean?

23
24 MS. TRUMBLE: Basically anything,
25 survivorship.....

26
27 MS. PETERSON: Okay.

28
29 MS. TRUMBLE:I'd be curious just
30 any numbers. You also mentioned yesterday on Unimak
31 that you might or there may be a sense of what could be
32 the possibility of the decline and I guess I'm curious
33 as to what that might be?

34
35 MS. PETERSON: Okay. This is Chris,
36 Della. We did place eight of our satellite collars out
37 this spring and we currently have six of those that are
38 still transmitting. One of the collars ceased
39 transmitting about a month -- a little more than a
40 month after it was deployed and we have since -- I
41 believe it was early August, I tracked that animal down
42 and found her still living and in close association
43 with a small group of caribou that also had another
44 collared animal in the group. So we are hoping that
45 she is still traveling with that group or at least
46 whatever group she's with will have another collared
47 animal so that we can find her and retrieve the collar
48 and get it redeployed. Another animal has since -- the
49 collar has since ceased to transmit, but we are looking
50 -- I don't -- it did not go into a mortality

1 transmission, these collars are manufactured such that
2 if the animal dies it triggers a different signal to be
3 transmitted and neither of these collars has ever gone
4 into the mortality function. So we do not believe that
5 it's a deceased animal, we think there may just be some
6 technical difficulty with the collar. But again we
7 will try to retrieve that collar this fall and get it
8 redeployed at a -- probably next spring would be the
9 new -- the nearest time that we could do that. So we
10 have eight of those collars out.

11
12 The other collars are VHF collars and
13 we only use those due to the expense and the time
14 commitment to actually track these animals with VHF, we
15 only track them when we are down during surveys or
16 counts. And at that time a couple of the previously
17 deployed VHF collars had died, but I don't have any
18 statistics on that. We will be monitoring that
19 throughout the future few years of this -- of these
20 projects that we're working on and we can include that
21 in -- we will include that information in our report.

22
23 You mentioned something about yesterday
24 we said something about we thought there was a cause
25 for the decline. I'm not sure if I understood you.
26 Could you repeat that, please.

27
28 MS. TRUMBLE: You had mentioned -- hold
29 on.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Did we lose you,
32 Della, what happened?

33
34 MS. PETERSON: She said hold on.

35
36 MS. TRUMBLE: Sorry about that, I'm at
37 home this morning, my dogs are very loud.

38
39 You had mentioned -- I thought you had
40 mentioned that maybe you'd be trying to possibly be
41 some -- I guess that's actually your efforts on the
42 collaring, so maybe that's basically what you
43 explained. And then the other question I guess I do
44 have is has there been any surveys done on bears in 9D?

45
46 MS. PETERSON: Okay. Thank you, Della.
47 First of all at this point I'm not sure what you
48 thought you heard me say yesterday, but I certainly did
49 not intend to suggest that we had a -- we had
50 identified a factor causing the decline on Unimak.

1 There are multiple possibilities and one of the basic
2 informational needs that we have is to identify the
3 habitat factor and the characteristics of that habitat.
4 The caribou on Unimak -- the vegetation on Unimak is
5 lacking a significant lichen component which has been
6 found to be very important to caribou habitat
7 elsewhere. Therefore we would like to identify what
8 species are the caribou utilizing to make up for this
9 lack of lichen. We would also like to know is there
10 any nutritional component lacking such as a mineral or
11 a even a micronutrient. It's very possible. The
12 animals in our body condition assessment this spring, I
13 didn't see a single animal that I would say was
14 obviously in poor condition. And as I said earlier you
15 would expect that if there was a problem it would be
16 identified in the spring after the long winter. So
17 there wasn't any obvious problem which suggests that if
18 there is a nutritional component affecting the herd it
19 would be a micronutrient of some sort affecting
20 productivity or survival. So we will -- we'll examine
21 the blood samples and continue to assess that
22 situation, but I did not intend to say or suggest that
23 that had been identified as a factor, it was simply
24 something that we are investigating. There are also
25 other possibilities, it could be weather related, such
26 as spring or winter icing conditions that keep the
27 animals from accessing their forage. It could be late
28 spring severe weather events that affect survivorship.
29 So there's quite a few things we're looking at. It
30 could be obviously predation. So we are looking into
31 all of those things.

32
33 Then as for bear surveys -- excuse me,
34 just one moment. The State bear survey is conducted
35 once every five years. And as I understand that's
36 coming up to be done in the next year or so. But I
37 think Megan in King Salmon might be able to address
38 that question better. So I'll turn the time over to
39 Megan if she's still on the line. Megan.

40
41 MS. RILEY: Yeah, I am here. The last
42 survey for brown bears was in 2002 and for Unit 9D they
43 estimated there to be 1,462 brown bears and for Unimak
44 they estimated the brown bear population to be 293
45 brown bears.

46
47 MS. TRUMBLE: Megan, can you repeat --
48 did you say 2002?

49
50 MS. RILEY: Yes, that's correct.

1 MS. TRUMBLE: When -- is there an
2 anticipated date on when that survey will be done
3 again?

4
5 MS. RILEY: I haven't heard, no.
6 Hopefully we would be doing it again sometime soon
7 since 2002 was a while ago, but I haven't been told
8 when that's in the offing.

9
10 MS. TRUMBLE: Okay. And if we find
11 that out I'd appreciate getting some information.

12
13 Chris and Nancy, thanks for the
14 information on the caribou and I'm glad to hear that
15 those efforts are being made. I'm curious, you know,
16 to follow along as we go on what you're finding out.
17 There's, you know, quite a big time, I think, between
18 our meetings so I'd appreciate any information that you
19 do get to be able to have access to it so we can kind
20 of keep -- kind of keep track on this.

21
22 Thank you. And thank you, Megan.

23
24 MS. PETERSON: Thanks, Della.

25
26 MS. HOFFMAN: This is Nancy, may I
27 speak, Mr. Chair?

28
29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Nancy.

30
31 MS. HOFFMAN: I just wanted to clarify
32 back on the Co-Management -- Migratory Bird Co-
33 Management Council, were you asking me to work with
34 them and find out the process if a representative can
35 come to a meeting or how to get a letter to them
36 or.....

37
38 MR. HOLMES: Well, I guess before we'd
39 asked to have whoever was involved in the migratory
40 birds, particularly for emperor geese, to come to our
41 meeting. And then last one they were busy and had to
42 go somewhere else at the last moment and couldn't come,
43 I think that's what you folks reported. And so --
44 well, personally myself and some of the others were
45 hoping someone would be here to field the questions so
46 we don't have to dump everything on you ladies and
47 because it's their turf. And, you know, so it would be
48 nice to find out we can get them to our next meeting so
49 that we can chat some more about emperor geese and find
50 out the -- you know, how we get a subsistence hunt.

1 MS. HOFFMAN: Okay. Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I got a question
4 on the emperor geese. Is that spring three year
5 average used to acquire the fall three year average,
6 the numbers?
7
8 MS. PETERSON: Is the spring three
9 average used to acquire the fall?
10
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes.
12
13 MS. PETERSON: No.
14
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No?
16
17 MS. PETERSON: No, the -- it's.....
18
19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The reason I ask
20 is that the 2005 and 2006 you had a three year average
21 of 81,00 and 82,000 and 2009 and '10 you had 77,000 and
22 72,000. It seems that 2005 and 2006 were smaller
23 numbers and got a bigger average and '9 and '10 were
24 larger numbers with a smaller average.
25
26 MS. PETERSON: Okay. This is Chris
27 from Izembek. The spring or the fall three year
28 average in 2005 was 81,000. So that would be based on
29 the previous years' data which are not shown here. And
30 so for the next couple years that average might be
31 higher based on those counts of those previous three
32 years whereas the current three year averages in 2009,
33 2010 and 2011 would incorporate those lower numbers
34 from 2007, 2008 and 2009. So perhaps there's other
35 years of data that don't show before those averages
36 start popping up there with the higher numbers.
37
38 Does that answer your question, sir?
39
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes.
41
42 MS. PETERSON: Okay. Thank you. But
43 no, it is not -- the fall three year average is not
44 based on the spring three year average, it's a separate
45 number, separate count.
46
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.
48
49 MS. PETERSON: Okay.
50

1 MR. SHELIKOFF: Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Antone.
4
5 MR. SHELIKOFF: Just for the record I
6 do not sit on this Migratory Board Council, they just
7 invited me for -- as a professional courtesy to attend
8 their meetings. And their last meeting was today and
9 it was canceled. That's all -- that's as far as I
10 know. But I just wanted to make that point, I was not
11 on the Council, but was invited as a courtesy.
12
13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Antone.
14 Pat.
15
16 MR. HOLMES: One brief question, I'm a
17 little confused. It's a 80,000 three year average, but
18 it is of the spring and the fall or just the fall or
19 just the spring or combined. I'm confused, what --
20 where's the threshold.
21
22 MS. PETERSON: Okay. Thank you. Yes,
23 the average is -- the spring counts are separate from
24 the fall counts. And so the averages are separate,
25 they're not combined. They don't count a certain
26 number in the spring and then add that number in some
27 way to the fall count, they're completely separate.
28 The birds migrate differently in the spring versus the
29 fall and I believe the spring migration, the birds tend
30 to be more congregated, have a tighter migration cycle
31 and so the spring counts are considered more accurate
32 for the population count as a whole whereas the fall
33 counts it kind of -- it's spread over a longer time
34 frame and so there can be multiple peaks in the
35 migration versus the spring it's more concentrated.
36 Oh, yes, and the fall surveys also include the new
37 recruits into the population. So some of those will
38 undoubtedly not make it to the spring count. So the
39 spring count is more accurate for survival.
40
41 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I assume then
42 it's the three year average of spring counts is where
43 the threshold comes from?
44
45 MS. PETERSON: Yes.
46
47 MR. HOLMES: Thank you.
48
49 MS. PETERSON: Yes.
50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Now is that spring
2 three year average -- I'm sorry. Is that typically a
3 lower number than the fall.....

4
5 MS. PETERSON: It.....

6
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF:average?

8
9 MS. PETERSON: I'm sorry, I didn't mean
10 to interrupt. The -- it kind of varies, it just
11 depends on the year. Some years the spring count will
12 be higher and it's generally considered a better count
13 in the spring, but it can be higher than the fall
14 count. Yeah, like -- if you look at the table in 2008
15 the spring count was less than the fall count and in
16 2009 that shifts the other way and the spring count is
17 actually higher than the fall count.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Yeah. Mr.
20 Koso.

21
22 MR. KOSO: Thank you. Mr. Chair. I
23 got a couple of questions, statements, I guess. First
24 I'll bring up the emperor goose. It just makes
25 everybody a little suspicious that these numbers are so
26 close and yet so far away for a subsistence hunt. And
27 I guess the other question would be do you guys do your
28 surveys just around the Cold Bay, Nelson Lagoon area,
29 or do you do it all the way out the Chain?

30
31 MS. PETERSON: It -- the survey is
32 done.....

33
34 MS. HOFFMAN: It's throughout the
35 Chain.

36
37 MS. PETERSON: Yeah, it's
38 throughout.....

39
40 MS. HOFFMAN: And it's done the same
41 way every year.....

42
43 MS. PETERSON: By the same people.

44
45 MS. HOFFMAN:and the same people
46 have been doing it for years. Chris Dow, I don't know
47 if you remember Chris Dow, he was a biologist here.....

48
49 MR. HOLMES: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

50

1 MS. HOFFMAN:he's a pilot, he
2 flies it, so it's just -- they've done it for years and
3 the majority of the population's only here on the
4 peninsula and the islands. And so they cover
5 everything they know and it's pretty standard.

6
7 MR. KOSO: And on the caribou on
8 Unimak, you know, I guess, when are, you know, your
9 actions going to be too late to retain caribou out
10 there before they become extinct. I mean, we dropped
11 down 50 percent from last year and, you know, how many
12 -- we only had eight bulls on the island last year,
13 what happens if we lose those bulls out of that 50
14 percent decline. So if there's no more bulls you got
15 no more caribou herd left. I mean, it's going to be --
16 it's going to be gone. So when is too late too late I
17 should ask, I guess, on this whole deal before predator
18 control which was in the State's deal is a proven
19 thing?

20
21 MS. PETERSON: Okay. This is Chris
22 from Izembek. Too late is too late when it's too late,
23 that I don't know, I can't address that question. I do
24 know that one of you gentleman yesterday suggested that
25 it's known that caribou cross the straits and come from
26 the island to the peninsula. Someone said that they'd
27 even observed it themselves. So if all the -- first of
28 all there were eight bulls per 100 cows so last year
29 that would indicate there were probably 30 to 35 bulls.
30 Okay.

31
32 MR. KOSO: Okay. I must have misread
33 that. I'm sorry.

34
35 MS. PETERSON: That's okay. I just
36 wanted to clarify it for those on the phone. So
37 there's 30 to 40 bulls out there yesterday, there's
38 going to be less this year. At some point all those
39 bulls will die and will all those cows that are
40 currently alive out there, but productivity you would
41 hope would make up for that. At the current level of
42 productivity it's not making up for that. There have
43 been historically other periods when the numbers
44 crashed with this herd as well as with herds in Alaska.
45 This is exceptionally low. The observations or the
46 formal surveys have not always been conducted on
47 Unimak. So we don't have a contiguous, consistent
48 survey that has taken place year after year after year.
49 Some years it can't take place due to weather. I mean,
50 look outside today, it's obvious if this was a day for

1 a survey even if you made it out there you can't see
2 them. So the survey numbers would be perhaps
3 questionable. You could come up with a number, but how
4 accurate would the number be. So numbers are variable
5 in their accuracy, in the error that's inherent in
6 them. Animals can move from the mainland to the
7 island. So at some point when there aren't enough
8 bulls out there it's always possible bulls will move
9 out there. I don't know, I can't answer that. That's
10 one reason we're trying to do these studies and get the
11 numbers so that we have some -- so that we can say --
12 make these assumptions or make these decisions and
13 judgments.

14
15 I guess that's all I can say. Oh, I
16 did want -- excuse me. I did want to address further,
17 what was it, emperor goose. Somebody asked something
18 about -- they thought it was suspicious that emperor
19 goose numbers are staying so close to the management
20 goal, but not getting to the goal so that the hunt
21 could be opened. And that -- I really feel bad that
22 people would be suspicious about that. It isn't
23 something that professionals who are studying those
24 birds and making those surveys, that is -- their whole
25 goal is to get good counts. The goal of this
26 management is to get that population up to where it can
27 be harvested and that harvest can be sustained. With
28 emperor goose it is unfortunately -- has a great impact
29 when there is an illegal harvest that takes place and
30 it removes a proportion of the population that
31 unfortunately would really add productivity to that
32 population. So that's an unfortunate thing that we
33 would like to see maybe through outreach or some other
34 way, get people to understand that if they could simply
35 not harvest for a few years and let that proportion of
36 the population reach maturity so that it could add to
37 that overall population, it could have a significant
38 impact on the population. It could exceed the
39 population goals, the management goals and then the
40 harvest could be maintained. Emperor goose is a long
41 lived specie so you have birds that are living 20, 30
42 -- I'm not sure what the life span for certain is on
43 emperor goose, but it's several decades. So yes, at
44 this time we still have birds that are surviving that
45 have survived for several decades so the population
46 hits that plateau and says there and the younger birds
47 that could be adding to it are the ones that are being
48 harvested so the population doesn't show a very fast
49 increase. If we could change that situation that would
50 really help.

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. KOSO: On that statement I guess
4 then the reason I said it was suspicious because it's
5 been so many years and I guess if you took that 80,000
6 mark off the table then people wouldn't be looking at
7 it and comparing that we're only 1,500, 2,000 birds
8 away. So, you know, everybody over the course of 50,
9 60 years and we're talking generations almost now,
10 we're just not talking a few years. So people do get
11 suspicious and wonder what's the deal here, you know,
12 so that's why I brought that up. And that was.....

13

14 MS. PETERSON: Thank you. And I
15 understand that.

16

17 MR. KOSO:that was the reason
18 behind that. I guess they look at the comparisons and
19 I imagine if you took that 80,000 off the table then
20 people wouldn't get so suspicious.....

21

22 MS. PETERSON: Yes.

23

24 MR. KOSO:you know.

25

26 MS. PETERSON: That -- possibly. So
27 thank you.

28

29 MS. HOFFMAN: So do.....

30

31 MR. KOSO: And I've got.....

32

33 MS. HOFFMAN:the RAC members, do
34 you have ideas on how to outreach to the communities
35 and share that information of trying to hold people
36 back from illegal harvest of.....

37

38 MR. ROWLAND: I do.

39

40 MS. HOFFMAN:how to really help
41 get that word out because it really -- it really can
42 make a difference and make a difference fast.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rick.

45

46 MR. ROWLAND: Yeah, thank you for
47 answering that question. I have an idea, it would be
48 to allow 10 birds to be taken per year for community.
49 And that way the whole community would be invested in
50 making sure that the elders who are receiving those

1 birds in that community are the only people getting
2 those birds because currently there are people that are
3 harvesting those emperor geese and they're not giving
4 them to the elders. And so by implementing a program
5 that will allow for the harvest to become realistic
6 then it would be able to be monitored and shared within
7 the community and the community will assist with making
8 sure that appropriate procedures are followed.

9

10 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Oh, yeah. Pat,
13 then you, Rick.

14

15 MR. KOSO: Okay.

16

17 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, that was the basic
18 idea behind our request for a subsistence hunt for
19 elders and the communities in our area. And speaking
20 for the old geezers who are around, a lot of folks of
21 my generation, my friends that are Alutiiq and Anogon
22 (ph), when marine mammals came about and, you know,
23 they were allowed to hunt otters, a lot of them were
24 really reluctant to do that because, you know, they had
25 been trying to, you know, make sure that the
26 populations were rebuilt. I know a lot of them are --
27 when changes come or things like emperors, at least the
28 folks I've met in our region they -- the old timers if
29 there's a conservation goal then they're trying to make
30 it. And regardless of the critters and, you know, they
31 really do have a fair influence particularly in the
32 rural communities. And I think that Rick is spot on
33 that if we had something like that, particularly where
34 you're showing respect to them and for them to have
35 just a harvest of a few critters that that's really
36 important. And just like our discussions, hope you're
37 listening, Bill, on Larsen Bay on Kodiak Island, the
38 old timers there, you know, to me it's more important
39 for them to have a few ducks, sea ducks for their soup
40 than it is for somebody flying in from German for
41 trophy hunting. And so by supporting those folks then
42 you get, you know, a vested interested in conservation.
43 So I -- you're right on it, Rick.

44

45 MR. CRATTY: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
46 speak on the -- Pat and Rick too. On the Canadian
47 honkers, they showed up in Old Harbor and they're in
48 small numbers, now there's big numbers. We worked it
49 out with the State Fish and Game and the Feds to where
50 we could have a hunt now. And I eat one a year and the

1 people were really taking them illegal too. But this
2 worked it out and it seemed like there's fewer numbers
3 being eaten now. I mean, the people can get them
4 anytime they want, there's lots of birds. And, you
5 know, it just -- it seemed to work, you know. I say
6 make it a legal beagles or whatever, you know, it just
7 -- you know it worked for us and the elders got to eat
8 them and they're there, I mean, they're plentiful.

9

10 MS. PETERSON: Okay. Well, thank you
11 for those ideas.

12

13 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Koso.

16

17 MR. KOSO: Yeah. Mr. Chair. You know,
18 on -- I don't know how you do your survey out west
19 because I know Crystal don't fly out in the mountains
20 there and do his count on birds there out around Adak,
21 Atika, does he or even farther?

22

23 MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah, they go down all
24 the -- I can show you a map, but they cover a large
25 expanse.

26

27 MR. KOSO: They do, huh?

28

29 MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah.

30

31 MR. KOSO: So you guys do keep in.....

32

33 MS. HOFFMAN: All the lagoons --
34 lagoons and bays where they have traditionally been and
35 people are telling -- you know, the type of locals if
36 they have season over there, they will go out of their
37 way, but they -- typically they've been doing it for so
38 long they know where -- they have a high -- these birds
39 go back to the similar bays and lagoons year after
40 year, so they have a real good idea.

41

42 MR. KOSO: Okay. I'll get off of the
43 duck stuff. Now I got another question if it's okay on
44 the caribou.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.

47

48 MR. KOSO: Maybe we could move a little
49 farther west if you don't mind to Adak. And on Adak
50 caribou there's been a little bit of discrepancy in my

1 mind and a lot of elder peoples' mind as far as the
2 hunt goes. I know you guys coordinate it with the
3 State and who actually controls, you know, like the
4 population status and does the count, is it the State
5 or is it the Feds or is a combination of the two?
6

7 MS. HOFFMAN: I'd have to defer to the
8 State because Alaska Maritime Refuge, it's their land,
9 so I defer to the State to answer that question.
10

11 MR. KOSO: Okay.
12

13 MS. HOFFMAN: Like Megan or.....
14

15 MR. KOSO: So as far as the regulation
16 here on Adak, I know the -- a couple years ago the
17 guides or head hunters, whatever they're call, put in a
18 deal so they can -- you know, you can't shoot bulls at
19 a certain of the year. So, I mean, you can two from,
20 what is it, January to August 9th, you can only two
21 bulls and one after that. But the rest of the caribou
22 there, you know, the last study I think has been in
23 2004. I know in '90 or '98 there was one done and then
24 I think 2004 there was another one done. And we -- and
25 the 2004 we counted 2,700 and X amount of caribou. I
26 took part in that survey with them. And we never had a
27 survey since then that I -- that I'm aware of. And I
28 was thinking if there's a possibility that we could do
29 another survey, we've been getting a lot of hunters to
30 the island, I don't know, it's probably just enough to
31 maintain them. So I don't know where they -- where
32 they would stand right now. I know I hadn't seen very
33 many on the north side -- half of the island. I would
34 say 90 percent of them are on the south side of the
35 island.
36

37 And another deal was -- a question I
38 had was on tags. There's been a lot of question on
39 tags, do I need a tag or do I not need a tag. I know
40 in the regulations it doesn't say anything about having
41 to have tags. And I know there were people picking up
42 tags and talking about having tags when they do their
43 harvest out there. If that's the case do you guys get
44 a copy of that and you -- do you have a record of how
45 many people are actually killing them caribou and how
46 many caribou's actually being killed?
47

48 MS. HOFFMAN: Again I would refer if
49 Megan's online, the State would keep those records.
50

1 MS. RILEY: Hi. This is Megan. And
2 you're right, we -- there hasn't been a survey out
3 there to count caribou since I believe it was in 2000
4 -- the one that you took part in in 2004 when they
5 estimated about 2,700 caribou and that was done with
6 the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Alaska Maritime
7 Refuge. We don't have the funds unfortunately to get
8 out to Adak and do surveys on that herd ourselves, but
9 we do have for the State hunt people are required to
10 get that caribou harvest ticket to harvest caribou out
11 there. So we do have a data base where we keep track
12 of how many people report back on those harvest tickets
13 to track the harvest on Adak. And I believe the
14 harvest has stayed pretty stable over the last five or
15 so years. And I could pull those -- I could pull up
16 the numbers for you if you'd like to look at how many
17 were harvested in 2010 if you want to just stay on the
18 line and I can look that up quickly.

19
20 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I'd really appreciate
21 that. And the reason I worry about it is, you know, I
22 know the Feds were worried a little bit about too many
23 caribou and I'm a little worried about too little
24 caribou. So I think we need to if at all possible to
25 try to get a handle on it before it gets out of control
26 one way or another. So that's the only reason I would
27 like to see maybe some kind of a control. I know -- I
28 don't know if you're -- because they're hunting on the
29 Federal lands and stuff, I know the State -- you said
30 you don't have nothing to do with them out there, so, I
31 mean, how do you guys patrol it or do you -- do you
32 guys do anything to enforce that?

33
34 MS. RILEY: You know, that's sort of --
35 the State Wildlife Troopers are the ones who patrol and
36 look after who's hunting and who might be poaching.
37 And, of course, out on the Refuge lands presumably the
38 Alaska Maritime Refuge would have their own law
39 enforcement out patrolling to look at caribou harvest.
40 But as I said unfortunately my office, the biologist
41 side of things, we don't have money to go out to Adak
42 to do surveys so we rely on the reports we get back
43 from hunters and those harvest ticket and track the
44 harvest. And that's sort of the only tool we have in
45 our toolbox presently.

46
47 MR. KOSO: All right. Thank you. If I
48 could get that information from you, I mean, you could
49 mail it or send it or email or whatever. And if I
50 could get a copy of some of that stuff I'd appreciate

1 it. So maybe we could get a handle on this.
2
3 MS. RILEY: Sure. If somebody could --
4 Chris, I don't know if you could get his email for me
5 and pass it along and then I can send him the data.
6
7 MS. PETERSON: Okay. That would be
8 fine. I'll do that, Megan. Thank you.
9
10 MS. RILEY: Okay. Thanks.
11
12 MS. PETERSON: So is there a copy of
13 everybody's email addresses available from this meeting
14 or.....
15
16 MS. HOFFMAN: We'll get it from Cole.
17
18 MS. PETERSON: We'll get it from Cole.
19 Okay. That would be great. Thank you.
20
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
22 questions?
23
24 (No comment)
25
26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I had one question
27 that is the subsistence of emperor geese is that closed
28 or is it illegal?
29
30 MS. PETERSON: It is closed so it is
31 illegal to harvest emperor geese right now for both
32 subsistence and State.....
33
34 MS. HOFFMAN: Until that numbers
35 reached.
36
37 MS. PETERSON:until -- yes, until
38 the Pacific Flyway management goal of 80,000 is
39 reached. At that time as the plan is written the hunt
40 -- the harvest could be reopened. And I'm guessing it
41 would be reopened for subsistence first and then
42 possibly for State, but that determination would be
43 made at that time. But yes, currently the hunt -- all
44 hunting -- harvest is closed on emperor goose.
45
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you.
47
48 MS. PETERSON: Uh-huh.
49
50 MS. HOFFMAN: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
2 questions?

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: There's none.
7 Thank you very much. Appreciated.....

8
9 MS. PETERSON: Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF:your report.
12 Next Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. It says staff,
13 who's.....

14
15 MR. COBB: Good morning. This is
16 McCrea Cobb with the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge,
17 I'll be giving the activity report for April to
18 September 3 of 2011. Can everyone hear me?

19
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes.

21
22 MR. COBB: Well, I -- I'll direct you
23 to our report on Page 131 of your handout. And
24 hopefully everyone had a chance to look it over so I'll
25 just be covering that in less detail.

26
27 Fisheries data that we present was
28 provided by the ADF&G. Overall in the Kodiak
29 Management Area salmon run strength was rated between
30 poor and medium. The poor run strength was mainly the
31 west side, specifically in the Karluk river sockeye
32 salmon run. In the Karluk River drainage this year we
33 did not meet the escapement goal, however it should be
34 noted that the escapement this year was higher than
35 the past four years.

36
37 In the northern area of the Kodiak
38 Management Area they had very strong runs throughout
39 the fishing season. The Buskin River sockeye
40 escapement goal was exceeded and as of yesterday
41 sockeye escapement on the Buskin is approaching 12,000
42 fish. Sockeye salmon run within the Afognak Bay,
43 Litnik area, was also strong. And as of yesterday it
44 was approaching 50,000 fish. And as a reflection of
45 these strong sockeye salmon runs on both the Buskin and
46 Litnik systems, residents of Kodiak, Ouzinkie and Port
47 Lions reported a very high catch per unit effort.

48
49 Within the southern area of the Kodiak
50 Management Area, medium run strength were reported and

1 a number of villagers from Akhiok experienced low catch
2 per unit effort. As the season progressed the
3 residents moved from areas around the village, the
4 areas within Olga Bay and by the end of the season
5 users did meet subsistence needs for sockeye salmon as
6 reported.

7
8 Three major species under Federal
9 subsistence permits issued are deer, bear and elk on
10 Kodiak. And direct you to Table 1 on Page 132 to look
11 at the number of animals harvested and the number of
12 permits issued from 2005 to this year. Just to
13 summarize, this past year we issued 49 permits for
14 subsistence -- Federal subsistence and 36 animals were
15 harvested. This compares to a high of 81 in 2008/2009
16 and a low of 47 in 2009/2010 for number of permits
17 issued. One elk was harvested this year which is the
18 first time in -- since I believe it was initiated that
19 an elk has been harvested under subsistence other than
20 one other.

21
22 I'll move on to brown bears. This past
23 reporting season we successfully concluded a survey of
24 the bear population in an area between Terror and
25 Kizhuyak Bay. The survey revealed that the bear
26 population has not changed significantly since the
27 previous surveys in 1987 and 1997. We also attempted
28 to conduct this same survey in the Karluk region which
29 was a repeat of the previous year's survey to check
30 those numbers that we had gotten, however the weather
31 did not cooperate for that survey and the plant
32 fernology was too high, that we had too much growth so
33 it was -- we were unable to complete that survey this
34 year. We're going to be attempting to survey the
35 Karluk area again next year.

36
37 We also conducted surveys of bear
38 composition between early July and mid August, termed
39 stream surveys, the results from those are pending, our
40 bear biologist, Bill Leacock, is still in the field and
41 will be providing those results when he returns.

42
43 The research we've been conduct -- we
44 conducted a second year of field work a study looking
45 at bear movement and resource in the Upper Karluk River
46 Basin, it was a collaborative study between the Refuge,
47 University of Idaho and ADF&G to improve bear
48 management capacity by increasing understanding of how
49 bear movement and cub survival is influenced by
50 variations in the environmental conditions and

1 availability of seasonal food resources mainly salmon
2 and berries.

3

4 Mr. Chair. We collared 12 additional
5 sow brown bears to maintain our sample with at least 20
6 GPS collared females. And field crews, a seasonal
7 technician and a team of volunteers and our bear
8 biologists have been monitoring those bears since May.
9 We've been getting weekly downloads from those collars
10 and we continue to -- we'll be continuing to do that
11 through October.

12

13 Preliminary results indicate that
14 single bears range extensively while females are more
15 sedentary during the summer.

16

17 We hope to have that data more
18 available to the public as requested in the last
19 meeting, however our bear biologist has been in the
20 field basically since our last meeting and has not a
21 chance to work on that as of yet.

22

23 This year's harvest of Sitka deer meets
24 -- results from the 2010, 2011 harvest reports that's a
25 cooperative effort between AF&G and the Refuge
26 indicated that 41 percent of the deer harvested on
27 Kodiak or Archipelago were taken on Refuge land. This
28 is consistent with the previous four year average.

29

30 Over the longer term deer harvests have
31 declined quite a bit as you can see from Figure 2 which
32 are likely a reflection of changes in deer population
33 size although we need to do additional research to
34 quantify deer abundance and distribution. But you also
35 notice that within the last four years harvests have
36 increased slightly.

37

38 This winter we conducted a winter
39 mortality survey on deer which has been a long term
40 study again in conjunction with ADF&G with involved
41 surveying for deer carcasses in late April and early
42 May in Chief Cove, Sitkalidak Strait and Olga Bay
43 regions of Kodiak. The results from the deer mortality
44 survey this year indicate that winter deer mortality on
45 Kodiak was average to low on this winter and most of
46 the mortality was -- were minimal.

47

48 The Refuge work in conjunction with --
49 assisted ADF&G in capturing and collaring 14 adult
50 female elk with VHF radio telemetry collars. ADF&G is

1 using the data from those collars to locate herd
2 locations and assist with their population estimates.
3 Currently the last year -- the last population estimate
4 which was 2010 was 610 elk. And they should be coming
5 out soon with the most recent updates.
6

7 And recently in 2010 the -- their were
8 concerns over perceived decline in Kodiak's reindeer
9 abundance. And that prompted the Alaska Board of Game
10 to reinstate a ban on same day airborne hunts for
11 Federal reindeer and also restrict harvest potential by
12 instating a six month hunting season and limiting take
13 to one reindeer per hunter. The Refuge is concerned
14 about central affect of these changes also leading to
15 increases in reindeer abundance and for that reason we
16 have started to monitor -- annually monitor reindeer
17 abundances in Kodiak. This summer was the first summer
18 that we've done this and the results from this survey
19 indicated that there's -- we counted 315 feral reindeer
20 which was consistent with other recent counts this
21 summer of -- ranging from about 335 to 350 reindeer.
22 So the estimate for number of reindeer on Kodiak is
23 probably in the range of about 340 to 360 or so.
24

25 This summer we conducted a
26 comprehensive survey of mountain goat abundances on
27 Kodiak and again in cooperation we ADF&G there was an
28 island wide survey of mountain goat. We now estimate
29 the current population of mountain goats to be between
30 2,400 and 2.600 goats.
31

32 In addition we prepared a research
33 proposal on mountain goats in response to concerns
34 about a seemingly high and possibly excessive mountain
35 goat population particularly on the south end of the
36 island and its potential to impact Refuge habitat
37 resources. There are two goals of this study, one is
38 to evaluate habitat preferences of nanny goats and
39 second is to improve the efficiency and accuracy of our
40 population estimates. Now that the population is
41 getting so large it's getting more difficult and costly
42 to do these estimates island wide. So we're hoping to
43 cooperate with partners to pay for the resources that
44 will be required to cover this study.
45

46 This summer we conducted a pilot study
47 as a part of this research plan and between June and
48 mid August we were in the field for approximately 50
49 days collecting data on terrain and vegetation at three
50 different areas on Kodiak, Hepburn Peninsula, western

1 Uyak Bay and the Crown Mountain vicinity. Here in
2 summer we collected a total of 77 or sampled a total of
3 77 sites used by mountain goats which consisted
4 primarily of nursery bands and then we also sampled
5 about 200 other random sites that will be comparing the
6 vegetation and habitat quality between the two. We
7 also collected approximately 200 pellet samples and
8 sent some of those samples to Washington State
9 University where they'll be analyzing them for
10 composition.

11
12 We also assisted the Fish and
13 Wildlife's Marine Mammals Management Division and
14 conducted a survey of diet composition by collecting
15 samples of otter prey species, including clams and
16 cockles and sent those specimens to a lab in Anchorage
17 where they'll -- they're working to establish data on
18 sea otter prey. We haven't gotten the results from the
19 study, but we'll be passing them on when we do.

20
21 We planned to survey a portion of the
22 island for sea otters this summer, however a survey was
23 not conducted. So aerial survey methodology still
24 needs revision, but when that does occur we'll be --
25 hope to conduct those surveys. The main idea then
26 would be divide Kodiak into three subregions, survey
27 each region for a year and then do a rotation annually
28 among regions. And this would allow us to survey more
29 manageably sized areas and reduce flight time and
30 survey costs annually.

31
32 We've been assisting also the marine
33 mammal marking and tagging program. Tonya Lee and
34 myself are taggers along with eight others in outlying
35 villages and communities -- I'm sorry, 15 others in
36 outlying communities. During this reporting period
37 Tonya and I tagged 27 sea otter hides and skulls and
38 one walrus skull.

39
40 Unfortunately our refuge ornithologist
41 has been in the field most of the summer and so she
42 hasn't been able to do her report for this reporting
43 period and she is still unavailable, but we will be
44 getting information about birds, migratory bird
45 management to you as soon as she returns.

46
47 We've also been doing village outreach
48 and there's three different portions of that, the
49 Refuge boat traveled to Port Lions and conducted a
50 traveling visitor's center which is a partnership with

1 the Coast Guard Auxiliary. And during that time 35
2 residents of Port Lions stopped by to see the
3 attraction and learn about the Refuge and our research
4 and nature and whatnot.

5
6 We also supported Old Harbor's Bear
7 Fence Tribal Wildlife grant. We participated in their
8 4th of July celebration. We cooperated with the Old
9 Harbor Tribal Council that decorated a bear aware
10 parade float and created an activity booth and table to
11 increase bear awareness and education in their
12 community.

13
14 And finally we also assisted with the
15 Dig Afognak program and for this effort Refuge staff
16 worked cooperatively with the Native Village of Afognak
17 to provide curriculum covering the dangers of marine
18 debris in their summer camp and learned -- they also
19 learned about the impact of marine debris, the problems
20 it brings to wildlife and seabirds. It was targeted
21 towards children age 9 to 11.

22
23 We completed our fifth newsletter and
24 it will -- sorry, we will be completing our fifth
25 newsletter and it will be available this fall which
26 provides information and outreach to villages and
27 remote residents near the Refuge and on the Refuge.
28 Copies will be available by mail or at the Kodiak
29 Visitor's Center downtown in Kodiak. And if you want
30 more information on that please contact Tonya Lee.

31
32 That concludes the activity report for
33 Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Bill
36 [sic]. Are there any questions?

37
38 MR. ROWLAND: I do.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rick Rowland.

41
42 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair.

43
44 MR. ROWLAND: Thank you for that,
45 report Bill [sic]. I got a couple questions. One of
46 them relates to the term that this -- that's considered
47 the Kodiak Road System Management Area. And I noticed
48 in your regulations of harvest of wildlife on Federal
49 public lands you don't designate the Kodiak Road System
50 Management Area; is that correct?

1 MR. SUNDSETH: Hello, this Kent
2 Sundseth from Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. It's
3 really difficult to hear the question, I think I heard
4 you say something about the road system on Kodiak
5 Island. If we could get you closer to the microphone
6 so we could really the question that would really help.

7
8 MR. ROWLAND: Yeah. How about now, can
9 you hear me now?

10
11 MR. SUNDSETH: Okay. Yeah, once it
12 stops shuffling I think we'll be able to hear you a
13 little better.

14
15 MR. ROWLAND: Okay. So I noticed in
16 your 2010 through 2012 Harvest of Wildlife on Federal
17 Public Lands booklet that you published you do not have
18 Kodiak Road System Management Area recognized in your
19 area eight, is that correct?

20
21 MR. SUNDSETH: Yes, well the road
22 system is not part of the Refuge so it's not Federal
23 land so we -- yeah, I'm not sure which report -- it
24 still isn't clear which report you're indicating, but
25 that is not Refuge lands. Does that help you with your
26 question?

27
28 MR. ROWLAND: Yes, it does. It does.
29 And then so I noticed that on your handout you have
30 Bureau of Land Management land in that subsistence
31 harvest of wildlife. Now how is that Bureau of Land
32 Management land managed under the Kodiak Road System
33 Management Area?

34
35 MR. SUNDSETH: Well, that's a good
36 question, I might defer that to Jerry Berg if he's
37 still on the line.

38
39 MR. BERG: Yeah, I think -- yeah, I do
40 see that on the map there, Rick, and, you know, I'm not
41 exactly sure how -- if that is actually BLM land. I'd
42 have to double check on that, but certainly if it is
43 BLM land then it would be subject to the Federal
44 subsistence regulations. And yeah, it's -- I'll have
45 to double check on that and get back to you Rick, on
46 exactly the status of those lands.

47
48 MR. ROWLAND: Okay. I'd be interested
49 to know that. Also -- I'd also like to say that when
50 this Kodiak Road System Management Area came up by the

1 State of Alaska there were a lot of frustrated elders
2 there because they wanted me to mention at this
3 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting that the
4 term road system in oral hunting traditional stories
5 was never used. So it wasn't until recently that we've
6 had to start dealing with the term road system and it's
7 creating a -- some sorts of burdens on our elders and
8 it's kind of frustrating to them. So I'd just like to
9 mention that.

10

11 Also my other question is in your
12 report you mention feral reindeer and what I'm
13 wondering how you came about defining those herds on
14 Kodiak Island as feral reindeer?

15

16 MR. COBB: This is McCrea Cobb,
17 wildlife biologist. Well, that -- we term them feral
18 reindeer because they were introduced in 1921 to Kodiak
19 and granted to native peoples by the Department of
20 Interior and they were actively managed for quite
21 sometime until the '60s when they were declared feral.
22 And so both the Refuge -- the Refuge considers them
23 feral reindeer and if you also notice in the State regs
24 they call them caribou and then in parenthesis feral
25 reindeer.

26

27 MR. ROWLAND: Okay. So I understand
28 where you got your information and also are you
29 familiar with the Alaska Reindeer Act?

30

31 MR. SUNDSETH: Hello, Rick. You're
32 talking about the Reindeer Act of 1937?

33

34 MR. ROWLAND: So I'm asking if you're
35 familiar about the Reindeer Act.

36

37 MR. SUNDSETH: Yes.

38

39 MR. ROWLAND: Okay. So in the Reindeer
40 Act there's a definition of a difference between
41 caribou and reindeer. Are you guys basing your
42 decisions off of what is stated in the Reindeer Act or
43 some other way?

44

45 MR. SUNDSETH: Well, is -- your
46 decision regarding whether the reindeer were feral or
47 whether they were still, you know, about husbandry, is
48 that what you're talking about?

49

50 MR. ROWLAND: I'm asking you how you

1 decided that they were feral, are you basing your
2 decision off of the Reindeer Act or some other way?

3

4 MR. SUNDSETH: Well, there was a
5 process that was followed to determine that the
6 reindeer were feral. I don't have all the details in
7 front of me now, but there was a determination made
8 following a process. And I -- you know, this has
9 occurred throughout the State in a number of different
10 areas. And I don't have all the details in front of me
11 on this one, but, you know, if you remember some of the
12 history on that herd, there was a fire that destroyed,
13 you know, a big piece of the reindeer range and a
14 number of reindeer escaped into the wild. And so
15 active management of the herd ended in the early 1960s
16 and they were allowed -- you know, they were -- they
17 were simply running free. There were no longer leases
18 that were let for this -- for the reindeer grazing on
19 Federal lands, those expired in 1964. And so, you
20 know, after that point when the leases were no longer
21 current the State of Alaska declared the reindeer to be
22 feral and established an open season on them.

23

24 MR. ROWLAND: Well, the reason why I'm
25 asking is because I have individuals from our area,
26 they're coming back and saying that they were never
27 justly compensated for those reindeer that were pushed
28 away from their community and care that was entrusted
29 to them by the Federal government under the Alaska
30 Reindeer Act. They're saying that those reindeer are
31 still theirs. So.....

32

33 MR. SUNDSETH: Well, yeah, I've heard
34 something about that too, Rick. That's right I
35 remember hearing something about that. There's been --
36 like I say there's a whole process where if -- and
37 again this happened, you know, a long time ago, 50
38 years ago is when this determination was made. And so
39 really I think when you have issues related to the
40 Reindeer Act and ownership of an actual reindeer herd,
41 that issue belongs to the BIA, they're the folks that make
42 determinations on ownership and worked out these issues
43 with folks out on the Aleutians with reindeer herds out
44 there as well. And so that's the agency you want to
45 engage when you're particularly interested on ownership
46 of reindeer. Okay?

47

48 MR. ROWLAND: Okay. That makes a lot
49 of sense. I appreciate that.

50

1 MR. SUNDSETH: Absolutely.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
4 questions for Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge.

5

6 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Della.

9

10 MS. TRUMBLE: This is Della. I just
11 want to make the comment in regard to the Kodiak Refuge
12 report. I very much appreciate all the information's
13 that's given, the outreach that it's apparent they do
14 with the communities. And sitting back on a conference
15 call and listening and, of course, knowing what Kodiak
16 is about and the surrounding areas, it's a very clear
17 and thorough report. And I think I very much
18 appreciate and I guess I'm hopeful I think with Izembek
19 I know there's been studies and things done during the
20 course of the summer and this past year, but they're
21 not part of this report and I'm hopeful that we can
22 working a lot better on outreach and relationships with
23 the communities that comes from that. And I will talk
24 with the Council about this at a later date.

25

26 But, thank you. In think we really
27 appreciate the report.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you for
30 that, Della. Pat, do you have a question?

31

32 MR. HOLMES: Yes. Mr. Chairman. Pat
33 Holmes. I'd like to echo Della's comments on your
34 outreach program and -- as I do a few things in similar
35 areas and used to do that before I left the department.
36 And I would like to also relate to you, Bill, and you
37 folks, earlier in our meeting when we were talking
38 about the -- I'm sorry, Rick's gone, the -- your
39 program of outreach and conferencing with the tribes.
40 I received comments when I went up there to Afognak
41 from the folks there with the Native Village of Afognak
42 appreciating your efforts. But one of the things that
43 came up over and over on increased communications was
44 Tonya Lee's role in calling folks in Kodiak and letting
45 them know when different things were coming up that
46 were important. And one of the ladies said that she's
47 basically overwhelmed and spends a good part of her
48 morning just looking at communications to her from
49 different government agencies and she thought that
50 Tonya's personal call saying this is something you'd be

1 interested in was really, really good. And it's neat
2 to see Tonya doing some many things. And I know
3 myself, knowing her since she was a little girl, how
4 integrated she is with our community.

5
6 I might suggest that on your outreach
7 program when you're going out to do these different
8 projects in the villages that you might also want to
9 expand and think about -- we had a little report on an
10 intern program that Fish and Game has with the local
11 high school, but you might want to be letting the young
12 folks know in the villages about your -- use that as a
13 means for recruiting interns and, you know, advising
14 them on how they can get onto the Federal Registers for
15 technician jobs and things like that. Because I can
16 see in the not too far distant future, you know, it's
17 been going on up in Bristol Bay and Western Alaska and
18 the Interior for quite a while where our Kodiak
19 villages and in Kodiak itself could be a source of
20 really good folks for you because frankly the young
21 people, particularly young natives that worked for me
22 when I was with the department, know about Kodiak and
23 they don't get off the plane as a volunteer from
24 Pennsylvania and go oh, my god and get back on the
25 plane. So that's, I think, a valuable connection for
26 you, for all the Refuges, and, you know, Nance, you
27 know, I think that's what Della was talking about
28 because then you get people on your staff that know
29 folks and help with your communications all the way
30 around.

31
32 I have one comment at the start of your
33 report. I believe that all of the salmon work on the
34 island is done by the Alaska Department of Fish and
35 Game. So that probably should be footnoted just like
36 you note your cooperative work on bears with Larry
37 VanDaele and it's just sort of a little comment there.

38
39 And let's see, I had another point.
40 Anyway I think you folks are really doing a lot better
41 on your reports and thank you very much.

42
43 MR. SUNDSETH: Hello, Kent Sundseth
44 from Kodiak Refuge. Just wanted to say thank you to
45 Pat for your comments there and yes, Tonya Lee does a
46 great job for us with outreach in the communities and
47 local folks. And you're absolutely right that it's
48 good to let local folks in the neighboring communities
49 know about opportunities for our Refuge and just want
50 to point out real quick that the last two years we've

1 hired a young lady from Point Lyons, Lacey Squartsoff,
2 who's helped us as our leader for our youth
3 conservation corps here at Kodiak Refuge and has done a
4 really good job for us. And we'll look for
5 opportunities like that in the future.

6

7 Thanks for your comments, Pat.

8

9 MR. KOSO: I just wanted to say, Kent,
10 if you're still there we kind of miss you in Adak once
11 in a while so if you get a chance come on by again.

12

13 MR. SUNDSETH: Yeah. Thanks, Rick.
14 Always good to hear what's going on out there, good to
15 hear your voice.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
20 questions for Kodiak?

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing none,
25 thank you very much, Bill and Kent for your report. We
26 appreciate it.

27

28 MR. SUNDSETH: Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: That brings us to --
31 why don't we take a short break before we get into the
32 next item.

33

34 MR. KOSO: What is the next item?

35

36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: About 10 minutes.

37

38 MR. KOSO: Minutes of the last meeting,
39 no.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We still have
42 other items that we added on yesterday.

43

44 MR. KOSO: Okay. That sounds good.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Take a break.

47

48 (Off record)

49

50 (On record)

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We have the
2 Department of Fish and Game.

3
4 MS. YUHAS: Thank you. Mr. Chairman
5 and the members of the Council. For the record my name
6 is Jennifer Yuhas. And I haven't met most of these
7 Council members before, this is my first
8 Kodiak/Aleutians RAC Committee meeting. I've met your
9 Chairman at the Federal Subsistence Board. But for
10 those who don't know me, I am the State Federal
11 Subsistence Liaison Team Leader and that's a title they
12 told me I can't shorten. But basically I work with
13 George Pappas, he's one of the two liaison positions in
14 our office, one for fish, one for wildlife. We have a
15 vacant wildlife position right now, we have out for
16 hire so that George can have a counterpart. He's been
17 backfilling the wildlife liaison's position while
18 that's been vacant. And I have Megan Riley who you
19 heard from previously during the meeting to answer any
20 of the technical questions related to the areas here.
21 But our liaison office coordinates most the data
22 requests, the information sharing and processes all of
23 the proposal comments, the 93 that will be before the
24 Federal Subsistence Board this coming January. And we
25 pretty much function as the main conduit for
26 information between the Department and the Office of
27 Subsistence Management.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: That's it?

30
31 MS. YUHAS: If you have specific
32 questions that you've been posing, biological questions
33 to the Refuge and the Federal staff, I have Megan
34 online to assist with those and I'm here to assist with
35 any of the follow-up questions for the proposals.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Kodiak.....

38
39 MR. KOSO: Okay. Yeah, Megan, I got --
40 or, Megan, excuse me. I got one question on the tags
41 for the caribou in Adak. Is there a place that in Adak
42 you can pick them up, I -- if there is I don't know
43 about it.

44
45 MS. YUHAS: And I'm going to defer that
46 question to our staff.

47
48 MS. RILEY: As far as I know, I've
49 never been to Adak so I'm not sure, I think if you have
50 any license vendors in town there, generally people who

1 sell hunting licenses tend to have those harvest
2 tickets available as well. But another option is those
3 harvest tickets are available online on our Fish and
4 Game website. If you just go to the hunting page
5 there's a button you hit click to get hunting permits
6 and harvest tickets. And you just go through the
7 process online and we even print out permits possibly
8 the harvest tickets, and then you can't print out the
9 harvest tickets, they would get mailed to you from
10 Juneau.

11
12 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I guess, just the
13 logistics that bothers me for Adak. I mean, if there's
14 somebody flies into Adak and if they got to get mailed
15 out, we only get two flights a week so he's kind of
16 shot down as far as getting tags. And a lot of them in
17 Adak don't have the internet system, you know,
18 available, it's quite expensive to do that. So there's
19 a lot of people including myself that don't have
20 internet in Adak. So, you know, it is a problem on
21 that case. If there's -- and there isn't any vendors
22 that I know of in Adak that, you know, you could go
23 down and pick something up. The only real station
24 people is the Fish and Wildlife Service, Elisa is the
25 only person I know that hangs out in Adak that we
26 could physically go down and talk to as far as wildlife
27 stuff, but they don't have any of the tags that -- at
28 least I don't -- I understand they don't have any State
29 tags for that. So it's a real problem in Adak for
30 people coming there.

31
32 MS. YUHAS: Mr. Chairman to member
33 Koso.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, go ahead.

36
37 MS. YUHAS: I made a few notes when you
38 were talking about that earlier this morning and just
39 made a personal note to myself to get with our field
40 staff and see if there's something we could do for
41 outreach. I mean, we don't have to do a mail out to
42 every single person in the area, but maybe we could,
43 you know, send a public notice that the season's coming
44 up and this is how you get your tickets and make sure
45 that they know how they could write to us so they could
46 get them in time. And I'd like to be able to work with
47 our field staff on how we could do a little better
48 outreach for you.

49
50 MR. KOSO: Yeah, their -- the thing is

1 that the only entity I know, we don't have any tribal
2 or corporations there, we just have a city, I think
3 maybe if you can send stuff to the city of Adak, you
4 know, there everybody can stop down to the city office
5 and pick up, you know, the tags and stuff there. That
6 would probably be the -- in my mind would be the most
7 convenient and sensible place to do it because there
8 isn't any vendors that I'm aware of there -- that isn't
9 any other spots there outside the post office that
10 people really know about. So that's what I would
11 recommend if you could send tags to the city's office
12 so people could pick them up.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Other questions?
15 Pat.

16

17 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. The topic
18 of the Adak tags and information, we had earlier
19 decided to put together a draft letter and Rick and I
20 worked on that, but I think if Rick's communicated with
21 Jennifer then perhaps we don't need to do that letter.
22 What do you think, Rick?

23

24 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I don't think it's
25 necessary.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: So -- Rowland.

28

29 MR. ROWLAND: Hi. Rick Rowland. I'd
30 like to say that in Kodiak recently we had long term
31 discussions with the Federal Aviation Administration
32 and it was related to an environmental impact study.
33 And we were having a hard time getting them to listen
34 to us as tribal members and members of the community
35 and as the information got out we were able to have
36 gatherings together with community members, tribal
37 members and then Alaska Department of Fish and Game
38 from the Kodiak area participated. And at one point we
39 still weren't being listened to until it was mentioned
40 that some of the biologists that are working in the
41 Kodiak area are the best in the world, that's why
42 they're there. And so I'd like to say that it's
43 greatly appreciated that Alaska Department of Fish and
44 Game is there doing a great job for the community
45 members, State of Alaska and the wildlife, and I want
46 to note that because of their expertise it clearly made
47 the Federal Aviation Administration realize that there
48 is information in Kodiak area that's important to all
49 that participate in the wildlife and the fish.

50

1 So I wanted to say thank you for that.
2 And I'm really happy to hear that there's a program in
3 place to where State of Alaska is working with the
4 Federal agencies to ensure that there are wildlife and
5 fish and populations that are sustained for subsistence
6 uses going into the future.

7
8 Thank you very much.

9
10 MS. YUHAS: Mr. Chairman to member
11 Rowland. Thank you for the compliments and from the
12 department we certainly appreciate the support that
13 this particular RAC has given us, you know, for our
14 management strategies including predator management,
15 understanding how that science works and what the
16 department's goals are for trying to re-institute some
17 subsistence in some of the areas we've been talking
18 about. And we certainly appreciate the support that
19 this RAC has been giving verbally over the last couple
20 of days to the department and the many mentions of
21 coordination at the local level.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Other
24 questions?

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you
29 very much. I appreciate it.

30
31 MS. YUHAS: Thank you. My only
32 complaint, Mr. Chairman, is that you were a little too
33 efficient and you wrapped up your meeting a little too
34 soon. Ethically I had to make my plane on the way out
35 today so I can't go play in the woods tomorrow.

36
37 (Laughter)

38
39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Now we get
40 into the items that we added onto our agenda yesterday,
41 the halibut bycatch, Karluk Lake.

42
43 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. Pat Holmes.
44 I have to admit a geezer moment. And I didn't have Al
45 keeping me awake at the right time. And so I have to
46 admit with great chagrin that I had a geezer moment and
47 slipped up big and diverted you all into a 20 minute
48 discussion about chinook and king salmon and everybody
49 was asking me well, why do you have that little short
50 letter written about halibut and at the end you had the

1 comment about chinook. Well, I got lost and my whole
2 little letter was about halibut and not about chinook.
3 And I just got tired and confused and got you all off
4 on a tangent. So with that said, I'm sorry that Al's
5 leaving because I fell asleep on that one. And so
6 really the letter to the North Pacific Fishery
7 Management Council will be basically the same thing
8 that we went over, but it would say halibut. So that
9 letter would say the Kodiak/Aleutians RAC is concerned
10 about the decline of halibut populations in the Gulf of
11 Alaska and we support decreasing the incidental halibut
12 bycatch period. And so that would be -- I think would
13 help with the problem.

14

15 Right now they will be starting the
16 Council meetings on the 23rd at Adak and one of the
17 concepts that Mr. Cotten had, he said he couldn't speak
18 for the Council, but he was saying that one of the
19 things he might want to introduce would be to look at,
20 you know, the Kodiak, Sand Point north, you know,
21 basically that area as opposed to the Aleutians and
22 areas where the higher catches of pollack are and that
23 they might -- he might try to introduce a concept of
24 reducing the halibut bycatch differently in different
25 areas, but that is neither here nor there. But that in
26 all halibut bycatch, particularly by trawlers, was
27 expressed as a concern by Alex and then by some of
28 other members. So I think a short and sweet letter
29 like that on halibut bycatch, we could get it typed up
30 and faxed down to the meeting or hand it to Mr. Cotten
31 before he takes off for that.

32

33 So that's my discussion, sir. And I do
34 apologize.

35

36 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Rick.

39

40 MR. KOSO: I got a question for Pat.
41 On that -- the halibut bycatch, I know you brought up
42 the salmon deal too there earlier on the coho bycatch,
43 is that still then on the table that we voted on, the
44 king salmon one, excuse me.

45

46 MR. HOLMES: I think Steve had a little
47 more on the king salmon, but I looked around and I kind
48 of think it's sort of past. They're two different
49 things and I got them confused. I think the halibut is
50 the one we can address.

1 MR. KOSO: Yeah, but we voted.....
2
3 MR. HOLMES: Yeah.
4
5 MR. KOSO:on that on the table
6 and that passed. So that's why -- that's why I was
7 questioning it.
8
9 MR. HOLMES: Probably need to make it
10 disappear depending on what Steve has to say.
11
12 MR. FRIED: Yeah, this is Steve Fried
13 from Office of Subsistence Management. And I just had
14 contacted Don Rivard who's a fishery biologist in OSM
15 that's been attending the North Pacific Fishery
16 Management Council meetings in regard to chinook
17 bycatch in the Gulf and also the Bering and Aleutians.
18 And he did confirm that in June the Council did approve
19 the chinook salmon bycatch limits, so they're already
20 on the table for the Gulf and they're basically broken
21 down into the central Gulf is a little bit over 18,000
22 chinook as a bycatch that's allowed and in the western
23 Gulf it's about 6,700 chinook. And once those limits
24 are reached in both those areas then the pollack
25 fishery would be closed.
26
27 Now he did say the Council is
28 considering other comprehensive management measures to
29 address chinook salmon bycatch in the Gulf trawl
30 fisheries. So he said maybe there's something there the
31 Council might want to comment on. But as far as the
32 bycatch limits, those are already in place and really
33 it doesn't really pay to comment on them at this point --
34 at that point -- you know, for the limits.
35
36 So that's what I know on that.
37
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. I think
39 yesterday we stated that if this thing wasn't going to
40 go through we should just disregard that action we took
41 to submit that letter and just let it go away.
42
43 MR. FRIED: Yeah, I just thought
44 I'd.....
45
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah.
47
48 MR. FRIED:bring up the Council
49 up to speed on what I found out.
50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, you think
2 that stuff is already in place then and what we did
3 yesterday is null and void.
4
5 MR. FRIED: That's fine.
6
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Does that
8 take care of that?
9
10 (No comments)
11
12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.
13
14 MR. HOLMES: So, I guess, Mr. Chairman,
15 we probably need to accept basically the same letter
16 saying that we want to reduce the halibut catch. And
17 so I'd like to make a motion for what I had just read
18 and I can do it again if you'd like or -- so we can get
19 it on the table and discuss it because there was some
20 concern on the other critter, but I think we need to
21 chat about the concept at our Council here as to
22 whether or not to send that letter to the Council on
23 halibut.
24
25 So I'd like to -- should I read it
26 again?
27
28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Well, state the
29 concern then we'll go forward.
30
31 MR. HOLMES: Okay. The concern is that
32 there's a considerable harvest of halibut incidently by
33 the trawl fleet, some of the elders and folks in the
34 villages and town have noticed smaller halibut and
35 fewer of them, but I believe it's been something like
36 15 years since there's been an adjustment in the
37 incidental catch of halibut. And so I know both the
38 commercial fisheries and the sport fisheries are being
39 reduced in their limits and so hopefully subsistence
40 then would follow that. But I think it could
41 eventually have impacts on subsistence users. And so I
42 think it probably merits a reexamination and reduction
43 of halibut bycatch.
44
45 MR. CRATTY: Mr. Chair.
46
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Al.
48
49 MR. CRATTY: I'd like to have him
50 restate something in that. Around Kodiak I think we

1 also have the problem with the cod fleet that are long
2 lining in January when they have their opportunity to
3 fish the Federal season with long line gear. Because
4 they're fishing deep they're catching a lot of the
5 halibut also. I think there's a problem there also
6 besides the trawlers. We see a lot of fish coming up
7 with their -- are being caught with their lips ripped
8 off because they're using crucifiers. And I just
9 wanted to see if would get instate that somewhere.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you,

14 Al. Pat.

15

16 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. Al, I think if
17 we just say decrease incidental harvest of halibut then
18 that would apply to whichever sector they feel that the
19 catch has been increasing in. Or we could say in the
20 trawl and long line catch. But I guess we probably
21 need to discuss the motion and then modify it.

22

23 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rick.

26

27 MR. KOSO: Are we talking area
28 specific, are we talking overall State?

29

30 MR. HOLMES: I was just doing it in
31 general, the Gulf of Alaska is what we had in the
32 letter and back to Pippa.

33

34 MR. KOSO: Well, that wouldn't -- that
35 wouldn't include 3A then, that would -- Gulf of Alaska
36 is 3B pretty much, south end of Kodiak west. So I
37 would suggest if you -- we're going to do that we
38 mention 3A, 3B.....

39

40 MR. HOLMES: 3A, 3B.

41

42 MR. KOSO:which would take Kodiak
43 area and the Gulf area.....

44

45 MR. HOLMES: Okay.

46

47 MR. KOSO:rather than just the
48 Gulf area because it eliminates Kodiak.

49

50 MR. HOLMES: Roger that.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah.
2
3 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair.
4
5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pippa.
6
7 MS. KENNER: I just wanted to clar --
8 if you could clarify for staff is there a motion on the
9 table?
10
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Not yet.
12
13 MR. HOLMES: Then Mr. Holmes didn't
14 make a motion for it.
15
16 Thank you very much.
17
18 MR. ROWLAND: Related to this -- what
19 Al was talking about how crucifiers are ripping the
20 lips off the halibut, there are -- I'm wondering if
21 there's any information available that shows what the
22 mortality rate is related to fish that are caught and
23 released. So releasing in manners of being ripped off
24 by their lips while they're commercial fishing or while
25 they're sports fishing or hooked in the tongue, hooked
26 in the gills, and tossed back in the water. I'd
27 appreciate seeing some information related to that
28 hopefully at our next meeting. That way I can make a
29 better understanding about what it is that's causing
30 the mortality rate to increase and the populations to
31 decrease.
32
33 So is that possible?
34
35 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair. A comment on
36 that. I think, you know, that's an enforcement problem
37 because crucifiers in my mind if I'm not mistaken are
38 against the law to have on your boat. So if they're on
39 the boat and they're using them that is a violation of
40 the law. And to me that would be more of a trooper
41 where, you know, they need to patrol it more and find
42 out what's going on if that's the case. So it's
43 against the law to have them to begin with so are we
44 just by doing this are we -- we need to maybe get ahold
45 of the troopers or the enforcement and just reiterate
46 that there may be some people that's using crucifiers
47 illegally on boats. As far as I know they're illegal
48 on boats to use.
49
50 MR. ROWLAND: So I guess what I'm

1 wondering is that there's fish being caught and being
2 thrown over and they're injured, there's fish being
3 caught in the rivers and they're being put back in the
4 water and they're injured. And so because these two
5 things are happening it is reducing the population of
6 the fish and that means that the subsistence amount is
7 reduced. So is there any information about how these
8 things are affecting the population?

9
10 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I can't
11 really answer that at this point, but I think that
12 Rick's concern and the other Council's concern, I would
13 suggest that we ask OSM if they could contact the
14 Halibut Commission and see if someone could either
15 teleconference with us or give us some advice as to
16 what's happening with the halibut not only in terms of
17 bycatch, but causes of mortality and particularly
18 Rick's concern about handling mortality. I know they
19 had a bunch of studies on that before they put in the
20 law against crucifiers because there was really
21 significant handling mortality then. And so I think I
22 would suggest to the Council that we have that as a
23 concern in our minutes and then ask the OSM to contact
24 the Halibut Commission to have them participate in our
25 next meeting. Does that seem a reasonable approach?

26
27 And then once we're done with that then
28 I think we ought to go back and put a motion on the
29 table about the letter on halibut bycatch and then be
30 discussing it in a matter of proper protocol.

31
32 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rick.

35
36 MR. KOSO: I've attended the last three
37 IHPC meetings and they got another one coming in
38 January in Anchorage, it'll be this year. And every
39 year this is brought up by numerous people. So it's
40 not something that they're not aware of, this has been
41 on the tables for year and it's still on the tables and
42 it probably always will be there. So it's not
43 something that they're neglecting or not listening to,
44 it's something they've been working on for years. So
45 maybe a letter is maybe okay, but it's not something
46 that they're not aware of and they don't already know.
47 So they've been working on this problem for years.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. With that
50 information then maybe it might be better for us to

1 invite them to our meeting at our next meeting before
2 we send them a resolution demanding some kind of
3 action.

4

5 Pippa.

6

7 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair. This is Pippa
8 Kenner with OSM. It's come up about three times now so
9 I just want -- and it's good, I just wanted to remind
10 the Council that before the next meeting you will be
11 contacted and we'll develop an agenda and we'll be
12 seeking things that -- information that you would like
13 that we can gather for you. And at that time too if
14 you mention to us that you would like certain people
15 from different Councils to come we can start trying to
16 arrange that.

17

18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Well,
21 what's the wish of the Board, you want to send a letter
22 of invitation to these two groups before we send them a
23 resolution?

24

25 MR. KOSO: I would suggest we do that
26 rather than, you know, put the cart before the horse
27 here. We should maybe go ahead and send them a letter.
28 And I'll -- I'm going to attend this IHPC meeting in
29 Anchorage in January so I know quite a few of the Board
30 members and, you know, there's a kid that's Chairman
31 from St. Paul, Lestenkof, that -- you know, he's been
32 on there for years and years, he would probably be
33 willing to attend or maybe some of the other members.
34 But I certainly can find out in January and I could
35 talk to him in January on this -- on behalf of this
36 stuff.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you,
39 Rick. And that's what we'll do then, we'll draft a
40 letter to the Migratory Bird Co-Management Committee
41 and Halibut, invite them to our next meeting.

42

43 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. Would it be
44 okay with you and Pippa, proper protocol, if I just
45 wrote that letter out and you folks could type it up
46 for the Chairman's signature or do we need to read that
47 in the minutes or anything. I think it's just a
48 communication.

49

50 (No comments)

1 MR. HOLMES: Okay. So I'll cut a rough
2 draft and if you can't read it then call me.
3
4 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa. That would
5 be very helpful.
6
7 MR. HOLMES: Okay.
8
9 MS. KENNER: Thank you.
10
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Does that cover
12 that all okay?
13
14 (No comments)
15
16 MR. HOLMES: I'd like to make a motion,
17 Mr. Chairman, on halibut bycatch that we send a letter
18 to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and it
19 would state the KRAC is concerned about the decline of
20 halibut populations in area 3A and 3B and that we
21 support decreasing the incidental harvest of halibut
22 period. And then we'll amend that and discuss it or
23 however.
24
25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.
26
27 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair. I'm in agreement
28 with that. If he can also address it to the IHPC that
29 would be good too.
30
31 MR. CRATTY: I'll second.
32
33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and
34 seconded. It's suggested that you add the IHPC.
35
36 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Hold on.
37
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any discussion.
39
40 (No comments)
41
42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no further
43 discussion, is there any objection to the motion?
44
45 (No comments)
46
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Seeing no
48 objections then the motion carries.
49
50 The second item we had on there was the

1 Karluk.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. On Karluk
4 we've seen and we got the report from the Refuge here
5 as well as previously from the Kodiak Regional
6 Aquaculture about the four year drop in sockeye returns
7 to Karluk and then that will place it -- this year the
8 Board of Fisheries will place Karluk sockeye as a
9 species of concern. They did that previously with
10 chinook which have not made their escapement goal on
11 the Karluk for five years. And I believe, correct me,
12 Bill, I think the Federal subsistence harvest of
13 chinook in the Karluk system has been closed the last
14 two years; is that correct?

15

16 Kodiak Refuge.

17

18 MR. SUNDSETH: Yeah, sorry, we couldn't
19 hear what you were saying. Could you repeat that,
20 please.

21

22 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I'll be loud. I was
23 wondering -- I was commenting about Karluk Lake and the
24 sockeye returns and the chinook. And that for the last
25 four years sockeye has not reached its escapement level
26 and will become a stock of concern with the State Board
27 of Fish and that previously the chinook had been
28 classified that way and that the chinook hadn't made
29 their escapement goal, I believe, in five years. And
30 the question I had back to you folks is I believe that
31 subsistence harvest of chinook for Karluk has been
32 closed two years; is that correct?

33

34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Kodiak.

35

36 MS. BROWN: Kodiak, are you still on
37 the line?

38

39 MR. SUNDSETH: Hello, this is Kent with
40 Kodiak Refuge. The season was closed last year, there
41 was no take on Karluk chinook as we recall. This year
42 there was -- they allowed a catch and release sport
43 fishery with no bait on Karluk. We believe the
44 subsistence was open, don't know if that's a real
45 popular, you know, subsistence harvest there in Karluk,
46 but we -- yeah, we'd have to -- of course our fish
47 biologist isn't here right now at the moment, but I
48 believe that's right.

49

50 MR. HOLMES: Thank you. Anyway both

1 stocks are in real trouble. And the Kodiak Region
2 Aquaculture made us a presentation last spring about a
3 proposal that they put forth that has gotten the
4 support of the Fish and Game Advisory Committee and
5 also the Kodiak Island Borough to do active
6 rehabilitation of Karluk Lake salmon. And so what I
7 feel would be important would be for our Council to
8 communicate our support to the Kodiak Area Regional
9 Aquaculture Association's proposal to actively enhance
10 Karluk sockeye. And it was interesting to note that
11 when this was done in the early '80s they did it for
12 five years and they ended up with increasing runs for
13 over 10. And that the chinook populations bounced back
14 quicker than the sockeye and that's, of course, because
15 chinook fingerlings and smolt feed on other fish and
16 fry and so they benefitted from the increased amount of
17 sockeye fry in the system.

18
19 And so basically I would propose that
20 we send communications to the Kodiak -- from the Kodiak
21 Regional Aquaculture -- for them a letter of support
22 for their proposed program. It went through a review
23 process before and right now they're in the process of
24 reviewing it and the Fish and Wildlife Service to see
25 if it's still compatible with their goals. And I think
26 that it would greatly benefit the runs in their
27 entirety as well as the whole ecosystem. I know Vic
28 Barnes' study, he was the bear biologist at the Refuge
29 for many years, his study basically concluded that the
30 increased population of bears that was primary
31 dependent on food. And so, you know, the bears have
32 been able to go to other places like Frasier to feed
33 with the reduced runs at Karluk, but I just think that
34 it would benefit the -- all the critters on the Refuge.
35 And then also help subsistence users, particularly on
36 the west side of the island, Larsen Bay and Karluk, to
37 be able to improve their harvest of chinook and
38 sockeye.

39
40 So that's my presentation, Mr.
41 Chairman.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any response?

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No responses.
48 What are you proposing, Pat, are you.....

49
50 MR. HOLMES: I'm just proposing that we

1 send a letter of support for that project.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Addressed to who?

4

5 MR. HOLMES: We'd -- I think we'd
6 address it to the Kodiak Regional Aquaculture
7 Association and then they could forward it to whoever
8 was doing the review process.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Mr.
11 Rowland.

12

13 MR. ROWLAND: Appreciate that
14 information there, Pat. And in the major scope of
15 things there's more than one river in the
16 Kodiak/Aleutians and I know the importance of Kodiak
17 Regional Aquaculture, that specific system is a
18 privately owned tributary that's under Kodiak Native
19 Corporation and Karluk at one point did have thousands
20 of king salmon return and they're down. But I think
21 focusing on one entity, the Kodiak Aquaculture
22 Association, is pretty minute in the grand scale of all
23 of the fish in the biomass that travel throughout the
24 north Gulf coast. So I think that in the grand scale
25 of subsistence there's other types of things that we
26 should be looking at for the whole biomass instead of
27 just one stream.

28

29 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I guess my
30 point to Rick was is that that one is so far below all
31 the other systems in the region that, you know, we've
32 had one incidence where they've closed subsistence
33 harvest of chinook and, you know, I could see if the
34 chinook harvest -- the chinook populations stay down
35 that, you know, they'll probably drop the sport catch
36 and release, all those things and I think that the --
37 you know, the sockeye are in a world of hurt for that
38 one system. And this would provide a way to get it
39 back online as quick as possible. And Rick mentioned
40 that there used to be literally many, many, many more
41 fish there. If you look at the old production records
42 from the 1800s, there was a phenomenal amount of fish
43 to the Karluk system. And I think that this is an easy
44 way to bump it back up. I do believe that Koniag owns
45 the land, the river is navigable and that falls in
46 another category, but they do own the land. And, you
47 know, we could send this letter of support to all the
48 folks that are involved, I think that's a very good
49 point and, you know, as well as the Karluk IRA and
50 tribal councils and Koniag and, you know, the whole

1 picture. But I guess my thought is to just provide
2 support for this so that it could be done in an
3 expeditious way. And then if it's determined that it
4 would be harmful, I can't see that it would be because
5 it worked before, then I think it would basically help
6 everybody, the commercial fishermen, sport fishermen,
7 but my particular concern is subsistence as well as,
8 you know, help the bear populations and everything
9 because if not it'll probably take many life cycles for
10 things to rebuild.

11

12 So that's my point.

13

14 MR. CRATTY: Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes.

17

18 MR. CRATTY: Yeah, I'd just like to
19 state to Rick that the Kodiak -- back me up, Pat, if
20 I'm wrong, the Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association
21 is ran by comm -- is funded by the commercial fishermen
22 who are taxed 2 percent a year to run that off their
23 total gross income.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Rowland.

26

27 MR. ROWLAND: Yeah, I appreciated the
28 fact that you're bringing all this information to us,
29 Pat, but it's difficult for me to make a decision on
30 something that hasn't been presented in the form of a
31 letter from the Kodiak Regional Aquaculture
32 Association. I'd be happy to support a letter or
33 responding to them if there was some sort of
34 documentation stating what it is that I'd be supporting
35 on a subsistence basis for all of the subsistence
36 users. So if there's a letter that's coming then I'd
37 appreciate reading that before we get into making a
38 motion or writing a letter.

39

40 MR. HOLMES: At our last meeting they
41 gave us an hour long proposal that was multiple
42 photographs and graphs and it had everything there.
43 And I believe their information is -- I mean, it's just
44 there. And I'm sorry that.....

45

46 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.

49

50 MR. KOSO: I don't know, on this deal

1 here, you know, I'm all for that letter, whatever, that
2 doesn't matter. But is Fish and Wildlife not doing
3 their job to make this go or are they doing 100 percent
4 of what they should be doing to make this river come
5 back to life. It sounds like you're sending out a
6 letter of support to this association, maybe the letter
7 needs to be directed to Fish and Wildlife stating that
8 they need to do more to make a sustainable fishery out
9 of this river. The support to the association is just
10 backing them up to do what, to go to Fish and Game to
11 do more to make it, because this place as far as I
12 understand has been closed for how many years now and
13 there hasn't been any fish in it.

14

15 And I think Cratty brought up a point
16 of -- that catch and release, maybe that ought to be
17 outlawed due to the fact that how many of those fish
18 are released that die. You know, I think that may be
19 redirected to where we do something more constructive
20 than just telling these other guys yeah, we appreciate
21 what you're doing and we back you up 100 percent
22 whereas if we went to them -- to the Fish and Wildlife
23 and said here, we'd like you guys to close this river
24 down to catch and release because there's no keeping
25 the fish there, it's just catch and release fishing the
26 way I understand it. And so if that's the case let's
27 put a deal in the letter for them to say you need to
28 shut this river down totally until we get the
29 escapement back.

30

31 That's just my -- I think this other
32 deal is just -- it's not going to go anywhere that I
33 could see in my mind outside of telling somebody that
34 yeah, keep up the good work.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pat.

37

38 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Rick, I agree with
39 you particularly on catch and release. I -- you know,
40 of course, I'm years out of date on most things, but I
41 know there's been a lot of studies done in the states
42 on mortality rates on hook and release on sport caught
43 fish, particularly the larger the fish the more
44 difficult it is for them to recover. The Karluk is, I
45 guess, the overall thing and nomenclature Fish and
46 Wildlife, it's the sport fishery is through the Board
47 of Fish and the Sport Fish Division of ADF&G. The
48 commercial fishery is through ADF&G, Division of
49 Commercial Fisheries, the land managers are the Refuge
50 and right now the Fishermen Advisory Committee and the

1 Kodiak Island Borough have asked KRA to do this
2 enhancement program of providing nutrient to the lake.
3 And the reason that the runs are down is somewhat
4 uncertain, but either there was something that happened
5 to the plankton in the lake or they had too many fry
6 that stayed and ate the plankton. And so this idea of
7 putting nutrient in increases the plankton and
8 increases the sockeye.

9
10 And the management of it is very
11 complex thing because you have the Persina Plan that
12 Mr. Cratty participates in, you've got west side
13 setnetters, south end setnetters and so the department
14 has reduced the commercial fishery as much as possible
15 to try to provide for a maximum of sockeye and chinook
16 to get back. Chinook aren't allowed to be retained in
17 the commercial fishery. And so it got bad enough a
18 couple years ago where they closed the subsistence
19 harvest in the river. And so I guess all I'm doing is
20 suggesting that we provide support because I see that
21 in the short term this is a way to improve availability
22 of those two species for subsistence.

23
24 Does that explain your concern, Rick?

25
26 MR. KOSO: Oh, yeah. Certainly I'm
27 certainly not against a support letter, I was just --
28 wanted to clarify where it was going and what actual
29 good it would do for us to do it rather than do
30 something punctual to either say stop this so we can
31 help the river survive. But if you want to send a
32 support letter I'm certainly not against that. And,
33 you know, if that's -- you know, I think we've probably
34 beat it up enough so if you want to make a motion I'll
35 be for the support letter.

36
37 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Mr. Chairman.
38 Members.....

39
40 MR. SUNDSETH: Hell. Mr. Chair. This
41 is Kent Sundseth with Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge.
42 I was wondering if I could just chime in here real
43 quick?

44
45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Kent.

46
47 MR. SUNDSETH: Thank you. Mr. Chair.
48 Just wanted to say a few words coming from the Refuge
49 regarding the proposal to fertilize lakes within Refuge
50 boundaries. It is a very complex issue, it isn't --

1 you know, it can be difficult to understand the
2 complexity of it all. But right now the Refuge is
3 currently awaiting a final proposal from KRAA in order
4 to try and make a determination on whether or not that
5 sort of operation would be compatible with Refuge
6 purposes. So no sort of determination has been made
7 yet, but it's a complex issue that will certainly, you
8 know, merit some careful deliberation before a decision
9 is made. And I just wanted to put that out there and
10 provide some comment from the Refuge before you made
11 your motion.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Kent.

16

17 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Pat.

20

21 MR. HOLMES: And Council members. I'd
22 like to make a motion that we send a letter of support
23 to the Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association
24 endorsing their upcoming proposal for active
25 rehabilitation of Karluk Lake salmon.

26

27 MR. CRATTY: Second.

28

29 MR. HOLMES: So there's a motion.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and
32 seconded. Discussion. Rowland.

33

34 MR. ROWLAND: I -- I'm just wondering
35 what the -- I know the Kodiak Regional Aquaculture
36 Association is a nonprofit and they're funded from
37 commercial -- retention of funding from commercial
38 salmon fishermen. So my position here is to assist
39 with subsistence issues and make sure that it's a
40 priority, but not for commercial uses. And so I can't
41 support this resolution to send a letter of support
42 without further information about what it is exactly
43 that I'm supporting.

44

45 Also, you know, the other factor in
46 there about the chinook is that, I mean, a few years
47 back there were two years in a row where draggers took
48 out at one point 175,000 king salmon on a trawl and
49 then another year following 225,000 on a trawl. And so
50 now we're at a point to where subsistence is suffering

1 and it's because the draggers took it out. And they
2 had it published in the information. And so I don't
3 think it makes sense for me as someone who's supporting
4 subsistence to send a letter to somebody that's doing
5 commercial operations to enhance salmon. I think it --
6 it's -- more information has to be presented to the
7 Regional Advisory Council on the topic.

8

9 MR. CRATTY: Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Al.

12

13 MR. CRATTY: I'd like to say I think
14 it's for commercial and subsistence, the aquaculture is
15 supported by the commercial, but they also work for
16 subsistence. They've done a lot of subsistence work
17 around Kodiak. So it goes both ways. I'd just like to
18 share that comment.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Al.

21

22 MR. KOSO: I'd like to call for the
23 question, Mr. Chairman.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The question is
26 called. All those in favor say aye.

27

28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Those opposed.

31

32 MR. ROWLAND: Nay.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: One opposed. The
35 motion carries.

36

37 MR. HOLMES: Okay. I'll draft a
38 letter, Mr. Chairman.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

41

42 MR. HOLMES: I have a rough one I can
43 show you later.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. That takes
46 care of that topic. The last one on our agenda was did
47 we want to form a letter as -- formulate a response to
48 the letter we received from the Federal Subsistence
49 Board in response to our concerns from last year.

50

1 I don't think -- yes, Pippa.
2
3 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair. Thank you. I
4 think the agenda item was to discuss the letter that
5 Tom Towarak wrote you in response.....
6
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes.
8
9 MS. KENNER:to your annual.
10 Thank you.
11
12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I feel that they
13 responded to our concerns, do we need -- I don't feel
14 we need to get back with them on that. But we could
15 discuss topics for our next annual report to the
16 Federal Board.
17
18 (No comments)
19
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Any.....
21
22 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair.
23
24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Pat.
25
26 MR. HOLMES: There's just a couple of
27 points on their response. If you look on Page 3, this
28 is a communication on September 8th, 2011 to our Chair
29 from Tim Towarak. But on Page number 3 down at the
30 bottom they discuss the fact that 90 percent of the
31 households at False Pass have relied on their
32 subsistence hunting from the South Peninsula Herd.
33 That's true, but I went back and looked at the date of
34 the study because I'm like Rick, I'm rather fastidious
35 and want to know what it was based on and where it came
36 from. But that particular study was done after the
37 Unimak herd had collapsed. And so for them to say gee,
38 Unimak's not so important to False Pass folks is simply
39 not correct and I suspect that the managers that wrote
40 this letter for Tim really didn't stop and take a look
41 that that study that was done by Fish and Game on
42 subsistence was out of date. And so I would suggest
43 that you just completely ignore that paragraph or the
44 end of the paragraph because that's not where people
45 would get their subsistence when the herd was up. I
46 know when the populations were very strong and Della
47 and Rick could probably support this, particularly when
48 folks -- you know, if a season was open people from all
49 over the peninsula if they were going through False
50 Pass would -- and the season was open and there were

1 caribou they would harvest them.

2

3 On Page 4 the response the Board did
4 not state it would form a predator control study group
5 at its May, 2008 meeting. At that meeting I had
6 attended for Mitch and there was -- this was the first
7 time that they had a Chair meeting prior to the Board
8 meeting itself. So there's nothing in the transcripts
9 for the Board meeting and I contacted folks and they're
10 still trying to find out whether that first part of the
11 meeting with the Board Chairs, because it's kind of a
12 brainstorming thing where people say this is a problem
13 in my area, that's a problem in theirs, and Greg
14 Roczicka from the Bethel led the discussion about
15 predator control and that they were having problems of
16 losing 20 percent or so of their herds to wolves. And
17 so my recollection is what I had reported after that
18 meeting that if they were putting something together I
19 said that they should contact you, Mr. Chairman, for
20 someone to participate in that group. I talked with
21 Greg Roczicka the other day. He has a similar
22 recollection, but doesn't know for sure. And so what I
23 need to do to see if this was done, I suspect it just
24 fell through the cracks, but really wasn't addressed at
25 the Board meeting, what I need to do is to talk to Mike
26 Fleagle and chat with him. So it's hopefully something
27 someday, I know Greg and a lot of the Chairmen up in
28 western and northwest Alaska feel that predator control
29 is a really important thing. And the big question of
30 Fish and Wildlife and other land management policy
31 versus interpretations of ANILCA, you know, those are
32 sticky wickets that'll probably be argued in the courts
33 for a long time.

34

35 So those were my major points on the
36 letter and I don't know that we need to necessarily
37 write a rebuttal because I think a lot of these points
38 will be hammered out in discussions between the State
39 and the Board and, you know, from my chats with Greg
40 will probably come up again with the various Council
41 Chairs and the Board. So I think we can just drop that
42 one, Mr. Chair.

43

44 There was one other item and I don't
45 know if we've got it on the agenda or not, and that was
46 a question that Rick had had earlier and I think we got
47 approval for this letter too, but it was about the
48 difficulty on wanting to liberalize salmon subsistence
49 permit process for Adak. Could I discuss that a
50 moment?

1 Rick noted that earlier in our meeting
2 that they were having problems out at Adak. And I
3 believe they're still using a similar process for
4 salmon permits -- subsistence permits that they used
5 back in the ice age when I was with the department.
6 And I would basically think that right now what they're
7 doing is they have to contact Cold Bay office to get
8 their permits. And they used to require permits there
9 when Adak had probably 1,000 people or more, but now
10 the population's down to 120 folks. And a couple of
11 years ago the Kodiak area for the off the road system
12 for the smaller villages that have populations similar
13 to that, they just came up with a ruling that they
14 didn't have to have, you know, in season permits in
15 hand and just a end of the season report. For Atka and
16 Nikolski and St. George and St. Paul, well, there's not
17 a lot of harvest up there. Those villages, they don't
18 require any permits or reporting. And so Rick and I
19 discussed this and think it would be appropriate to
20 send a little note to the Fish and Game supervisor for
21 Commercial Fisheries in Kodiak asking them to
22 liberalize the permit process for Adak and that if they
23 do have permits that they be available in the
24 community.

25
26 So that's my discussion on Adak based
27 on Rick's concern early in our meeting and his report.

28
29 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

30
31 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.
34 Koso.

35
36 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Pat, that was --
37 that's correct. I talked -- well, we've talked with
38 Jennifer here and I thought we came to the conclusion
39 that she's got all the information that's necessary and
40 she's going to take it back and get back to us. So I
41 don't see -- deem it necessary to go and send another
42 letter. I think we're doing fine with the information
43 she's taking back with her on it.

44
45 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Thank you. Mr.
46 Chairman. And I missed that part because I was getting
47 my coffee fired up. So that's good enough, we'll just
48 drop that one.

49
50 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. That takes
2 care of all the extra agenda items we added.
3
4 Before we move -- Pippa, you have
5 something?
6
7 MS. KENNER: No.
8
9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. I was just
10 going to get into our calendar. Meetings for our
11 winter, 2012 and fall, 2012 dates.
12
13 MR. KOSO: I notice on the calendar
14 they have.....
15
16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: In March.....
17
18 MR. KOSO:Old Harbor for the 21st
19 and 22nd. Right on the bottom there on the first page
20 there.
21
22 MR. CRATTY: They already got a date
23 for.....
24
25 MR. KOSO: The first page right on the
26 bottom.
27
28 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair.
29
30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Kodiak/Aleutians
31 March 21 and 22.
32
33 MS. KENNER: Yes. The calendars are on
34 Page 139 and 140 of your books and on 139 there was
35 discussion about having the Kodiak/Aleutians Council
36 meeting in Old Harbor on March 21st and 22nd. Let us
37 know if you'd still like that and the discuss where you
38 would like your fall, 2012 meeting.
39
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. I think Old
41 Harbor's great.
42
43 MR. KOSO: Sounds good to me.
44
45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The fall meeting
46 doesn't have anything on there so we need -- what days
47 are open?
48
49 MS. KENNER: You're the first -- Mr.
50 Chair. This is Pippa. You're the first Council to

1 meet this year and so you're the first Council to
2 decide. There's the window and there are some meeting
3 dates and -- there are meeting dates, for instance,
4 State regulatory meetings that sometimes the Council
5 likes to plan around. And I don't have those dates
6 with me, but the Council might be aware of some things
7 that they would like to plan around and would like to
8 pick a part of the window that is -- best meets your --
9 the needs of your schedule.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: What's the wish of
12 the Board? Rowland.

13

14 MR. ROWLAND: Rick Rowland. When we
15 had our meeting last we decided that we wanted to have
16 a meeting in False Pass. And so I'm wondering why that
17 changed and why we weren't able to go out to False Pass
18 this trip?

19

20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I was told that
21 there was no lodging that they could secure.

22

23 MR. ROWLAND: Okay.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I don't know that
26 they even have lodges or hotels out there.

27

28 MR. KOSO: Not False Pass.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, not in False
31 Pass.

32

33 MR. KOSO: Pippa's got some stuff going
34 on there.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

37

38 MS. KENNER: Another consideration, Mr.
39 Chair, this is Pippa again, is that we do like to
40 request in the -- to respect our budget that the
41 meetings be held in a hub community of -- the hub
42 communities for this area are Kodiak City and Cold Bay.
43 Some Councils will go back and forth between the two
44 hubs, but also you may choose -- it may be that you do
45 choose a community that isn't one of those two hubs.
46 And we can make that request for you. It would be a
47 special request to our deputy -- assistant regional
48 manager, Pete Probasco. And we could get back to you
49 if we could do that or not.

50

1 MR. CRATTY: Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Al
4
5 MR. CRATTY: You want to make this as
6 one that didn't have a backup?
7
8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Say again, Al.
9
10 MR. CRATTY: You'd want to make -- if
11 you want to go to False Pass -- oh, no housing, you'd
12 want to make one and have a backup so if you can't go
13 to.....
14
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The backup would
16 always be one of the hubs, either here or Kodiak.
17
18 MR. KOSO: Let's go to Sand Point.
19
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: You want to chose
21 another place to go to? I don't think they'll get us
22 into False -- even if we could get there we'd have to
23 find houses to stay in because there's no hotels or
24 lodges out there.
25
26 MR. KOSO: Sand Point or King Cove
27 would probably be the -- because Sand Point's got
28 housing and resources to take care of people. I don't
29 know, the only place I could think out here would be
30 Cold Bay or Sand Point or King Cove that's got the
31 housing and restaurant services available for the
32 amount of people we got. So if we're going to come
33 back out here it would be either King Cove or Sand
34 Point and I don't really have a preference.
35
36 Della, how about you?
37
38 MS. TRUMBLE: Doesn't matter to me. I
39 can't even get out of King Cove to go to any meetings.
40
41 (Laughter)
42
43 MS. TRUMBLE: We'll have to figure it
44 out.
45
46 MR. KOSO: What about Sand Point?
47
48 MS. TRUMBLE: It won't work for me to
49 get in there.....
50

1 MR. KOSO: How about Sand Point. I
2 don't ever remember Sand Point, did we ever have a
3 meeting at Sand Point?
4
5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Sand Point's good.
6
7 MR. HOLMES: We were there four or five
8 years ago.
9
10 MR. KOSO: Yeah, 16 years. I'd suggest
11 Sand Point, I guess, if we could put it in this region.
12
13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. What date?
14
15 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair.
16
17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.
18
19 MR. HOLMES: I might suggest that we
20 either go early in September or maybe early October and
21 so that we could try to work it out so young Sam Rohrer
22 can make the meeting. I noticed when I left town I
23 called to see if he could call in because -- and on his
24 recorded phone he said he'd be getting back out of the
25 field on the 20th and the 21st this year. But I know
26 his hunts vary, but he does have a really broad
27 background in subsistence having been raised that way
28 and that lifestyle as well as being a guide. So I'd
29 suggest we take October 2nd and 3rd or is something
30 like September -- when does the fall bear hunt start,
31 anybody know?
32
33 MR. CRATTY: Old Harbor the 25th.
34
35 MR. KOSO: Out here I think it's the
36 2nd or 3rd of October.
37
38 MS. BROWN: October 1 to October 20th.
39
40 MR. KOSO: October 1st to the 20th.
41
42 MR. HOLMES: Okay.
43
44 MR. ROWLAND: The 25th in Kodiak.
45
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We'd be better off
47 going early.....
48
49 MR. HOLMES: Early.
50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF:early
2 September.
3
4 MR. HOLMES: How about September 4th
5 and 5th?
6
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: There you go.
8
9 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair.
10
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Della.
12
13 MS. TRUMBLE: I'd kind of recommend
14 that we are on about now because the guys are out cod
15 fishing and the past few years they have been. The --
16 technically a reason a lot of them are in now or
17 available because the weather was bad so they're at
18 home. And if you get too -- in October there's a lot
19 of people traveling when they start fishing and then
20 going to the Alutiiq corporation meetings and the AFN.
21 So I'd recommend the third week in September.
22
23 And also at Sand Point to make sure
24 maybe one of the staff or somebody can check with the
25 Shumagin Corporation's hotels to make sure they're up
26 with the CCR or I can do that myself too.
27
28 MR. KOSO: I'd like to make a
29 suggestion, Mr. Chairman, that why don't we have it in
30 Anchorage just prior to the AFN and everybody will be
31 able to make it then, I think, you know. I don't know
32 with the staff or whatever, because most of the
33 villages and people are all there in town. If we could
34 have it in Anchorage would be prime time, somewhere
35 around the -- I don't know when the corporate meetings
36 are, but the Alutiiq one usually starts the 15th and
37 then I don't know if AFN's going to be there next year
38 or whatever, they alternate between there and
39 Fairbanks. But I would suggest Anchorage around the
40 13th of October.
41
42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: But a window
43 closes on October 12th.
44
45 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair. I think AFN
46 is going to be in Fairbanks next year because it's in
47 Anchorage this year, they've been alternating the
48 communities.
49
50 And then the other thing to think about

1 with Sand Point, it's actually cheaper to fly to Sand
2 Point than it is to Cold Bay.

3

4 MR. HOLMES: That's true. It's also
5 more exciting.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: What are we back
8 to -- are we back to early September in Sand Point?

9

10 MR. KOSO: That's fine with me.

11

12 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, me too.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: And 4th and 5th,
15 right after the holiday?

16

17 MR. ROWLAND: No, 5th and 6th, that way
18 we can travel on the 4th.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: 5th and 6th.
21 That's Wednesday, Thursday.

22

23 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair. This is Pippa.
24 My only suggestion is that if there is a specific
25 reason that Sand Point might be an advantageous place
26 for us to plan this meeting, you might want to include
27 that as part of your justification for having it there.
28 That justification could be so that people in Sand
29 Point can participate in person and talk to us.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: That would be it.

32

33 MS. KENNER: Okay. Thank you.

34

35 MR. HOLMES: Oh, I think another
36 advantage on going to Sand Point is we'll be able to
37 communicate with the Aleutians East Borough mayor who
38 usually tries to attend if he's available. We haven't
39 been there for several years so that we could see some
40 of the concerns for folks there and then that would be
41 a lower cost flight and then that might balance the
42 little bit slightly higher cost of getting from Kodiak
43 to Old Harbor. And so that might give us a nice
44 ecological and financial balance as well as cultural
45 and social and whatever biodiversity adjectives you
46 need to have.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. That
49 calendar's set. We have one last item on our agenda
50 before we go.

1 MR. HOLMES: Well, there was one more
2 thing from the puppy at the end. He had some thoughts
3 on some of the critters.

4
5 MR. CRATTY: Mr. Chair. Talking to Pat
6 there and Pat talking to me, we were -- with the goat
7 situation on Kodiak we're going to write a proposal to
8 have a spring hunt on goat on Federal lands. I just
9 wanted to let you know he'd be working on that with the
10 State and the Feds. And it'll be just -- we would try
11 and have it just for the male goats in possibly March.

12
13 MR. KOSO: That would be a.....

14
15 MR. CRATTY: Well, it could be
16 subsistence or registration. We like to have co -- you
17 know, we like to have the State and the Feds both work
18 on it in the areas where they're overpopulated.

19
20 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair. This is Pippa
21 again.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Pippa.

24
25 MS. KENNER: I'd be happy to work with
26 Mr. Cratty on that proposal and I believe there was
27 another proposal that the Council was interested in.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I expressed an
30 interest in a proposal to close Alitak Bay for
31 commercial harvest.

32
33 MR. HOLMES: Oh, okay.

34
35 MR. KOSO: I was just saying that was
36 for halibut, right?

37
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah.

39
40 MR. ROWLAND: Well, king crabs too,
41 isn't it.

42
43 MR. HOLMES: Well, the only king crab
44 harvest in Alitak is -- the only king -- Mr. Rowland,
45 the only king crab harvest in Alitak is the subsistence
46 harvest there, but the problems have been from talking
47 to Mitch and Freddie Coil and folks down there is that
48 it seems to be being abused by nonresidents and by
49 lodges and things like that. And I know the Department
50 of Public Safety, both the Federal and State have been

1 chewing on them on that. So I think maybe, Mr.
2 Chairman, if you wanted to assign a couple members to
3 work with Pippa on drafting those proposals then we can
4 have them presented to you.

5
6 On the goats it sounded liked from
7 talking to Larry he was just in a meeting with the
8 Refuge and they're trying to come up with ways to drop
9 the population on the south end on goats. And so our
10 Committee has worked closely in the past with the State
11 Advisory Committee on working out compromises on
12 mountain goats. And so I think having our meeting in
13 Old Harbor would be the perfect place and the perfect
14 time to be discussing that option because one of the
15 ways to improve the habitat and reduce the goat
16 population would be to try to work out some type of
17 hunt that would be advantageous to the villagers like
18 we did in our original compromise where you'd register
19 a week or two weeks in advance and then that would
20 basically put it in the pocket of the villagers to be
21 able to get those goats without upsetting all the apple
22 carts of our previous compromises that we've done.

23
24 So I'd like to work on that for you and
25 I'll work with Al and yourself.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you,
28 Pat.

29
30 Anything else for Kodiak/Aleutians, any
31 Board comments? Al.

32
33 MR. CRATTY: Mr. Chair. I'd just like
34 to thank the last 16 years of being on here, for
35 meeting the people that I've met and understanding
36 their needs and working with the Feds and the State.
37 It was real educational for me. I see it as a need for
38 our people to stay on top of things like this so we can
39 stay ahead of the game and know what's going to happen
40 in our future. I'm trying to find somebody in Old
41 Harbor that will replace me now. There are many good
42 people down there that are up of subsistence issues.

43
44 So I just want to thank you for
45 everything and all the good information. And I've been
46 on there for many years with Della and Pat and Vince
47 Tutiakoff and all the Board here, Ricky and Mitch also.
48 I enjoyed it and I've got other things to do. So I
49 won't be on the Board anymore.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Al.
4 Any other Board comments?

5

6 MR. SHELKOFF: Mr. Chair. This is
7 Antone. What is the purpose of having meetings in
8 remote places when it's very expensive to travel out
9 there. What is the purpose, what is the Federal
10 purpose?

11

12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The main purpose I
13 think is to get participation from local residents who
14 might have a concern in the critters that we talk
15 about. And the main purpose is for subsistence and if
16 any rural residents have concerns about subsistence
17 issue then our going to a rural area increases their
18 chances of participation.

19

20 MR. HOLMES: And if I could add to that
21 I think a lot of times like when we come to Cold Bay
22 sometimes we have an audience, sometimes we don't, but
23 I end up finding out a lot more going on my walk and
24 checking on people that I know here and they'll so oh,
25 well, go and see so and so that works with the borough
26 at the power plant. And so they'll say things to us as
27 individuals and they would never come to a meeting
28 because of their cultural background or fears or
29 whatever. And so -- and it also -- it just directly
30 gives us a chance to, I guess, get the pulse of an area
31 by going there and just looking out the window.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah.

34

35 MR. HOLMES: May I make my
36 presentation?

37

38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, go ahead.

39

40 MR. HOLMES: Okay. There's been a long
41 tradition on our Council here and, you know, this young
42 puppy here I can remember when I first got to Kodiak
43 and running around and anyway I can recall with Al here
44 bouncing around with his red head and some of the kids
45 called him the wild Irish rose, but probably never to
46 his name. And he's always pulling tricks on me and
47 I've done things for him, including the young lady that
48 put the bouquet on his table one time. And, of course,
49 he's always doing things to me and calling me grandpa
50 and holding the doors open for me and things like that

1 for proper respect for an elder. But I've been asked
2 by some of the old timers in the past to keep an eye on
3 this young puppy because sometimes he does get worked
4 up and do things on tangents without thinking.

5
6 And so in that context I wanted to pass
7 on to you for whatever you're up to for your former
8 colleagues here, this little rubber eyeball to carry
9 with you so that you know we're keeping our eye on you.

10
11 (Laughter)

12
13 MR. HOLMES: And if you get it wet it's
14 really yucky too.

15
16 MR. CRATTY: You're bad.

17
18 MR. HOLMES: So there you go, buddy.

19
20 (Laughter)

21
22 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Della.

25
26 MS. TRUMBLE: I just want to comment,
27 Al, I know it's (indiscernible - distortion) since I've
28 been back on this Board so I'm hoping you'll send a
29 email and let me know how I can get in contact with
30 both of you and definitely will miss you, we've had a
31 lot of good years on this Board. And I think the
32 comment that Pete made of you guys playing tricks all
33 the time, I know I was -- I was one of the people that
34 got in from you guys all the time. But it's always
35 been, I think, in the character of working together
36 closely, I think, and I appreciate the efforts and the
37 heartfelt concerns that the members in Kodiak do have
38 for our region. And I know we'll miss you on the
39 Board. So good to hear from you and take care.

40
41 MR. CRATTY: Thank you, Della.

42
43 MR. HOLMES: Oh, Della, before you go.
44 Pardon me, Della, before you go. Could you send me an
45 email, my computer has crashed and so I'm trying to get
46 everybody back on my new computer so just send me a
47 note sometime saying hi and then I can get you back in
48 contact with you.

49
50 Thank you.

1 MS. TRUMBLE: Will do.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you for
4 that, Della. Any other Board comments?
5
6 MR. ROWLAND: Yeah.
7
8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rowland.
9
10 MR. ROWLAND: Rick Rowland. I'd like
11 to say thank you to the presentation -- presenters that
12 we had today and thanks for the Fish and Wildlife
13 putting this together, all your support and assistance
14 is greatly appreciated.
15
16 Thank you.
17
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
19 comments?
20
21 (No comments)
22
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I'd like to say I
24 -- it's been a pleasure working with Al, it's kind of
25 sad that he doesn't want to get back on. I would like
26 to see that, but it's always nice to have the
27 continuity and if he's has the ability to find someone
28 that has that same amount of concern for subsistence
29 and, you know, submit an application on their behalf.
30 You know, it was a pleasure working with you.
31
32 And if there's nothing further then a
33 motion to adjourn is in order.
34
35 MR. KOSO: I'll make that motion.
36 Thank you.
37
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We're adjourned at
39 12:20. Thank you very much everyone for coming.
40
41 (Off record)
42
43 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 192 through 281 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the KODIAK/ALEUTIANS FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically by our firm on the 21st day of September 2011, in Cold Bay, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 7th day of October 2011.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/14

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