

1 KODIAK/ALEUTIANS FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5  
6 VOLUME I

7  
8 Kodiak, Alaska  
9 March 22, 2011  
10 1:00 p.m.

11  
12  
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

14  
15 Speridon Simeonoff, Chairman  
16 Alfred Cratty  
17 Patrick Holmes  
18 Alexander Panamaroff, Jr.  
19 Samuel Rohrer  
20 Richard Rowland  
21 Della Trumble (Telephonic)  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26 Regional Council Coordinator, Ann Wilkinson  
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Kodiak, Alaska - 3/22/2010)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Good afternoon, everyone. I'm Speridon Simeonoff, Chairman of the Kodiak/Aleutians RAC. I'd like to call this meeting to order.

And before we get really started, I'd like to let everyone know that there's some information on the back tables. And if there's anyone from the public that would like to testify, there's some papers back there that you can fill out and give to our coordinator.

And may we have a roll call, please.

MS. WILKINSON: All right, Mr. Chairman. Antone Shelikoff is absent. He is trying to get here. I just spoke to him about a half an hour ago, and he had to turn back. They got as far as Dutch Harbor and then he had to turn back. So he is not here.

Patrick Holmes.

MR. HOLMES: Here.

MS. WILKINSON: Richard Koso is absent. Sam Rohrer.

MR. ROHRER: Here.

MS. WILKINSON: Al Cratty.

MR. CRATTY: Here.

MS. WILKINSON: Rick Rowland.

MR. ROWLAND: Here.

MS. WILKINSON: Alexander Panamaroff.

MR. PANAMAROFF: Here.

MS. WILKINSON: Della Trumble. Della was on line this morning. I'll try her again in a

1 minute.  
2  
3 Speridon Simeonoff.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Here.  
6  
7 MS. WILKINSON: And Thomas Johnson is  
8 absent and I have not heard from him, so I'm not sure  
9 whether he was planning to come.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Have you heard  
12 from.....  
13  
14 MS. TRUMBLE: I'm on line.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Have you heard  
17 from Rick Koso?  
18  
19 MS. WILKINSON: No. The last I heard  
20 from him was that he wasn't going to be able to make  
21 it, and that was about a week and a half ago.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. You did  
24 have communication with him.  
25  
26 MS. WILKINSON: Yes.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: And he said wasn't  
29 going to make it.  
30  
31 MS. WILKINSON: Yes.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: And Tommy Johnson.  
34  
35 MS. WILKINSON: Mr. Johnson I spoke to  
36 about -- The last I got ahold of him was about a month  
37 ago, and he had said he definitely was coming. But in  
38 the last two weeks as I've tried to get ahold of him, I  
39 haven't been able to reach him at all after several  
40 attempts.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. And Antone  
43 is in route, but may have to turn back.  
44  
45 MS. WILKINSON: He did have to turn  
46 back.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Oh, he did have to  
49 turn back.  
50

1 MS. WILKINSON: Uh-huh.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Will he call in  
4 when he get back home?  
5  
6 MS. WILKINSON: Yes.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.  
9  
10 MS. WILKINSON: So, Mr. Chairman, we do  
11 have a quorum.  
12  
13 Thank you.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you,  
16 Ann.  
17  
18 Okay. Now with quorum established,  
19 then I'd like to start with a round of introductions.  
20 I'll start I guess.  
21  
22 I'm Speridon Simeonoff. I'm from the  
23 Native Village of Akhiok on the southern end of Kodiak  
24 Island.  
25  
26 And we'll go that way and then down.  
27  
28 MR. PANAMAROFF: My name is Alexander  
29 Panamaroff, the Native Village of Larsen Bay on the  
30 west side of the Island.  
31  
32 MR. HOLMES: Pat Holmes, and I guess  
33 I'll make a little bit of a joke. I guess I'm from the  
34 Swedish and Irish Village of Kodiak.  
35  
36 (Laughter)  
37  
38 MR. CRATTY: Al Cratty, Old Harbor.  
39  
40 MR. ROHRER: Sam Rohrer from the town  
41 of Kodiak.  
42  
43 MR. ROWLAND: I'm Rick Rowland. I'm  
44 originally from Afognak, but currently residing here in  
45 Kodiak. And I was actually born here in Kodiak.  
46  
47 REPORTER: I'm Nathan, I'm the court  
48 reporter.  
49  
50 MR. COBB: I'm McCrea Cobb. I'm a

1 wildlife biologist with the Kodiak Refuge here.

2

3 MR. SUNDSETH: Kent Sundseth, the  
4 deputy refuge manager at Kodiak National Wildlife  
5 Refuge.

6

7 MR. WHEELER: And Gary Wheeler, refuge  
8 manager here on Kodiak.

9

10 MR. BOYLAN: Hi, I'm Mike Boylan. I'm  
11 a refuge supervisor from Anchorage.

12

13 DR. WHEELER: I'm Polly Wheeler with  
14 the Office of Subsistence Management. And Gary and I  
15 are not related.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MR. PAPPAS: George Pappas from Fish  
20 and Game, Anchorage. Federal Subsistence Liaison Team.

21

22 MR. MILLS: I'm Dave Mills with the  
23 National Park Service subsistence program in Anchorage.

24

25 MS. BROWN: I'm Cole Brown, wildlife  
26 biologist, Office of Subsistence Management in  
27 Anchorage.

28

29 MR. BERG: I'm Jerry Berg, fish and  
30 wildlife biologist with Fish and Wildlife Service, out  
31 of Anchorage.

32

33 MS. WILKINSON: Ann Wilkinson. I work  
34 for the Office of Subsistence Management for this  
35 Council as coordinator.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. With  
38 the round of introductions done, then we will review to  
39 our review and adoption of our agenda.

40

41 MS. TRUMBLE: Mitch, can you hear me?

42

43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, I can hear  
44 you, Della. I'm sorry. I forgot the people on line.  
45 Della, would you introduce yourself and if there's  
46 anyone else on there with you.

47

48 MS. TRUMBLE: Okay. Della Trumble, and  
49 I'm from King Cove. At this time there's no one here  
50 with me.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Yeah, we  
2 just completed the round of introductions, and we're  
3 now doing the approval of the agenda.

4  
5 I guess I'll start with you, Della. Do  
6 you have anything you'd like to add to this agenda.

7  
8 MS. TRUMBLE: Not at this time. I  
9 think what I do have we can address on the items that  
10 are on the agenda.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you.  
13 Anyone else. Pat.

14  
15 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I'd like to  
16 suggest that under Migratory Bird Co-Management report  
17 that we utilize that topic to discuss emperor geese a  
18 bit.

19  
20 And then under the Department of Fish  
21 and Game, I believe we were going to end up with having  
22 someone come from the Kodiak Regional Aquaculture,  
23 because they do a lot of subsistence enhancement.

24  
25 And I'd also like to suggest that under  
26 other business that we do our review of our resolution  
27 that we started at the last meeting and tweak that a  
28 little bit at that point.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Pat, are  
31 you suggesting that we put these under E, after the  
32 Department of Fish and Game or where do you want it?

33  
34 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Yeah, we could do  
35 it under E. I was thinking other business, but E, that  
36 would be a swell place for the resolution.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Other  
39 business is good, too. That's down at the end of the  
40 -- it may be tomorrow before we get to them.

41  
42 MR. HOLMES: That would be fine.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Which do you  
45 prefer:

46  
47 MR. HOLMES: Let's just do it under  
48 other business at the end. And then folks that have to  
49 go back to work can go, and we can just work with that  
50 there.

1                           CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.  
2 Aquaculture.  
3  
4                           MR. HOLMES: Do the Aquaculture under  
5 other after Fish and Game.  
6  
7                           CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Under other  
8 business?  
9  
10                          MR. HOLMES: That would be the  
11 discussion of the resolution that we were working on at  
12 Cold Bay.  
13  
14                          CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Any other  
15 additions to our agenda.  
16  
17                          MR. ROWLAND: Well.  
18  
19                          CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rick.  
20  
21                          MR. ROWLAND: Pat, I want to point out  
22 that that Migratory Bird Co-Management Council Report  
23 is on the emperor geese.  
24  
25                          MR. HOLMES: Oh, okay. I was just  
26 thinking that we might -- that might prompt a  
27 discussion of a potential proposal or something.  
28  
29                          CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Anything else.  
30  
31                          (No comments)  
32  
33                          CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I think a motion  
34 is still in order to accept our agenda with the  
35 additions.  
36  
37                          MR. HOLMES: Move to accept the agenda  
38 with the additions.  
39  
40                          MR. CRATTY: Second.  
41  
42                          CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and  
43 seconded. Any discussion.  
44  
45                          (No comments)  
46  
47                          CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no further  
48 discussion, is there any objection to the motion.  
49  
50                          (No comments)

1 MR. CRATTY: Call for the question.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Seeing no  
4 objections, then the motion carries.  
5  
6 Item NO. 5 is the review and adoption  
7 of our September 23rd, 2010 meeting. I believe that  
8 was the one we held in Cold Bay.  
9  
10 A motion is in order.  
11  
12 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I was just  
13 rereading some of my notes. And on Page 12.....  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.  
16  
17 MR. HOLMES: Oh, I'm sorry, sir.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Before we get into  
20 a discussion, I need a motion to accept the minutes so  
21 that we can get into discussion and corrections.  
22  
23 MR. CRATTY: Mr. Chair. I'll make a  
24 motion to accept the minutes.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Do I hear a  
27 second.  
28  
29 MR. ROWLAND: Second.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Moved and  
32 seconded. Discussion. And, Pat, you can go ahead.  
33  
34 MR. HOLMES: On Page 12, third  
35 paragraph, second line -- first and second line. Mr.  
36 Logan, Fish and Wildlife Service, explained the  
37 difference between Federal and State viewpoints, which  
38 are shaped by laws, regarding predator control. But I  
39 believe that, and correct me, Gary, that on the topic  
40 that we were talking about for Unimak Island, I believe  
41 that's also a matter of Fish and Wildlife policy in  
42 relation to managing for natural diversity. And so I  
43 think the word policy, laws and policy rather than just  
44 completely law.  
45  
46 And at the end of the third paragraph,  
47 Council members noted that the managers need to do  
48 counts on bear and wolf populations in the region. And  
49 part of the concern of the Council was that those  
50 surveys be done in a timely manner. And then we

1 decided to issue a resolution in relation to the lack  
2 of surveys.

3

4 That's all of my comments.

5

6 Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Polly.

9

10 DR. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11 Polly Wheeler with the Office of Subsistence  
12 Management. This is a minor change, but it is just to  
13 make sure the record's correct. Under attendance,  
14 where it says ADF&G Staff, and it lists a whole pile of  
15 people, the last person is Pete Cummiskey, and I  
16 believe he works for National Marine Fisheries Service.

17

18 So, Ann, you'll just need to make that  
19 change in the revised minutes.

20

21 MS. WILKINSON: Okay.

22

23 DR. WHEELER: Make sure his agency's  
24 correct.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: What page are you  
27 on with that?

28

29 DR. WHEELER: Mr. Chair. It's on Page  
30 5, the first page of the minutes, under attendance.  
31 The last person listed as an ADF&G Staff person is  
32 actually not an ADF&G Staff person. He's a National  
33 Marine Fisheries Service Staff person. So just make  
34 that correction, please.

35

36 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37

38 MR. ROWLAND: Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Rick.

41

42 MR. ROWLAND: Yes. I have two comments  
43 that I have, thought. One is on Page 9, on the second  
44 bullet where it mentions there are two counting weirs  
45 on the Buskin River, and then it goes on to show the  
46 dates. I believe that that might have to be were.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: It's in the first  
49 was or the first -- there were two counting weirs in  
50 the Buskin River.

1 MR. ROWLAND: Yeah, the first was  
2 installed in 1985 and the second. So I don't think  
3 there are two currently on there.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Oh, okay. You  
6 think there's only one?  
7  
8 MS. WILKINSON: So there were two  
9 counting weirs.  
10  
11 MR. ROWLAND: I think so. That might  
12 be a.....  
13  
14 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I believe  
15 there's one main weir and then a couple of years back  
16 they put on a small one that goes to a tributary to Boy  
17 Scout Lake. So it's probably one weir complex might do  
18 the job.  
19  
20 MR. ROWLAND: So it's on Buskin Lake  
21 instead of -- or it's on Boy Scout Lake instead of  
22 Buskin?  
23  
24 MR. HOLMES: Well, it's on the Buskin  
25 River, but not on the lake. And so you could just say  
26 the -- I think it's.....  
27  
28 MR. ROWLAND: So if there's a question,  
29 it should be clearly defined, explaining what it is, so  
30 I could understand.  
31  
32 And the other one is that on Page 15,  
33 Fisheries Proposal FP11-15. In the second line there,  
34 Shun'aq Tribal Corporation. And Sun'aq is S-U-N-A-Q.  
35 And it's a tribe of Kodiak, not a tribal corporation.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: It's a what?  
38  
39 MR. ROWLAND: Tribe of Kodiak. It's a  
40 Federally-recognized tribe, but it's not a tribal  
41 corporation.  
42  
43 And that's it.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: S-U-N-A-Q?  
46  
47 MR. ROWLAND: Yeah.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Any other  
50 discussions or corrections to our minutes of September

1 23rd.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. On Page 8 it  
4 reflects on some salmon weir operations and closures,  
5 and -- no, that's right. It's perfect.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Perfect. Okay. I  
8 had a question on our minutes. It's on Page 14, it's  
9 Fisheries Proposal FP11-13. I was reading through this  
10 and you get down to the last paragraph where Mr.  
11 Schwantes moved to eliminate herring from the  
12 regulation and change the wording under Section A to  
13 read in Federal waters of Kodiak Island rather than in  
14 freshwaters of Kodiak Island. Seconded and the motion  
15 passed.

16

17 Proposal FP11-13 didn't even have a  
18 motion to adopt. We didn't even adopt that proposal,  
19 but we changed wording on it. So this proposal is --  
20 what would you call it? Is it dead? We didn't do  
21 anything with it at our last meeting.

22

23 MR. HOLMES: No, we discussed the  
24 dickens out of it, and I think we got pretty tired.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: So is that how it  
27 got lost in the shuffle?

28

29 MR. HOLMES: Yeah.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The reason I ask  
32 is I was on teleconference and I couldn't get  
33 everything because of bad connections.

34

35 MS. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Ann.

38

39 MS. WILKINSON: I have the transcript  
40 from that meeting with me. So when we have a break, I  
41 can go back through and find the discussion and see  
42 exactly what happened.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you,  
45 Ann.

46

47 Polly.

48

49 DR. WHEELER: Mr. Chair. If you look  
50 in your books, just to keep you where you are on the

1 process, if you look in your books on Page 27, it's the  
2 report that we discussed this morning, the .805(c)  
3 report where it's the report back to the Council on  
4 what the Federal Subsistence Board did on the  
5 proposals. And with the appropriate recommendations.  
6 So the discussion of FP11-13 begins on the bottom of  
7 Page 26 and goes over to the top of Page 27. And the  
8 Board actually adopted that proposal with modification  
9 as recommended by the Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence  
10 Regional Advisory Council.

11  
12 So I think whether or not this Council  
13 moved, made a motion to support that proposal, the  
14 recommendation that was the basis, that provided the  
15 basis, or that the discussion was founded on was  
16 carried forward.

17  
18 Mr. Chair.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you,  
21 Polly.

22  
23 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair.

24  
25 MS. WILKINSON: Della is on.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Was that you,  
28 Della?

29  
30 MS. TRUMBLE: Yes.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Della.

33  
34 MS. TRUMBLE: A couple things on Page  
35 No. 10, on the last paragraph. I'd like the point made  
36 that Tom Hoblet did state that he did submit a letter.

37  
38  
39 On Page 11, Richard Nelson had also  
40 submitted a letter, and I did hand that off to I  
41 believe Ann at the meeting.

42  
43 And under Chris Yatchmenoff, it is  
44 False Pass, not Fall Pass.

45  
46 MS. WILKINSON: Excuse me, Mr.  
47 Chairman. Della, so it was Tom Hoblet and who else  
48 that you said wrote the letter?

49  
50 MS. TRUMBLE: Richard Nelson. And

1 Richard was at the meeting, and I do believe I passed  
2 it off to you at the time.  
3  
4 MS. WILKINSON: Yes, I remember now.  
5 Thank you.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you,  
8 Della.  
9  
10 Any other -- I'm sorry.  
11  
12 MS. WILKINSON: Mr. Chair. We had some  
13 people join us on line, and I don't know who they are.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Is there anybody  
16 else on line besides Della.  
17  
18 MR. STOUT: Yeah, this is Glen Stout  
19 with Alaska Department of Fish and Game.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you.  
22 Welcome. Anyone else.  
23  
24 (No comments)  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. If there is  
27 no one else on line, then we'll move on.  
28  
29 Is there any further discussion or  
30 corrections on our minutes of our September meeting.  
31  
32 (No comments)  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no further  
35 discussions or corrections on our minutes for September  
36 23rd, are there any objections.  
37  
38 (No comments)  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Seeing no  
41 objections, the motion carries as corrected.  
42  
43 Okay. We've got one more person in the  
44 audience. Would you like to stand and introduce  
45 yourself, Iver.  
46  
47 MR. MALUTIN: My name is Iver Malutin.  
48 I'm a life-long resident of Kodiak.  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah. I'd just

1 like to remind you that there's information in the back  
2 table back there, and then if you wish to testify,  
3 there's some forms back there to fill out.

4

5 MR. MALUTIN: Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: You've been to a  
8 lot of our meetings. I believe you know the process.

9

10 Okay. Moving on with our agenda then,  
11 next on the agenda is Council member reports.

12

13 Would you like to start, Rick.

14

15 MR. ROWLAND: Sure. Thank you, Mr.  
16 Chair. I appreciate being appointed to this position.  
17 Thank you very much. And I look forward to working  
18 with the Council and being the voice of the community,  
19 to have their concerns and proposals pass through me  
20 through to the Council and on to the Federal Board.

21

22 And then I would also like to be  
23 thankful that I'm able to communicate all those topics  
24 that are discussed here in this meetings and pass them  
25 back into the community.

26

27 One event recently that occurred was  
28 the Koniag Regional round table meeting. And at that  
29 meeting I was able to express that I would be happy to  
30 hear information from the community members and the  
31 different tribes around the island, to let me know what  
32 their concerns are, their proposals, so I could  
33 communicate that on up into hopefully making resolution  
34 to have their needs met in the communities.

35

36 So, thank you all.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Rick.

39 Sam.

40

41 MR. ROHRER: Mr. Chair. The only thing  
42 to report, I don't see anywhere else in the agenda  
43 where we're going to be discussing it, to I will here.

44

45 I was the representative from this RAC  
46 to the Brown Bear Claw Handicraft Group. They had  
47 several meetings over the last couple years. And we  
48 have finalized language that will be submitted to the  
49 Subsistence Board, I'm not sure when.

50

1 Ann, do you know when that language is?

2

3 MS. WILKINSON: Not to go to the Board.

4

5 MR. ROHRER: Does it go to the -- I  
6 think it goes through our Council meeting in the fall  
7 maybe. I should know that, but.....

8

9 MR. BERG: Yeah, this is Jerry Berg  
10 with Fish and Wildlife Service. Yeah, that will be  
11 submitted as a proposal through the wildlife cycle.  
12 The proposals are due this Thursday, so you guys just  
13 met, what, two days ago to finalize that language.

14

15 MR. ROHRER: Yeah. Yeah.

16

17 MR. BERG: So it will be submitted and  
18 then it will come out as a proposal for all 10 Councils  
19 around the State to take up. And so you guys will be  
20 taking it up this coming fall.

21

22 MR. ROHRER: This fall. Okay. That's  
23 what I thought. Well, let me just read you what we  
24 came up with. The final wording is going to be what we  
25 came up with.

26

27 Prior to selling a handicraft  
28 incorporating a brown bear claw or claws, the hide must  
29 be sealed by an authorized ADF&G representative. A  
30 copy of the ADF&G sealing certificate must accompany  
31 the handicraft when sold.

32

33 Of course, this only applies to the  
34 areas where you can already sell brown bear handicrafts  
35 made from claws.

36

37 But, anyways, it was a good working  
38 group. We had real good cooperation from the different  
39 RAC members who were on it, different agencies. And I  
40 think we came up with a pretty good compromise that  
41 most everyone's fairly happy with.

42

43 So if anyone has any questions about  
44 anything that happened at those meetings, they can ask,  
45 or I'm done.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Sam.

48 Al.

49

50 MR. CRATTY: Mr. Chair. I don't have

1 nothing right now.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Pat.

4

5 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman, members of  
6 the Council. Since our last meeting I participated as  
7 a volunteer biological consultant with the local tribes  
8 in their discussions with the FAA. They had another  
9 meeting here in town just this last month. And they  
10 have, because I think of concerns from our Council and  
11 particularly from the Native community as well as the  
12 conservationists, have added additional options on  
13 their runway extension proposal that would have a  
14 smaller footprint on the end of the runway, and  
15 hopefully have a smaller impact.

16

17 And if anyone wants more details, they  
18 could chat with Rick or myself.

19

20 I was asked to fill the subsistence  
21 seat of Herman Squartsoff on the Fish and Game Advisory  
22 Committee. And a couple of the issues that came up  
23 were things that I think would affect our Council and  
24 things that we've done and things we've been concerned  
25 about.

26

27 And one was problems of abuse by non-  
28 residents and lodges doing subsistence harvest of  
29 tanner and king crab, and some of the tenders pulling  
30 crab pots, and a lot of the people on those boats being  
31 non-residents and harvesting king crab particularly on  
32 the south end. And there was a proposal in to the  
33 State Board of Fisheries that the Advisory Committee  
34 tightened up, and then expressed their extreme concern,  
35 as our Council has, on the abuse of subsistence harvest  
36 of king and tanner crab.

37

38 There was also a regulation proposal  
39 that when Larry Van Daele gets here tomorrow afternoon  
40 to discuss game, there was -- and I don't have the  
41 number. It was to the Game Board to reduce the Fish  
42 and Game area biologist's discretionary ability. They  
43 allow a whole list of things that the local area  
44 biologists can do to tweak as management in-season.

45

46 And there's a very strong movement,  
47 particularly coming out of Anchorage and Fairbanks, and  
48 probably the Alaska Outdoor Council, I couldn't say,  
49 against our goat compromise that we put together  
50 several years back. And there's a lot of folks that

1 live out of Kodiak, non-Federal subsistence users, feel  
2 that they should be able to come down for a  
3 registration hunt and get their registration permit  
4 either at the Kodiak office or in their office in their  
5 own home towns.

6  
7 But the whole idea of that compromise  
8 was to allow for local folks in the villages to have  
9 the opportunity to harvest goats after the regular hunt  
10 and to take surplus goats for harvest. And so right  
11 the regulation on the State side requires people to go  
12 to that village, what is it, a week before? Anyway go  
13 before, register and then hunt. So that gives an edge  
14 that live in the village to be able to take goats.

15  
16 And they feel that that type of  
17 discretionary ability of the game biologists, they'd  
18 like to remove, because they haven't really been able  
19 successfully to beat down our compromise that we put  
20 together for the State and the Feds several years ago.

21  
22 I also submitted two proposals similar  
23 to the ones that we had before our Council, with the  
24 help of Iver, and one was to try to facilitate in-  
25 stream harvest of the run there at Settler's Cove at  
26 Port Lyons. That was one that the Kodiak Regional  
27 Aquaculture established when Litnik started to fail.  
28 And folks there traditionally will get fish out of the  
29 pool below the falls with dipnets. And so we submitted  
30 that proposal to make it legal. But I guess even  
31 though it went through Fish and Game locally and  
32 through the State office in Juneau, the State lawyer  
33 came up and said, well, you can't have an enhanced  
34 fishery to do this and call it subsistence. And so  
35 those folks and Port Lyons, it wasn't our intent, but  
36 they can't legally harvest it with a dipnet, but  
37 they'll have to have a sportfishing license and say  
38 they're getting personal use rather than subsistence.

39  
40 So it's a sticky wicket that we hadn't  
41 intended but at least they'll be able to get fish that  
42 way.

43  
44 And then I submitted a -- we also  
45 submitted a reg, State reg, to parallel the Federal law  
46 that prohibits the use of subsistence-caught salmon for  
47 guides and lodges to give away to their clients, and  
48 then that was passed by the Board of Fish.

49  
50 And that concludes my report.

1 Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.

4 Alex.

5

6 MR. PANAMAROFF: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.

7 Chairman. I don't have much.

8

9 I just have one concern that's been  
10 relayed to me by not only my village, Larsen Bay, but  
11 also from Old Harbor, Ouzinkie, and Port Lions. I've  
12 talked to members from all those villages, and they've  
13 had one major concern, and that's the commercial  
14 fishing and hunting in the areas around our villages  
15 that depletes our resources. In Larsen Bay we have no  
16 access to most of the fish and game, because we have to  
17 go way outside of our area to do any subsistence  
18 fishing or hunting. I would like to see it discussed  
19 or at least maybe have a proposal, and I think Pat's  
20 working on one, on putting some type of a buffer zone  
21 around the areas for subsistence, because we have a lot  
22 of people in Larsen Bay that had subsistence fished  
23 around the area before where now there's hardly any at  
24 all. And I'm talking like halibut, cod.

25

26 The reason for, we believe,  
27 depreciation -- depletion is we have cod fishermen come  
28 in and fish cod. And they take out a lot of cod, they  
29 get a lot of cod when they used -- on the cod fishing.  
30 And they're coming right outside the village and all  
31 around inside there and deplete the fish coming in  
32 within our general area.

33

34 So that anybody going out, they have to  
35 go way out, almost into Shelikof Straits, you know, to  
36 get the fish that we need for our subsistence. And  
37 most of the people in the villages don't have access to  
38 skiffs and outboard. So just a few of them that do, you  
39 know, that can go, and the only ones that are able to  
40 do it all the time are the ones that own lodges that  
41 has, you know, skiffs that are able to go out in  
42 rougher weather.

43

44 And hunting, we have lodge owners that  
45 are not from the village that come in, and they bring  
46 their clients out in the general area, right around  
47 Larsen Bay, and have them hunt right from there out.  
48 And when the villagers want to go out and get a deer  
49 for subsistence, they can't. The only way they can is  
50 if they ask somebody that has a skiff that could take

1 them out several miles away from the area that we  
2 normally hunt in.

3  
4                   So both cases, and like I say, I've  
5 talked to several other villagers that have the same  
6 problems, they say the same thing. And one major one I  
7 know of that depletes the fishing in our areas is we  
8 have draggers come in Uyak Bay, come in up into almost  
9 outside of Zachar Bay. And I know this happens,  
10 because I was salmon fishing, this was about three  
11 years ago, off of Prominent Mound, that's just outside  
12 of Speridon, on the outside end. And there were three  
13 draggers came in, made a turn up towards Zachar Bay and  
14 went dragging back out.

15  
16                   And I don't know if -- I've heard both  
17 ways. I've heard people say that they were not  
18 supposed to be doing that, and others say that, well,  
19 you know, as long as they're within one mile of land,  
20 you know, that they can drag for bottom fish, whatever  
21 they're dragging for.

22  
23                   You know, it's going to be a major  
24 problem for us, because of the depletion of all the  
25 bottom fish. And that includes king salmon. There's a  
26 lot of king salmon being caught with those draggers,  
27 and I know there's, you know, a lot of it that's not  
28 being report, because I've talked to one of -- I had a  
29 friend that was on a dragger, and he would tell me how  
30 much king salmon they were getting ever drag. And that  
31 was a lot, a huge amount.

32  
33                   So, you know, I think there needs to be  
34 something done, because we're talking about the king  
35 salmon fisheries for sports, there's almost none at all  
36 now left in Kodiak Island. And it's a concern not only  
37 to us as subsistence users, but also the sports and  
38 commercial. I'm talking about the salmon fisheries.  
39 So I think that we need to have some kind of regulation  
40 changes to take care of these issues.

41  
42                   Thank you.

43  
44                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Alex.

45  
46                   Della, can you hear me?

47  
48                   Do you have a Board member report.

49  
50                   MS. TRUMBLE: Yes. Thank you, Mr.

October, November and December.

3 Interestingly enough, in January in Leonard's Harbor we  
4 got to observe 200 or more stellar sealions and killer  
5 whales were after them, which we have not seen at least  
6 in my lifetime. So we were able to get out there and  
7 watch them. And it looked like they were probably  
8 feeding off of herring inside of there. But it was  
9 pretty interesting to observe.

10

11 The fishing fleet did local cod and the  
12 cod and finished early this year, and did very well in  
13 both of those species.

14

15 Bears are out right now, and we've had  
16 a good number of wolf sightings all through the winter,  
17 I think more so than last year. And that continues to  
18 remain a concern in our community and False Pass.

19

20 And I continue, or we continue to work  
21 on the Izembek enhancement EIS. It's moving forward.

22

23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Della.

26

27 I don't have much of a report, but I do  
28 want to express more concerns. You know, Alex has  
29 concerns in Uyak Bay, and we have the same kind of  
30 concerns in Alitak Bay about draggers coming in and  
31 out. They drag all the way up to the head of Alpine  
32 Cove in Deadman Bay, they turn around and drag right  
33 back out.

34

35 I don't know what this Council can do.  
36 Maybe we can submit a proposal of some kind that would  
37 at least slow down the dragging in those bays, because  
38 everything's gone from there. When we used to go right  
39 outside the village and fish and catch like 60, 70-  
40 pound halibut and now we can't. We don't even get  
41 that. We've got to go 10 miles further out to get 20  
42 and 30-pound halibut.

43

44 And, you know, the ecosystem of the  
45 bays in those areas are getting depleted. Like Unimak  
46 Island. Are we going to wait until it's too late to  
47 recover to do something? You know, I think we've got  
48 to start now. I think we've got to grab the bull by  
49 the horns and say, you know, enough is enough.

50

1                   And then like, you know, also the bears  
2 are out the kids are very cautious about going to  
3 school in the morning, because, I don't know, they go  
4 to the landfill in the evening, then they go -- their  
5 trail goes right next to the school. And about 7:00,  
6 8:00 o'clock in the morning, the bears are making their  
7 journey from their sleeping area by the dam, going to  
8 the dump. And in the evening they're going back. They  
9 just walk right next to the school. And we've got our  
10 VPSO and family, concerned parents who ride up and down  
11 the road, and say the bears are out and they're making  
12 all the racket that they can to scare them away. But  
13 they don't scare away very easy once they're habituated  
14 to a village dump.

15

16                   But that's all I have for now.

17

18                   Pat.

19

20                   MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. I  
21 was just wondering, a while back you had mentioned that  
22 there was some concern down in Akhiok about the  
23 commercial deer outfitters, because the south end is  
24 probably the best place for deer hunting. Are they  
25 being a little more respectful?

26

27                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: They are  
28 respectful, but it hasn't dropped the numbers down.  
29 You know, there's little charter boats that come all  
30 the way from Homer to go deer hunting down there. And  
31 there's also the big dragger boats that anchor up like  
32 in Lazy Bay. They anchor up there and they get off on  
33 the beach and go hunting.

34

35                   MR. HOLMES: So it's not like when the  
36 deer first moved down to the south end and people kind  
37 of gave the village a little bit of space for their  
38 hunting. They just go where the deer are?

39

40                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah. We have --  
41 the village corporation has an employee who does land  
42 patrols so to speak, and he goes out and about, maybe  
43 he sees hunters that are near the village corporation  
44 lands. He'll stop and ask if they have permits. And  
45 he'll also point out areas that are exclusive to the  
46 village.

47

48                   You know, I have not seen any boats  
49 anchored up in close proximity to the village.

50

1 MR. ROHRER: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Sam.

4

5 MR. ROHRER: To go further on that  
6 topic with the transporters and the deer hunters down  
7 there, there are a couple things we could look at doing  
8 potentials to write. Last week at the Big Game  
9 Commercial Service meetings, guide meetings up in  
10 Fairbanks, one of proposals that was passed was for  
11 transporters. Transporter operations have to now  
12 register for what areas they're going to be  
13 transporting clients in. Maybe it's, they're hoping  
14 it's a first step towards restricting them so they  
15 don't have areas, so they can go anywhere, to try to  
16 restrict to somewhat smaller areas.

17

18 They don't probably have the regulatory  
19 authority to do that. It would probably have to be a  
20 statute change in order for them to be able to do that.  
21 But it's something that they're looking at doing. And  
22 writing a proposal to the Big Game Commercial Services  
23 Board along those lines though would certainly be  
24 something that we should give some thought to, and  
25 encouraging them to pursue that idea, because there's a  
26 lot of support, certainly in the guide industry for  
27 them to do that. It would really help out in Larson  
28 Bay.

29

30 And the idea is the Homer guys keep  
31 coming over, more and more and more boats coming over  
32 from Homer. And, boy, if we could make guys sign up  
33 for one area or another, so it's either Kodiak or it's  
34 Homer or it's somewhere, but so that those boats can't  
35 just go all over. It would certainly limit some of the  
36 guys coming over here, so it has some pretty long-  
37 reaching effects I think possibilities for it.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Did they talk  
40 anything about how many charter operators or  
41 transporters can apply for a certain area?

42

43 MR. ROHRER: No, because they don't  
44 have the authority to limit them. They thought they  
45 did, but the attorney's view was, no, you actually  
46 don't have that authority. So the first step is you  
47 have to at least register so now we can keep records  
48 and look and see, okay, how many gys -- how many  
49 charter boats are actually coming into Kodiak. And I'm  
50 not sure if they just did it by unit or if it's divided

1 down more than just by unit, so it's something else to  
2 find out some more information on. But it's a first  
3 step to at least getting some data, and finding out how  
4 many boats, where are they coming from, where are the  
5 boats registered. And hopefully once step towards  
6 limiting some of the boats that come into the different  
7 areas.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: All right. Thank  
10 you, Sam.

11

12 Pat, did you have something.

13

14 MR. HOLMES: I was wondering, Sam, is  
15 there -- I know that the Board is, you know, a  
16 professional organization for dealing with those  
17 matters, but I'm wondering, can they give some  
18 guidance, or can the Board of Game? Is there somewhere  
19 where they might be able to do like Alex was saying,  
20 could we write a letter to the Board of Game or do a  
21 proposal to the Board of Game ourselves on buffer  
22 areas, or is there something that we could get support  
23 from the association? I don't know; I'm just kind of  
24 rambling.

25

26 MR. ROHRER: Well, it's not -- yeah, I  
27 mean, potentially you could probably get support from  
28 the industry for something like that. I'd have to  
29 think about that some. I don't know if that's anything  
30 that -- I don't know if there's anything the Big Game  
31 Commercial Services Board could do about that. I think  
32 anything with buffer zones would have to go through the  
33 Board of Game, I would assume. But you could certainly  
34 get some support I would think from the guide  
35 associations for something like that. I would think.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rick, go ahead.

38

39 MR. ROWLAND: Mr. Chair, thank you. I  
40 was just wondering -- after hearing this discussion I  
41 concur with what Alex is saying about the threat to the  
42 possible loss of the subsistence fisheries or wildlife  
43 use, or competition related to it. And it makes me  
44 wonder, I mean, since I am new on this Council, is the  
45 priority actually subsistence use. I don't want to  
46 have that confusion set in my mind early on, because  
47 I'm under the impression that my responsibility here is  
48 that the use subsistence priority, and under the Act it  
49 says that that is so. So I think that -- I'd  
50 appreciate to have that question answered, if it's

1 subsistence use priority.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Rick.

4 Polly.

5

6 DR. WHEELER: The answer to that  
7 question is simple, but complicated.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 DR. WHEELER: Under ANILCA, you know,  
12 subsistence is the priority use, and rural Alaskans are  
13 the people that are eligible for that use. Under State  
14 law, all state residents are potentially eligible for  
15 the subsistence priority. So subsistence is the  
16 priority use, but all Alaskans are potentially eligible  
17 for that use. So there's sort of the two descriptors.

18

19 And the you look to the land status of  
20 the particular area. And in Unit 8, which is Kodiak,  
21 there's a large amount of Federal lands where the  
22 Federal priority would be -- you know, the ANILCA  
23 priority is in play. And then there's the State lands  
24 where the all-Alaskans is in play. So it kind of  
25 depends on where you're looking and, you know, what  
26 resources you're looking at, but that's sort of a  
27 thumbnail sketch for what we're looking at.

28

29 So it sounds simple, but it's always --  
30 like everything, the devil's in the details, and it's  
31 in the implementation of that.

32

33 MR. ROWLAND: So I have a clear  
34 understanding of this, my role here is strictly  
35 Regional Advisory Council for subsistence, not the  
36 interpretation of the State of Alaska statutes; is that  
37 correct?

38

39 DR. WHEELER: That's correct.

40

41 MR. ROWLAND: Okay.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Sam.

44

45 MR. ROHRER: Just one more thought,  
46 Speridon. Back to the transporter issue in Akhiok and  
47 in Larsen Bay. We've had this discussion with -- we've  
48 talked with the Feds with the Refuge about some way  
49 they could possibly regulate a little bit of this use.  
50 And I still think there's a possibility that we could

1 be a little bit -- that the Refuge could be a little  
2 bit more creative in coming up with a way to regulate a  
3 little bit of this use. And maybe if the RAC, if we're  
4 concerned about it, maybe we could set up a working  
5 group to look at the issue with them. I'm sure there  
6 would be members from the advisory board that would be  
7 interested in looking at that. It would be a good  
8 thing for Kodiak. It would be a really good thing.

9

10                   Anyways, it's a thought, but something  
11 I think we should consider doing.

12

13                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thanks for that,  
14 Sam. Moving on.

15

16                   Before we go any further, sometimes I  
17 get a little distracted, I just need to apologize,  
18 because I had a surgery a few weeks ago, and sometimes  
19 when the pain medicine don't work, I just kind of lose  
20 track of things and concentrate on what ails me. But  
21 if I get sidetracked and if I get lost, bear with me  
22 there for a little bit.

23

24                   Okay. We're done with Board reports,  
25 and there was a question and answer period.

26

27                   Now, I don't have a Chair's report.  
28 Ann, you didn't give one, Ann, so -- okay.

29

30                   MS. WILKINSON: No, it would be  
31 anything you wanted to say, and then the .805(c) report  
32 that's included in the book on Page 18. Members can  
33 look at that for themselves.

34

35                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. I've seen  
36 someone walk in here. Nancy, would you stand up and  
37 introduce yourself, please.

38

39                   MS. NELSON: Yes, Nancy Nelson with the  
40 Native Village of Afognak.

41

42                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. For  
43 your information, there's paperwork in the back, and if  
44 you wish to testify, you can fill out a form and pass  
45 it forward.

46

47                   Ann, I have a question for you, I  
48 guess. I got this, and I don't know where to apply  
49 this. I mean, it has public comments on proposals, but  
50 we're not going over proposals.

1 MS. WILKINSON: Right. Mr. Malutin  
2 wants to discuss rural determinations, so you could  
3 take that up at any point. You could have it now  
4 before you get into other business, or you could wait,  
5 because there is going to be a report from OSM, a  
6 briefing about the rural determinations, and you could  
7 do it at that time if you'd like.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. I got it.  
10 Thank you. Okay. Is John Martin, Fish and Wildlife  
11 Service here. You're doing an update on the caribou on  
12 Unimak and the environmental assessment.

13  
14 MR. BOYLAN: This is me, Mr. Chairman.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Oh, you're Mike  
17 Boylan.

18  
19 MR. BOYLAN: And Nancy Hoffman was  
20 going to call in, the refuge manager. I don't know if  
21 she has, or how I would know.

22  
23 MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah, Mike Boylan, Chris  
24 Peterson and Nancy Hoffman are on line.

25  
26 MR. BOYLAN: Oh, good. Okay. Well,  
27 thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the invitation. And the  
28 Board. The Council.

29  
30 I'm Mike Boylan. I'm the refuge  
31 supervisor for half the Alaskan refuges, including  
32 Izembek. And I appreciate the opportunity to talk  
33 today.

34  
35 Just as a bit of background, I've been  
36 in Alaska since 1982. I worked six years at the Kenai  
37 Refuge as an assistant manager. I was the refuge  
38 manager for the Aleutian Islands for four years. And  
39 since 2001 I've been the refuge supervisor. I've have  
40 different refuges during that time, including for about  
41 -- well, from 2001 to 2007 the Kodiak Wildlife Refuge.

42  
43 What I was going to do was try to give  
44 you an update here, and kind of a chronology of what  
45 happened and where we are with Unimak Island.

46  
47 I should say hello to Della out there.

48  
49 MS. TRUMBLE: Hi, Mike. How are you?  
50 Jean Gould is also here with me, the president of the

1 King Cove Corporation.

2

3 MR. BOYLAN: Very good. Thank you.

4 All right.

5

6 In March 2010 the Board of Game  
7 established the Unimak Island Wolf Management Area.  
8 And in April of 2010 the Fish and Wildlife Service got  
9 a proposal from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
10 to address declining caribou numbers on Unimak Island.

11

12

13 A bit of background. Unimak Island is  
14 about 1 million acres, and it's about 95 percent  
15 Congressionally-designated wilderness. It's part of  
16 the Alaska Maritime, actually belongs to the Alaska  
17 Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, but it's managed  
18 from Izembek Refuge because of its proximity to Cold  
19 Bay. It's the only Aleutian Island that has native  
20 caribou, wolves and brown bear, probably because it's  
21 only about a half a mile across Isanotski Strait from  
22 the mainland, from the Alaska Peninsula.

23

24 Since 2009 all hunting has been  
25 suspended due to declining caribou numbers. From 2002  
26 to 2009, the herd declined approximately from 1200  
27 animals to about 400 animals. Dramatic fluctuations in  
28 a population are nothing new out there. In 1920s the  
29 population on Unimak Island was estimated at about  
30 7,000 caribou, about 1925. And in 1950s as zero.

31

32 There's a lot we don't know about  
33 Unimak Island. We don't know about habitat conditions,  
34 about disease, about the role of climate change, icing,  
35 the role of hunting and what predators, whether brown  
36 bear or wolves and how they interact with caribou.

37

38 ADF&G proposed to reduce wolf predation  
39 to stop the decline and restore caribou numbers,  
40 sustainable caribou herd for subsistence purposes  
41 primarily.

42

43 Because Unimak is a unit of the  
44 National Wildlife Refuge System, they needed a permit  
45 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and after NEPA  
46 compliance -- in other words, we elected to do an  
47 environmental assessment, ADF&G was what we call a  
48 cooperating agency on the environmental assessment, and  
49 we titled it Management Alternatives for Unimak Island  
50 Caribou Herd.

1                   The environmental assessment was  
2 completed by a contractor working with us. And that  
3 was released on December 17th, 2010, and there was a  
4 45-day public review period on the environmental  
5 assessment.  
6

7                   In a nutshell, the environmental  
8 assessment had a no action alternative, in other words  
9 the current situation; and three predator control  
10 alternatives. One proposed an action by Fish and Game  
11 using helicopters to selectively kill wolves. Using  
12 helicopters and shooter based in the helicopters to  
13 selectively kill wolves. Another alternative was going  
14 to use airplanes and helicopter for ground support  
15 teams of shooters. Another alternative would be  
16 aircraft support for ground-based shooters. Just  
17 aircraft support, airplane support, no helicopters.  
18

19                   All the alternatives except the no  
20 action includes translocating caribou bulls from the  
21 Southern Alaska Herd.  
22

23                   The Fish and Wildlife Service had also  
24 earlier approved a permit to Fish and Game to radio  
25 collar caribou calves and cows and wolves. That permit  
26 is still outstanding.  
27

28                   The environmental assessment comment  
29 period ended January 31st, 2011. We received over  
30 95,000 comments. Many of these were form letters, but  
31 the substantive comments broke down into four themes:  
32 That there was an inadequate NEPA compliance, and that  
33 actually the document, an EA, was insufficient and a  
34 lot of people thought we need a full environmental  
35 impact statement. (2) The lack of scientific merit and  
36 the data quality, quantity, and there were a number of  
37 false assumption. (3) An incorrect interpretation of  
38 Federal law, regulations and policy. They specifically  
39 cited what they called was an misinterpretation of  
40 ANILCA, of the Refuge Administration and Refuge  
41 Improvement Act, and the Wilderness Act. And, finally,  
42 some inconsistent comments and data about subsistence.  
43

44                   On March 7th, 2011, the Regional  
45 Director issued his decision and a finding of no  
46 significant impact, FONSI. In it he said that the no  
47 action was selected as the best alternative because it  
48 balanced -- it was the best balance of the purposes.  
49 The purposes being from ANILCA to conserve fish and  
50 wildlife populations and habitats in natural diversity,

1 to provide continued opportunities for subsistence, and  
2 to preserve wilderness character. He didn't say it was  
3 perfect or even good, but he said it was the best  
4 balance that he saw.

5  
6 And his statement was the environmental  
7 assessment initially led Fish and Wildlife Service to  
8 favor an action alternative, but on review it appears  
9 the negative impacts of wolf control on conservation of  
10 fish and wildlife populations and habitats in their  
11 natural diversity and maintaining wilderness character  
12 outweigh the potential benefits of possible future  
13 subsistence opportunities, unquote.

14  
15 I'd say the Service takes the Federal  
16 subsistence opportunity seriously. We analyzed what we  
17 could on the data we had for subsistence history, the  
18 current hunting closure, the likelihood of a caribou  
19 increase. Caribou are no doubt an important  
20 subsistence resource, but the data we had showed that  
21 for 90 percent of the False Pass people, caribou are  
22 important, but they hunt the Southern Alaska Peninsula  
23 Herd.

24  
25 There was no assurance the proposed  
26 action would increase caribou for subsistence.

27  
28 Wolves are -- to remove wolves, wolves  
29 have a complex social structure. They are a keystone  
30 predator in the Unimak Island food chain. And to do so  
31 would definitely compromise the Wilderness Act, and our  
32 wilderness mandates.

33  
34 Also, the air traffic and the human  
35 presence of killing wolves would violate the wilderness  
36 character.

37  
38 Another quote from the finding of no  
39 significant impact was that these policies  
40 considerations and our lack of understanding of factors  
41 affecting the Unimak Caribou Herd and predators do not  
42 support an informed science-based decision for direct  
43 action to enhance the Unimak Caribou Herd.

44  
45 The Service is committed to monitoring  
46 caribou, predators and habitat studies in cooperation  
47 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The  
48 Service does not reject predator control as a wildlife  
49 management tool in support of subsistence when  
50 appropriate.

1                   In summary, I think there are three  
2 lessons to be learned from this issue. As Board of  
3 Game Chairman Cliff Judkins noted, quote, the decision  
4 clearly illustrates differences in the management of  
5 the State and Federal agencies. While Federal land  
6 managers focus on protecting wilderness character and  
7 other factors, the State is charged with managing  
8 wildlife on a sustained yield basis for the maximum  
9 benefit of Alaskan, unquote. I can't argue with that.

10

11                   Secondly, better coordination between  
12 both agencies to focus collective resources on this  
13 issue in advance may have prevented this from becoming  
14 an, quote, emergency situation.

15

16                   And, finally, both our agencies I would  
17 hope should use this as an opportunity to improve  
18 future coordination on Unimak Island and elsewhere. As  
19 an example, right now, and Nancy may address this, but  
20 we're working with the Department of Fish and Game, and  
21 with the University of Alaska, a three-year  
22 investigation of the habitat, forage, plants and  
23 seasonal use by caribou on Unimak Island. The study is  
24 called Habitat and Nutritional Ecology of Unimak Island  
25 Caribou. And the Refuge has purchased GPS collars and  
26 the Department of Fish and Game will take the lead in  
27 collaring 7 to 15 caribou next month, April. ADF&G  
28 will gather habitat and forage information on the  
29 ground and through aerial imagery, and the University  
30 of Alaska and ADF&G will analyze the quality of the  
31 forage on Unimak Island to produce a model of the  
32 island's carrying capacity for caribou.

33

34                   Finally, I guess, I would like to say  
35 one of the things that I mentioned to someone on the  
36 plane coming here. A fellow mentioned to me that you  
37 guys are always fighting with Fish and Game. I think  
38 that may be the biggest casualty is the fact we don't  
39 always fight with Fish and Game. There are 16 National  
40 Wildlife Refuges in Alaska, and on any given day all of  
41 those refuge biologists are working with Fish and Game  
42 biologists successfully. We couldn't do our job  
43 otherwise, and I would argue they couldn't do theirs.

44

45                   Kodiak's a classic example with Larry  
46 Van Daele as long as Larry's been here. And before he  
47 was here, Larry was in Dillingham where he worked with  
48 Togiak Refuge.

49

50                   We have a strong relationship with Fish

1 and Game at the field station level, which is most  
2 important. Once in a while one of these issues does  
3 come up. They are legitimate differences. We try to  
4 resolve them. Sometimes we can't, and some they get  
5 into the press, and, you know, it becomes an issue.  
6 But I think that's not -- this is more the exception  
7 than the rule. And I think we -- I hope we've learned  
8 something from this, and that we can move on with  
9 Unimak Island and it can be a lesson learned for all of  
10 us.

11  
12 That concludes what I have to say.  
13 I'll take questions, or Nancy Hoffman's on the line,  
14 she's the refuge manager, and she has specific details.  
15 And she knows, you in-depth knowledge of her refuge.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any questions for  
18 Mike or Nancy. Pat.

19  
20 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. Mike. And  
21 your EA compiler, Dave Allen, when he was down on the  
22 Peninsula for our hearing, did he visit any of the  
23 villages on the Peninsula or Unimak Island?

24  
25 MR. BOYLAN: He -- no, they had a  
26 conference -- they had at least one conference call.  
27 They may have had two. I think in the scoping meetings  
28 they had a conference call, but I believe they did it  
29 all by teleconference.

30  
31 MR. HOLMES: And with what villages? I  
32 believe False Pass?

33  
34 MR. BOYLAN: There were some people  
35 from False Pass did call in. I don't know how many.  
36 Nancy might know. Or Della.

37  
38 MR. HOLMES: At our meeting our  
39 Council recommended that he visit the village and also  
40 talk to villagers in King Cove and Nelson Lagoon,  
41 because those people when they're driftnet fishing go  
42 through Unimak and traditionally would shoot caribou if  
43 they were available. And so therefore was the  
44 suggestion that they visit those.

45  
46 MR. BOYLAN: I know they did meet in --  
47 they held the meeting out there in I believe King Cove  
48 -- I'm not sure if King Cove and Cold Bay, and I  
49 believe.....

50

1 MR. HOLMES: They held a meeting in  
2 Cold Bay. Della, did they make it to King Cove?

3  
4 MS. TRUMBLE: No, they did not make it  
5 to King Cove, Mike. I think what they're referring to  
6 is the public hearing when we had our Federal meeting  
7 in Cold Bay in September is what they're referring to.  
8 And I do recall what Pat says and requesting that they  
9 do go to False Pass, because that was the most affected  
10 community. However, I do not believe that happened.

11  
12 And that's what I have at this point.

13  
14 But I do have some comments to make  
15 after Pat is complete, Mr. Chair.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

18  
19 MS. HOFFMAN: This is Nancy Hoffman,  
20 Mr. Chair, if I could speak.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes. Go ahead.

23  
24 MS. HOFFMAN: When we did have the  
25 meeting over teleconference, I believe maybe close to  
26 18, 11, 18, folks from False Pass did participate in  
27 the teleconference. And there was an opportunity for  
28 folks from King Cove to also phone in. And I do  
29 believe Nelson Lagoon was included in the opportunity.  
30 It was logistically more feasible to do a  
31 teleconference than to have David transport to each  
32 village.

33  
34 MR. HOLMES: Well, I guess my point,  
35 Mike, was there were a whole lot of Fish and Wildlife  
36 employees there, and when Mr. Allen talked to the group  
37 after the meeting, he said that he was previously  
38 scheduled to meet with the environmental community in  
39 Anchorage for a day and also scheduled to meet with the  
40 Guide Association for a day, and so being, you know,  
41 the whole game plan here is a subsistence priority and  
42 rural residents, I can't help but feel bothered.

43  
44 I mean, you can have a teleconference.  
45 I talked to somebody from Nelson Lagoon, and they said  
46 their phones were done. I talked to Stanley Mack, he  
47 was going to fly down, but his plane couldn't make it.  
48 He was going to represent the borough. So basically  
49 other than the phone calls that you got from people at  
50 False Pass, you really didn't have any intimate,

1 personal contact.

2

3                   And when I read through the EA here,  
4 101 pages, you know, and as you pointed out, it appears  
5 as you go through this that the Service was pretty much  
6 inclined to go along with the surgical removal of  
7 wolves. So I would ask my next question, and in your  
8 summary and also in the news releases I saw, there  
9 wasn't a discussion of how many wolves were to be moved  
10 at Unimak. And so when one talks about wolf removal,  
11 you immediately think of Farley Mowatt and killing all  
12 the wolves on the Great Plains. And so the question of  
13 the number of wolves that were to be removed, that's a  
14 big point. And so how many wolves were the State  
15 hoping to remove from the calving grounds? And they  
16 weren't going for the whole island, were they?

17

18                   MR. BOYLAN: No, it was, Nancy, am I  
19 correct, seven wolves was the number that I recall.

20

21                   MS. HOFFMAN: Yes.

22

23                   MR. HOLMES: And that's rather  
24 pertinent, because I would rather suspect your 95,000  
25 form letters from folks down in America would have been  
26 quite different if you were talking about seven wolves  
27 on the calving grounds.

28

29                   And personally as a biologist, I find  
30 that your comments, a lack of understanding of habitat  
31 factors leading to the reduction of caribou on Unimak,  
32 how can you say that when the State with a similar  
33 problem with caribou that have -- because I can  
34 remember in my lifetime, the first time I went out in  
35 the neck of the woods was '63. And, yeah, the  
36 populations go up and down, but a lot of times wolf  
37 numbers go up and down not so much in terms of caribou,  
38 but they go up and down in terms of rabies. And those  
39 fluctuations also tie in. But the -- hope I don't lose  
40 my point, pardon me, I get off on my social security  
41 brain and lose things.

42

43                   (Laughter)

44

45                   MR. HOLMES: But the -- because there's  
46 some empirical information. The State in two years  
47 removed 23 wolves from the South Peninsula Herd on the  
48 calving grounds, and they brought the survival up a  
49 tremendous amount. 60 percent, 70 percent. I forget  
50 what it was. But enough to where the herd is

1 increasing.

2

3                   So on Unimak, to say that it's habitat  
4 or, Ms. Peterson sent me some good papers on  
5 micronutrients on some pent studies that were conducted  
6 in the states on some other critters that have a little  
7 bit different diet than caribou. And, yeah, that's a  
8 point.

9

10                   And, yeah, brown bears can  
11 opportunistically go after them, but our previous  
12 presentations from your Staff on brown bears were  
13 presenting information and data on Interior grizzly  
14 bears, which are quite a different critter than coastal  
15 brown bears. And even here on this island, Vic Barnes'  
16 studies show that the brown bear populations and what  
17 they ate varied more on salmon and berries and sedges  
18 than on deer or other ungulates, you know. So I can't  
19 see that their cousins on Unimak would be really  
20 selectively chasing down caribou.

21

22                   I guess I'll just stop for a minute and  
23 give Della or Sam a chance. Pardon me.

24

25                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.

26

27                   Della, you have any questions.

28

29                   MS. TRUMBLE: I think probably comments  
30 and possibly questions. My concern with this, Mike, is  
31 we had, just I think a correction to start off with,  
32 had requested that the caribou be closed in our winter  
33 meeting in Kodiak in 2010, not 2009. That being the  
34 start.

35

36                   What concerns me on this is the issue  
37 with the wolf. Not only have the residents of Unimak  
38 been saying that there are a large number, not only of  
39 wolves, but bears, but more wolves.

40

41                   Dean is sitting with me right now, and  
42 the guys on the fishing grounds this year have seen  
43 more wolves while they're anchored up than they ever  
44 have in their lifetime fishing out here. We have been  
45 seeing more wolves this past winter, which in my mind  
46 is going to contribute again to the decline in the  
47 caribou of Unit 9D.

48

49                   This issue I think of not going  
50 directly to the community and getting an on-the-ground

1 view and talking first hand-in-hand with the people  
2 that live there, that it affects, I think is really  
3 important. The comment being made that 90 percent of  
4 the caribou on Unimak by the local people is taken from  
5 Unit 9D. People in False Pass, that is where they go  
6 to get their subsistence caribou first before they go  
7 elsewhere.

8  
9 The other issue I think really that's a  
10 concern to me in looking at that 95,000 comments, who  
11 is the real predator here? When we're looking at small  
12 communities that survive off subsistence, whether it be  
13 fish or wildlife, I think that is in our mind the first  
14 priority. And when you try to balance those opinions  
15 of 95,000 environmentalists with cards, there is no  
16 comparison.

17  
18 And I think the people that are hurt  
19 the most when you look at this problem, whether it be  
20 whether Fish and Wildlife and get along with ADF&G,  
21 because it's important to us that they do, and try to  
22 solve some of these issues, because that bottom line  
23 effect is that the people in our communities that lose,  
24 not anybody else, but the people that it affects the  
25 most are the people that are living out in our regions  
26 in our small communities.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Would you like to  
29 respond to that or.....

30  
31 MS. TRUMBLE: The only other question I  
32 would have at this point is whether anything else was  
33 going to be done in regard to this. We've talked in  
34 our meeting in Cold Bay about surveys on wolves.  
35 Surveys on bears. How are we going to get surveys on  
36 those two species when we can't get surveys on caribou?  
37 It is a major concern.

38  
39 MS. HOFFMAN: Hello, this is Nancy from  
40 Izembek. We'll continue to do surveys for caribou and  
41 bears, and we -- well, we can start a systematic survey  
42 on wolves. Right now it's just been incidental with  
43 our other surveys. But we do conduct the other two  
44 species. We had talked about before last year about  
45 including the wolves, which we will do.

46  
47 MS. TRUMBLE: And I guess, has there  
48 been a survey, updated survey on the Unimak caribou at  
49 this point for a winter survey?

50

1 MS. HOFFMAN: And we'll bring that up  
2 when we present our report, the level of survey that we  
3 conducted.

4  
5 MR. BOYLAN: Nancy, when you give your  
6 report when?

7  
8 MS. HOFFMAN: The reports are I think  
9 it's the second on the agenda under C. I don't know  
10 that it will be -- it might be tomorrow morning. I'm  
11 not sure how fast this will go along.

12  
13 MR. BOYLAN: Mr. Chair.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Sam.

16  
17 MR. ROHRER: I have a few things to  
18 say. First off, Mike, my sympathies for drawing the  
19 short stick to come here and bear the brunt of our  
20 frustrations.

21  
22 Frustrations have been building for a  
23 number of years. I don't even quite know where to  
24 start, but I guess I'll just jump in there. There's a  
25 couple things that -- I guess a couple questions.

26  
27 The first thing is, it would just be  
28 interesting to know the 95,000 comments, any idea what  
29 percentage of those would be Alaskan, comments from  
30 Alaska. Just curiosity.

31  
32 MR. BOYLAN: We could find that  
33 information. We've got -- I think they're still  
34 working or -- they may be working on breaking down, you  
35 know, the locale, though the four categories I gave you  
36 that they fall out into, that was like the most  
37 important stuff that we needed to know was what's the  
38 general tone of these comments, and they broke into  
39 those large categories. It takes more -- admittedly a  
40 bunch of them were form letters.

41  
42 MR. ROHRER: Sure.

43  
44 MR. BOYLAN: And they didn't really  
45 have substantive suggestions. And we documented that.  
46 But then the ones that did have substantive  
47 suggestions, I can get you numbers on that as soon as we  
48 break it out, but I don't know that we have yet.

49  
50 MR. ROHRER: Okay. Yeah, I would

1 appreciate seeing the numbers on there.

2

3 I guess the other thing with the EA  
4 coming out, it would have been nice, and I'm not quite  
5 sure why this happened, maybe I missed it, I don't  
6 think I did, but it would have been nice if the RAC  
7 members would have been sent copies of the EA to have  
8 an opportunity to comment. Maybe if I was on top of  
9 things more I would have been checking the Federal  
10 Register and seeing that. So I could have commented on  
11 that. But it would have been nice if it went out to  
12 our RAC members. I'm not sure why it didn't.

13

14 MR. BOYLAN: I don't either. I agree,  
15 it should. It was not.....

16

17 MR. ROHRER: Yeah, I mean, that's a  
18 pretty big mistake. That's a pretty huge mistake.

19

20 Moving on though, you know, it's  
21 interesting the numbers kind of I guess -- in the  
22 letter you read, I guess the author of the letter is  
23 trying to comfort us with this idea that in 1925 there  
24 were 7,000 and in 1950 there were zero. I'm not too  
25 comforted by that. I don't know. That's not real  
26 encouraging. Boy, I hope the Department of Interior  
27 isn't thinking that that's an idea for a good  
28 population model. That's not. Going from 7,000  
29 animals to zero, not a good idea.

30

31 Your comment, or the comment of the  
32 author in the letter that the EA didn't totally  
33 repudiate the idea of predator control, but they just  
34 didn't find that this was an appropriate place. You  
35 said in there that there could be more place -- it  
36 could be more appropriate to do predator control in a  
37 different situation. Boy, I just find it hard to  
38 imagine how you could have a situation that could be  
39 any more appropriate than this situation for predator  
40 control. You have an exact model right across the  
41 strait where they did this exact same thing and look  
42 how it turned out. I mean, that's an amazing  
43 statement. How could it be more appropriate? I don't  
44 know. It's interesting.

45

46 I guess my last comment, with the  
47 three-year study that's coming up on habitat, it's  
48 going to be interesting to see how that study comes  
49 out, being that there will probably be no caribou in  
50 two years. But it will be real interesting to see how

1 the habitat study comes out from that.

2

3 I guess my last comment, or question,  
4 is the regional manager's the one who ultimate makes  
5 the decision based off of the recommendations from the  
6 EA; am I correct? That's the regional manager, right?

7

8 MR. BOYLAN: The regional director.

9

10 MR. ROHRER: Oh, regional director.

11 I'm sorry. Yes.

12

13 So where do we go to now? Where do we  
14 appeal his decision to? Is there a possibility to ask  
15 for reconsideration or what's the next step?

16

17 MR. BOYLAN: The NEPA process doesn't  
18 allow for that. You do an EA, when there's -- I mean,  
19 the whole NEPA process, whether it's an environmental  
20 impact statement, or whether it's an EA, the EA is a  
21 shorter one. We had the comment period. He makes his  
22 decision, and basically that's it. There is not an  
23 appeal process on that. And all I can say is, other  
24 people have made their comments known to him, but  
25 there's not an official appeal process on this, because  
26 he found a no significant impact and picked the no  
27 action alternative. And that's the end of that  
28 particular process.

29

30 MR. ROHRER: So basically the only  
31 alternative we'd have, another EA and go through the  
32 same thing again.

33

34 MR. BOYLAN: Well, there -- I don't  
35 know. There could be -- if another, if another issue  
36 comes up, but on this one he's not going to do another  
37 EA now. We're not going to -- now we're looking at  
38 trying to gather the data that we know we don't have.  
39 That's the next step. And that was one of the glaring  
40 things that came out is how little we knew about Unimak  
41 Island.

42

43 MR. ROHRER: Yeah. Well, and that's  
44 been -- I mean, that's certainly been our observation  
45 for numerous years, and numerous -- I mean, year after  
46 year we keep saying that. We've got to get surveys,  
47 guys. We've got to get surveys. So it's no news to us  
48 that there wasn't surveys being done to gather the good  
49 accurate information.

50

1                   Anyways, I've got numerous other things  
2 I could go on about, but it's not going to do any good,  
3 so again I appreciate you sitting here bearing our  
4 frustrations.

5  
6                   MR. BOYLAN: Mr. Chairman. If I may?

7  
8                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Mike.

9  
10                  MR. BOYLAN: The idea that we said we  
11 would do somewhere, we would look at it, whatever I  
12 read off there about where it is more appropriate, it's  
13 actually we just said we would not -- we would continue  
14 to look at predator control as a legitimate wildlife  
15 management tool where appropriate, not that there's any  
16 place that is necessarily more appropriate.

17  
18                  But one of the things that's really  
19 limiting, and it was on Unimak, is that it's all  
20 designated wilderness. That is an overlay which is --  
21 that just adds another level of difficulty, another  
22 level of legal constraints that we have to abide by.  
23 Okay.

24  
25                  Thank you.

26  
27                  MS. TRUMBLE: Mike.

28  
29                  CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Go ahead,  
30 Rick.

31  
32                  MR. ROWLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33  
34                  CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hold on, Rick.

35  
36                  MR. BOYLAN: Della.

37  
38                  CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Was there someone  
39 on line trying to.....

40  
41                  MR. BOYLAN: Yes, Della.

42  
43                  MS. TRUMBLE: Mike, is there anything  
44 besides looking at the three-year study, can it come  
45 from this RAC as a recommendation that more effort be  
46 made to get these surveys done? This comes up with  
47 every one of our meetings. And it had in the past when  
48 I was a RAC members. It continues and it's doing us  
49 more harm than it's doing any good. I don't have an  
50 answer for it, and I just think there needs to be a

1 better effort, whether it is a combination of people  
2 off this RAC and some Advisory Council, some people  
3 within the region, and some Staff to try to create a  
4 committee to figure how do we address this problem.

5  
6 One of the things we had done in the  
7 past on even just the caribou surveys is we asked and  
8 required that a local member of one of the communities  
9 went with the ADF&G Staff and the Fish and Wildlife  
10 Staff. And it wasn't an issue of we didn't trust ADF&G  
11 or Fish and Wildlife. It's a matter of when you're  
12 living out here on the ground, or you're on the fishing  
13 grounds, you see a lot more than when you're up in the  
14 air trying to get a survey done. And I think that  
15 contributed a lot I think to being able to get some of  
16 those numbers, population numbers in a better  
17 perspective. And this may be something that we look at  
18 in working with the Unimak or False Pass and try  
19 locally to figure out, you know, to figure out, you  
20 know, how best do we get these numbers and -- I mean,  
21 this would be a perfect project to put together, to  
22 hire somebody locally in False Pass to do.

23  
24 MR. BOYLAN: I'll say I think it's the  
25 recommendation from this Advisory Council that we need  
26 better information, we need better surveys, regular  
27 surveys being down, is perfectly legitimate. And I'd  
28 like to see it.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della, this is  
31 Mitch. You know, this is also something that we can  
32 put on our annual report to the Federal Subsistence  
33 Board.

34  
35 Rick, you had something.

36  
37 MR. ROWLAND: Yeah, I have a couple  
38 things. I have an understanding of policy, and I know  
39 in the policy, if an issue is a hot topic, then it's  
40 suggested for tabling. In my opinion of suggesting  
41 another survey will technically table an issue, and as  
42 it sounds to me, and also considering the lady being  
43 eaten out in Chignik, because of the wolves, that those  
44 kids in False Pass don't have three years to wait for a  
45 survey. There's a situation here that is being  
46 encouraged to you by the individuals sitting here, that  
47 emergency contingent may need to be looked at and not  
48 be shuffled into a survey. Because I know that that  
49 lady that ran away in Chignik couldn't run for three  
50 years. It didn't take that long. But that's an

1 example of what really happened.

2

3                   So that leads to one of my questions,  
4 and I have a couple, is that what is the contingency  
5 for emergency management of wolves under your  
6 responsibility?

7

8                   MR. BOYLAN: I'll clarify since I  
9 actually issued a permit when the lady was killed in  
10 Chignik. Fish and Game notified us about that. It was  
11 a tragedy, no doubt. We issued the permit immediately,  
12 even though -- and that Alaska Peninsula, that area is  
13 not -- the Alaska Peninsula Refuge is not one of mine  
14 currently so I'm not as familiar with the area, but it  
15 was all either corporation land or it was private land,  
16 corporation land or tribal land all around Chignik.  
17 The Refuge boundary was quite a ways away and there was  
18 mountains in between. There was almost no chance that  
19 those wolves were going onto the Refuge.

20

21                   We issued the permit anyway, because we  
22 didn't want to be accused of being obstructionists.  
23 And I said, and the phrase I used was, we do not -- we  
24 don't want to have any kind of chilling effect. I  
25 don't want ADF&G pilots looking over their shoulder,  
26 anybody wondering where the Refuge boundary is. We  
27 issued a permit for that the day it happened, or right  
28 after.

29

30                   They could have killed those wolves,  
31 the people in the village. Anyone there could have  
32 killed those wolves. They were, you know, on private  
33 land. They were not on the Refuge, and even if they  
34 had been, they could have killed those wolves. And I  
35 read a comment, something else in here, about how the  
36 wolves coming in villages. Whether it's in False Pass  
37 or wherever, people are fully within their rights  
38 killing wolves if they have them there. And I don't  
39 know why that doesn't happen. I mean, I don't know  
40 what I'm missing here.

41

42                   We are teaching in the Village of  
43 McGrath, our Refuge manager and his Staff are teaching  
44 people how to trap. Local residents how to trap. And  
45 I don't know what that says about where the -- kind of  
46 the knowledge has gone. But we're trying to get them  
47 to take control in those villages. And that was the  
48 case in Chignik. They didn't need help from us, they  
49 just needed to do it, and we supported it every way we  
50 could. And we will do that in any -- around any

1 village.

2

3                   But those are not Refuge lands. If  
4 there's private land there, there's corporation land  
5 there, there's whatever, tribal land. They can kill  
6 whatever and it's all, you know, fully within their  
7 rights to do so. And I don't know, you know, I don't  
8 want to take the blame for that, because we're not  
9 stopping anybody from doing that.

10

11                   MS. HOFFMAN: This is Nancy from.....

12

13                   MR. ROWLAND: Wait. I've got a couple  
14 more. Sorry, Nancy.

15

16                   But I want that question answered about  
17 what is your wolf management plan.

18

19                   MR. BOYLAN: Well, I mean, we don't --  
20 we're trying to find out the numbers of the wolves, but  
21 that's a resident species. We're not managing wolves  
22 other than if there's an emergency like the one in  
23 Chignik, we issue the permit. They didn't really need  
24 it to go onto the Refuge, because we didn't think the  
25 wolves were going to go on to the Refuge. It was quite  
26 a ways away. But that was totally out of our hands.  
27 We gave them the permits so we didn't want to appear to  
28 be obstructing anything, but there was almost no chance  
29 the wolves were going to get onto the refuge, and they  
30 did follow up and they did kill wolves.

31

32                   And we told -- we actually sent our  
33 people to the village to talk, the Staff from the  
34 Alaska Peninsula Refuge, to explain to the people. You  
35 can kill wolves here. There is no Refuge land here,  
36 and even if there was, in this kind of case, you can go  
37 on the Refuge land and shoot wolves or trap wolves,  
38 whatever you want to do. There's a season on them.

39

40                   But the Chignik wolves were not -- had  
41 nothing to do with us, they weren't on the Refuge, and  
42 it was just a matter of somebody going out and getting  
43 them. And that's what they did.

44

45                   MR. ROWLAND: I know. I'm not talking  
46 about the Chignik wolf. I'm talking about the wolf on  
47 Unimak.

48

49                   MR. BOYLAN: Well, we don't have.....

50

1 MS. HOFFMAN: May I answer that.  
2  
3 MR. ROWLAND: Sure.  
4  
5 MS. HOFFMAN: Last week I had Fish and  
6 Game here, the patrol on the ship from Dutch, and they  
7 had visited False Pass. And we had brown shirts and  
8 blue shirts. And they were again kind of concerned  
9 with what Mike brought up. You know, they -- people in  
10 False Pass wanted the troopers to take care of the  
11 wolves. And then we've heard before in September and  
12 earlier and even today that they want someone else, the  
13 Federal or the State to take of the wolves. Those  
14 wolves are on private or on corporation lands, and the  
15 season right now, you can take 10 a day. So I don't --  
16 again, I don't understand why people don't trap or  
17 shoot. If they're honestly, and it's legitimate, that  
18 they're afraid for the lives of their children and  
19 their property, then they need to take the action.  
20  
21 I had a conversation with an elder in  
22 False Pass asking him about trapping, how many use or  
23 folks trapping. He said, no one does. It's too much  
24 work. It's too hard. So that's why he felt that the  
25 trapping activity has declined in the area. But I  
26 still am very curious of why people just do not enable  
27 themselves to take care of the issue at hand.  
28  
29 MR. ROWLAND: Okay. I have on more.  
30 Okay. Thank you.  
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rick, go ahead.  
32  
33 MR. ROWLAND: I got one more. And then  
34 the next question is, under your NEPA process in  
35 relation to this study, what was your outcome of  
36 consultation with the tribes?  
37  
38 MR. BOYLAN: Well, I think we -- as we  
39 mentioned, the consultation that occurred out in Cold  
40 Bay and with the people by teleconference or whatever,  
41 there was some mixed messages in terms of the number of  
42 people that relied on caribou. What it showed was that  
43 the -- you know, we got comments like 90 percent of  
44 them relied on the -- in False Pass relied on caribou  
45 from the Southern Alaska Peninsula Herd. So there was  
46 actually somebody from False Pass, Nancy can correct  
47 me, but I believe there was one of the few people that  
48 talked from False Pass, somebody actually advocated no  
49 wolf control. Am I correct, Nancy?  
50

1 MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah, they didn't think  
2 wolves were the issue, and they were more concerned  
3 with the bears. And also members have said that the  
4 majority of their caribou were taken from the Peninsula  
5 side. They would take caribou who used to migrate  
6 through False Pass, which the numbers are very low, but  
7 they would typically 10 to 20 miles to an area where  
8 they could harvest any caribou, but typically they'd go  
9 across the strait.

10  
11 MR. ROWLAND: So I'd like to just say  
12 that I agree with Sam. I'd appreciate seeing that  
13 information and statistics and numbers so I could look  
14 at it myself so it isn't verbalized to me in the  
15 future.

16  
17 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, go ahead,  
20 Della.

21  
22 MS. TRUMBLE: I guess I'm a little  
23 confused. I know I was at the conference call, and I  
24 know there wasn't 20 people from False Pass. In fact I  
25 think Tom at the beginning had said there was 11. And  
26 for the record, in the book it had eight people that  
27 made actual comments.

28  
29 And without talking to Tom, and I  
30 didn't get to give him a call. I was hoping this part  
31 of this meeting would happen tomorrow, because I  
32 thought I was traveling yesterday, but apparently I  
33 didn't.

34  
35 I'm getting I mean, you know, a little  
36 kind of confused as to some of the feedback and things  
37 that I'm hearing, because it's not what I'm hearing  
38 from False Pass. So I find that kind of interesting.  
39 And I will follow up with Tom again here when we get a  
40 break and just kind of get a head's up as to what his  
41 sense and feeling about some of this stuff and where  
42 they're at with it.

43  
44 But as far as them not wanting to kill  
45 or probably to manage that, some of what they're  
46 concerned with your picture with these wolves, not  
47 close to town. You have one or two that come in there.  
48 But it's the bigger picture I think of the wolves in  
49 themselves. And it would be a hardship, and they don't  
50 have the ability to get to where they need to, to have

1 to take care of the wolves if they have to. I mean,  
2 it's rugged country. The immediate area, and like Tom  
3 said, you know, within a certain miles they can get  
4 access to by boat. That's how they harvest the  
5 caribou. But to be able to even -- that's just  
6 caribou, and to try to even think about taking care of  
7 some of the wolf population. That would be impossible.

8  
9 MS. HOFFMAN: Della, this is Nancy.  
10 Last week I talked to two state troopers that were in  
11 False Pass, and there was three wolves in town that the  
12 people are complaining about. They said they're just  
13 lounging around, and they're afraid they're going to  
14 eat their dogs, and just all kinds of things. And so  
15 this from state troopers on, you know, it might have  
16 been Friday. But this is this week. They are in town.  
17 And no one is picking up their firearms or their trips.  
18 They want state troopers or the feds to take care of  
19 it. And then even the VPSO, you know. I mean, the  
20 discussion with the troopers is we're just are very  
21 curious of why this isn't -- why they're not just  
22 taking it upon themselves since it's the season, that  
23 they could just harvest these wolves. That's just as  
24 of last week.

25  
26 MS. TRUMBLE: I will give the mayor a  
27 call, and get back from him as to why that is and get  
28 back to you.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I guess that I  
31 would pose a question. If the locals don't want to  
32 shoot the problem animals, I would ask what's the  
33 procedure for disposing of problem animals, the  
34 predators like wolves or bear. If I were to -- if I  
35 had wolves in my village and I shot one, what would I  
36 have to do? Do I need to skin it, send it to you, take  
37 care of the carcass or send you the carcass? What's  
38 all involved there?

39  
40 MR. BOYLAN: Well, that's under  
41 State.....

42  
43 MS. HOFFMAN: If somebody trapped or  
44 shoot a -- you have to get the hide sealed. It's in  
45 your hunting regulations on, you know, showing --  
46 determining what the sex is, but you're right, the  
47 sealing. I think if that occurred like in False Pass  
48 and Nelson, King Cove and here, most all have a sealing  
49 representative that will seal for the State. Otherwise  
50 you have 30 days to seal it. Do if you're going into a

1 larger town, you can seal it that way also.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: All right. Thank  
4 you, Nancy.

5

6 George.

7

8 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. We have our  
9 wildlife biologist, Glenn Stout, on line who could  
10 actually answer questions about DLP, defense of life  
11 and property issues, if you want to go into this issue  
12 further.

13

14 It's up to you, sir.

15

16 Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah. And the  
19 reason I ask, and I find it hard -- I also find it hard  
20 that if we have problem animals, predators, you know,  
21 bears and wolves, coming into the village. If we had  
22 wolves in Akhiok, and bears in Akhiok, I don't have a  
23 problem shooting them. You know, life and property is  
24 pretty important. And just like I said, this morning,  
25 there are bears out there now that are walking the road  
26 right between the school and the village. You know, if  
27 the parents catch a bear in that road while the  
28 children are in school or on the way to school, the  
29 bear's not going to survive. I can tell you that.

30

31 You know, our kids are important. Our  
32 way of life is important.

33

34 But the process of -- we've got to get  
35 the bear sealed, we've got to skin it, we've got to  
36 dispose of the carcass, or, you know, use it for meat  
37 if we want to, if it's good enough, clean enough, but a  
38 bear that's habituated to a dump is usually not very  
39 good meat.

40

41 Yeah, I find it hard to believe that,  
42 you know, people are not out there protecting  
43 themselves. You know, I would. I have no problem with  
44 that. I would.

45

46 Which one, Sam or Rick?

47

48 MR. ROWLAND: I'll go after.

49

50 MR. ROHRER: Okay. I guess first off,

1 Mike, I want to commend you for you guys' response in  
2 Chignik, while it was primarily symbolic. I mean, like  
3 you said, they weren't on the Refuge lands. Good job  
4 on your response there.

5  
6 And up in McGrath. I mean, it's kind  
7 of sorry that the Refuge manager has to be teaching  
8 folks up there how to trap wolves, but the fact that  
9 he is, that's great. I mean, again I commend you on  
10 that.

11  
12 And why in the world in False Pass  
13 there's three wolves that are living on the street  
14 there that some person there hasn't shot it totally  
15 beyond me. If I was there, I'd have got them. I don't  
16 understand that.

17  
18 But regardless of all that, all that's  
19 beside the point, Della's point's correct. You're not  
20 going to go do that on Unimak. Maybe one or two, maybe  
21 if you're really lucky, but you're not going to go. A  
22 person on foot with a rifle or a few traps isn't going  
23 to make a dent in the population on Unimak. And who  
24 knows why they're not being killed in the villages, but  
25 killing three wolves in False Pass doesn't make a lick  
26 of difference on Unimak Island.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Rick.  
29 You've got to push your button.

30  
31 MR. ROWLAND: So I was wondering if  
32 under your NEPA process you did consult with that False  
33 Pass tribe. Did you consult with them? Because I  
34 heard you say Cold Bay, but I don't know if you  
35 answered it, whether you said that you consulted with  
36 that tribe on Unimak.

37  
38 MR. BOYLAN: Well, we did.....

39  
40 MS. HOFFMAN: Yes.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Nancy.

43  
44 MS. HOFFMAN: This is Nancy Hoffman.  
45 Yes, we consulted with the Isanotski Corporation, and  
46 we invited the tribe and everybody. And so I believe  
47 Tom, and, Della, correct me if I'm wrong, but Tom is  
48 the president of the corporation, Isanotski, and I  
49 believe he represented the group.

50

1 MS. TRUMBLE: Tom is the mayor of False  
2 Pass. Somebody else is the president of Isanotski  
3 Corporation. And they also have a different tribal  
4 council.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Go head,  
7 Al.

8  
9 MS. HOFFMAN: Invitations were extended  
10 to all tribes and corporations, so whoever came and  
11 presented.

12  
13 MR. CRATTY: I'd just like to say to  
14 Della, I think you guys should be shooting them wolves  
15 out there around King Cove. I know if we have a bear  
16 problem in Old Harbor, they ain't around very much. I  
17 just wanted to say that.

18  
19 MS. TRUMBLE: Yeah, people do what they  
20 can I think here, Al.

21  
22 And then I think the other thing I'm  
23 wondering about as far as False Pass is you have a  
24 small population there, and the guys are all out  
25 fishing on the boats. You have a local VPSO, and  
26 pretty much it's then elders and, you know, all women  
27 and children. These guys are on the fishing grounds  
28 all the time. And that may have contributed based on  
29 the timing with it. You know, I'm not sure what's  
30 going on. And until I can actually talk to Tom to get  
31 a better idea, which is what I need to do. I'll have  
32 an answer to that, but like I said, you know, it doesn't  
33 make any sense to me. I know here if we've got a  
34 problem, we take care of it.

35  
36 And there is the issue of having to go  
37 through all the sealing and getting everything, and,  
38 you know, doing something with the bear hide that  
39 people here don't really like to have to deal with.  
40 They prefer to -- if you have to shoot a bear on your  
41 property, they prefer to call the police department to  
42 remove it from their property and do what they have to  
43 do. It's not an easy process to follow through on,  
44 specially when you're looking at the number of predator  
45 population. So there's a lot of things to look at and  
46 think about I think as we keep continuing forward with  
47 this process to hopefully find some happy medium here.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, go ahead,  
50 Pat.

1 MR. HOLMES: I was going to talk about  
2 having lived out there for a while and folks get  
3 confused. I mean, even Nancy identified the Alaska  
4 Department of Fish and Wildlife Protection as Fish and  
5 Game folks in the villages. And I think the farther  
6 west you go, the shyer they are. And, you know,  
7 they'll comment in certain circumstances, but they're  
8 always worried about doing something wrong. And I  
9 think Della's summary on defense of life and property  
10 bears, you know, people may not know about doing the  
11 wolves themselves, and would rather have, you know, a  
12 government person take care of that. And I think  
13 that's a perfectly valid conclusion from a community,  
14 particularly when most of the men are gone.

15  
16 I'd like to comment on the 95 percent  
17 being harvested on Alaska Peninsula. Like I mentioned  
18 before, I was out in that neck of the woods in '63 when  
19 I went out to work in the Aleutians. And it all  
20 depends. People shoot caribou where there's a  
21 reasonable abundance. And when the island numbers are  
22 up around 2, 3,000, well, 1500 to 3,000, but that's a  
23 wide spread, and you get more northwest winds, then  
24 they're going to move to the east side of the island  
25 towards False Pass, and then people whack them there.

26  
27 And I saw some information in the  
28 Anchorage press stating that there's no data on  
29 subsistence harvest or little data, but, you know, in  
30 rural communities, particularly that are that far away,  
31 when folks are hungry and they've had a bad fishing  
32 season, or they don't have any money. I can recall  
33 being in some of the villages where you go to the store  
34 and you ask, do you have any fresh fruit or vegetables,  
35 and they say, yeah, we've got potatoes. Or you go and  
36 buy some ground round, and this was 15 years ago and  
37 ground round was 5 bucks a pound in the Aleutians. And  
38 that's 40 percent fat. I mean, if there's a critter  
39 there, and you're hungry, they're going to shoot it.  
40 And if there's any potential for them to report it, or  
41 if somebody comes and surveys and asks, you know, then  
42 they may or may not, depending on how shy or worried  
43 they are.

44  
45 But I'd like to move towards -- I'd  
46 like to make one more comment, and that's on not having  
47 any information as to whether predation is a problem.  
48 I have difficulties with that when Lem tagged, what was  
49 it, 14 caribou calves and in a month to a month and a  
50 half 12 of them are dead. The collars are no longer

1 responding. That's not micronutrients and that's not  
2 habitat, unless they all galloped off a cliff together.  
3 So, you know, as I say before, if you look at the  
4 information that's at hand, one could make judgments  
5 about habitat and nutrient, et cetera, because you've  
6 already presented that, and it's in the EA.

7

8 I would like to present a solution I  
9 think or something that would help a lot. Our  
10 resolution of censure that we'll be working on about  
11 the lack of surveys, we'll be dealing with that later.

12

13

14 But I understand that most caribou  
15 surveys in the state are done during the calving period,  
16 in June, July where the herds are aggregated, the  
17 females are dropping -- the does are dropping calves,  
18 and the bulls are generally hanging around the  
19 periphery. And I wonder why you're persisting in  
20 trying to do winter surveys at Unimak when most other  
21 places I understand survey during the calving period.  
22 And that would seem to be -- that's when Lem's getting  
23 his partial counts, doing his tagging. Why not do it  
24 then. And please don't tell me it's because it's  
25 easier to count them in the snow, because I've flown  
26 surveys in the Aleutians counting salmon, and I could  
27 tell you how many humpies and how many silvers or reds  
28 or dogs are in the stream in the Super Cub, and, you  
29 know, if a person can't find the caribou on the island,  
30 you've got the collars, so you know where the herd is.  
31 You get in an airplane, you fly out at 2,000 feet, you  
32 find them. Or if you've got clouds, you get down a  
33 little lower. You can survey them. And that's what I  
34 think we find so difficult. So why not modify your  
35 survey plan and timing and -- because when you get to  
36 small numbers if you miss -- right now you quoted 400  
37 animals. I heard another number, that there's 300.  
38 Nobody knows for sure. But you miss 10 animals.  
39 That's a quarter of the population. So please see if  
40 you can find some way to get surveying and survey it  
41 when you can count them, rather than in the winter when  
42 the weather's bad.

43

44 MR. BOYLAN: I'd like to ask Nancy, do  
45 you want to talk about your interactions and anything  
46 about these survey problems.

47

48 MS. HOFFMAN: I would love to. Hi,  
49 Pat. We have been conducting counts with Fish and Game  
50 earlier than I've been here, and it's been in the

1 summer during the post-calving. And then there's been  
2 joint surveys with Alaska Peninsula Refuge, U.S. Fish  
3 and Wildlife Service -- I'm sorry, Alaska Fish and Game  
4 and Izembek. And we all had planes, multiple planes  
5 and observers, and in '09 we did our first joint effort  
6 in the summer. And we have continued to do that  
7 annually when we all can do that. We got a count, I  
8 believe it was 800 in 2009.

9  
10 And then we, Izembek, continue to do  
11 the winter count. That's in addition, and that's a  
12 count, overall count that we try to in the winter.  
13 And, I don't know, they started many, many moons ago.  
14 We're finding much more difficult to complete because  
15 of the changing weather patterns, because we need a  
16 complete cover of snow. You get the mottling and it's  
17 really hard to tell if it's a rac or a caribou or  
18 whatever it is.

19  
20 So we have tried, and I know you've all  
21 been very frustrated. When I first came here two years  
22 ago, and I heard that there wasn't a survey for the,  
23 you know, two years prior than when I came, I was like,  
24 well, that should be a no brainer to go out and survey.  
25 Well, I've come to find out that it is a little harder  
26 than you may expect. And you have to have everybody in  
27 the right place at the right time, and weather  
28 conditions have to be perfect.

29  
30 So we're going to start abandoning the  
31 winter count and making sure we continue with our  
32 summer, and we're going to try fall, we're going to try  
33 spring, and in addition keep trying to do winter so we  
34 would have some type of -- when you change methodology,  
35 you want to have some type of overlap of comparison.

36  
37 But, yeah, we agree. The winter  
38 survey, it just doesn't seem to apply any more. It did  
39 when they did it back when we had a pretty regular  
40 snowfall, but things have changed.

41  
42 So we are not sitting back trying to  
43 avoid doing field work. We love doing field work. We  
44 love to get out there and fly and count caribou and we  
45 also have incorporated local people in the count in  
46 which we counted 400 animals. And I know 300 has been  
47 out in the press and different documents, and that's a  
48 typo or whatever. But it was 400 that we counted. And  
49 we had a local observer, we took your advice. It  
50 worked out nicely. We did catch a little flack on

1 that, saying that the person wasn't a biologist, they  
2 wouldn't know how to count, you know, it's hard to make  
3 everybody happy. But we are trying, honestly. We're  
4 not just sitting back here.

5  
6 I hope that helps.

7  
8 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, thank you very much,  
9 Nancy. I appreciate that. And I guess we know you're  
10 trying, and I'm glad your decision to work in the  
11 summertime, and, you know, I've flown the whole chain  
12 for salmon and I do understand that there are problems,  
13 and I, you know really hope that you can get that done,  
14 and maybe our resolution of censure on the surveys,  
15 maybe you can use that to hustle Mike for a little more  
16 survey money and to be able to get some of the pilots  
17 from one of the other areas in the state that's a  
18 little more stable to be on standby so that you've got  
19 your official Fish and Wildlife pilot there, and maybe  
20 be able to borrow planes like last year. You said  
21 yours got broken and so you couldn't fly. Well, I  
22 think Mike must have a couple planes somewhere.

23  
24 And if not, you know, like we  
25 suggested, you've got ADF&G, I know the commercial  
26 fisheries folks there in Cold Bay fly Unimak every  
27 year, and I talked to the air station commander here at  
28 Kodiak, and he said, just give him a call and tell him  
29 what you need to do, and if they've got time available,  
30 you know, they'd sure try to see if they could find a  
31 way to help you. So, you know, there's lots of  
32 options. Make the biggest contingency plan that you  
33 can, and I'm sure after Mike getting chewed on here  
34 this afternoon, he's going to give you a lot more  
35 support, not that he probably hasn't already.

36  
37 Thank you very much.

38  
39 MS. PETERSON: Mr. Chairman. This is  
40 Chris Peterson, the biologist at Izembek. May I have a  
41 word, please.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Say that again,  
44 who's that? Christy?

45  
46 MR. BOYLAN: Chris Peterson, the  
47 biologist at Izembek.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

50

1 MS. PETERSON: Okay. I will try to  
2 project better into the speaker here. As I said, I'm  
3 the wildlife biologist at Izembek.

4  
5 We have taken Mr. Holmes' advice and we  
6 did contact the Coast Guard in Kodiak. I personally  
7 spoke with the commander there on several occasions and  
8 discussed the situation of possibly partnering with  
9 them or cooperating with them to get some survey work  
10 done. There were several problems that were brought up  
11 with this possible scenario.

12  
13 One is that very seldom do they have  
14 aircraft down in this area that are of the type that  
15 would be efficient or conducive to conducting a survey  
16 of wildlife. Most of their aircraft are too large and  
17 you probably would not see any wildlife if the aircraft  
18 went out there to do the survey.

19  
20 Also, they have scheduling problems.  
21 If we were to do the survey in December, they would be  
22 able to work with us for that. However, we are always  
23 going to be on call with them that if an emergency  
24 situation or some other command come into the crew that  
25 is conducting the survey, we would be at their  
26 disposal, which means that if they are called to go  
27 somewhere else, we do not even get dropped off and left  
28 where we are. Se have to go with them.

29  
30 And there were other problems of  
31 significant nature with cooperating with the Coast  
32 Guard. They were very congenial and willing to do what  
33 they could if it was at the right time.

34  
35 I've also spoken with other people in  
36 the area and tried to work out ways that we could  
37 cooperate to conduct survey. And basically the same  
38 problems crop up with these other people. Most  
39 everybody is very willing to help if they can, but due  
40 to the nature of the weather and conditions out at  
41 Unimak, it is not always conducive to try to work with  
42 people who are not sitting around waiting to go do that  
43 survey. We generally have very short or brief windows  
44 of opportunity, and to find somebody available on such  
45 short notice to run out and do a survey simply does not  
46 work.

47  
48 But we do keep it on our list, and we  
49 will pursue that as often as we are able to and try to  
50 conduct those surveys, take along members of the public

1 when we can. We do think that is a good thing to do,  
2 and we appreciate the suggestion from the Board.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MR. HOLMES: Thank you, Chris. I'm  
7 glad you checked into that. And I well understand all  
8 those problems. When I tried to get things done  
9 through the Coast Guard, I just kept my pack by the  
10 door and my shaving gear at work. And one time I made  
11 a very -- had a great time up at St. Paul, but that was  
12 1,000 miles different from where I wanted to go.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MR. HOLMES: But anyway there's always  
17 good opportunities, and neat critters and people to  
18 meet where you go to different places.

19

20 So thanks for looking at the other  
21 options, and I hope that something works out.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other  
24 questions?

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I have one. Early  
29 on in your report when you said that back in '25 there  
30 were 7,000 and then up to 1950s there were zero. How  
31 did the population come back? Were they transported  
32 or.....

33

34 MR. BOYLAN: We've never translocated  
35 animals. They came back naturally. And so those are  
36 just an example of the wild kind of extreme  
37 fluctuations in caribou herds. And I mean, at Unimak,  
38 and it's like caribou herds throughout Alaska go  
39 through those kinds of fluctuations. That's the most  
40 extreme example I can give.

41

42 But they came back naturally one can  
43 assume from the mainland, crossing Isanotski Strait.

44

45 MS. HOFFMAN: This is Nancy again. And  
46 people have documented, they have seen caribou swim  
47 across. So it's just half a mile, and caribou float  
48 very well, and they swim. That's what they do. And so  
49 with this population of the newslog (ph), it's large  
50 enough. You're going to have overflow and you also are

1 going to have dispersal. And so that's part of an  
2 island ecology is animals come and go. So it's a  
3 natural population increase, or migration to and from.  
4 Predators and caribou.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you.  
7 George.

8  
9 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, Mr. Chair. George  
10 Pappas, Department of Fish and Game.

11  
12 The use of the number zero, I guess  
13 maybe some clarification for the record to be built  
14 here, was it actually zero animals were observed or was  
15 there a lack of a survey that year. That's something  
16 that has to be brought to the attention of this RAC.

17  
18 Thank you. Mr. Chair.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: All right. Thank  
21 you. Rick.

22  
23 MR. ROWLAND: Yeah. I'm glad to hear  
24 that the Izembek biologist is on line as well. And  
25 thank you for giving us that information.

26  
27 What I'm wondering is, in your survey  
28 process which you're talking about consulting with,  
29 communicating with the Coast Guard and travel if  
30 there's a possibility, and there's a lot of weather  
31 problems and logistics. And I believe I understand  
32 that.

33  
34 But in your process of taking these  
35 surveys of the caribou with considering migration and  
36 the wolf as a predator in there. Do you have a  
37 complete understanding of what the biology -- or that  
38 habitat can sustain considering the populations amount  
39 for the habitat, with the caribou and with the wolf?

40  
41 MS. PETERSON: If I heard correctly,  
42 and forgive me, the phones are not that great out here,  
43 but I think you asked whether or not we understand how  
44 many caribou and/or wolves, and/or bears as another  
45 predator, the island could support?

46  
47 MR. ROWLAND: Yeah.

48  
49 MS. PETERSON: And that actually is a  
50 very good question and it is the basis for the study

1 that we will be conducting on Unimak is to try to  
2 determine how many caribou the island possibly might be  
3 able to support at the time that we give the study.  
4 That is a number that would fluctuate through time with  
5 different conditions and would be affected by the  
6 conditions that preceded the study as well. So that is  
7 the basis for the study we will be conducting on Unimak  
8 for the next three years is to try to set a range of  
9 animals or numbers that could be supported by the  
10 caribou habitat on Unimak.

11  
12 MR. ROWLAND: So currently you don't  
13 have that information?

14  
15 MS. PETERSON: No, we do not.

16  
17 MR. ROWLAND: Okay. That's fine.

18  
19 MS. PETERSON: And we will be looking  
20 in addition at each of the seasonal types of habitat on  
21 the island. So we are not going to look at the optimum  
22 number that could be supported say in mid summer. We  
23 will be looking for each season and trying to assess  
24 the critical habitat and what that could support.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other  
27 questions.

28  
29 (No comments)

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If there are no  
32 other questions, thank you, Mike and your Staff from  
33 Izembek.

34  
35 Can we take a 10-minute break before we  
36 can get into the next topic.

37  
38 MR. BOYLAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman  
39 and Council members. I appreciate it.

40  
41 (Off record)

42  
43 (On record)

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Let's call  
46 the meeting back to order. The next item on our agenda  
47 is the.....

48  
49 MS. TRUMBLE: I want to tell Mitchell  
50 that I just got off the phone with (indiscernible).

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Put that mic on  
2 there.  
3  
4 MS. BROWN: Yeah. She just said that  
5 she just got off the phone with Ruth Hubbard and has  
6 some additional comments to make.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Was that  
9 Della?  
10  
11 MS. BROWN: Go ahead, Della.  
12  
13 MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you and thank you,  
14 Mr. Chair. I just got off the phone with Ruth, because  
15 this bothered me a little bit about why they didn't  
16 shoot -- aren't shooting the wolf. Ruth sent me the  
17 comment that they have tried and they have shot a  
18 number of them, but, number 1, the guys are out  
19 fishing. Number 2, the VPSO is from out of state and  
20 he is learning, and she said the gun that he has is not  
21 adequate to kill wolves, but he is doing the best he  
22 can.  
23  
24 She also made the comment that at 12:30  
25 this afternoon there was five wolves within the town,  
26 and someone did shoot at them. But by the time her  
27 husband and friend got to them, they were already too  
28 far up to shoot at, or to even do anything with.  
29  
30 So they have made an effort.  
31 Unfortunately the circumstances have not been what they  
32 want. But they do and have been making the effort.  
33  
34 So just for the record I wanted to  
35 clarify that.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Della.  
38  
39 At this time we'll move on to our next  
40 agenda item, which is the wildlife closure review.  
41 Cole, do you want to.....  
42  
43 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
44 Members of the Council. My name is Cole Brown. I'm  
45 the wildlife biologist for the Office of Subsistence  
46 Management.  
47  
48 We're going to review the wildlife  
49 closure briefing, which begins on Page 31 of your  
50 Council books.

reviewing existing wildlife closures to determine  
3 whether the original justification for closure is still  
4 consistent with the Federal Subsistence Board's closure  
5 policy. Section .815 subsection (3) of ANILCA allows  
6 closures when necessary for the conservation of healthy  
7 populations of fish and wildlife and to continue  
8 subsistence uses of such populations.

9  
10 Distribution and abundance of fish and  
11 wildlife populations are known to fluctuate based on a  
12 variety of factors. Subsistence use patterns are also  
13 known to change in response to factors including  
14 resource abundance and human population changes.

15  
16 Councils are asked to consider the OSM  
17 preliminary recommendation and share their views on the  
18 issue. Input from the Councils is critical to the  
19 development of regulatory proposals. The current  
20 deadline to submit wildlife proposals is March 24th of  
21 this year, which is next week. Councils may choose to  
22 work with OSM Staff to develop a proposal; however,  
23 proposals may be submitted by anyone.

24  
25 DR. WHEELER: It's this week. It's  
26 Thursday.

27  
28 MS. BROWN: Excuse me, it's this  
29 Thursday. Time flies.

30  
31 So the closure reviews that we have  
32 here, they begin on Page 36 of your Council book. And  
33 this wildlife closure review is of wildlife closure 10-  
34 04 and 10-06 were reviewed together. And they're both  
35 closure reviews that are within Bristol Bay region, not  
36 Kodiak/Aleutians, but the residents of Nelson Lagoon  
37 and Sand Point have customary and traditional use  
38 determination for caribou within 9E.

39  
40 The closure location, and the animal is  
41 the caribou, WCR10-04 is for Unit 9C Remainder, and  
42 WCR10-06 is for Unit 9E caribou.

43  
44 The original closure to non-Federally-  
45 qualified users was in 1999, and it was established to  
46 ensure the continuation of subsistence uses of the  
47 caribou population. And the closure to all users was  
48 established in 2006 for conservation of the Northern  
49 Alaska Peninsula Herd.

50

1                   The herd has declined to a point that  
2 it can no longer sustain any harvest. Both the State  
3 and Federal regulations currently have no open seasons.

4

5

6                   Composition counts in 2009 estimated  
7 ratios to be 16 cows [sic] per 100 cows and 8 calves  
8 per 100 cows and 18 bulls to 100 cows with the  
9 composition sample size being 2,126 animals. The  
10 population is estimated to be below 3,000 animals, and  
11 that's from the Refuge biologist. The population and  
12 sex ratio is below the ADF&G management objectives of  
13 12,000 to 15,000 caribou and at least 25 bulls per 100  
14 cows.

15

16                   Many of the estimates of the herd size  
17 are considered to be minimum counts, because the  
18 Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd now occurs at  
19 low densities across a wide distribution during May and  
20 June. Autumn composition surveys provide the best  
21 population estimates possible.

22

23                   Between 1997 and 2005 hunter success  
24 rates were typically about 61 percent, and the number  
25 of caribou reported harvested ranged from 34 to 438,  
26 and that's in Table 2. Beginning in 1999, which was  
27 the initial of the Federal public lands closure,  
28 estimated harvest from Federal public lands was about  
29 10 percent of the estimated total harvest. From 2005  
30 to 2009 there have been no permits issued.

31

32                   OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
33 maintain the status quo. Results from population  
34 surveys continue to indicate that the Northern Alaska  
35 Peninsula Caribou Herd has declined to the point where  
36 any hunting of these animals would be detrimental to  
37 the population. Composition survey data and calf  
38 mortality data indicate low recruitment that is  
39 insufficient to offset adult mortality. Therefore  
40 Federal public lands should remain closed for the  
41 conservation of a healthy population.

42

43                   Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council  
44 recently voted to retain the closure consistent with  
45 OSM preliminary conclusion.

46

47                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48

49                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Cole.

50

1                   Is there any questions.  
2  
3                   MR. ROWLAND: It sounds to me like the  
4 wolf are winning out there.  
5  
6                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pat.  
7  
8                   MR. HOLMES: Well, it also says in the  
9 report that they're having some problems with low  
10 pregnancy rates, which could mean low bull to cow  
11 ratios and low calf recruitment, which could also be  
12 both those things to wolves. But it sounds like some  
13 of the calves also have lung worm, so I hope that those  
14 critters stay up in that neck of the woods and don't  
15 migrate too far south.  
16  
17                   Again, it looks like a very, very  
18 serious situation and directly parallels Unit 9D and  
19 Unimak Island. So I'm pretty empathetic with their  
20 situation.  
21  
22                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other  
23 questions.  
24  
25                   (No comments)  
26  
27                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing none, do  
28 you have more? That's it?  
29  
30                   MS. BROWN: No, Mr. Chair. That's the  
31 closure reviews that I have.  
32  
33                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: All right. Rick,  
34 go ahead.  
35  
36                   MR. ROWLAND: What is the intention of  
37 putting together some plan to find a way to increase  
38 those herds?  
39  
40                   MR. BUTLER: This is Lem Butler,  
41 wildlife biologist for Fish and Game. Would you like  
42 some help with that?  
43  
44                   MS. BROWN: That would be great, Lem.  
45 What is your management plan?  
46  
47                   (Laughter)  
48  
49                   MR. BUTLER: Well, yeah, I guess you  
50 guys had a brief overview of the herd status.

1                   Actually it's starting to look more  
2 encouraging. The bull ratio came up this year to 25  
3 bulls per 100 cows, and we continue to see increases in  
4 the calf ratio. They're less than what I'd like to  
5 see, but more recently we've seen 18 calves per 100  
6 cows. And that's generally a gradual increase in the  
7 calf ratio, but again it's not enough to affect the  
8 status of that herd overall, but it's probably part of  
9 why we're starting to see some improvement in the bull  
10 ratio at this time.

11  
12                   Pregnancy rates have come back up.  
13 When I started looking at the herd in 2005, we had 57  
14 percent pregnancy rates. Now we're looking at about 88  
15 percent pregnancy rates, so that's encouraging.

16  
17                   The calves starting out the greatest  
18 physical condition -- you know, Unimak is probably  
19 where they're the best. They're really fat, healthy  
20 animals. The Northern Peninsula Herd is still kind of  
21 lagging on the back end relative to the other five  
22 herds in Southwest Alaska. But we are starting to see  
23 again signs that they've at least crossed that  
24 threshold at which they're productivity has come up.

25  
26                   But obviously as you pointed out, the  
27 calf ratio still isn't quite what we would expect it to  
28 be. And that undoubtedly, you know, has predation in  
29 it. Under our own collars, we did calf mortality work  
30 there in 2005/2007, and indeed the majority of calves  
31 were killed by predators early in life, although we had  
32 some late calf mortality that was somewhat troubling.  
33 Usually after two weeks of life calf mortality improves  
34 significantly for caribou. In the Northern Peninsula  
35 Herd we still saw a pretty sharp decline in the overall  
36 number of calves as late as August.

37  
38                   So this year what I plan to do is to  
39 collar more calves and see, look into the timing of  
40 death and location of death. We obviously are having  
41 problems associated with doing predator control work on  
42 Federal lands, but we're going to try to look at  
43 whether or not we can do predator control work on State  
44 lands to improve caribou calf survival for the caribou  
45 that occupy those lands during the summer.

46  
47                   Right now I'd say we're probably just  
48 about 100 percent sure that we're going to issue same-  
49 day-airborne wolf control permits on State lands in 9C  
50 and 9E this coming winter. And I guess the only thing

1 that would change that is if we come up with some  
2 unexpected result over the next year, but again a  
3 pretty good track record of data, and pretty clear what  
4 the problem is.

5  
6 The main goal up to this point has been  
7 that we've wanted to do it on both Federal and State  
8 lands. Probably 60 percent of the caribou calve on  
9 Federal lands, and to really access the majority of  
10 those calves and affect their survival, we need to be  
11 on Federal lands in this case as well, but we're just  
12 going to do State land at this point.

13  
14 MR. ROWLAND: And then follow up.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.

17  
18 MR. ROWLAND: Thank you for that. And  
19 when will there be a sigh of relief to where the  
20 pressure could be taken off those community members of  
21 Unimak and it won't be so stressful about pressure on  
22 the caribou from the predation?

23  
24 MR. BUTLER: I assume you're probably  
25 directing that at me. You know, we're starting to see  
26 improvements again with the Northern Peninsula Herd.  
27 For the last three years I've had a complete closure to  
28 that area. This year we actually issued a cultural and  
29 traditional permit to Port Heiden to let them teach  
30 their kids how to harvest caribou and process caribou.  
31 Again that's based on the improving conditions. Still  
32 not enough to open a general hunt, but we did want to  
33 authorize, you know, something for at least that  
34 community that applied.

35  
36 Southern Alaska Peninsula Herd in 9D is  
37 coming back pretty strong. We still need to do some  
38 more survey work there. The predator control work  
39 there has been very successful. I think we'll be able  
40 to propose a hunt in the near future, but we still are  
41 below the thresholds for both bull ratio and population  
42 size.

43  
44 And, of course, on Unimak we've been  
45 prevented from doing any active management on that  
46 population. Given the direction of the Federal  
47 government, it's, you know, probably not an area that  
48 we're going to be able to spend much time or money on  
49 given the fact that it seems very unlikely that we'll  
50 be able to manage anything in that area.

1                   So we'll probably transfer our efforts  
2 to the Mulchatna Herd, which is further still from this  
3 RACs jurisdiction, but it hasn't been a large herd for  
4 much of the 80s, 90s, and into the 2000 range for any  
5 community in Bristol Bay. So we're probably going to  
6 do predator control work in that herd as well. So  
7 we're just going to focus on the herds that we can and  
8 try to bring relief to communities where possible.

9

10                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

11

12                   MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Yeah, Lem, glad to  
13 hear you on the line there. I was hoping you'd be able  
14 to make it.

15

16                   I was wondering, we had a nice  
17 discussion on Unimak with Mike Boylan, and I was  
18 looking at the game management unit map that we have  
19 here, and it seems like with the exception of Aniakchak  
20 National Monument and Preserve, the Federal lands are  
21 Refuge. Is there a wilderness definition for those  
22 areas that prevents the -- because we took a look at  
23 the Federal predator control policy, and so is there a  
24 wilderness problem in those areas or is it just a  
25 reluctance to go on the Refuge, allow you on the  
26 Refuge?

27

28                   MR. BUTLER: Well, I'd hate to get too  
29 far down that path, but there might be someone else  
30 with our ANILCA shop that would be better able to  
31 answer that question. I mean, I guess the way it's  
32 been explained to me is that that certainly gives them  
33 extra guidance in terms of how those lands are to be  
34 managed, but my impression is that they can still find  
35 through either the NEPA process or other emergency  
36 regulations that they can actively manage on  
37 wilderness.

38

39                   But I'm not, again, the person to quote  
40 on that. That's just my understanding. Fish and  
41 Wildlife Service, Mike Boylan, indicated contrary to  
42 that and so I'd need some guidance from someone else to  
43 figure out where that difference is. But that's as best  
44 I can answer it. So again there might be someone else  
45 from Fish and Game that could answer that better  
46 though.

47

48                   MS. COLE: Member Holmes. To my  
49 knowledge I don't believe that there is any wilderness  
50 on there, but we'll have to check for you. I'm not

It's not in the regs at all that it has any  
3 designated wilderness, so we'll have to research that  
4 for you.

5  
6 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, that would be good  
7 to know, Cole, because, you know, it seems like that  
8 surgical removal that they did on Unit 9 with just such  
9 a few number of critters on the calving grounds is, you  
10 know, really allowing much better survival on the  
11 calves and the rebound on the herd. So I think it  
12 would be really good for the Fish and Wildlife Refuge  
13 folks to give some consideration to that, particularly  
14 in the light of -- too bad Iver isn't here. He's got a  
15 great story about a lady in Perryville, but anyway I  
16 won't take up too much time.

17  
18 But it would be really nice to see if  
19 that could be approached and discussed being, you know,  
20 we were told that the big hang up is the wilderness  
21 definition at Unimak. So if we don't have it on the  
22 other refuges, and maybe only have to do it once to  
23 give a bump up for the herd. So would sure appreciate  
24 finding out.

25  
26 Thank you.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Other questions,  
29 comments for Cole Brown.

30  
31 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Della. Go  
34 ahead.

35  
36 MS. TRUMBLE: Lem , this is Della. You  
37 mentioned with Unit 9D, the population coming back, and  
38 that, you know, maybe in the near future that hopefully  
39 we'll be able to have a hunt, whether it be subsistence  
40 or a tier hunt. Do you have any idea, you know, is  
41 that going to be something we can look at by next year  
42 or can we look at something limited this year? I don't  
43 have any numbers except for what I have in my packet.  
44 So if there's any updated numbers or anything, I don't  
45 have them. But do you have any idea when that can  
46 possibly happen.

47  
48 MR. BUTLER: Yeah. Probably within --  
49 yeah, I would say within the next year or two. The  
50 population again is coming back strong.

1                   We tried to get the Southern Alaska  
2 Peninsula Caribou Herd and Unimak this summer, but the  
3 weather was just terrible all throughout that region  
4 this year. And we weren't able to get the population  
5 count we wanted, and again right now our objectives  
6 here for the bull ratio is below objective.

7  
8                   Based on the population growth  
9 trajectory, we had a really good, strong calf  
10 recruitment again this year. I think it was 46 calves  
11 per 100 cows on the Southern Peninsula Caribou Herd.  
12 That's up from less than 1 calf per 100 cows just  
13 before we started the predator control work.

14  
15                   So again everything is looking strong,  
16 but we're probably still below the threshold of 1,000  
17 caribou that we set up. And the main reason for  
18 setting that threshold was to have a base number of  
19 caribou, you know, recognizing that there are a lot of  
20 predation issues in that area, wolf and bear predation,  
21 to try to get the population up above the point where  
22 it can sustain a limited harvest, you know, and so  
23 probably once we cross that 1,000, we'll start to eke  
24 out permits, starting slowing.

25  
26                   If the herd continues to grow quickly,  
27 we'll have to ramp that up, of course, but I'd say  
28 within the next year, to answer your question.

29  
30                   MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you.

31  
32                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Pat.

33  
34                   MR. HOLMES: Lem, this is kind of for a  
35 little comic relief here, but I remember talking to  
36 some of your previous folks out there on the Peninsula  
37 for game, and some of them mentioned that they thought  
38 that a big factor on wolves was rabies as far as their  
39 populations oscillating up and down. And you probably  
40 won't want to answer this question, but how about  
41 getting some rabid foxes from Bristol Bay and letting  
42 them go on Unimak? That would be a natural population  
43 adjustment.

44  
45                   (Laughter)

46  
47                   MR. BUTLER: Yeah, we'd probably --  
48 that certainly has been linked to population  
49 fluctuations in the past. Particularly in the 70s we  
50 think the wolf population was knocked down

1 significantly. That was, you know -- of course, a lot  
2 of anecdotal information that fox and coyote and wolf,  
3 I guess have contracted rabies in that period, and that  
4 were tested positive as well as in the 90s, it seems  
5 like they had another incident of that.

6  
7                   There's some indication that rabies may  
8 be moving back into the area. We had -- well, to a  
9 degree moves counterclockwise across the coast,  
10 starting in Barrow and moving its way south to the  
11 Alaska Peninsula, and it has been identified in the  
12 Bethel area and to some extent in Unit 17, but this  
13 year in Unit 9 we had a situation that sounded a lot  
14 like rabies, but unfortunately the carcass was  
15 destroyed before we could test it. So it may be newer  
16 than you think.

17  
18                   But I think from a liability point of  
19 view, that would be something that we couldn't do.

20  
21                   On Unimak the best we can do for that  
22 island was to extend the wolf hunting and trapping  
23 seasons again, so I'll probably leave those seasons  
24 open to try to offer that limited opportunity for the  
25 wolves to take caribou -- or to take wolves in that  
26 area.

27  
28                   It's a good idea, but it's probably not  
29 one that we'd want to venture in, unfortunately.

30  
31                   MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I wouldn't expect  
32 so. I kind of wonder if maybe I might have caused the  
33 whole problem in '84 when I shot a rabid wolf down  
34 there on Ikatan Peninsula and buried it, but I guess  
35 you can just blame the whole thing on me. I said wolf,  
36 I meant fox. I haven't ever shot a wolf.

37  
38                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Anything  
39 else? Questions. comments.

40  
41                   (No comments)

42  
43                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Lem.  
44 Thank you, Cole Brown.

45  
46                   MS. BROWN: Thank you.

47  
48                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The next item on  
49 our agenda is the call for proposals. It notes here  
50 that the deadline for proposals is March 24th.

1 I'll turn it over to Polly.

2

3 DR. WHEELER: That's correct, Mr.  
4 Chair. The deadline for submitting wildlife proposals  
5 to the Federal Subsistence Management Program is March  
6 24th. That's this Thursday. So if this Council's  
7 interested in submitting any proposals, now would be  
8 the time, and we can help you out. We have Staff here  
9 that can do that.

10

11 I mean, one thing that I did just hear  
12 is that if the State is looking at, you know,  
13 potentially an opportunity to hunt caribou in 9D, then  
14 that may be a proposal that this Council wants to  
15 submit to open up a Federal subsistence hunting  
16 opportunity for caribou in 9D. It's just a thought,  
17 but that is one thing that I just heard.

18

19 So now is your time. And obviously  
20 we're going to be here for as long as we're here for --  
21 as this meeting's going on, so if any other proposals  
22 come up, I mean, we can help you do that before the end  
23 of the meeting. But if the Council itself is going to  
24 submit a proposal, it needs to do it by the end of the  
25 meeting.

26

27 Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you.  
30 I guess then I would ask the Board if they were  
31 interested in submitting a proposal.

32

33 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. I  
34 think that would be a good idea. We'd probably want to  
35 make it contingent on, you know, appropriate available  
36 information. But if they've got the threshold, then I  
37 think we should have a proposal that would say if the  
38 threshold's reached, then we should reopen the  
39 subsistence.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Do we want  
42 to.....

43

44 MR. HOLMES: I'm talking about 9D.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Then another  
47 question, right, do we want to do this as a group and  
48 use Polly Wheeler and we can put that proposal  
49 together? Do you want to find time after the meeting  
50 or do this right now.

1 Al.

2

3 MR. CRATTY: Well, Mr. Chair, yeah, I  
4 think it would be good if the proposal would come from  
5 Della, because it's her area. I think it would look  
6 better, sound better. I think Pat could help her on it  
7 or whoever, but it would come from down there since  
8 it's their area. I just wanted to say that.

9

10 MR. ROHRER: Mr. Chair. A question for  
11 Lem. I'm assuming he's still on. Having to do with  
12 this proposal. How close are we to the 1,000 animal  
13 threshold, Lem, do you think.

14

15 MR. BUTLER: Well, we're probably about  
16 900 caribou now if I had to guess. Our last count was  
17 in 2009, we had 800 caribou, and the population count  
18 was coming up at a rate of about 100 caribou per year,  
19 so we're probably getting pretty close to that  
20 threshold. Again, I'd like to reconfirm that before  
21 much of any opportunity was offered.

22

23 If a hunt were offered, I think at this  
24 point it would have to be a bull only hunt, and, you  
25 know, trying to protect those cows. We're still trying  
26 to get this herd to build obviously, and the bull only  
27 hunt, and it would have to be a permit hunt so that it  
28 could be monitored closely.

29

30 I mean -- yeah. Yeah, I mean, it's  
31 pretty limited harvest potential still at this point in  
32 the population size, and, you know, it's probably one  
33 that we want to keep as close of tabs on as possible.

34

35 We're going to actually back off on our  
36 predator control work this year and see what happens  
37 with the population size in the absence of predator  
38 control. So we may start to see that strong calf ratio  
39 ebb a little bit. And again that's just because we  
40 have to focus on other areas. We've got a pretty big  
41 area that we need to look at and other herds that need  
42 attention, including the Northern Peninsula Herd. But  
43 we also want to see what the population will do in the  
44 absence of predator control.

45

46 The wolf removal thus far has been very  
47 sustainable by the wolf population, but we still, you  
48 know, want to do what we can to conserve it. We're not  
49 trying eradicate wolves obviously from this area. So  
50 it's a chance to back off for a little bit and see what

1 happens.

2

3 MR. ROHRER: Thanks, Lem. I think it's  
4 a little bit too soon to think about a season yet. I  
5 think we need to give it another year, especially being  
6 that we're still potentially 100 animals away if the  
7 population is still increasing the same amount it has  
8 been the last couple of years. I think we're rushing  
9 it a little bit. I think we should wait until next  
10 year and see what the numbers look like.

11

12 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: My question would  
15 be then, do we have -- can we submit a proposal -- our  
16 deadline's the 24th. Can we submit a proposal next  
17 year?

18

19 DR. WHEELER: Just as a reminder, Mr.  
20 Chair, and that's what I was going to speak to, is that  
21 the wildlife proposals are due this week, but then the  
22 Federal Board -- they would be before you next fall as  
23 a council. The Federal Board will act on them in  
24 January of 2012. They wouldn't become effective until  
25 July 1 of 2012. So functionally it would be actually a  
26 little over a year before they would come into --  
27 before they would be in place.

28

29 So that's what I was saying, just as a  
30 place holder even. And then this Council could act on  
31 it if anybody submits it. But, yeah, it wouldn't be in  
32 effect until July 1, 2012.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. So I guess  
35 it would be in the best interest of the Aleutians to  
36 submit a proposal before the 24th.

37

38 Who was first?

39

40 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair.

41

42 MR. HOLMES: Della was.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Oh, Della, go  
45 ahead.

46

47 MS. TRUMBLE: Sorry, part of this I was  
48 catching in and out. Some of the discussion was  
49 drifting in and out.

50

1                   Given that we're looking at 2012, and  
2 I'd recommend that we did do that, but to continue to  
3 monitor.

4  
5                   And I agree with Lem, I am very curious  
6 to see what happens with this wolf population on 9E  
7 this next year. And the reason I'm more curious is for  
8 a while we weren't seeing that many, but we've been  
9 seeing quite a number again. And my fear is that that  
10 may have an impact.

11  
12                   But, you know, I'm not sure how we can  
13 do these proposals, whether they can be cased on a  
14 certain population or threshold, and that we can move  
15 forward, or what the process is. It's been a while. I  
16 know we did an emergency one -- or actually had a  
17 public hearing the last time we opened 9D at the  
18 statewide level.

19  
20                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Al.

21  
22                   MS. TRUMBLE: We need some help on what  
23 the process is and what the recommendation would be to  
24 move forward.

25  
26                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We'll take Al's  
27 question, and then.....

28  
29                   MR. CRATTY: Yeah. Mr. Chair. Mr.  
30 Lem, I was just -- or Lem, I was just wondering, if you  
31 get them 1,000 animals, are you going to have a  
32 subsistence hunt and a sport hunt? Is that what you're  
33 scheduling?

34  
35                   MR. BUTLER: No. In fact, you know,  
36 the Board of Game just recently entertained a proposal  
37 to offer a general State resident hunt for the same  
38 peninsula herd, and I counseled them, I guess, and they  
39 took my lead to not open a hunt yet, wait for the  
40 population to cross those thresholds, and to try to  
41 work with you guys essentially, you know, the Federal  
42 process. I didn't want the general State hunt getting  
43 ahead of, you know, the subsistence opportunities that  
44 are offered through this venue. So they turned down  
45 that proposal. They didn't accept it. So right now  
46 there's no plan to open a State hunt.

47  
48                   You know, if you went down this path,  
49 you know, you could set it up as a permit hunt and not  
50 issue permits. That's one option. But I sure would

1 like to be a part of designating how many permits area  
2 available. And, you know, really Fish and Game I think  
3 has a better handle on harvest strategies, harvestable  
4 surplus and that sort of thing. Usually ideally this  
5 hunt would be set up in tandem with the State hunt,  
6 and, you know, we'd work together to figure out what  
7 appropriate seasons, bag limits and quotas would be.  
8 And I think that's what you would be looking at right  
9 now.

10  
11 Again, it's -- probably if you put the  
12 proposal in, you could even pass it, just to get the  
13 hunt on the books, probably offer, you know, no --  
14 potentially no permits would be offered the first year,  
15 and then we'd start figuring out how to start it out  
16 with permits as we move forward with more information.

17  
18 MS. TRUMBLE: Lem, this is Della. If I  
19 recall, the last time we did this by Federal permit  
20 only for two years I think. Then the State did open  
21 that up. But we did a Federal hunt for residents only  
22 in Unit 9D for two years and then the State did I think  
23 opened on the State side.

24  
25 MR. BUTLER: Yeah, that's probably  
26 right. You know, I'd have to look at the records to  
27 see, but that sounds pretty familiar to me as well.  
28 And, you know, the State would have the same delays in  
29 our process, so given that the Board didn't act on this  
30 proposal, we'd probably be looking at another two years  
31 now before we could, you know, have a hunt set up and  
32 implemented anyway. So there certainly would be a  
33 delay essentially with it.

34  
35 And like I say, I think, you know,  
36 until we get to a different point in the population,  
37 the harvest is going to be limited enough that, you  
38 know, I don't think I'd pursue a State hunt, you know,  
39 trying to keep the pressure down until we were clearly  
40 above our thresholds and making progress in that  
41 direction with the population.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

44  
45 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I agree  
46 with Al on the strategy on having Della submit a  
47 proposal, but I'm thinking that, you know, that's kind  
48 of also a position for our Council. And I would think  
49 that if Della was in agreement, it would be good to  
50 maybe when Polly has a moment to draft some kind of a

1 proposal or us to look at and, you know, maybe email it  
2 out to Della so she could look at it, or listen,  
3 because I'm thinking it would be really good,  
4 considering how poor the caribou is on the Peninsula  
5 that if there's the ability to, even if you have one or  
6 two or just a couple harvested so, you know, the folks  
7 in Nelson Lagoon or Port Moller might be able to have a  
8 caribou, you know, for midwinter. I think that would  
9 be quite a positive thing for those communities as well  
10 as a good political move.

11  
12                   And so I was just thinking maybe  
13 something like the Council would support the Federal  
14 Subsistence Board opening a limited caribou hunt in  
15 Unit 9E if the threshold, if the population threshold  
16 is reached, and that it would be one bull only by  
17 permit from ADF&G, and then that would allow for a  
18 small token harvest and we get the ball rolling.  
19 Because I know when you've got things where you only  
20 have four days for a deadline, all sorts of problems  
21 can come up.

22  
23                   So I'd just like to toss that thought  
24 out to our Council to come up with a draft. If he  
25 doesn't get the threshold, well, then the proposal  
26 dies, you know, or this fall we can look at it and see  
27 how they did this summer. But, you know, as much as we  
28 pleaded for things to happen on Unimak and having  
29 followed along on this process in 9D, I think it  
30 behooves us to try to provide for some small potential  
31 for some harvest, because of the -- particularly  
32 because of the cultural values of caribou to the people  
33 on the Peninsula.

34  
35                   So I'll be quiet and listen to other  
36 people.

37  
38                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.

39  
40                   Go ahead, Polly.

41  
42                   DR. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
43 Yeah, I think as long as the intent of the Council is  
44 clear, then we can craft a proposal and submit it into  
45 the Federal Subsistence Program. That's not an issue.  
46 I mean, the Southcentral Council did the very same  
47 thing last week. So as long as the intent of the  
48 Council is clear, you can let us worry about the  
49 details.

50

1                   And keep in mind, this is just getting  
2 a proposal on the books so that that -- or in the mill  
3 so that then this Council can deal with it in the fall,  
4 and you can add whatever provisions if they're not in  
5 place. You can have something like a quota to be set  
6 by the Federal in-season manager in consultation with  
7 Fish and Game. I mean, there's any number of ways that  
8 it can be finessed to get at your concern.

9  
10                   But what I'm hearing is this Council's  
11 interested, if there's a harvestable surplus, even if  
12 it's just a few animals, this Council is interested in  
13 providing that opportunity to the folks out there. But  
14 it's clear that it has to be in consultation with Fish  
15 and Game and the Federal Program.

16  
17                   So that's what I'm hearing. So we can  
18 submit a proposal on behalf of the Council.

19  
20                   Della, I can draft it up and run it by  
21 you before it gets submitted if you'd prefer.

22  
23                   MS. TRUMBLE: That would be fine. That  
24 would be great. Yes. Thank you.

25  
26                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Done?

27  
28                   MR. ROWLAND: Wait, I've got one.

29  
30                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Rick, go  
31 ahead.

32  
33                   MR. ROWLAND: So this in relation to  
34 clarify, this is in relation to 9D for the caribou  
35 herd, the proposal; is that correct?

36  
37                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes.

38  
39                   MR. ROWLAND: Okay. So is it possible  
40 for a proposal to be put in in relation to the  
41 reduction of the wolf herd on Unimak. A separate  
42 proposal; is that possible.

43  
44                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Polly, would you  
45 like to answer that.

46  
47                   DR. WHEELER: What you can do is submit  
48 a proposal to extend the wolf hunting seasons, extend  
49 the wolf trapping seasons, up the bag limit. My advice  
50 is to couch it in terms of providing additional

1 subsistence opportunity, because the ANILCA program is  
2 to protect and continue subsistence opportunity. So  
3 it's a wording change. But if you want to extend the  
4 season or up the bag limit, then that is a proposal  
5 that could be submitted. Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Rick,  
8 would you like to work with Polly and submit a proposal  
9 to that effect from this Board.

10

11 MR. ROWLAND: If the rest of the Board  
12 is interested in having a discussion about that, I  
13 would be willing to have that proposal discussed.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: What's your take  
16 on that, Sam.

17

18 MR. ROHRER: I was just looking in the  
19 regs to see what our current season is for wolves down  
20 there. I mean, it's pretty liberal as it is. I mean,  
21 I don't think it's going to make any difference. It's  
22 more symbolic than anything.

23

24 But what's the -- Lem, what's the State  
25 season in Unit 10 just for curiosity sake for wolves.  
26 Or George. Or anyone else.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Is Lem still on  
29 line?

30

31 MR. ROHRER: Well, they guys are all  
32 looking.

33

34 DR. WHEELER: I'm not sure if Lem is  
35 still on the line. And this is definitely not Lem.  
36 This is Polly again. Just to clarify for those that  
37 are on the phone.

38

39 It looks like the State hunting season  
40 in Unit 10 is 10 wolves per day, and it's August 10 to  
41 May 25th, so it's actually a little longer than the  
42 Federal season, which is August 10 to April 30.

43

44 MR. BUTLER: This is Lem again. Sorry,  
45 I had it on mute and I guess I forgot to take you off  
46 mute.

47

48 Polly is right, with a slight change,  
49 that we at the recent Board of Game meeting extended  
50 that season, so now it's August 10 to June 30 for

1 hunting, and November 10 to June 30 for trapping. So  
2 we did extend that beyond what's shown in the books.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Sam.

5

6 MR. ROHRER: Well, I would -- I mean,  
7 it would make sense if we wanted to put in a proposal  
8 about it, to match our seasons back up to the State's,  
9 liberalize ours more, since we're more restrictive than  
10 the State is, for sure. I mean, I don't know why to  
11 even have a closed season, and we could just leave --  
12 put in a proposal to leave it open all year around.  
13 Either that or go with just match what the State season  
14 is. Thanks.

15

16 DR. WHEELER: And just to clarify, both  
17 on the hunting the trapping side of things, you want to  
18 match it?

19

20 MR. ROHRER: Yeah.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat, did you have  
23 something? I saw your hand go up.

24

25 MR. HOLMES: No, it got answered.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Anything  
28 further.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: All right.  
33 Hearing nothing further, then we'll move on.

34

35 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Della.

38

39 MS. TRUMBLE: Lem, in our meeting in  
40 September in Cold Bay, one of the ideas brought up was  
41 to have more than one bear hunting season a year.  
42 Currently I think we alternate between the fall and  
43 spring hunt. Has anybody brought that to the State.

44

45 MR. BUTLER: Yeah. We've discussed  
46 that Unit 9 as we're talking about, Unimak Island. We  
47 do have an every year bear hunt on Unimak. It's by  
48 drawing permit. I haven't heard any proposals recently  
49 to change season dates or change the number of permits  
50 that are issued for that hunt.

1                   But on Unimak we do have an every an  
2 every year hunt. On the Alaska Peninsula, Unit 9, to  
3 include 9D where King Cove is, it's still an every  
4 other year hunt.

5  
6                   The one thing that I did push through  
7 this year is that we're going to have an every year,  
8 year around season, one bag a year, one bear a year  
9 limit near communities to try and help with some of the  
10 public safety concerns. So that will apply to all  
11 villages on the Alaska Peninsula in Unit 9. And the  
12 remainder of the area where it's primarily, you know,  
13 non-locals being dropped off by airplane, it's going to  
14 remain the every other year hunt for now at least.

15  
16                   So I guess it depends on what you'd be  
17 trying to address there as to how I could help you with  
18 more of an explanation as to whether it's public safety  
19 concern or a predation concern or just more  
20 opportunity.

21  
22                   MS. TRUMBLE: I would have to say the  
23 predation and safety.

24  
25                   And just for your information, the  
26 tribe, we've purchased a couple burners that will be in  
27 on the ferry this spring, and we're curious to see,  
28 once we get that program implemented, what we'll do  
29 with the landfill up here. So we'll keep you informed  
30 on that one.

31  
32                   But I think it was more looking at the  
33 predation when we were talking, and safety when this  
34 was discussed in Cold Bay on both Unimak and 9D.

35  
36                   MR. BUTLER: Yeah. Sure. Yeah, I  
37 think that that will help with the garbage.

38  
39                   And again I'm hoping that that year  
40 around season, one bear a year bag limit will at least  
41 provide an option for people that want to be a bit more  
42 proactive with bears. They can take them, you know,  
43 through the summer with a permit. No tag fee required,  
44 so we tried to make that as easy for people to obtain  
45 that permit as possible. And, you know, the one  
46 benefit I guess over the defense of life and property  
47 law is that you don't have to, you know, take -- after  
48 you kill a bear in defense of life and property you  
49 salvage the hide, turn into the State, fill out a form,  
50 talk to -- all of those things make people nervous and

1 they don't like just handing it all over at the end of  
2 the year. So I don't know how widely this new  
3 regulation will be utilized, but I'm hoping at least in  
4 some cases that it will help address the public safety  
5 concern.

6  
7 Bears as predators, the remaining  
8 interest, you know, they're really only effective for  
9 short period of time. These big Peninsula brown bears  
10 just aren't very good at running down calves for very  
11 long. Primarily they have an impact on moose, and  
12 certainly more of an impact on moose than we've seen on  
13 caribou. You know, in trying to get the right bears  
14 and to affect the overall population significantly  
15 enough to increase caribou calf survival remains  
16 problematic.

17  
18 And so far we've shown that with again  
19 with a sustainable wolf removal, we can get the caribou  
20 recruitment that we need to build these populations and  
21 start providing hunting opportunities. Given, you  
22 know, the logistics and complications associated with  
23 bears, and again the low probability of success, I  
24 think that's where you're going to continue to see my  
25 efforts for predation management will be applied to  
26 wolf where we can make a reasonable difference as  
27 opposed to bear which again are -- you know, you really  
28 can't -- there are people shooting bears, they're non-  
29 residents, and you just can't get enough of them to  
30 come out and shoot bears, you know, pay that logistics,  
31 go through all that effort, come out and shoot the  
32 bears, when you need sows with and things like that  
33 taken, as well as males. And non-locals will come out  
34 and shoot the big boars, but taking the sows with cubs,  
35 you know, it's hard to get someone to pay a lot of  
36 money to do that sort of thing. And again the remote  
37 nature of a lot of what we're talking about where the  
38 caribou and moose are calving, it's really hard to get  
39 that kind of a harvest focused in a way that would make  
40 a difference for calf survival. You know, you'd really  
41 have to look at a wide scale removal where you'd remove  
42 something like 2 or 3,000 bears of all age and sex  
43 classes to affect bear predation.

44  
45 So that wouldn't -- I hear it a lot  
46 from other communities as well that they would like to  
47 do something about bears, but it just, you know,  
48 doesn't seem practical or feasible from my point of  
49 view. But hopefully we can do something about public  
50 safety.

1 MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you.

2

3 MS. HOFFMAN: Della, this is Nancy  
4 Hoffman. I think last September we had a big  
5 discussion about subsistence for bear on Unimak. And I  
6 believe there's not season, subsistence, for bear on  
7 Unimak on Unit 10. But somebody correct me if I'm  
8 wrong.

9

10 DR. WHEELER: This is Polly, Nancy.

11

12 MS. TRUMBLE: At one point we had a 9D  
13 or 9E had like a customary and traditional thing, but  
14 the hard part of all that, Nancy, is, you know, growing  
15 up, I can remember my uncle harvesting a bear and  
16 actually tried it. And that was one time in my whole  
17 life that I remember doing that. But people don't do  
18 that any more that I'm aware of. So, yeah, that's a  
19 tough part of that one.

20

21 MR. BUTLER: Yeah. This is Lem again.  
22 You know, we have this customary and traditional, well,  
23 subsistence hunts for bears still on the Peninsula and  
24 other places, and that's pretty much, Della. We don't  
25 have much interest or demand for those. And I think  
26 now, you know, that there's new regulation for a bear a  
27 year around communities, I think the few limited  
28 applications where we would have utilized that permit  
29 are probably going to be covered. I don't think people  
30 are going to travel very far in other words away from  
31 their community to take a bear.

32

33 And that same regulation applies to  
34 False Pass. They'll have that opportunity, you know,  
35 close to False Pass to take bears every year if they  
36 want.

37

38 MS. TRUMBLE: Lem, can you get that  
39 information to me by mail or email back to me?

40

41 MR. BUTLER: Yeah, I'll try to track  
42 down your contact information and I can send you a  
43 summary of changes.

44

45 MS. TRUMBLE: Okay. Thanks.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rick.

48

49 MR. ROWLAND: Yeah. Well, looking at  
50 this Unit 8, I'm wondering if the Council is interested

1 in putting in a proposal then for a subsistence hunt on  
2 goat.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: On? Say again?

5

6 MR. ROWLAND: Goat.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I think the goat  
9 season is kind of wide open right now.

10

11 MR. ROWLAND: Is it?

12

13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah. You  
14 apply.....

15

16 MR. ROWLAND: But it says no Federal  
17 subsistence priority.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah. People can  
20 apply on line from anywhere in the State and come to  
21 Kodiak and hunt goats.

22

23 MR. ROWLAND: But it says no Federal  
24 open season. Does that mean that it's not allowed on,  
25 for example, the Refuge or.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No. Everyone.  
28 Everyone applies. It opens August 1st and you just  
29 hunt until Fish and Game decides that too many or if  
30 they decide to close it because too many animals are  
31 being taken. But the Federal hunt is the same as --  
32 well, it's a registration hunt. People from all over  
33 the State, they can apply. The sportshunters,  
34 subsistence hunters, they can apply on line and go out  
35 and get their goat throughout the summer.

36

37 You know, it didn't change my ability  
38 to get a goat though. The weather was terrible out  
39 there, and I didn't get a goat this year.

40

41 But those people that had the  
42 opportunity to be hunting up in the mountain during the  
43 summer, I have no doubt that they got their goat.

44

45 MR. ROWLAND: Okay.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Polly.

48

49 DR. WHEELER: Just to be clear though,  
50 Mr. Chair. Rick is correct. If you look at the

1 Federal regulations, it says there's no Federal  
2 subsistence priority and there's no Federal open  
3 season. So the hunt that's available in Unit 8 to hunt  
4 goat is a State hunt with State seasons.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, I know that.

7  
8 DR. WHEELER: So there's no -- right.  
9 So if you were going to, if you were so inclined, you  
10 would submit a proposal to have a positive C&T finding,  
11 customary and traditional use finding for goat for  
12 resident of wherever, and then a season would -- if  
13 this Council so inclined, or whatever else, then a  
14 season would follow. But that would be the process  
15 that you would go through.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Al.

18  
19 MR. CRATTY: Mr. Chair. Rick, I would  
20 just like to inform you that we did go down that path,  
21 and we worked it out with the State of Alaska so  
22 everything worked out. So we do have the season from  
23 November 1st to December 15th for Unit 8. I just  
24 wanted to put that in.

25  
26 MR. ROWLAND: Okay. Thank you.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Anything  
29 else.

30  
31 (No comments)

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. So we're  
34 back to just one proposal for -- two? Would you  
35 refresh my memory, please.

36  
37 DR. WHEELER: Mr. Chair. By my  
38 scribbling here, it looks like we have a proposal that  
39 I will work out the finer points with Della, but it's  
40 opening up the possibility anyway of a hunt in Unit 9D  
41 for caribou with a bunch of other provisions attached  
42 to that. So that's one proposal.

43  
44 And the other one is liberalizing the  
45 wolf hunting and trapping season to match the State  
46 season in Unit 10.

47  
48 So those are the two proposals that I  
49 heard.

50

1 Mr. Chair.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you.  
4 Any questions. Comments.  
5  
6 (No comments)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other interest  
9 in proposals.  
10  
11 (No comments)  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. We'll move  
14 on. Next on our agenda is our draft 2010 Annual  
15 Report. Ann.  
16  
17 MS. WILKINSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
18 I sent out a draft to all the council members several  
19 weeks ago for you to review. And I hope, but it was  
20 very faithfully taken from the transcripts and from my  
21 notes at the last meeting.  
22  
23 The difficulty I had was with Issue No.  
24 5, and that was mentioned at our last meeting, we  
25 should have the topic about habitat. There wasn't a  
26 lot of discussion about it at the time, and I thought,  
27 well, okay, I can find something in the previous  
28 transcripts. But what I found in the previous  
29 transcripts was not clearly defined.  
30  
31 I'm sorry. Yes, it is in your packets,  
32 your green packets.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Green?  
35  
36 MS. WILKINSON: That green packet.  
37 Anyway, Issue No. 5 about habitat. I found that the  
38 transcripts at least to me did not clearly state any  
39 definite action that you wanted taken. Well, it just  
40 didn't have any definite action. And the Board wants  
41 something from the Council. You know, you point out a  
42 difficulty or some kind of situation that's going on,  
43 and then clearly state what you want the Board to do  
44 about it. And there wasn't anything like that in the  
45 previous transcript.  
46  
47 So if you really -- if you want that  
48 issue left in, I really need help with something  
49 specific.  
50

1                   Otherwise, please just tell me what you  
2 would like changed in this, added, taken out, I spelled  
3 something wrong. Whatever.

4  
5                   MR. HOLMES: Mitch. Okay. It's on  
6 this one.

7  
8                   Ann, I was thinking I don't recall  
9 habitat-specific discussion. I guess I'd have to look  
10 at the transcription.

11  
12                  MS. WILKINSON: Yeah.

13  
14                  MR. HOLMES: I remember we were  
15 debating whether habitat was a problem in Unit 10, but  
16 I don't know -- you know, to me, I'd just drop it.

17  
18                  I would like, Mr. Chairman, a couple of  
19 other concepts I think might be worthy of adding into  
20 our report on things that are of concern. And that  
21 would be maybe putting in a -- just renumbering the  
22 issues, but make this No. 2 possibly. We are concerned  
23 that the Unimak Island caribou populations have  
24 declined too much to allow recovery to provide  
25 adequately for subsistence in a timely manner. We  
26 encourage selective removal of wolves from the calving  
27 grounds. And so that would be one item.

28  
29                  Another one would be a few years ago at  
30 the Statewide Federal Board a study group was to be  
31 established for predator control with the RAC Chairs,  
32 and I don't believe that that occurred. And I believe  
33 that should be discussed again.

34  
35                  And then I have a third.....

36  
37                  MS. WILKINSON: Pat, I can't write that  
38 fast.

39  
40                  MR. HOLMES: I'll stop.

41  
42                  MS. WILKINSON: Thank you.

43  
44                  MR. HOLMES: Predator control study  
45 group with the Councils and the Federal Board was  
46 discussed but not achieved.

47  
48                  MS. WILKINSON: Okay.

49  
50                  MR. HOLMES: And then I think the point

1 that Alex and Al brought on concern for draggers,  
2 commercial long-line taking and cod pots taking  
3 subsistence -- make it difficult to obtain subsistence  
4 fish near some of our villages. And we'd encourage  
5 discussions with the State, Federal Governments and  
6 North Pacific Halibut Commission to define closed five-  
7 mile, I don't know what, five-mile closed water in the  
8 immediate proximity of Kodiak villages. Something like  
9 that.

10

11 How does that strike you, Alex?

12

13 MR. PANAMAROFF: It would probably work  
14 down in the south end and east side mostly, but in Uyak  
15 Bay -- I'm sorry. Yeah. It would probably work on the  
16 east side and the south, by the south end, but in like  
17 Uyak Bay now, it's a very large bay. So you go five  
18 miles out, that's just does right across directly from  
19 Larsen Bay, which actually would be a close proximity.  
20 And the dragger that come in, they come in towards  
21 Speridon and into Zachar Bay.

22

23 But at Speridon Bay now and outside of  
24 Speridon Bay is about 12 miles, or is it that long?  
25 Six? Yeah, it's about 12 miles. Let's see, it takes  
26 three -- yeah, about 12 miles away. So I'm thinking of  
27 in those areas it would be a distance from shore versus  
28 -- I agree with what you have on there. I would go  
29 with that for now, but, you know, I'm thinking  
30 that.....

31

32 MR. HOLMES: Well, we can modify that  
33 when the proposal comes back or if you had some other  
34 ideas, or maybe you'd want to, you know, talk with  
35 folks, you know, because if you have kind of a defined  
36 buffer.

37

38 MS. WILKINSON: Pat, excuse me.

39

40 MR. HOLMES: Oh, pardon we. We could  
41 -- I'll back up. I thought that Alex's comments were  
42 good, and we could either leave a blank closed waters  
43 and then define that later after the folks in the  
44 villages decide what might be appropriate, or it might  
45 be as designated by, you know, where you would have a  
46 map and you just do a little (makes sound), this area  
47 is closed. Something that would be enforceable, so  
48 that would be something that would have to come from  
49 talking to the different government groups, but maybe  
50 five miles, would that work for halibut and pot cod?

1 At least it would keep them away from the village.

2

3 And, you know, I don't know dragging in  
4 Speridon, you know, that probably might get some of the  
5 kings from Karluk, and the Karluk numbers are way down.  
6 So that, you know, we could build that in when we have  
7 our -- get the proposal back, more discussions on those  
8 relationships.

9

10 But anyway, I think it's just worthy to  
11 bring this concept up as a matter of concern, and that  
12 those discussions need to start. And then -- because  
13 next year we'd have the fish cycle, and then we could  
14 put a proposal together then. But by just defining  
15 this concern that villagers are having difficulties in  
16 getting subsistence fish because of the conflicts, that  
17 we'd like to open discussions on buffer areas. And  
18 then it can all build from there, and then probably  
19 some Staff person like Polly will be assigned to talk  
20 to the fisheries councils and all those other people as  
21 to how this could be done or not. But at least we  
22 could find out whether it's feasible.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If you can submit  
25 a proposal like that to the -- you've got to, you know,  
26 call Uyak Bay and include Alitak and Deadman Bay.  
27 Those areas are very heavily fished by draggers.

28

29 MR. HOLMES: Yeah.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Al, do you have  
32 something.

33

34 MR. CRATTY: Yeah. I'd just like to  
35 voice my opinion on Old Harbor. It think the draggers  
36 are more a concern than the pot fishermen. We've got  
37 seven boats in Old Harbor that utilize that fishery,  
38 and as a subsistence user, I think about them, too. I  
39 don't think they're doing any harm. I mean, you can go  
40 out and get a cod fish, but trying to get a halibut or  
41 something's a lot different, or, you know, having  
42 somebody dragging right down your streets right up to  
43 your back door, seeing mud come out of their nets and  
44 crab legs sticking out of the nets and stuff, that kind  
45 of bothers me more.

46

47 I just wanted to voice my opinion.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Al.

50 Rick.

1 MR. ROWLAND: Yeah. I just wanted a  
2 clarification, and then if it's appropriate, to have a  
3 discussion about issue 3.

4  
5 I was under the impression that we were  
6 talking about the draft Annual Report proposal, or not  
7 the proposal, but the draft Annual Report, but then we  
8 transferred over to submitting proposals for draggers.

9  
10 MR. HOLMES: Can I clarify?

11  
12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.

13  
14 MR. HOLMES: To clarify that, that  
15 would just be adding issues of concern. And so when  
16 you identify an issue of concern, then Staff explores  
17 whether things can be done about that. I'm just  
18 tossing the concept of some kind of buffer zone to  
19 facilitate or to help the villagers. So that just goes  
20 in, say, hey, we're worried about this. Then they came  
21 back and say, well, here's what we found. Al comes  
22 back and says, well, he found out that, you know, his  
23 area, the Christiansons and what not are pretty  
24 respective and that they don't really want a closure on  
25 pots, but we need to have separate proposals come out.  
26 And so once we get input from the public and from the  
27 agencies as to what's possible, then we go back and  
28 next year then cut some proposals that would be  
29 specific. This is just kind of trying to identify -- I  
30 was just trying to put into words Alex's and Al's  
31 concerns about interference with subsistence harvest  
32 near the villages.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Rick.

35  
36 MR. ROWLAND: Okay. So we're still  
37 talking about the report thing.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah. The Annual  
40 Report which I will take to Anchorage.....

41  
42 MR. ROWLAND: Yeah. Annual Report.  
43 Okay.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I will take it to  
46 Anchorage in April.

47  
48 MR. ROWLAND: Okay. And then so since  
49 we are, then under that issue 3 related to crab harvest  
50 enforcement, is that -- although I wasn't here in 2010,

1 there's not only an issue with enforcement, but I'm  
2 voicing my opinion on there isn't correct biological  
3 information that's available. And the reason why I'm  
4 saying this is because in every other harvest of  
5 animals, there's always a male and female species  
6 taken. And so under the crab species, king crab, for  
7 example, there's never been a female season taken. And  
8 so I'm wondering if more information could be brought  
9 forward to let us know how the female season for king  
10 crab -- or female population is doing for the king  
11 crab. That way the understanding of the balance of how  
12 many males there are, how many females there are, and  
13 what kind of information related more so than just  
14 enforcement. So I could get a bigger picture of what  
15 the biology of that species is, is possible.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

18

19 MR. HOLMES: I believe both NMFS and  
20 ADF&G do surveys, and I think the surveys around Kodiak  
21 by Fish and Game are every two years now, I'm not sure.  
22 But they do look at male/ female ratios as well as size  
23 composition. And what seems to be happening is that  
24 there's just not enough brood stock. And so they'll  
25 see, you know, the first year crab would be as big as  
26 the end of your thumb. Second year, you know, gets  
27 like that. And then they get to be two inches across  
28 the carapace, and then they disappear. And either the  
29 cod and halibut are eating or what, but there's been a  
30 whole biological shift on that. And so there's just a  
31 very few areas where there are enough, where the crab  
32 come in in March to spawn.

33

34 And I might, your male/female question,  
35 I think that related to viability rather than  
36 harvesting one or the other?

37

38 MR. ROWLAND: Well, in all actuality,  
39 Pat, I'm not asking you for your opinion. I'm just  
40 voicing my suggestion about if there's a management  
41 idea to just look at the enforcement of king crab, then  
42 also there should be more information related to what  
43 the plan is for increasing that population. And the  
44 question is that I have is what is the information  
45 that's out there that could explain to me how that  
46 population's going to come up, what does the female  
47 population look like, and when is a possibility that it  
48 could have more crab there. That's the simplicity of  
49 it.

50

1 MR. HOLMES: I think there's tons of  
2 it. You could probably get enough reports to fill to  
3 the ceiling, and there's a Federal management plans,  
4 State management plans. Mr. Pappas could probably  
5 address it. But there's a tremendous amount of  
6 material on that, but I don't think from all the  
7 meetings that I've gone to and what I've read, there's  
8 no hope that there's going to be any improvement in the  
9 population of king crab until we see another regime  
10 shift, and the amount of cod and pollock that scarf the  
11 little guys up drops off the other way. And, you know,  
12 it shows up in the middens cycling through time, and  
13 the same thing happens now, and I don't know that any  
14 kind of plan will really make them come back any  
15 quicker.

16  
17 Anyway, George, do you have any idea on  
18 what the skinny is on data on that.

19  
20 MR. PAPPAS: With your permission, Mr.  
21 Chair. Rick. The Department survey, has been doing  
22 the same surveys for decades around here for the  
23 population studies around Kodiak. They haven't  
24 established -- I don't have the numbers in front of me,  
25 and I will get you a report. I'll run over to Fish and  
26 Game and get you the report on that. They have  
27 established thresholds for populations to potentially  
28 have another commercial fishery opening some day down  
29 the line if the populations rebound. The numbers are  
30 very small.

31  
32 Yes, one of the key factors of this  
33 whole issue for determining the future of the health of  
34 the population is the number of females, the gravidity,  
35 parasitism, what have you.

36  
37 Yeah, there are volumes. Actually  
38 probably one of the most studied king crab populations  
39 in the world is right out front here.

40  
41 The management plan that's in place  
42 right now is just a very conservative bag limit. What  
43 is it, three per year per family. That I guess is the  
44 tool they have available at this time to keep the  
45 exploitation down. I'm not sure from our proposal  
46 comments from last cycle, the total harvest around the  
47 island, documented harvest is in the hundreds.

48  
49 I'm not sure I can answer more  
50 questions for that, but I can definitely go over and

1 get you a report. And I believe the Board of Fisheries  
2 meeting that's starting today, they'll be discussing  
3 proposal issues for king crab to reduce the pot size  
4 around Kodiak Island in the State fisheries. And we'll  
5 see what comes out with that. That potentially can  
6 make folks even less efficient.

7

8 Thank you. Mr. Chair.

9

10 MR. ROWLAND: And then I have one  
11 question. So it's a conservative management plan in  
12 basically monitoring the population and do you have any  
13 idea of when that conservative plans going to change  
14 into a proactive plan to where it could start helping  
15 the crab come back so that more could be available for  
16 subsistence? Because in your comment you mentioned  
17 commercial, and my thought is that there has to be more  
18 so there could be subsistence.

19

20 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Or  
21 through the Chair, Rick. You are correct. I'm  
22 thinking in old school terms where they started the  
23 surveys for, you know, figuring out what's a  
24 sustainable harvest, what's available for the  
25 commercial industry. I mean, that threshold's going to  
26 be really high up there before they actually do reopen  
27 it.

28

29 The only more conservative plan that  
30 the State can do at this time is just have no retention  
31 of king crab at all. Right now it's a very minimal  
32 amount of harvest and I'm not sure what anybody can do  
33 to bring that population back, unless there's, you  
34 know, as Pat said, a regime shift, or potentially some  
35 enhancement, and I believe they're studying that across  
36 the bridge right now.

37

38 Thank you. Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Al.

41

42 MR. CRATTY: Yeah. Mr. Chair. Since  
43 we're on the issues of concern, I have one more issue  
44 of concern, is the taking of subsistence fishes in the  
45 villages, halibut and salmon, and being sold outside.  
46 I believe most of this stuff. I know it's happening.  
47 And I see it happening, you know, where I live. And  
48 most of it's going out of state. I'd just like to put  
49 a comment in there that we, you know, don't like it,  
50 and any way the Feds could help stop it or the State,

1 you know, and that it stop.

2

3

MR. HOLMES: That might be one where  
4 we'd want to request more State and Federal enforcement  
5 on that. I know the State had a proposal for it to the  
6 Board of Fish. And so maybe you'd want to word that  
7 concern saying the sale of subsistence-harvested salmon  
8 and halibut are a problem in Kodiak, and that we would  
9 like to see a more concerted enforcement effort to  
10 prevent that, because I know there are folks that I've  
11 heard of are packing off to Hawaii with several cases  
12 of, quote, subsistence stuff, and some of them aren't  
13 even residents, but, you know, they'll be out wherever  
14 they're fishing and load up and take it with them and  
15 sell it, but I don't know how you enforce it, but it  
16 does need more enforcement.

17

18

So is that kind of a reasonable?

19

20

MR. ROWLAND: Mr. Chair. I'm  
21 wondering, is -- I mean, I know there's State and  
22 Federal enforcement, but there's also tribal authority  
23 in enforcing those kind of issues. I wonder if it's  
24 possible to have more communication with the tribes to  
25 have the tribes help out in making sure that that  
26 doesn't happen.

27

28

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I think -- well,  
29 for Akhiok I know that the tribe, you know, we try to  
30 let people know that wasteful take is not acceptable.  
31 And when it comes to things like king crab, you know,  
32 they always want to -- well, they always ask, why do I  
33 get only three. Well, it's simple, because there's no  
34 crab out there. But when they go out sometimes, you  
35 get -- you pull up a crab pot, and it's just full of  
36 crab, and you've got to throw them all back and keep  
37 only three. And then, you know, maybe they'll say, can  
38 I keep three for my mom, and keep three for myself.  
39 You know, according to Fish and Wildlife, you can't do  
40 that. I can't take three extra crab for someone who's  
41 not in the boat.

42

43

That was the concern when we first  
44 brought the crab issue to the village is that, you  
45 know, if I want more crab, I've got to take my family  
46 out there, and if it turns crabby, you know, I've got  
47 to endanger my family. And then it comes down, I said,  
48 well, you're only allowed three per household. That's  
49 it. And then that kind of solved this, solved the  
50 issue there for a while.

1                   And then it still come down to when the  
2 crab are in, you know, people want to take for somebody  
3 else. You know, we're a sharing culture. We want to  
4 -- you know, I've got mine. I know someone at home who  
5 can't get out here, you know, and he can't get any.  
6 Can I bring him some. It makes me an illegal fisher.

7  
8                   Yeah, that's -- it's hard. It's  
9 difficult. It's something we've got to live with,  
10 because of the lack of abundance.

11  
12                   Pat.

13  
14                   MR. HOLMES: I would like to add on  
15 that phrase that I had on the subsistence halibut. Mr.  
16 Chairman. On that question was raised of an issue.  
17 The sale of subsistence-harvested salmon, halibut and I  
18 think after this discussion, king crab. Well, we've  
19 got a king crab one above, don't we. We don't need  
20 that. Okay. Just simply requires more enforcement  
21 effort by State and Federal officials. So I don't need  
22 to make anything more on that.

23  
24                   I was wondering, Mr. Chairman, on the  
25 discussion of alternate members, and I guess this would  
26 be a question for Ann.

27  
28                   MS. WILKINSON: Just hold on a second.

29  
30                   MR. HOLMES: Pardon me? Okay. Pardon  
31 me.

32  
33                   MS. WILKINSON: I'm sorry. I'm trying  
34 to take closer notes, because I don't want to have to  
35 wait for the transcripts to get started on this,  
36 because we need to get it done quickly.

37  
38                   MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I guess  
39 I'll have my usual cautionary thing if I get out of  
40 line, grab my beard and bang my head on the table.

41  
42                   I was wondering on the alternate  
43 members, it's written to where the alternate members  
44 wouldn't vote, but they would participate in  
45 discussions and share information and be at the  
46 meetings.

47  
48                   I'm wondering if with the mandate that  
49 you're getting to reduce travel costs by 20 percent,  
50 and our difficulties to get to remote locations, you

1 know, we do feel we need to have alternates. Is there  
2 a way with FACA where we could have an alternate that  
3 would be on call. Like in Kodiak have an alternate and  
4 on the Peninsula have an alternate, because we usually  
5 have a meeting one place or the other. So if we knew  
6 that -- for this meeting we've got Della on the phone,  
7 but we couldn't have Rick, so we'd have somebody in  
8 Kodiak that was an alternate that was familiar with the  
9 Aleutians that could be on call, that we would call  
10 down to that meeting. And the same goes on Cold Bay.  
11 Like last time Mitch got stuck in town, but maybe  
12 there'd be someone out in that neck of the woods that  
13 would be willing or that we could draft from Cold Bay  
14 or King Cove or something that would come to the  
15 meeting and sit in and kind of I guess have a way of  
16 having them on call and not necessarily having to have  
17 them go to each meeting.

18  
19 MS. WILKINSON: One thing about doing  
20 alternates, having alternates is that the alternates  
21 need to be just as informed as the Council members,  
22 regular Council members if they're going to step in and  
23 act as a full Council member at some point. So having  
24 them come to a meeting here or there, if there's a need  
25 for them would put them at a disadvantage. We'd have  
26 to make sure that they got all the materials and the  
27 transcripts to read and everything so that they could  
28 keep up that way. But it still isn't the same as being  
29 part of the group and attending the meeting and hearing  
30 the conversations for yourself. So, to me, if you're  
31 going to ask for an alternate, it needs to be somebody  
32 who's going to be there. And typically alternates do  
33 not vote unless there's a lack of a quorum.

34  
35 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. Ann. I'm kind  
36 of thinking that, you know, as passionate as we want to  
37 have alternates, I wonder if this would end up, you  
38 know, whacking off a piece of our nose to spite our  
39 face in that we want to have people that could  
40 participate and vote, but yet if it's going to cost  
41 more and we're not going to be able to -- I mean, we  
42 have a hard enough time getting even to Cold Bay at  
43 times. We'll still have the same problems with, you  
44 know, if the weather's a problem, then the alternate  
45 isn't going to get there if they're from Kodiak and  
46 we're going west, and vice versa.

47  
48 And I'm wondering if -- I'd like to  
49 toss it out to the Council on the whole alternate  
50 question if we'd want to drop it and then just try to

1 encourage our members when they sign up and apply. You  
2 know, you had the question of would you go to Board  
3 meetings, will you go to RAC meetings. And I think we  
4 should also have a question there that says, would you  
5 do your very best to teleconference if you can't make  
6 the meeting. And therefore if you've got weather -- I  
7 mean, Mitch's input at our last September meeting was  
8 great. And yet, you know, some other folks, Tommy,  
9 never heard from him. And so I think that should be  
10 kind of a moral obligation of members, if they can't  
11 physically be at the meeting, I think it would be a lot  
12 better if they'd made the commitment to teleconference.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rick.

15

16 MR. ROWLAND: Taking a look at this  
17 ANILCA, Title VIII, and then relating to the discussion  
18 we had today about the FACA, is that, under this Title  
19 VIII it talks about membership from the regions, and  
20 who the Advisory Council will consist of. And I  
21 haven't yet seen anything that relates to alternatives  
22 for the position. And I don't feel comfortable  
23 creating something that is not in the Act.

24

25 So I believe it's the responsibility of  
26 the individuals sitting on the see to ensure that they  
27 participate in the meeting. And then if that  
28 individual cannot, then they have to so note to the  
29 authority, the Chair or Office of Subsistence  
30 Management.

31

32 But it does -- there is a need for more  
33 of a quorum. I do understand that. And so maybe there  
34 needs to be more discussion about how quorums can  
35 happen.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah. I kind of feel  
38 like, why do we need alternates. When we signed up for  
39 this position, we committed ourselves to participate to  
40 the fullest extent of our abilities. We set our  
41 meetings out far enough so that you can, we can adjust  
42 our calendars and say, okay, there's three days I need  
43 to be at this RAC meeting, you know, and that's six,  
44 five months out. If we can't commit to that and say,  
45 okay, I need an alternate, because I'm going to say I'm  
46 not going to make one of those meetings. You know,  
47 where's the commitment?

48

49 And we're dealing with people's way of  
50 life, you know. I go out there, and I fish so that I

1 could feed my family. If I can't be here to do that,  
2 you know, help make regulations or ensure that I'm  
3 going to have a way of life and leave it for my  
4 grandchildren, you know, if I can't commit to it, you  
5 know, I won't say I can't because I can't commit, you  
6 know, I can't participate in the meetings that are so  
7 far out that my calendar clutters it up that far away,  
8 I have no business being here. It's that simple.

9  
10 There are other boards and committees  
11 that we serve on, and we attend those meetings when  
12 they call them. They set them just as far out as we  
13 do. We should be able to commit ourselves to serve our  
14 people.

15  
16 Go ahead, Al.

17  
18 MR. CRATTY: Yeah. Mr. Chair. Yeah, I  
19 feel the same way. I'd just like to say, you know,  
20 when I do miss the meetings, I ain't concerned. I'm  
21 concerned for the people, but I know I've got a good  
22 Council sitting here, so, you know, I know you guys are  
23 smart thinkers, and I'd just like to let you know. I  
24 do miss a lot of meetings, but I've got trust in you  
25 guys.

26  
27 MR. ROHRER: Mr. Chair.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Sam.

30  
31 MR. ROHRER: On that note let's get rid  
32 of Issues 4 and 5.

33  
34 MR. CRATTY: Yeah.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Makes  
37 it less for me to read.

38  
39 (Laughter)

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Is this crab  
42 harvest enforcement clear enough, Rick. Do we need  
43 more discussion on it.

44  
45 MR. ROWLAND: Currently it's clear  
46 enough for me. And then the gentleman mentioned that  
47 he would provide that information about the females,  
48 and then he did note that it's a passive management,  
49 which is just basically surveying, and there's no  
50 active management of the population or no active

1 management of predator control. So he's going to get  
2 more information so we could talk about it at another  
3 time.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. And I think  
6 part of that comes from down in the south end of Kodiak  
7 Island we used to have a lot of fishermen come up from  
8 Oregon and Washington, you know, from around those  
9 areas, and they would be subsisting for king crab all  
10 summer long, and as it turned out, it was getting to a  
11 point where the locals were being watched more than the  
12 people from out of state. I think that's where this is  
13 coming from, too.

14

15 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I think that was  
16 recognized at the Fish and Game Advisory Committee and  
17 even the troopers had a guy come in and talk. And they  
18 were very adamant on getting some enforcement,  
19 particularly identifying some crucial areas on the  
20 island, like Alitak where that was occurring.

21

22 Mr. Chairman. I'd like to say one more  
23 thing on the report. On Issue 3, first line, it says  
24 king crab populations in the Kodiak area remain stable  
25 at very low levels. I think just delete stable, and it  
26 remains at very low levels. I don't know, it just  
27 bothers me, because, you know, we don't really know  
28 that it's stable. It's just really down. But that's  
29 picking, so I hope that's acceptable.

30

31 MS. WILKINSON: It's also a bit  
32 redundant.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Oh, go ahead, Ann.

35

36 MS. WILKINSON: So if I may just do a  
37 quick review of what you've decided upon so far so when  
38 I sit down tonight, I'm going to try to draft something  
39 up.

40

41 So we're dropping Issue No. 4 about  
42 alternates and No. 5 about habitat. And then adding in  
43 concern about Unimak Island and encourage selective  
44 wolf removal on calving grounds.

45

46 Adding another issue regarding predator  
47 control study group that the Board had stipulated would  
48 be put into -- would be started up, and then it wasn't.  
49 You want to know what happened with that, right? Are  
50 you also going to encourage that they do actually do

1 it? You're not just wondering what happened, but you  
2 want them to do it.

3

4 MR. CRATTY: Yeah.

5

6 MS. WILKINSON: Right. Okay. And then  
7 another issue was the draggers and cod pots taking or  
8 depleting subsistence fishing areas near the villages.  
9 And you encouraged the -- you would encourage  
10 discussions between the Federal, State and North  
11 Pacific Halibut Commission to define closed waters  
12 around the villages, and that those closed waters would  
13 be determined by the villages themselves in later  
14 discussions. Right? Is that what you had said? I'm  
15 just trying to make sure.

16

17 MR. HOLMES: I think determined by the  
18 villagers at -- yeah, that's a reason place to start I  
19 think.

20

21 MS. WILKINSON: Yeah.

22

23 MR. HOLMES: (Indiscernible, mic not  
24 on)

25

26 MR. CRATTY: I have a problem with the  
27 pot fishermen, and then stating that, because I don't  
28 want to put myself in a position where the people I  
29 live, you know, because they depend on the cod fishery,  
30 and we do have a lot of cod there.

31

32 I think it's a lot different -- I think  
33 he's got more so of a problem over on the west side and  
34 the south end than we do on the east side. I mean,  
35 it's just Larsen Bay's got out of hand with all the  
36 transporters in that area and sports guides or  
37 whatever, that they've got a problem over there.

38

39 And I think Akhiok's got a problem,  
40 because of the draggers that are in there, and that  
41 being the only place on the island in the 3B area where  
42 you can get out of the weather to fish halibut. And  
43 that's one of the big concerns down there for them  
44 people. You've got that big area of 3B halibut and  
45 you've got a storm coming in, you're going to have  
46 every boat that fishes that area fish Alitak Bay. And  
47 so I think that's Mitch's biggest concern.

48

49 MS. WILKINSON: So then I understand  
50 that the Council's fine with leaving pot cod out for

1 now?

2

3 MR. CRATTY: Mr. Chair. Unless you  
4 wanted to specifically say it was a problem in Larsen  
5 Bay, you know. That's what I would recommend.

6

7 MR. PANAMAROFF: Mr. Chairman. Yeah.  
8 In Larsen Bay area, in the subsistence area for  
9 especially like halibut -- I'm sorry, gray cod, the  
10 pot fishing is one of the major sources that we have  
11 that they come right there in front in the area.  
12 That's where. And they're over-fishing out of our  
13 subsistence fish, the cod there. And like in the past,  
14 as early as five years ago, we could go right out there  
15 in front and we'd get halibut or cod, you know,  
16 whatever we need for subsistence. Now we have to go  
17 quite a ways out.

18

19 And also long-liners, you know for  
20 Halibut.

21

22 MR. HOLMES: I believe you missed long-  
23 line on your discussion of gear types. Do we have  
24 dragger, long-line and pots, and we're debating pots,  
25 right?

26

27 MS. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman. I'm  
28 sorry. I didn't hear the long-line until now, but I'll  
29 definitely put it in.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If Alitak Bay is  
32 going to be in the same wording situation here. I have  
33 no -- you know, I don't know, Alitak Bay is a pretty  
34 big place, but we get a lot like 9, 10 draggers in the  
35 Bay, then it turns, the bay becomes very small. It's  
36 what, 28 -- from Akhiok it's like 28 miles up to Alpine  
37 Cove, the head of Deadman Bay. And the draggers go  
38 from the lighthouse to Cape Alitak and drag up to  
39 Alpine Cove, turn around and drag right back out. And  
40 you're talking like 4 or 5, 8, 9 boats doing that. You  
41 know, they're taking a lot of stuff out of there.

42

43 I don't know, I would go as far to say  
44 if we stop it at just Deadman Bay. That they can drag  
45 to the entrance of Deadman, like from Hepburn to Fox  
46 Island, draw a cut-off line right there and not have  
47 them go further in, go into Deadman Bay. And fish out  
48 in Alitak Bay.

49

50 I don't have a problem with the long-

1 line or the pots. It's the draggers.

2

3 MR. ROHRER: Mr. Chair. I'm wondering  
4 if we're maybe not getting a little too specific with  
5 this letter, trying to address too specific of issues.  
6 I'm thinking, saying more generic concerns, these are  
7 some things we want to look at, these are some options.  
8 What are our options, what can we pursue? And then  
9 getting more specific.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: That sounds good.

12

13 MR. ROWLAND: Yeah, anyways.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, I agree.

16

17 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I think that's, Mr.  
18 Chairman, a point well taken, Sam, because you might  
19 not be able to do buffer areas, you know, in some  
20 areas, because you've got three different agencies and,  
21 you know, just getting them to talk together is going  
22 to be something. But that they're aware that there's a  
23 problem that exists. I think maybe that's the best.  
24 Your point is let's just say there's a problem near  
25 villages with these gear types, and that, you know, it  
26 needs to be explored and discussed, and it's going to  
27 be different in different villages. Something like  
28 that.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rick.

31

32 MR. ROWLAND: I completely appreciate  
33 what Alex says and I appreciate what Sam and Pat are  
34 talking about, and Al as well. Mitch. There is a  
35 concern in Larsen Bay, and I know that there's other  
36 concerns elsewhere, and if it's being voiced here as an  
37 advisory member stating so, then it is a concern. So  
38 if there's a possibility of having a community with a  
39 compelling need to have an area that's more closely  
40 managed, that's a concern that I would support. Of  
41 course, there are differences in the communities, but  
42 there are different needs in the communities. And I'm  
43 not a regulator and I'm not a lawyer, but I know that  
44 there's an importance of the subsistence is being  
45 depleted.

46

47 So I think that the key word is if  
48 there's a compelling need. And if there's a compelling  
49 need, then more specific closer management needs to  
50 take place in that area.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I think, and  
4 that's a good point, Rick, and maybe the word  
5 compelling somehow in that phrase, but is that, you  
6 know, in fisheries politics, it's good to say, we've  
7 got a problem. And then you see what can be done.

8

9 But then also part of that is trying to  
10 talk with the different user groups themselves  
11 personally and I know in Kodiak we had some discussions  
12 a while back when I was on the Fish and Game Advisory  
13 Committee about closing all of Chiniak Bay for  
14 commercial fishing to provide for sport and  
15 subsistence. But it was the sport charter boats that  
16 put the proposal in, and most of the folks that did the  
17 halibut subsistence fishing knew most of the people  
18 that were doing it with little boats, because right in  
19 here close it was all done by little boats. And so,  
20 you know, they just went -- Iver did a lot of it,  
21 talking to people and say, hey, you know, couldn't you  
22 just back off a bit here, because they didn't want to  
23 create a special fishery just for the charter boats,  
24 because they compete with the subsistence.

25

26 And so sometimes going and talking to  
27 folks, or if they're pulling into Larsen Bay, you know,  
28 to park to get out of the weather, and they've got all  
29 their pots out in front, and sometimes just having them  
30 in for a cup coffee and say, well, gee, the Subsistence  
31 Council has identified this as something that's  
32 important. Do you suppose next time you could put your  
33 pots a little bit farther out away from the village.  
34 And maybe they'll respond, maybe they won't.

35

36 And then with the draggers, some of  
37 them would and some of them won't. But at least it  
38 gives you a point of discussion to try to get things  
39 done without regulation. And then if they don't, well,  
40 then you've already done the gracious thing and advised  
41 them of the problem, and then you just kind of go ahead  
42 and then you go on for more regulation if that's what's  
43 needed. But this is a good first step.

44

45 Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Can we work  
48 on finalizing this Annual Report, and we'll recess  
49 until tomorrow. Do we have enough information for you  
50 to work with, Ann?

1 MS. WILKINSON: I think so.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. We'll start  
4 up with this tomorrow morning, and see if we've got it.  
5  
6 MS. WILKINSON: Okay.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If we've got  
9 enough info on it, and then we'll move on from there.  
10  
11 So with that then, we'll recess until  
12 8:30 in the morning.  
13  
14 Al, do you have something before.....  
15  
16 MR. CRATTY: Ann, do we have this room  
17 all night; we can leave our stuff?  
18  
19 MS. WILKINSON: Yes.  
20  
21 MR. CRATTY: Okay. Thank you.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della, have you  
24 any last comments before we recess for today.  
25  
26 MS. TRUMBLE: No, no. I'm good. The  
27 work on the caribou thing, do they need to talk to me  
28 tonight or maybe just have them email something, and  
29 I'll look at it prior to coming back in the morning.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you.  
32 We'll be calling back to order around 8:30.  
33  
34 (Off record)  
35  
36 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
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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 02 through 100 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 22nd day of March 2011, beginning at the hour of 1:00 o'clock p.m. at Kodiak, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 3rd day of April 2011.

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