

1 KODIAK/ALEUTIANS FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 Cold Bay, Alaska
7 September 23, 2010
8 9:00 o'clock a.m.
9

10
11 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
12

13 Della Trumble, Acting Chair

14 Patrick Holmes

15 Richard Koso

16 Thomas Schwantes

17 Speridon Simeonoff (Telephonically)

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22 Regional Council Coordinator, Ann Wilkinson

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Cold Bay, Alaska - 9/23/2010)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, if we're ready we'll call the meeting to order. Mitch Simeonoff, the Chair, is on line in Akhiok and given that he's not here and our Vice Chair is not here, but I asked me to Chair the meeting. My name is Della Trumble and I'm from King Cove. If we can have a roll call, Mr. Holmes.

MR. HOLMES: Yes, Mr. Chairman [sic].
Tom Schwantes.

MR. SCHWANTES: Here.

MR. HOLMES: Patrick Holmes, I'm here. And Richard Koso, I believe, is having troubles getting here. He may -- hopefully he'll arrive on the noon plane. And then Sam Rohrer is excused. Al Cratty's excused. We have a vacant seat. And then our esteemed elder from Larsen Bay, Alex Panamaroff, wasn't able to get out of Kodiak with Mitch, so he'd be excused as well. Mitch Simeonoff is on line. And Tommy Johnson from Kodiak couldn't make it in so hopefully Tommy and if Alex made it into Kodiak, maybe he can get together with Mitch.

So at this point, I believe, Mrs. Chairman, we have one, two, and then Della's here, three, and so that gives us four; is that our quorum?

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, we don't have a quorum.

MR. HOLMES: Oh, until.....

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Until actually Rick Koso gets here.

MR. HOLMES: Until Rick Koso gets here.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah.

MR. HOLMES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman [sic].

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. I'd
2 like to welcome everybody. And it's really a pleasure
3 to be able to have a meeting in the region, in the
4 Aleutian region since we've been in Kodiak for awhile
5 and it's nice to be in Cold Bay. We were all out
6 picking berries and fishing and so it was a treat
7 before the weather came down.

8
9 If I may, I'd like everybody do
10 introductions and I guess maybe we'll start with Pat
11 and go around the room.

12
13 MR. HOLMES: I'm Pat Holmes.

14
15 REPORTER: Pat. Pat.

16
17 MR. HOLMES: I'm sorry, I didn't have
18 my mic on. I'm Pat Holmes. I'm formerly on the Fish
19 and Game Advisory Committee, subsistence chair, and
20 I've been on the Kodiak/Aleutian RAC for nine or ten
21 year and I'm very passionate about the concept of
22 subsistence for people in our region.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

25
26 MR. SCHWANTES: I'm Tom Schwantes from
27 Kodiak. I've been on the Council now for three years.
28 And, I, too, have a great interest in the customary and
29 traditional subsistence.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tina.

34
35 REPORTER: I'm Tina, the court
36 reporter, and I'll turn this microphone on for the
37 public to introduce themselves.

38
39 MR. KRON: Yeah, I'll start, Tom Kron
40 with OSM.

41
42 MR. FRIED: Steve Fried. I'm a fishery
43 biologist with OSM in Anchorage.

44
45 MS. PETERSON: Chris Peterson, wildlife
46 biologist here at Izembek.

47
48 DR. CHEN: Good morning. My name is
49 Glenn Chen with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

50

1 MS. KENNER: And I'm Pippa Kenner, an
2 anthropologist for the Office of Subsistence Management
3 in Anchorage.

4
5 MR. SHARP: I'm Dan Sharp with Bureau
6 of Land Management.

7
8 MR. BERG: Good morning, I'm Jerry
9 Berg. I'm the InterAgency Staff Committee member for
10 Fish and Wildlife Service out of our regional office in
11 Anchorage.

12
13 MS. BROWN: Good morning, I'm Cole
14 Brown. Wildlife biologist OSM.

15
16 MR. PAPPAS: George Pappas, Department
17 of Fish and Game, Subsistence Liaison Team.

18
19 MS. CUNNING: Tina Cunning, Alaska Fish
20 and Game.

21
22 MR. HILSINGER: John Hilsinger, Alaska
23 Fish and Game.

24
25 MS. WILKINSON: Ann Wilkinson, Office
26 of Subsistence Management.

27
28 MS. HOFFMAN: Nancy Hoffman, Izembek
29 National Wildlife.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you
32 everybody. Thank you for coming.

33
34 At this time we'll move on to -- we're
35 going to do the following items, the review and
36 adoption of the agenda, review and approve minutes --
37 we can't do those items because they're done by motion;
38 is that correct?

39
40 MS. WILKINSON: Uh-huh.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: But No. 4, we
43 can add to the agenda -- we don't have a quorum, we
44 can't approve the minutes, so we have to do 4 -- we can
45 do 4, but we can't do 5. We will do Council member
46 reports. And then we will move to Item No. 10 which is
47 Draft 2010 annual report. And No. 11, agency reports.
48 After we complete the reports, we will break until
49 probably 2:00 o'clock to make sure Rick Koso's here and
50 we do have a quorum to start the Unimak caribou/wolf

1 hearing.

2

3 So if we may move on. We'll do review
4 and adopt agenda -- or excuse me. Should we do agenda
5 additions, Pat, or should we just hold off until Rick
6 gets here?

7

8 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chairman, I'd like
9 to suggest that we add onto our agenda a discussion of
10 needs for our winter meeting and then, you know, we can
11 take it up when Rick arrives.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
14 At this time are there any items that we would like to
15 add for the winter meeting agenda for discussion or to
16 begin a process?

17

18 Pat.

19

20 MR. HOLMES: Ms. Chairman. Obviously
21 the subsistence caribou on the South Peninsula and then
22 we'll be talking about that this afternoon as well as
23 Unimak, in particular. That's an item of great passion
24 for folks on the Peninsula and then the people who
25 spend part of the year on the Peninsula and part of the
26 year in Kodiak, and so I'd like to suggest that we
27 start looking -- prepare for that winter meeting by
28 having some good information and some new counts and
29 reports, both from the Fish and Wildlife Service on
30 their counts as well as with the Fish and Game's
31 studies that have been going on. So I would hope that
32 those agencies could prepare some up to date
33 information on what's going on with the caribou because
34 we've had many problems over the years on getting
35 counts that are current and problems with pilots and,
36 yet, you know, there's a large number of pilots with
37 Fish and Wildlife Service, and I think that if there's
38 not one on Staff here, that they should be borrowing
39 some from one of the other Refuges or one of the other
40 agencies so that we get some counts and those are going
41 to be very critical for that meeting.

42

43 Madame Chairman.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. When
46 we do have a quorum we will add that for agenda items
47 for discussion.

48

49 At this time we will -- I'm sorry, Tom.

50

1 MR. SCHWANTES: Ms. Chairman. I'd like
2 also to add for that winter meeting that we discuss the
3 Emperor geese situation. We've been told by Fish and
4 Wildlife that once those numbers reached 80,000 that
5 they could consider an open season or at least a
6 subsistence season and the last report we had, the
7 numbers have well exceeded that. I'd like to have some
8 updated information so that we can discuss that at the
9 winter meeting.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
12 Mitch, do you have any items that you would like to add
13 for discussion for the winter meeting?

14
15 MR. SIMEONOFF: No, Madame Chair, I do
16 not, but if I do come up with something before then,
17 I'll call it in.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
20 you. At this time, we will -- I'm sorry.

21
22 Go ahead, Pat.

23
24 MR. HOLMES: Excuse me, Madame
25 Chairman. I was just thinking one of the points of
26 great concern for subsistence and the folks in Kodiak
27 is the FAA runway proposals and their environmental
28 impact statement is due out sometime this fall. So I
29 think I'd like to have on our agenda a report from the
30 folks in Kodiak as to how that process is progressing
31 because at our two previous meetings, this Council has
32 done resolutions supporting the tribes in Kodiak and
33 the subsistence users on requesting FAA to develop
34 alternatives that wouldn't have impacts on subsistence
35 salmon fishing. And so I think it would be good to
36 have an updated report at that time.

37
38 Thank you, Madame Chair.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
41 The three items that we will add to the agenda for
42 discussion later are the caribou on Unit 9D South
43 Peninsula. I think we can get reports on the
44 caribou -- some updated reports. Also the Emperor
45 geese and I'm not sure if we get that report from OSM
46 or if someone here can help with -- not OSM but
47 migratory birds, if someone can help us with that, I do
48 -- or I am aware that the threshold I think has to be
49 over 80,000 for three consecutive years. And then also
50 an update on the Kodiak FAA runway and we'll add those

1 to agenda after we have a quorum.

2

3 Hearing no other items at this time,
4 we'll move on to Council member reports, and, Tom,
5 maybe we'll start with you.

6

7 MR. SCHWANTES: I have nothing new. I
8 have one item that I'll bring up later when we get into
9 the actual proposal.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

12

13 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chairman, I'd like
14 to report that as a Council member and a Kodiak
15 resident, I assisted since our last meeting the Shunag
16 Tribe, the Woody Island Tribal Council, and the Native
17 Village of Afognak Tribes as well as the local Audubon
18 and the Kodiak Parks Advisory Committee in working out
19 comments on the preliminary draft of the EIS from the
20 FAA on the Buskin and particularly with the tribal
21 units, I think we put together some very good comments
22 to the FAA questioning some of their rationale and
23 discussions on impacts of subsistence. And so
24 hopefully this fall the process will continue and
25 people in Kodiak will have their input. And so I'd
26 just like to bring our Council up to date on that.

27

28 Thank you, Madame.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
31 Mitch, do you have a report at this time?

32

33 MR. SIMEONOFF: I do not have a report
34 at this time.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Does anybody
37 have a report to give us?

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: This is Della
42 Trumble. I guess the report that I'd have for our
43 region, the fishing has been really slow this summer
44 and I think we're fairly thankful that the fishermen
45 and the locals are able to do some cod fishing because
46 I think without that we'd be in a little bit of a bad
47 situation. Over the summer, I think we saw a lot of
48 bears, some wolves, and actually I was able --
49 participated in rescuing a cub this summer in King Cove
50 with the city crew and that cub, we shipped over to

1 Nancy on the Coastal Trader in a tote, and -- so she
2 had her first experience with working with a little cub
3 and she got him off to the Anchorage zoo and he's doing
4 very well. They send me emails and give me reports and
5 he is -- will be on his way to the Indianapolis zoo at
6 some point in time. So it was kind of exciting
7 experience, done that.

8
9 Other than that, I think the issue with
10 Unimak and the wolves I think was a bit of a surprise
11 to some degree to see that -- what had happened and
12 transpired through the media, but I think that
13 continues to be an issue that we all need -- will need
14 to work on. Other than that, we continue to work on
15 the road in the EIS. Nancy and I are involved in the
16 weekly meetings as part of the EIS process with the
17 road between King Cove and Cold Bay or what is referred
18 to as the Izembek Enhancement Act and that will be a
19 process that will continue on through 2012.

20
21 But other than that, everything is good
22 and there's no berries anywhere, so we're happy to find
23 some here. So -- go ahead.

24
25 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Madame Chairman.
26 Forgive me for being an old geezer. My brain just kind
27 of fails on me and I'm glad to hear about the
28 subsistence status and I shared the report to that on
29 Kodiak. This was the second year running that the
30 Buskin was closed for weak escapement. It did reopen
31 very late in the season and so people were able to get
32 a few reds, but the return did pick up considerably,
33 and so they made their minimum escapements for the
34 Buskin, although most people have been forced to go
35 either to Pasagshak or up to Afognak and, you know, one
36 of my favorite elders that usually goes with me to
37 Pasagshak, it's quite a goat rope for him and I to get
38 my dory in there because it's surf, but -- so while
39 people -- I'd say a lot of people weren't able to get
40 their reds in Kodiak this year, and so that raises more
41 concerns about potential effects of the runway. And I
42 would like to report on my last conversation with Alex
43 Panamaroff, elder from Larsen Bay, and his concerns on
44 the potential conflicts from commercial users and the
45 utilization of -- I don't think it's done as any
46 intent, but, you know, some of the older folks in the
47 villages have a little conflict sometimes with the
48 commercial outfitters and guides and their clients from
49 off island sometimes preempting the resources that they
50 normally would use. And so I think folks are hoping

1 that there'd be a little more consideration for the old
2 timers in the villages so that they'll be able to get
3 their -- meet their subsistence needs and that some of
4 the commercial folks would spend a little more on gas
5 and take people out for halibut fishing away from the
6 holes where people are town normally go with their
7 little skiffs and same with deer hunting and seaduck
8 hunting.

9

10 So I just wanted to get that on the
11 record for Alex and some of the old timers out in the
12 villages.

13

14 Thank you, Madame Chairman.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
17 At this time, we'll move onto Item No. 10, Page 2 of
18 the agenda, Draft 2010 Annual Report to the Federal
19 Subsistence Board.

20

21 MS. WILKINSON: Good morning. Ann
22 Wilkinson with OSM and I am the Division Chief for the
23 Council Coordination Division. And one thing that we
24 have noticed over the years is that this Council has
25 rarely if ever put in an annual report. And the annual
26 reports are ANILCA driven, Title VIII. It's an
27 opportunity for the Councils to speak to the Board
28 directly about issues that are of great concern to them
29 and the region and when you do write this report, it
30 goes to the Board and the Board acts in the place of --
31 you know, stands in place of the Secretary to receive
32 the report.

33

34 And those Board members are heads of
35 the different land management agencies and BIA and so
36 they're the ones who can take action on some concerns
37 that Councils have that wouldn't be addressed
38 necessarily through the regulatory proposals process.

39

40 So it would like for the Council to
41 consider strongly putting in an annual report and you
42 can either -- we can discuss what items you might want
43 to do now or we can just pick that up later in the
44 meeting after you've had some time to think about it,
45 whichever way you want to do it.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Ann.
48 Maybe what we can do at this time is discuss some items
49 that we would like to add to it and as the meeting
50 progresses, if there are items that we need to continue

1 to do. I know we discussed a little bit about the -- I
2 think the review of the Subsistence Councils and the --
3 maybe the idea that because the Kodiak/Aleutians has
4 had some issues with getting a quorum at times that we
5 look at the possibility of adding alternates again so
6 that we are able to have quorum and continue with our
7 meetings on a regular basis.

8

9 Is there any other items I think that
10 -- you think, Pat and Tom, that you might -- would like
11 to add -- or Mitch?

12

13 Pat.

14

15 MR. HOLMES: Well, obviously from our
16 proposals that we've generated, those reflect concerns,
17 and I think it wouldn't hurt to reoutline those things,
18 geese, caribou, seaducks, salmon, and other habitat
19 issues, but I think the alternative for our membership
20 I think is a very important thing and I know that a
21 couple times I fill in for Mitch. Some of the other
22 councils have reflected similar problems.

23

24 I'd also like to have in there we had
25 resolution at our last meeting requesting to see what
26 the summary comments were on a review -- Pat Pourchot's
27 review on how the whole ANILCA and subsistence Regional
28 Advisory Council program was going and, you know,
29 there's not a report in our packet for this meeting and
30 I sort of had expected to find out that our Council
31 would have had the opportunity to provide some input in
32 that process and we really weren't and so all I've
33 learned about that is what I can google up on the
34 Internet. And I know the process is going on, but I've
35 kind of received more comments from -- or thoughts from
36 other friends on what's going on in that process and
37 what I've heard through OSM. And I think that that's
38 something that the Council should be advised on and
39 it's very important and when it does come to drafting
40 this argument, I guess I learned long ago I should
41 never volunteer, but I would be glad to work with Del
42 and Mitch or whoever the Chairman should designate to
43 work on that report because I think it's really, really
44 important for us to have a strong line of communication
45 with the Federal Board.

46

47 Thank you, Madame Chair.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
50 Tom, do you have any items?

1 MR. SCHWANTES: I just had a question
2 on the timeline for that report.

3
4 MS. WILKINSON: Yes. The timeline for
5 the annual reports is that when we leave this meeting,
6 then I will -- as acting as your coordinator, I would
7 draft up a report, send it out to you. You can look at
8 it and send your comments back to me. And we can get
9 it gelled up a little better and then at your winter
10 meeting, you could look at it -- that draft, finalize
11 it, and then I would make all the necessary changes or
12 -- hope to God we get another coordinator and then --
13 by then and we'll finalize it and get it ready for the
14 Board to look at in the summer.

15
16 It takes a little while, but that way
17 some of these issues are not going away anyway, so it's
18 good to have taken care of. And in.....

19
20 MR. SCHWANTES: Thank you.

21
22 MS. WILKINSON: You're welcome. And if
23 I may, please. The report -- Pat Pourchot's report to
24 the Secretary, we have not seen that. We have nothing
25 to share with you on that or we would. We have not
26 seen any comments or information at all at OSM. We
27 know as much as you do. There are copies of the news
28 release that came out of the Secretary's office and
29 that's all we have.

30
31 So I'm sorry that we can't offer you
32 more, but we would like to know too.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

35
36 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. Again I
37 guess the question was, is that, you know, we have done
38 a resolution asking that we be part of the process and
39 so we were bypassed and no one really ever came back
40 and asked our Council in any format what our thoughts
41 were and so -- and I know individuals have sent in some
42 letters or provided input through their tribal
43 governments, but, you know, the Regional Advisory
44 Councils are supposed to be part of the process and
45 nobody ask. And so I guess that's something that I
46 think got lost in the bureaucratic shuffle.

47
48 MS. WILKINSON: I'm sorry. I'm trying
49 to remember when exactly it was. I know in December
50 there was a meeting of the tribal -- excuse me -- the

1 Regional Council Chairs with Mr. Pourchot and it seems
2 there was one before that and I know he went to
3 different areas of the state and talked to the public
4 and he also met with Council members at that time, but
5 I'm sorry. I don't remember when it was that he came
6 to your area.

7
8 But I know that he met twice with the
9 Council Chairs and I believe that your Chairman was
10 there or a representative at least at one of them.
11 Sorry I don't have a better memory on that right now.

12
13 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Well, I'm just
14 wondering, Mitch, do you recall anything on -- were you
15 able to make that meeting and express some of our
16 concerns about sometimes a ponderous bureaucracy and
17 our inability to -- our difficulties and interactions
18 with -- on the process? Excuse me.

19
20 Thank you, Madame Chair.

21
22 MR. SIMEONOFF: This is Mitch. Madame
23 Chair, I'd like to apologize for not being there, but I
24 am receiving just bits and pieces of the conversation.
25 I don't think it's your equipment there. I think it's
26 the phone connection between here and there. I heard
27 someone mention my name, and I'd like -- though I was
28 at a couple meetings with Pat Pourchot and -- I don't
29 know, I just -- you know, I'm not getting all the
30 conversations, so it's hard for me to participate at
31 this time.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Ann, do you want
34 to repeat that for Mitch, please.

35
36 MS. WILKINSON: Mitch? The -- Mr.
37 Holmes was concerned that the Councils were not
38 involved with the program review process and he was
39 concerned that they were not included and I mentioned
40 that the Council Chairs were -- that they were invited
41 to meet with Mr. Pourchot twice and that Mr. Pourchot
42 then also went around the state and spoke with public
43 and various Council members that he could meet with,
44 though not the Councils as a whole. So I just wondered
45 if you had anything to add to that.

46
47 But you did state that you attended the
48 two meetings with Mr. Pourchot.

49
50 MR. SIMEONOFF: Yes, I did.

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Ann, can you ask
2 him if he has anything to report?

3
4 MS. WILKINSON: Mitch, do you have
5 anything to report from those meetings?

6
7 MR. SIMEONOFF: When we met with Pat
8 Pourchot, it was more like a gathering of information
9 from the RAC Chairs and every RAC Chair gave their
10 concerns to him. And I think at that time the concern
11 from Kodiak was composition of our Board. There was
12 still some concern that all our members were coming
13 from Kodiak and a lot of subsistence and hunting
14 concerns were coming from out -- the Aleutians and we
15 only had one member from the Aleutians at the time.
16 And I believe that is being addressed since most of the
17 applications that come from the Aleutians are being
18 seriously considered.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
21 Mitch. Pat, do you have anything else?

22
23 MR. HOLMES: No.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Ann.

26
27 MS. WILKINSON: So this topic is over
28 for now and we'll get to it later. Okay.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We'll
31 move on to agency reports. We got number A, Office of
32 Subsistence Management, Brown Bear Claw Handicraft
33 Working Group update.

34
35 MR. KRON: Madame Chair, Members of the
36 Council, I'll be giving a brief update on information
37 that's presented in your Council books starting on Page
38 79 on the brown bear handicraft and then following
39 that, the new permit system information.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Just maybe for
42 information, if you're at the mic, please state your
43 name and your organization prior to the report.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 MR. KRON: Madame Chair, Tom Kron with
48 OSM. The update for brown bear handicraft is included
49 on Page 79 in your Council book, and the material is
50 there, but I'll briefly summarize.

1 The Brown Bear Handicraft Working Group
2 met on July 29th, 2010, in Anchorage. Mr. Sam Rohrer
3 represented this Council and we thank him for his
4 participation in the meeting. Skip down to the action
5 item from that meeting. It was decided by consensus
6 that a proposal would be submitted -- a new proposal
7 would be submitted that would require sealing of brown
8 bear if a subsistence user intends to sell handicraft
9 incorporating the claws. A CITES tag permit which is
10 provided when the hide is sealed would then accompany
11 the handicraft. The proposal would be submitted by
12 OSM.

13

14 Since there is already a requirement in
15 this part of the state that brown bears be sealed, this
16 proposal would not change anything for the
17 Kodiak/Aleutians area, but other parts of the state,
18 the regulations are a little different, so it would
19 affect other parts of the state. But again I guess the
20 bottom line is it would not affect this region.

21

22 The analysis for this particular
23 proposal again will be reviewed by all the Councils
24 across the state and the intent is to have it ready for
25 presentation to all the Councils in fall 2011 to be
26 considered by the Federal Board at its January 2012
27 meeting. And again it's been a cooperative process
28 with the Councils, ADF&G, as well as the Fish and
29 Wildlife Service and the other agencies involved in the
30 Federal Subsistence Program.

31

32 And with that summary -- there's more
33 information again on the pages that are provided,
34 answers to some of the questions that various Council
35 Chairs had, but again this particular issue because of
36 the way it's proceeding it really doesn't affect you
37 because you already have a requirement to seal your
38 hides here.

39

40 So thank you, Mr. Chair -- or Madame
41 Chair and I'll take any questions.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is there any
46 discussion or questions.

47

48 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, I'd like to
49 reiterate words of Al Cratty who couldn't be here today
50 that folks in our region for the most part do not

1 involve themselves with the sale of bear products and,
2 you know, that they're considered to be if not sacred,
3 certainly animals of great respect and of great value
4 both culturally as well as economically to all folks
5 regardless of their racial background in our region and
6 I'm quite encouraged that this process is making some
7 progress for the rest of the state and I think it's
8 really good that there's a comment about two-thirds of
9 the way down that ADF&G representatives have assured
10 the Council members that the subsistence users would
11 not have to leave their communities to get a bear
12 sealed if that evolves because I know in a lot of
13 smaller villages in the state, it's almost economically
14 impossible for people to get to -- or very costly and
15 so having a department or service representative being
16 able to seal bears and go to the villages, I think
17 that's -- will be a good step forward towards resolving
18 this for regions that do engage in bears and
19 handicrafts using those products.

20

21 Thank you, Madame Chair.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
24 Thank you. Is there any other discussion or questions.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Are you doing
29 the briefing on the.....

30

31 MR. KRON: Yes.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We'll
34 move onto Item No. 2, briefing on new Federal
35 Subsistence Permit System, Page No. 83 in your
36 handbook.

37

38 MR. KRON: Madame Chair, Tom Kron with
39 OSM. And again as noted, the briefing is on Page 83.
40 Again this particular item has limited impact on this
41 region. There are only a couple of permits -- Federal
42 permits in this region: elk, brown bear in the Kodiak
43 area, for example.

44

45 Basically what we've done in the past
46 couple months is to update the security and electronic
47 permitting system to make the personal information more
48 secure and to make it easier for people to use. You
49 know, the older system had limitations and the wildlife
50 component for the new permit system, you know, has been

1 completed. The fisheries component is in progress and
2 nearing completion. The feedback we've gotten from
3 users has been overwhelmingly positive both from public
4 and the agencies. And again the intent is to have the
5 fisheries component ready for this -- next year. But
6 again there will be Web-based reporting. The intent is
7 to try to have a system similar to what ADF&G has with
8 their permit system so people can look at information.
9 And again that's all I have, but again it has -- again
10 this item has limited implication currently for this
11 region.

12

13 Thank you, Madame Chair.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Are
16 there any questions for Tom.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none,
21 thank you, Tom.

22

23 MR. KRON: Yes.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Moving right
26 along. We'll move on to the Izembek Refuge. Nancy,
27 are we ready.

28

29 I think maybe at this time since Nancy
30 is handing out the Kodiak report, we will have her do
31 Izembek and we'll take a break so the members have a
32 chance to read this report and then we'll come back for
33 reports.

34

35 It's a handout, Mitch, and maybe if you
36 can get a fax number to Ann, we can -- when we take a
37 break, we'll try to get the documents to you possibly
38 from the Izembek office. 836-2345? Okay. Thank you,
39 Mitch. We'll get that to you as soon as we get done
40 with the Izembek reports.

41

42 Okay. Nancy and Kris.

43

44 MR. PYLE:Kodiak with Mr. McCrea
45 Cobb, wildlife biology. Just wanted to let you know
46 that we.....

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, wait, wait.
49 Stop. Stop. Can you actually say who you are again
50 because we didn't have you even on the record. Start

1 over again.

2

3 MR. PYLE: Hello, this is Bill Pyle,
4 Wildlife Biologist with Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge
5 calling from Kodiak and I'm -- present here is McCrea
6 Cobb, our new Subsistence Wildlife Biologist as well.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
9 you, Bill. What we will do again is get the
10 information to Mitch after Nancy does her report on
11 Izembek, we'll take probably about 10-, 15-minute
12 break -- about 15 minutes. We're moving along fairly
13 fast here. It's only quarter after 9:00. In fact I
14 was teasing Tom and telling him maybe we just should
15 tell people to talk really slow. But anyway, we'll do
16 that and take a break and get that information and
17 then go ahead and have you do the Kodiak report
18 following.

19

20 Nancy.

21

22 MR. PYLE: Thank you, very much Madame
23 Chair. We will be ready to do that.

24

25 MS. PETERSON: Okay. My name Chris
26 Peterson. I'm the Wildlife Biologist here at Izembek
27 National Wildlife Refuge. I've given each of you a
28 copy of our report for the meeting today. Give you a
29 chance to look at it there quickly.

30

31 For caribou in Unit 9D, Izembek
32 National Wildlife Refuge did not conduct joint surveys
33 with Alaska Department of Fish and Game as was done in
34 2009. Because our pilot was unable to fly after March,
35 we did not conduct any Refuge independent surveys of
36 the Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd.

37

38 According to our records to date, we
39 have not received any survey data gathered by Alaska
40 Fish and Game after March 2010. As you look through
41 the table there for the Southern Alaska Peninsula
42 Caribou Herd, in 2009, the fall bull to 100 cow ratio
43 was 21. The fall calves per hundred cow ratio was 43.
44 The fall composition or sample size was 79 and the
45 summer post calving count was 800.

46

47 The Fish and Wildlife Service
48 population counts are normally conducted fall through
49 early spring. Alaska Fish and Game fall composition
50 ratios are taken from an October survey. Caribou for

1 Unit 10 of Unimak Island, due to a continuing downward
2 trend in caribou numbers on Unimak Island, both the
3 recreational and subsistence caribou hunting have been
4 closed. The Izembek National Wildlife Refuge wildlife
5 biologists accompanied the Alaska Department of Fish
6 and Game biologists to Unimak Island to conduct
7 population counts and pregnancy evaluations in late May
8 of 2010. In June, the Alaska Department of Fish and
9 Game biologists captured and collared 15 caribou calves
10 on Unimak Island. 12 of 14 were mortalities by July
11 8th, but the cause of death could not be investigated
12 due to bad weather or helicopter availability. One
13 calf could not be located.

14

15 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is
16 preparing an environmental assessment, EA, and seeking
17 recommendations for a range of alternatives to address
18 conservation concerns for the Unimak Island Caribou
19 Herd. Early this summer, the State contended that wolf
20 control was needed on Unimak Island this year. On June
21 7th of 2010, the U.S. District Judge denied the State's
22 request for a preliminary injunction to kill wolves.

23

24 Izembek National Wildlife Refuge with
25 the University of Alaska, Anchorage, with consultation
26 with Alaska Fish and Game will begin a project in 2011
27 designed to evaluate caribou nutritional and habitat
28 ecology of Unimak Island. Ultimately this information
29 will be used to assess the role of habitat and
30 nutrition in the population dynamics of Unimak caribou
31 and provide a context or a background for assessing all
32 regulating factors affecting the welfare of this herd.

33

34

35 As you look at the summary table, in
36 2009, the population count on Unimak Island caribou was
37 300. The fall bull to hundred cow ratio was 5 and the
38 fall calf to hundred cow ratio was 3. Composition
39 sample size in the fall was 221. And I believe it was
40 January of 2010 that Izembek Refuge personnel went to
41 Unimak and conducted a survey and counted 400 caribou.
42 A composition count was not conducted, just a simple
43 count.

44

45 Data from a partial count is -- the 400
46 in January was data from a partial count. They were
47 not able to survey the entire island due to the snow
48 conditions, very patchy snow on the southern end of the
49 island which makes it really difficult to detect the
50 caribou.

1 Brown bear: State bear hunting season
2 took place May 10th through the 25th on Unimak Island.
3 Refuge commercial guides 2010 reports have not been
4 received for Units 9D and Unimak Island of Unit 10.
5 Ten permits were issued for the Cold Bay road system
6 hunt May 2010. Four of these permits were successfully
7 filled.

8
9 Waterfowl including black brant: There
10 is no new information to report since the spring 2010
11 meeting. Following are the totals that were reported
12 at that meeting and there is a table with those totals.
13 In 2010, the Izembek total was 26,443. The flyway
14 total was 143,947. The three-year average was 145,655.

15
16
17 The productivity counts on Izembek
18 National Wildlife Refuge in 2009 were 43,517 adults,
19 15,923 juveniles, a total of 59,440 with the percent of
20 juveniles being 26.8 percent.

21
22 For waterfowl, of the Emperor Goose,
23 the totals that were reported at the spring 2010
24 meeting, spring survey was 64,562. The spring three-
25 year average was 73,818 and the fall surveys have not
26 yet been conducted. It will be reported on at the
27 spring 2011 meeting. Fall surveys include new
28 recruitment into the population and are not used to
29 determine a three-year average for hunting management
30 purposes. Population counts are conducted during
31 spring and fall staging along the coasts of Western
32 Alaska and Alaska Peninsula and are not specific to the
33 Refuge.

34
35 Avian influenza: The Refuge continues
36 to collect samples for the Alaska avian influenza
37 sampling surveillance program. This year we are
38 collecting AI samples from all species waterfowl
39 harvested by hunters. From July 24th to July 28th of
40 2010, Izembek National Wildlife Refuge staff and
41 volunteers from Cold Bay captured, sampled, and
42 released 106 tundra swans on the Southern Alaska
43 Peninsula as part of statewide avian influenza
44 investigations. To date, a highly pathogenetic strain
45 of AI known as H5N1 has not been detected in Alaska.

46
47 For AI updates and additional
48 information, you might call the Refuge or go to one of
49 the Websites listed in the accessory table there. We
50 ask that if you find dead birds to report them, please

1 call the number listed here and please note the
2 location, hopefully GPS coordinates, the species, and
3 the date and time at which you found them. To use care
4 when handling wild birds, wear basic protection such as
5 rubber gloves and keep tools and work surfaces clean
6 when preparing wild meats. Avoid bird fluid discharges
7 and fecal materials and avoid birds that are dead or
8 obviously sick.

9

10 Avian influenza can be neutralized with
11 heat, drying, and disinfectants. Freezing will not
12 kill the virus, so continue to take precautions with
13 birds that have been frozen.

14

15 And that is the report.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Do
20 you have any questions for.....

21

22 MS. PETERSON: Kris.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:Kris.

25

26 MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair, I have
27 several questions. First of all, you said that you
28 weren't able to do any surveys after March. Can you
29 tell me why you can't do any surveys after March?

30

31 MS. PETERSON: Are we talking about the
32 caribou?

33

34 MR. SCHWANTES: Yes.

35

36 MS. PETERSON: Yes. Okay. For one
37 thing, we did not have access to a pilot and plane to
38 conduct surveys and so they were not done.

39

40 MR. SCHWANTES: I have to tell you I'm
41 real frustrated with Fish and Wildlife because we've
42 been getting that same story for the last three years.
43 We don't have pilots, we can't -- the weather's too
44 bad. I just don't buy that. I'm just not buying that.

45

46 You people are just not doing -- you're
47 not fulfilling the responsibility that you have and you
48 can't convince me that there's not pilots available,
49 that there's not airplanes available, and that there's
50 not a weather window for you to do these surveys and I

1 think that's just inexcusable. You come to this Board
2 and you ask us to take action to close seasons and to
3 prevent subsistence hunters and sport hunters from
4 taking game, but you're not willing to provide the
5 data. You're not willing to go out there and do the
6 work you need to do to provide us the data that we need
7 to do that.

8

9 And we've been supporting you, but I'll
10 tell you what. I'm getting real tired of supporting
11 you when you're coming here telling us you didn't do
12 these surveys.

13

14 MS. PETERSON: We are considering
15 contracting to have a pilot and plane for a future
16 survey.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Nancy.

19

20 MS. HOFFMAN: In February, we had an
21 accident with a plane and so it went down and the pilot
22 was grounded. So we had no plane and we had no pilot
23 and so we brought in -- we asked for other planes to
24 come out and other projects, but we were unavailable.
25 But I understand your concern and it's just something
26 that happened. It wasn't planned.

27

28 MR. SCHWANTES: But I mean there's lots
29 of pilots on the Alaska Peninsula. There's lots of
30 airplanes available. I just don't buy that excuse that
31 you can't get this survey done.

32

33 MS. HOFFMAN: With the Federal
34 Government, we have to have pilots that are OAS
35 certified and PenAir used to be. They're no longer and
36 a contractor out of Nelson Lagoon is no longer and the
37 Southern Peninsula, there is actually no one available
38 to fly for the Federal Government. If we contact
39 someone out of say around Anchorage or King Salmon, we
40 can do that

41

42 MR. SCHWANTES: But you've been giving
43 us this same story for the last three years that I've
44 been on this Board and I think it's time for you to
45 have somebody in backup.

46

47 MS. HOFFMAN: I agree.

48

49 MR. SCHWANTES: When these situations
50 occur, you need to have a backup plan because you need

1 to give us this information.

2

3 MS. HOFFMAN: Right.

4

5 MR. SCHWANTES: Instead of giving us
6 excuses, we want information.

7

8 MS. HOFFMAN: We do too. We're with
9 you.

10

11 MR. SCHWANTES: I mean -- you know,
12 you're asking us to close these seasons and to prevent
13 these people from utilizing their customary and
14 traditional subsistence uses, but yet all we're getting
15 is excuses. You don't have any data because you're not
16 going out and doing the surveys, but then you come and
17 ask us to close the season. And I want to support you,
18 but I need the data to do that. And excuses don't get
19 it. I mean we've been hearing the same thing for --
20 ever since I've been on the right.

21

22 MS. HOFFMAN: All right.

23

24 MR. SCHWANTES: Thank you. Thank you,
25 Madame Chair.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Tom.
28 I think with -- Pat, go ahead.

29

30 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chairman, I would
31 like to put on the record and I'll put forward a motion
32 for resolution that the Kodiak/Aleutians Regional
33 Advisory Council send a letter to the Regional Director
34 of Fish and Wildlife Service censoring Fish and
35 Wildlife Service for their lack of information and
36 incompetence in not doing these surveys because we've
37 heard in the past and it's been many times discussions,
38 well, we can't fly because there wasn't snow. We need
39 to have snow to count the critters.

40

41 Well, in the Northwest Region, Fish and
42 Wildlife Service does their counts in July. So that's
43 not valid. We've been told for years that you would --
44 would if you didn't have the pilots that you would
45 already have a system in place to facilitate through
46 private people. Some of these counts have been done by
47 guys that went out and did it because they were
48 frustrated because the Service didn't do their job.

49

50 We were told at our last meeting -- in

1 fact two meetings, we asked couldn't you coordinate
2 with the Coast Guard. You said yes, you would
3 coordinate with the Coast Guard. I talked to the Coast
4 Guard people in Kodiak that kind of handle that thing
5 and they said nobody's talked to them. And so I really
6 feel -- you don't understand the passion of this. You
7 folks are from outside. You're not Alaskans and I --
8 you know, there are people on the Peninsula -- I gave a
9 story a few years ago of a lady in Perryville and she's
10 a widow and she had to pay 1,500 bucks for a barrel of
11 oil for her house and her kids -- she depends on her
12 sons to get food and they haven't been able to get
13 caribou in years.

14
15 People up in Chignik out of our
16 district, I mean we've watched -- Della's watched this
17 for 14 years. I've been an Alaska resident since 1960
18 and I've seen the populations go up. I've heard your
19 concerns about, well, it might be nutrition. Well, the
20 herds on the Peninsula have gone up and down and
21 restabilized and so these arguments about bears are
22 doing it, brown bears, is balderdash. All your excuses
23 are unacceptable and professional and I would like to
24 present the motion that our Council censor you for not
25 doing your job. And so I'd like to put that motion
26 forward.

27 Madame Chair.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, at this
30 time, we'll add it for our agenda items when we do have
31 a quorum. And, Mitch, at this time, do you have any
32 comments in regard to the caribou survey issue?

33
34 MR. SIMEONOFF: Yeah. I was going to
35 ask a question if they did contact the Coast Guard in
36 helping them conduct their surveys. I noticed that in
37 the minutes that they were going to do that, but my
38 question was have they had any success in acquiring
39 help from the Coast Guard.

40
41 MS. HOFFMAN: No.....

42
43 MR. SIMEONOFF: Is anybody there?

44
45 MS. HOFFMAN: No, we're here. We're
46 just changing mics, so I had a little time break there.
47 This is Nancy Hoffman. I've contacted pilots here --
48 helicopter pilots and talked to them about it this past
49 winter, but I haven't contacted the -- I don't know if
50 it's -- who's the chief of the rank of Coast Guards at

1 Kodiak Island? So I just talked to local pilots and
2 they told me what is the probability of that happening
3 for our winter counts because they're working with
4 Unimak with the fisheries up there at that time. So I
5 haven't gone to the head honchos in Kodiak.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 MR. SIMEONOFF: Another question that I
10 have, when you contract with pilots to help with the
11 surveys, do you contract with commercial airlines or
12 private pilots?

13

14 MS. HOFFMAN: We contract with -- we
15 used to work with PenAir. They have to be OSA
16 certification, so certified through the Office of
17 Aviation Safety and a plane and a pilot have to be
18 piloted -- you know, licensed and the plane registered.
19 And so depending -- I have approached them. They don't
20 feel that it 's important enough to go through the
21 paperwork, so they're not going to do it and it's Kenai
22 Float Services I think and Nelson and they're not
23 interested in it either.

24

25 So I'm trying -- next I found out would
26 be King Salmon area. So it's either commercial or
27 private.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

30

31 MR. SCHWANTES: Getting back to this
32 survey in March, you indicate that you have not
33 received the survey data, that Fish and Game did a
34 survey, that you have not received that survey. Have
35 you asked for that information?

36

37 MS. PETERSON: We've been asking for
38 that information for a few days lately. We've had
39 difficulty contacting the correct people from Alaska
40 Fish and Game. Granted we didn't give them a lot of
41 time for this.

42

43 MS. HOFFMAN: But also we -- when we
44 went over -- they issue permits to go in different
45 areas and we were in correspondence with them when they
46 were surveying, but we never received a report and
47 that's part of usually. Our past years, information is
48 always shared, so it's always been -- it's never --
49 it's always kind of a given that the information is
50 shared between the two agencies.

1 MR. SCHWANTES: So but my question is
2 did you ask for that information and from what I
3 understand you're telling me you just asked for it
4 within the last couple of days.

5
6 MS. HOFFMAN: Well, we though we had it
7 because there was a number of emails being going back
8 and forth and to look closer, that actually didn't come
9 through. We got the calf numbers, but there's no
10 report on the numbers of the Southern herd. We have
11 frequencies from them, but there's no report.

12
13 MR. SCHWANTES: Okay.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

16
17 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chairman, I notice
18 that the ADF&G Director of Commercial Fisheries this
19 year, John Hilsinger and Tina Cuning, the ANILCA
20 Coordinator, and I was wondering if you folks might be
21 able to help us when we have a break and maybe contact
22 your colleague and in the Fish and Wildlife -- pardon
23 me -- field game division. I don't know what the
24 current title is anymore. But if you could find out
25 from Lem Butler what's the skinny on this data because
26 once we have a quorum, we'd really need to have that
27 information.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think in
32 summary on this portion of your report, these are the
33 items. I will say that I am aware the plane did go
34 down and you were without a pilot, I also am concerned
35 also as other RAC members are because when I was on
36 this part of the RAC many -- you know, for a number of
37 years before, this is always been an ongoing issue.
38 And it's -- I think in this day and age, we've got to
39 figure out a way to resolve it and not only from the --
40 it's important for the subsistence users in the region,
41 but we may want to go back and talk to PenAir and Kenai
42 Float Plane because I know darn well that they do fly
43 sports people around and they might want to get
44 certified to be able to sport hunt. So that's part of
45 their -- how they make some of their money.

46
47 The other thing I think is that to look
48 at the contract, I like the idea of a backup plan. I
49 think that shouldn't -- that's something we should add
50 to our list of items because it's been an ongoing issue

1 for over the past ten years that if there is not an
2 airplane available that there is a backup plan that can
3 follow through and I think that needs -- we'll also
4 pursue that in our report.

5
6 And the other -- and then we'll add
7 this to our agenda items when we do have a quorum and
8 we'll go ahead and move on to the other parts of the
9 report.

10
11 Tom.

12
13 MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair, I had a
14 question. You're talking about doing a habitat
15 nutrition and habitat study next year and I'm concerned
16 about there's a lot of reports out there about the
17 increase in wolf population on Unimak Island and I
18 think obviously if we look at the data from the Unit 9,
19 the increases we've seen there as a result of some wolf
20 control problems, why are the Feds balking at taking a
21 look at that and doing some wolf control on Unimak when
22 it's been so successful in this other herd that's right
23 next door?

24
25 MS. PETERSON: For one thing, we have
26 the requirement to doing NEPA on activities such as
27 that and we are willing to do that and we are involved
28 currently in an environmental assessment over doing a
29 NEPA work document. Personally I don't believe that we
30 have any difficulty with doing that project that you're
31 talking about, about wolf predator control. We just
32 need to do a NEPA. That's a government requirement.

33
34 MR. SCHWANTES: Okay. How long does it
35 take to do that?

36
37 MS. PETERSON: Usually about a year.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So at 2:00
40 o'clock, we'll be discussing that.

41
42 MR. SCHWANTES: Okay.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And the deadline
45 I think for the final will be in January of 2011.

46
47 MR. SCHWANTES: Okay. Thank you.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And maybe Nancy
50 and Kris, if -- I'm not sure if Pat and Tom go the

1 notice. I know I did, but I also -- as a resident, but
2 I also got one as a Council member and I just received
3 mine the day before I got here as a Council member, so
4 we want to make sure they have copies before the 2:00
5 Unimak.

6

7 MS. HOFFMAN: Okay. Yeah, I can --
8 when I go back, I'll make a copy of this newsletter
9 that came out -- announcement for it and bring those up
10 for you.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

13

14 MR. HOLMES: I have one more question
15 on the 2010 survey, the Index 400, and I didn't have a
16 fowl, cow/calf ratio, or bull to cow ratio, and you
17 know, I've worked out in the Aleutians and the
18 Peninsula probably as anybody's been alive and I have
19 counted salmon in the Aleutians which is the most
20 difficult place in the state to count fish and I can --
21 have flown streams and come up with a -- not only
22 pretty accurate counts but species counts of fish that
23 are two feet long and I don't understand that a pilot
24 that's out or a person flying and you count 400 caribou
25 which are logarithmically larger creatures, that you
26 can't come up with some kind of an instrument of
27 relative sex ratio and numbers of calves to cows and to
28 me that is incredible. I mean there are numerous
29 people here that have flown surveys of other critters
30 and you can fly. You can tell -- click, click, click
31 while you're counting and having tallywackers. I just
32 am. Because we've been -- I don't know -- and it's not
33 frustration with you ladies. I know you're doing the
34 best within your administrative criteria that you have
35 to deal with, but for the entire time I've been on this
36 Council, I don't know how many Refuge managers
37 sincerely have told us, yes, we'll have a backup plan
38 for doing surveys. Yes, we'll have this data for you
39 and it is so frustrating that it never happens.

40

41 It doesn't take long to call the
42 commander of the air station in Kodiak. We were
43 assured at our last meeting that that would occur.
44 There are private pilots. There are guides here.
45 There are people that fly for Fish and Game that live
46 in Sand Point and all you'd have to do is say we'll pay
47 for your gas. They'll go out one guy flying his cub
48 and they'll go give you a count of the critters. One
49 man flying the plane can fly the plane and count the
50 number of caribou. They can come up with a pretty darn

1 good guess that'll have a -- they could go do it three
2 times and give you confidence intervals and that
3 information just isn't there and I really wish that you
4 would deal with your supervisors and your
5 administrators because we were told this year that, you
6 know, the process would be rolling on the NEPA thing.

7
8 I mean you folks have done predator
9 controls on foxes in the Aleutians for years, on rats,
10 gone out and dumped Warfarin all over Kiska Island and
11 places, and, you know, is there an environmental impact
12 statement going back and looking at raptors and seeing
13 if any of the raptors ate rats that had Warfarin in
14 them and what happened to them? No. I mean you guys
15 can do tremendous things for birds, but for things that
16 relate to food for people, it's just been a rather
17 colossal bumbling for years and I'm not holding you
18 ladies because you've got this megalithic
19 administration you have to deal with, but, you know,
20 for heaven sakes -- I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, I'm --
21 Madame Chairman, I'm just running over things again.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We will
26 be -- the Unimak caribou, it will be up this afternoon
27 and I think it would be nice to have some of these
28 reports that I can get -- whether you can get it to me
29 digitally during lunch or before, I can get it off to
30 some of the sites that would be online, but to be able
31 to discuss this this afternoon.

32
33 MS. HOFFMAN: Got a newsletter? Or
34 what reports? Oh, this report. Okay.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think
37 following that also -- and I'll bring this up again,
38 but having these reports handed out at the meeting
39 doesn't do us justice as representatives and to do our
40 job. Some of the information I think in this report I
41 would have liked to have been able to share with other
42 members in our region and getting some input or
43 discussion from them. There's a lot of interest I know
44 with the caribou in 9D and there's also a lot of
45 interest I think in the Emperor geese on the counts,
46 but it's hard for us I think to effectively do our job
47 and to be able to work together if we don't have the
48 information. And it's going to be my recommendation to
49 add that to our list of items that we get these reports
50 ten days before our meeting, that we can get the

1 reports from both Refuges to the Coordinator that she
2 can email or fax those reports out to us.

3

4 I know how hard that is. Everybody's
5 so busy, but it just allows -- it makes it easier for
6 us to do our job.

7

8 Moving on, maybe in this discussion
9 some discussion, some questions I know I had in regard
10 to brown bear. Are there any surveys that have been
11 done recently on the brown bear on 9D and 10?

12

13 MS. HOFFMAN: Okay. Last fall, there
14 was a stream survey that we do annually and so that was
15 done over in the Joshua Green area and I don't have
16 handy what the numbers. We're going to look at adults
17 and sub-adult numbers and counts of the year.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: If we can get
20 those numbers, Nancy, the other part of me asking that,
21 there is a letter from the city of False Pass in regard
22 to the number of bears that is a concern, including
23 wolves. I know that this summer without, you know, the
24 lack of fish in the stream -- or creeks I'm thinking
25 contribute a lot of the movement with bears in our
26 communities, but I think to look at those numbers and
27 compare them over the past ten years would be
28 beneficial.

29

30 MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah. They look pretty
31 consistent. There's not a big -- you know, huge growth
32 of -- from the fall count. But, like you said, with
33 the fisheries being a little bit off this year. Yeah.
34 We get those mailed to -- send them to Ann to
35 distribute?

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, if you can
38 or if you have them handy that you can bring them back
39 sometime the next day or two would be great.

40

41 MS. HOFFMAN: Okay.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

44

45 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I have
46 another question, moving down to the waterfowl section,
47 Emperor geese, and I see in the spring of 2009, you
48 show a spring survey of 91,000 -- almost 92,000 birds.
49 And your fall survey is only 79,000. That's 12,000
50 less birds than what you're showing in the spring.

1 Now, I would certainly think that the fall survey would
2 have a lot more birds in it because of the juvenile
3 birds that would be in that survey, so I guess my
4 questions are is are we surveying the same areas and
5 how are these surveys being conducted. I -- quite
6 frankly, I have to question those numbers. It just
7 doesn't make sense to me that you have, you know,
8 92,000 birds in the spring and after your hatch, you
9 wind up with 12,000 less birds.

10

11 MS. HOFFMAN: The surveys -- they're
12 standard survey routes that's been going on for years
13 by the same pilots and biologists flying them. They're
14 pretty darn, you know, consistent in their observation
15 and their patterns of where they're going and their
16 coverage of the areas.

17

18 MR. SCHWANTES: Doesn't that alarm you
19 though that in the spring you have that many birds and
20 in the fall, there's 12,000 less birds after the hatch
21 and after the juvenile birds join that flock, you're
22 12,000 birds down from what you started with in the
23 spring. That would really concern me.

24

25 MS. PETERSON: I hope this addresses
26 your question. If you look at the table as well, in
27 2005, you'll notice that the spring survey was
28 substantially less than the fall survey.

29

30 MR. SCHWANTES: Right.

31

32 MS. PETERSON: And then we go to 2006,
33 again the spring survey is less than the fall survey.
34 Now, the following year, it's closer to being the same,
35 but the spring is more than the fall. In 2008, again
36 it goes from low in the spring to high in the fall. In
37 2009, it switches and goes to very high in the spring
38 and lower in the fall. These surveys are -- as Nancy
39 said, they're very standardized. The pilots and the
40 personnel who conduct them are well trained. They are
41 standardized such that they can evaluate these
42 statistically and have some range of confidence in the
43 results.

44

45 I would -- as a biologist, I would not
46 expect the survey to exactly give me a count. The
47 birds are not always in the same places at the same
48 time, so when they go out and conduct the survey, they
49 do it over -- I believe this one is done over a
50 several-day period. And they -- the number that they

1 get is the number they use, but it does not necessarily
2 represent the highest number that were there.

3

4 MS. HOFFMAN: This weekend, we'll be
5 doing the Emperor survey, if weather permits, that
6 they're going to get here, so I can ask them what --
7 you know, how they interpret that and get back to you
8 on their interpretation, but it was -- it's not a
9 warning sign to them that it's an oddity, you know. So
10 I can ask them, you know, why there was concern from
11 the RAC and I can get you information on their analysis
12 and what they think that means.

13

14 MS. PETERSON: So it can be drastically
15 affected by weather conditions or anything else, but it
16 does not necessarily mean that the -- the difference in
17 the numbers for 2009 does not necessarily mean that the
18 population decreased. It just means that the count
19 wasn't -- at that time wasn't the high count. Am
20 I.....

21

22 MR. SCHWANTES: So basically what
23 you're telling me -- if I'm understanding what you're
24 telling me that these counts are not accurate at all.

25

26 MS. HOFFMAN: They're as accurate as
27 you can. I mean that's the count. It's whatever is
28 there at that time. They try to get the peak of the
29 migration.

30

31 MS. PETERSON: But if the migration
32 extended over a longer period of time, then your peak
33 might be less, but the edges of the migration might be
34 more. So your counts will be lower. It doesn't
35 indicate necessarily that the population is decreased.

36

37 Now as they evaluate it, there are
38 tools built into the evaluation process that account
39 for error and so as they run an analysis of that -- of
40 these numbers, it takes into account these errors that
41 are built into the sampling process and it makes up for
42 those errors. So this does not necessarily represent a
43 decrease in population or a loss of chicks. They
44 generally do counts also where they actually measure
45 the error that they are putting into the process and
46 they can account for that.

47

48 So I think there's -- especially over
49 this many years, there is a fair amount of accuracy
50 involved in this.

1 MR. SCHWANTES: Is it true that there
2 could be a whole lot more birds out there than what
3 you're showing here?

4
5 MS. PETERSON: I doubt that it could be
6 a whole lot more birds, but this certainly does not
7 represent all of the birds. There's no way that you
8 could count all birds.

9
10 MR. SCHWANTES: Have you expanded your
11 surveys over the last -- or are you still surveying in
12 the same areas every year or have you expanded your
13 surveys?

14
15 NANCY HOFFMAN: I'll confirm that with
16 ballot this weekend.

17
18 MR. SCHWANTES: Okay. Thank you.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

21
22 MR. HOLMES: Well, I guess what you're
23 referring to -- I've had a tad bit of experience in
24 statistical evaluation. So are you folks doing
25 systematic -- just a straight random survey or are you
26 using stratified or a systematic random stratified
27 program? And I understand that you can have some
28 variances around your estimate and that this is really
29 only giving an index over time. But at our last
30 meeting, I asked what were the confidence intervals
31 around these previous surveys and your last survey and
32 I was told that you'd give me those numbers and this is
33 six months later and I haven't got them. And I would
34 sincerely suggest that on your data that you present to
35 this Board that on your -- not only your caribou
36 counts, but also your surveys for your birds that you
37 would have confidence intervals because just looking at
38 these numbers, if you had just -- if you were having
39 some pretty tight confidence intervals on these that
40 you're probably exceeding that 80,000 threshold for an
41 opening and you've probably done it several times and I
42 really think that this Council and the public deserves
43 to have all the information involved on the surveys.

44
45 And then I have a second question to
46 raise, is if you've got a pilot and a plane coming here
47 next week to count geese, why not do caribou because I
48 know that this is the equinox and that the weather's
49 sometimes tough, but to pop to Unimak and get back, you
50 don't need a really big window and to me while geese

1 are very important, knowing what's going on with these
2 caribou is even more important. And so if there's a
3 pilot here, I would suggest you call the Regional
4 Director and say hey, our subsistence Council is quite
5 fired up and we need that person to stay here and that
6 plane until we get the count on Unimak.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MS. HOFFMAN: Pat, I apologize about my
11 confidence in intervals. I asked Kris, but I couldn't
12 remember exactly what your question was, so he'll be
13 here and I've written it down and I will definitely ask
14 him and I'll ask him about the type of surveys, their
15 transects -- well, I'll ask him about the expansion or
16 what they've done with the range and when they changed
17 it if they have.

18

19 Like we talked about when we're doing
20 Emperor surveys, they're on a scheduled time. You need
21 to count them all -- you know, within a few days. So
22 these two pilots are for the migratory bird
23 department, Fish and Wildlife, and their total mission
24 is to count Emperors through their range. And so I
25 cannot -- I can ask them to deviate from that, but
26 they're not going to deviate from that. They're --
27 that's -- their task is to count these birds on this
28 time frame so we can have these kind of numbers and the
29 surveys are consistent.

30

31 But I understand your concern and we
32 are having another pilot come out the first of October
33 and we plan to use that pilot and that plane to get
34 over to Unimak.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

37

38 MR. SCHWANTES: I guess again one of my
39 concerns is there have been a number of concerns about
40 the use of these Emperor geese as subsistence -- for
41 subsistence purposes and I know that at least in my
42 area we have a much higher Emperor geese population
43 than we've ever had, in the Kodiak Island area. And I
44 don't know if you even survey that area, but we -- but
45 our population of Emperor geese has increased
46 dramatically.

47

48 From talking to Mr. Koso, the Emperor
49 geese population out in the Aleutians has increased and
50 out in Adak, areas where he's at, and I don't know if

1 you're surveying those or not. And so that's a
2 concern. The people want to use that as a subsistence
3 resource and so my concern is are we getting an
4 accurate count and if we're above that threshold, then
5 why aren't we opening it so that they can be used for
6 subsistence purposes.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MS. HOFFMAN: We know how important
11 Emperors are for subsistence and so we're not trying to
12 keep the numbers down. The birds in Adak, which I
13 talked to Koso before, they do come through here. So
14 we are pretty confident that we're getting the majority
15 of the birds and it is around the Kodiak area too and I
16 did try to provide you with a map of where the survey
17 areas are. That'd be helpful.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

20

21 MR. HOLMES: Well, that might be the
22 case, but I guess, you know, what Tom's reflecting is
23 right now there's a sizable number of geese that are in
24 Kodiak, out in Womens Bay and right now out at Adak,
25 there's some there. So you can't possibly be doing
26 your fall count here and be counting those birds
27 because they've already gone. And so that's why this
28 whole thing is so critical and so passionate and you're
29 just -- I know you realize it's important, but I'm just
30 dearly sorry that our esteemed colleague from Larsen
31 Bay isn't here to share his passion and some of our
32 other elders that can no longer hunt in Kodiak and
33 right now they're sitting in their homes or going down
34 to the beach and looking and seeing Emperor geese and
35 so, you know, when you do have some fluctuations,
36 you've got, what, 18,000 or 12,000, you know, that's a
37 significant difference between spring and fall and so I
38 really almost think that our Council might want to
39 discuss some correspondence with the Flyaway Council in
40 their discussions on how to handle Emperor Goose
41 threshold and it's difficult for me when I have folks
42 in Kodiak or friends from Aleutians East Borough call
43 up and say, well, why isn't the goose hunt open. I
44 can't answer those questions and it seems like, you
45 know, you folks honestly can't either. You do your
46 best, but it is frustrating. So thank you for your
47 help.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

50

1 MR. SCHWANTES: I'd just like to say
2 we've been pretty tough on you here this morning. I
3 know I have and I hope you won't take that personally.
4 I don't mean it to be personal, but from my
5 perspective, it's very frustrating to be sitting on
6 this Board and to keep getting excuses. Well, we --
7 you know, and that's what I've heard for three years to
8 be honest with you and it's your agency. And so
9 unfortunately you're the ones here representing your
10 agency and so we're going to take our frustration out
11 and I hope you don't take that personally, but I hope
12 you'll take that back so that we can rectify these
13 problems. We are tired of excuses and we want some
14 data and we're willing to work with you, but we can't
15 do it if all we get is excuses. So thank you very
16 much.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat
19 and Tom. I think following up with that, I recall in
20 2004 we had our meeting in Old Harbor and this issue
21 came up then about subsistence on the Emperor geese,
22 and the same issue that come up today was the question
23 on how accurate the surveys were and it does raise a
24 question in my mind. If you're -- and it's the same
25 with caribou. You run the same transect lines on these
26 when you're doing the surveys and at one point when we
27 didn't have the caribou closed and then opened it
28 again, it was because we had local people that said no,
29 I'm seeing these caribou here when I'm out in the
30 fishing grounds. So that was why I think it was
31 important that we had somebody local as pat of the
32 surveys as they were being conducted because people out
33 here and in the Kodiak region, they live on these lands
34 -- on these grounds and they see things year round that
35 are quite different than somebody coming out for a
36 couple days to do surveys.

37
38 So I recommend that we add this to our
39 next -- to our winter meeting to possibly have a
40 representative from Migratory Bird Council to, I think,
41 at least give us a thorough report on this and that our
42 recommendations and concerns are given to them
43 directly, if that would be okay -- would be the
44 consensus of this Council.

45
46 And Tom said he'll chase you back up to
47 the Fish and Wildlife building here as soon as we get
48 down with.....

49 (Laughter)
50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Think we have
2 anything else. I'd like to thank you ladies. I know
3 there was a little bit of tough report, but you took it
4 well and we hope to have nothing but good things come
5 back to us. Thank you. And at this time, we'll take a
6 break. Oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead, Nancy.

7
8 MS. HOFFMAN: Included in your packet I
9 think is just an update on the proposed land exchange
10 and road corridor, so you can just -- I don't know if
11 you want to -- do you want me to go through the bullets
12 here or if you just want to read it. I also have
13 some -- 15 copies in the back that people can just pick
14 up.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead and go
17 through it.

18
19 MS. HOFFMAN: Okay. So this is an
20 update of the proposed land exchange and road corridor
21 and the environmental impact statement. The notice of
22 intent was published in the Federal Register. We
23 completed our scoping in March and April, earlier this
24 spring, 2010. We initiated the government consultation
25 with 12 tribes. That was in June. The contractor,
26 URS, was hired of June of 2010 to work on the EIS and
27 the project work plan, the public participation plan,
28 the scoping comment analysis report, and the specialist
29 reports have all been completed and the Service has
30 initiated consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
31 Service Endangered Species Office, the National Marine
32 Fisheries Office, and both the Endangered Species and
33 Essential Fish Habitat and State Historic Preservation
34 Office.

35
36 The scoping report is posted on the
37 Izembek Websites. It will be posted in October and
38 during the scoping period, the Service received a total
39 of 31,568 submissions containing 640 substantive
40 comments. And the scoping report newsletter which is
41 new will be coming out in October, so this next month.
42 And this next week we'll be having a meeting in
43 Anchorage to develop the purpose and need for the EIS
44 with all the cooperators. And on this sheet, there is
45 contact information and a Website. You can go and get
46 more information. All these reports are online or you
47 can phone or email and it can be sent to you. Any
48 questions on that.

49
50 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

1 MR. HOLMES: I'm very appreciative to
2 get this update and, you know, as I mentioned when you
3 ladies first started that I had been at King Cove when
4 their weather was down and, you know, people were
5 basically on the edge of dying there to get out and I'm
6 glad to see some progress made.

7
8 And I would like to reiterate earlier
9 comments and I would have greatly liked to have known
10 about this process, as a Council member, because either
11 I didn't notice it in my mail or I didn't get it and I
12 have corresponded with the Senate office in Washington,
13 D.C., about this issue because it's, you know, really
14 an awful important thing and I'm surely glad that
15 there's being progress made. And so I would commend
16 you folks for -- and the Tribal Councils for being able
17 to work this out and develop a compromise solution
18 because I think that tremendous amount of land given in
19 exchange through the state for the small amount of road
20 and minimal impact of that in my mind compared to what
21 happened here in Cold Bay during World War II, one of
22 my uncles and other relatives were here and, you know,
23 you can't grasp it now. I mean even over 30, 40 years
24 I can see a tremendous change in the vegetative
25 habitat.

26
27 And, you know, when you have 30, 40
28 square miles that were basically bulldozed during the
29 war, the impact of that little road is minuscule and
30 I'm just so heartened to see the progress finally
31 taking place.

32
33 Thank you very much for your help on
34 that.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Nancy, do you
37 have anything else?

38
39 MS. HOFFMAN: No.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I do have one
42 thing. Can you talk a little bit about the grant on
43 the brant that you -- with the tribe and the
44 corporation in King Cove.

45
46 MS. HOFFMAN: So we have a challenge
47 cost share grant with the Agdaadux Tribe and the King
48 Cove Corporation and USGS and Fish and Wildlife and we
49 will be looking at the brant population overwintering
50 here and also we're looking at a larger scale from

1 Mexico up, how they're changing, where they're -- how
2 much time they're spending on their migration route and
3 where they're feeding.

4
5 There's up to I guess 40,000 brant that
6 overwinter here now and that's a big change and we're
7 seeing -- trying to look at what does that increase in
8 population mean to the eelgrass beds and it changes
9 that impact of additional feeding and then also the
10 change of where they're staging and for how long. So
11 we're going to have two I believe techs from the
12 Agdaadux Tribe will help the researchers in the field
13 this winter. Exciting job in the coldness and then
14 that's going to be a two-year study. So it's just real
15 nice to have the cooperation. And we can send out
16 reports after it's done and then we'll have probably a
17 summary -- annual summaries.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

20
21 MR. SCHWANTES: What percentage of an
22 increase are you looking at that's overwintering here
23 now?

24
25 MS. HOFFMAN: So it's up to -- it's
26 between 30- and 40,000 now and I think it was below
27 20,000 even just a few years ago.

28
29 MR. SCHWANTES: Okay. Thank you.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Any other
32 questions? Mitch, do you have any questions for the
33 ladies?

34
35 MR. SIMEONOFF: Well, it's hard for me
36 to develop a question. I didn't -- I don't know. The
37 reception is getting bad. I'm not getting everything.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Hearing
40 none at this time, we'll take probably I'll say a 20-
41 minute break, till 10:30. That will allow enough time
42 to get these faxes to Mitch. At 10:30, we will start
43 with the Kodiak Refuge report, if that's okay with
44 everybody. We convene at 10:30.

45
46 (Off record)

47
48 (On record)

49
50 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We'll wait a few

1 more minutes so we can make sure Mitch gets back on
2 line.

3

4 (Off record)

5

6 (On record)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:report and
9 hopefully Mitch will get on line shortly. Thank you.
10 Kodiak, you're going to give your report.

11

12 Just -- if you have not signed in,
13 there's a sign-up sheet in the back of the room.
14 Please do sign in. Ann would like to make sure we get
15 everybody signed in.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MR. COBB: Kodiak Wildlife -- Kodiak
20 subsistence report . For brown bears, we have two
21 major projects this period, one in the Karluk Watershed
22 on looking at habitat and resource use. For this study
23 we collared a number of bears with GPS and GHF collars
24 and have been monitoring these bears closely. Refuge
25 staff -- a graduate student, five volunteers have been
26 involved in the project.

27

28 We have also been testing the
29 feasibility of using remote video recorders on streams
30 to monitor salmon runs in relation to bear use. These
31 video recorders tend to be successful and we plan to
32 implement this further in the future.

33

34 The second project was intensive aerial
35 surveys following methods based on sightability index
36 that was developed in the '80s. We conducted this
37 survey in May for replicate results to get decline in
38 bear density within the Karluk Drainage and the decline
39 in -- sorry -- decline in bear density from about 483
40 bears per thousand kilometers to 252 bears per thousand
41 kilometers.

42

43 However, it should be noted that the --
44 that your green up appeared to occur later than normal
45 and this may have affected survey numbers resulting in
46 lower survey numbers this year. We will be repeating
47 the survey in spring of 2011 to reset bear population.

48

49 For Sitka black-tailed deer, we've had
50 two projects as well. We've looked at deer harvest

1 results which are set annually by ADF&G but a hunter
2 questionnaire. Results from these surveys indicate
3 that deer harvest have increased approximately
4 24 percent from last year. However, overall -- and I
5 refer you to Figure 1 in our report -- numbers have
6 declined almost 30 percent in '88, '89 harvest levels.

7
8 Secondly, we've been doing mortality
9 surveys which have been continuing for a number of
10 years. This year 96 percent were classified as fawns,
11 4 percent (1) as yearlings and none as adults. Deer
12 were generally in poor condition prior to death as
13 determined by bone marrow. However, mortality overall
14 pattern was moderate this year in two surveys and low
15 in one survey.

16
17 And currently we're in the process of
18 developing additional studies to address medical needs
19 related to Sitka deer. Our study goals will likely
20 qualifying deer abundance in population dynamics to we
21 gain a better understanding of deer habitat collection
22 and spacial use. We'll be working on this over the
23 next few months and hope to have a study plan in place
24 for our next meeting and at that time, looking for
25 Council support for this project.

26
27 I'll skip to migratory birds and in
28 terms of other projects, please refer to our report.

29
30 For migratory birds, we've done aerial
31 surveys of Steller's Eiders. Worldwide population has
32 declined by as much as 50 percent. This winter's count
33 near Kodiak was 2,700 birds which is well below the
34 average with approximately 4,000 birds from the
35 previous surveys. We also tallied other species during
36 that survey, such as Goldeneye, Buffleheads and a
37 number of others.

38
39 Emperor geese were observed in larger
40 numbers this year. Approximately 6,800 were recorded
41 while long-term average around Kodiak is approximately
42 2,300. We've done boat-based transects for winter
43 marine seabirds in Uyak, Uganik and Viekoda Bays for
44 marine bird abundance and I refer you to Figure 2 for
45 these data.

46
47 We've sampled for avian influenza for
48 Steller's Eiders because of their breeding in Russia
49 and none have been found to test positive, although we
50 also tested for a number of other viruses and bacteria

1 in the project and results are pending.

2

3 We conducted coastal waterbird surveys
4 and seaduck bandings. Specifically we captured and
5 banded 148 Harlequin in three different sites around
6 Kodiak, along with 56 Barrow Goldeneyes and we'll be
7 using these data to assess patterns of adult survival.

8

9 Migratory bird harvest survey are going
10 on right now. We'll be using those to assess trends in
11 subsistence harvest practices and facilitate management
12 and promote conservation.

13

14 Fisheries -- our report for fisheries
15 is divided into -- Kodiak Management Area into three
16 different areas based on geography, and the west side
17 chinook salmon numbers were quite low, low enough to
18 prompt -- prompt an emergency action. Residents
19 reported low catch per unit effort of sockeye salmon
20 prior to the closure on June 30th. The chinook salmon
21 season was reopened for subsistence and sportfishing
22 when the lower escapement goal was met on July 7th.

23

24 On the north side, early in June, the
25 number of sockeye returning to the Buskin River were
26 low which prompted an emergency order by ADF&G to close
27 the river to sportfishing, June 15th. Subsistence
28 fishing was weak during that time. However, escapement
29 goals were achieved on July 12th and the fishery was
30 reopened to users. Litnik River system, on the other
31 hand, has experienced strong returns on sockeye salmon.
32 An emergency order was issued to increase the bag limit
33 and the closure was modified to allow additional
34 harvest.

35

36 The subsistence users were able to meet
37 their subsistence needs during this strong return. The
38 south side -- at the south end of the Kodiak area had
39 medium strength runs of salmon. Villagers in Akhiok
40 experienced low catch per unit efforts for subsistence
41 caught salmon. As the season progressed, residents
42 shifted their efforts to areas within Olga Bay and
43 appear to have met their subsistence needs for sockeye
44 salmon.

45

46 And we have a number of new staff at
47 the Refuge, to conclude. I started in end of June as
48 the new Wildlife Biologist specializing in ungulates
49 and subsistence species. We also have a new
50 Educational Specialist at the visitor center, Shelly

1 Lawson, and a new Volunteer Coordinator, Lisa Hupp, who
2 joins us as I said the Volunteer Coordinator.

3

4 That concludes our report except for
5 one more additional comment from Bill Pyle.

6

7 MR. PYLE: This is Bill Pyle, Wildlife
8 Biologist with Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. I just
9 wanted to provide a little of information regarding the
10 status of FAA planning process. We received an email
11 on September 2nd, 2010, that outlined the latest on
12 environmental impact statement schedule of FAA and just
13 the items I would note would -- it says that the
14 current schedule for the project has the draft EIS
15 being released during the first half of 2011.

16

17 That's all I have to say.

18

19 Questions of the Council.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Do we want to do
22 this -- let's try to do this like we did with Izembek,
23 by section maybe, if there's any questions on 1- in
24 regard to brown bear. Pat.

25

26 MR. HOLMES: Yes, Madame Chairman. I
27 think that's an excellent idea. I was wondering about
28 your observations of the decline in the Karluk Basin
29 decrease of 4,883 bears in 2010. And you attributed
30 some of that to potential late green-up and we
31 certainly had a late spring this year as well as some
32 really cold northwest winds in March.

33

34 But I recall -- Bill, who was the old
35 research biologist? Alexander? It seemed to me his
36 paper when he got it published showed that one of the
37 factors relating to brown bear distribution was food
38 availability and I wonder if you folks have taken a
39 look at the red salmon returns there to Karluk because
40 certainly they've declined considerably since 2003 and
41 my observations when I was doing salmon research there
42 on Kodiak is bears quite frequently would move from the
43 Karluk Drainage down to to Frazer or even down on the
44 Peninsula to feed on -- or Frazer to feed on reds or
45 down on the Peninsula to feed on humpies during a weak
46 red year.

47

48 So I was wondering if you folks have
49 given any reflection on perhaps doing some systematic
50 -- what do you call that -- adaptive surveys where you

1 expand your survey area to adjacent drainages to see if
2 perhaps some of your critters have moved to some of the
3 other drainages or maybe try and get a few more collars
4 down there in the Karluk Drainage to see if some of
5 those critters might be moving to some areas where
6 there'd be more salmon abundance and maybe changing
7 their denning areas. Is that a reasonable hypothesis?
8

9 Thank you.

10
11 MR. PYLE: Thank you for the question,
12 Mr. Holmes. This is Bill Pyle of Kodiak Refuge on the
13 response. In fact that is the pattern that we are
14 observing is substitution with bears moving from the
15 Karluk area in response to -- and was especially the
16 case last year with low sockeye returns in the Karluk
17 -- with bears that generally spend a lot of time at the
18 Karluk, evidence suggested that on the basis of radio
19 relocations that in fact there is wide-ranging
20 movements, that they went out of the Karluk watershed
21 and over to the Frazer and even over into the Red Lake
22 area to meet their needs.
23

24 And at the time, the interesting thing
25 was our sample of bears last year was primarily -- in
26 both years here, but we have a much larger sample this
27 year was primarily single bears and many of these
28 collars will be expected to be on the same bears next
29 year and at that time, you know, resources will --
30 might differ a little bit, but, you know, what the
31 consequences are potentially for females with cubs
32 remains to be determined, but that's one of the
33 interests in this study.
34

35 So I'm kind of getting around a little
36 bit of -- you know, your question, we did observe that
37 pattern in relation to resources, although we think we
38 -- we in fact have the study in the Karluk area where
39 there has been a change in availability over the last
40 few years with the decline in sockeye, especially the
41 case 2008 and 2009. Some recovery this year
42 particularly in the late run, but we see a pattern of
43 bears moving out as needed, making long-distance
44 movements to meet those needs in other systems and
45 hopefully -- if in fact this decline is related to
46 other factors, not just the fact that all the bears
47 were out of dens when we performed the survey this
48 spring, we have a study in place which should elucidate
49 some of these factors that may be responsible. Salmon
50 are one.

1 Another is the production pattern of
2 berries down there particularly elderberry and the
3 combined changes in availability of both salmon and
4 berries down in that region over the last three years
5 may have influenced production and survival of young
6 especially and the numbers that we count. We'll go
7 back next year to -- you know, we'll have the study in
8 place. It's going to continue, plus we'll go back and
9 resurvey that Karluk area to see where things stand in
10 terms of the population level.

11
12 MR. HOLMES: Thanks a bunch, Bill.
13 That's kind of what I was expecting and I appreciate
14 you folks keeping your eyes on the bears there.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom, do you have
17 anything on bears.

18
19 MR. SCHWANTES: No.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We'll move on to
22 the -- is there any question or discussion on Sitka
23 blacktailed deer. Tom.

24
25 MR. SCHWANTES: Bill, Tom Schwantes
26 here. Hey, I notice most of your data is on the
27 harvest numbers. Do you have any numbers on the actual
28 population. I know you're showing a fairly dramatic
29 decrease in harvest levels over the past ten years by
30 30 percent. What's your population doing? Do you have
31 any numbers on that?

32
33 MR. COBB: Thank you for the question.
34 This is McCrea Cobb, Wildlife Biologist. At this time,
35 there's a strong need to assess the abundance of Sitka
36 deer here. There has not been studies on that recently
37 and -- however is something that we are looking to
38 start shortly. We'll be developing a study plan --
39 develop then in population abundance here and hope to
40 have that to you at -- the Council report for the next
41 meeting.

42
43 MR. SCHWANTES: Thank you.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think we'll
46 move on to Roosevelt elk. Pat.

47
48 MR. HOLMES: Just one comment on the
49 deer. I think it's really exciting to have McCrea on
50 the staff and in the 40 years or so I've been in

1 Kodiak, you know, that's been one of the questions that
2 always comes up at Advisory Committee or amongst the
3 guides or particularly amongst subsistence users is
4 what's the population doing and, you know, a person can
5 go out and now you're becoming a wheezer geezer like
6 Tom, it's harder to get your deer and it's really great
7 to have someone finally on Refuge staff that can work
8 on quantifying deer abundance. And I think that's just
9 really exciting thing and I'm glad you got hired there,
10 McCrea, and hope to see some good work from you because
11 I know when I talk to your colleague, Larry VanDaele a
12 while back, I think last time I talked to him his whole
13 research budget for deer was 400 bucks or something and
14 so it's -- I'm really glad to see the Refuge hiring
15 somebody to work on ungulates and it's been long needed
16 and welcome aboard.

17

18 MR. COBB: Thank you.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We'll
21 move on to marine mammal. Sorry. I skipped the
22 Roosevelt elk. Tom.

23

24 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah. I just have one
25 question on the elk. Can you tell us if that survey
26 was done and if you have any information on the
27 results?

28

29 MR. COBB: This is McCrea Cobb again.
30 We do not have information on the results. As far as
31 we know, ADF&G is still conducting these surveys and we
32 should have results shortly.

33

34 MR. SCHWANTES: Thank you.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Marine mammal.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Migratory birds.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

45

46 MR. SCHWANTES: Let me back up one.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom, go ahead.

49

50 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah. I just have one

1 question on the sea otter. Do you have any indication
2 what the numbers are that are being taken in the Kodiak
3 area on an annual basis.

4
5 MR. PYLE: This is Bill Pyle with
6 Kodiak Refuge. Harvest level has been around a hundred
7 animals per year.

8
9 MR. SCHWANTES: Thank you.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom -- or, Pat.
12 I'm sorry

13
14 MR. HOLMES: This is Pat and -- that's
15 okay. I forget my own name as well as my colleagues'
16 here. I was reflecting. It's exciting to see that
17 you're doing -- starting subsistence harvest studies
18 there, Bill, and I was wondering there doesn't seem to
19 be anything, unless I missed it, some specific data on
20 Uyak Bay which has been a concern for folks in Larsen
21 Bay and for our Council on Harlequin numbers and their
22 decline. And we've inquired if you folks could start a
23 harvest logbook or see what's being taken by the, you
24 know, guided hunts because Harlequins are in great
25 demand by European trophy hunters. And, you know, I've
26 had some personal comments from, you know, the elders
27 in Larsen Bay and Rick Koso has commented, you know,
28 on the importance of Harlequins as starvation food and
29 as a traditional item for the old timers and of course
30 my colleague, Al Cratty, from Old Harbor, who's a young
31 buck, said that he wouldn't eat one if he was starving.
32 But then he's got a lot more access to a lot of other
33 things from his freezer and -- but they are important
34 and, you know, the -- it seemed like your data in past
35 years when you presented it by bay that Uyak was the
36 area that crashed first and is Uyak still down?

37
38 Have you folks done anything more to --
39 I know you've asked the guides and outfitters to reduce
40 their harvest, but have they reduced their harvest?
41 What are they taking? And I hope your subsistence
42 study shows that the elders over there are being able
43 to get their duck soup.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 MR. PYLE: Mr. Holmes, this is Bill
48 Pyle. Yeah, we did the survey work in August. We just
49 don't have the full summary. Typically we reveal that
50 summary in the spring report and we'll have more for

1 you at that time. And -- however, I would state
2 that -- and I just can't tell you offhand where the --
3 what the coastal survey, the count of Harlequins
4 reveals comparatively with other years and -- but that
5 information will be forthcoming.

6
7 And this is the time of the year where
8 we typically make contact out there in front of sport
9 hunting season. I mean things really don't get rolling
10 until late October as far as the sport harvest and so
11 our subsistence staff is charged to make contact with
12 the waterfowl hunting guides specifically. I will -- I
13 don't know whether we have devised a plan on requesting
14 the logging of the information, but I think that's a
15 great idea and I will -- we'll go ahead and double-
16 check on the approach that we're going to use. What
17 we've done in the past other than to request that
18 voluntary holdback on Harlequin harvest, we actually
19 need to get some reporting going at the end of the
20 season as suggested once again, it's all voluntary
21 information, but, you know, what was taken and see if
22 we can get some compliance on that front.

23
24 So hopefully we can turn the corner on
25 this.

26
27 As the report indicates, it's a
28 challenge because, you know, you don't have a lot of
29 movement between areas. These are birds that are real
30 home bodies when it comes to their life cycle at Olga
31 Bay and presumably if you introduce practices that
32 reduce harvest and increase adult survival, it's just
33 going to take time to recover the population to its
34 potential, but we plan to keep an eye on it. That's
35 for sure. We've got a couple surveys that are
36 complete, surveys, both the banding in the summer
37 coastal effort and then in conjunction with continued
38 outreach to the local community of Larsen Bay as well
39 as the -- especially the waterfowl hunting guides,
40 we'll hopefully facilitate recovery of that population.

41
42 MR. HOLMES: Oh, I think that would be
43 a splendid effort there, Bill, Alex Panamaroff of
44 Larsen Bay has just joined our Council. He couldn't
45 make it here because of weather and, you know, that's
46 one of his big concerns because there's, as you know, a
47 bit of a cultural difference between some of the folks
48 running the lodges and the elders and, you know, that
49 was one of the things that he stated was his big
50 concern as an elder was, you know, this increasing

1 competition between commercial utilizers and sport
2 versus the traditional folks there in Larsen Bay.

3

4 And so I'd urge you when you're down
5 there to, you know, stop by and chat with Alex because
6 his observations of ducks and critters there is quite
7 profound and I'm very encouraged that you folks will be
8 starting some kind of harvest information to see what's
9 happening because as you stated so succinctly those
10 Harlequins are home bodies and, you know, I think the
11 Kodiak elders had a pretty good idea of, you know,
12 where the ducks hang out and, you know, I don't know
13 that they have family names for them, but, you know,
14 they I think were quite wise in only taking one or two
15 out of each family group rather than popping everyone.
16 And I do know your guides are making -- some of the
17 ones there are trying to make efforts to reduce their
18 harvest and so if you only have a limited population,
19 that potential conflict comes up. And I'm glad that
20 you folks are going to take a look at it this year.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

25

26 MR. SCHWANTES: Bill, I have a question
27 on the Emperor geese count on Kodiak. I noticed that
28 -- I'm just going to read from your report. Emperor
29 geese were observed in large numbers this year, nearly
30 6,800 were recorded while the long-term average near
31 Kodiak is 2,300. So quite an increase. Can you tell
32 me if that -- if the Emperor geese is part of the
33 yearly survey that is done by U.S. Fish and Wildlife?
34 Are those numbers included in that yearly survey?

35

36 MR. PYLE: Thank you for your question,
37 Mr. Schwantes. This is Bill Pyle. The survey that
38 you're reading about here is performed by -- in
39 cooperation in with Migratory Bird Management every
40 five years. The primary objective is Steller's Eider.
41 However, they are also counting everything else that's
42 out there. So in reference to historic numbers and the
43 change in abundance levels, bear in mind that the
44 survey is conducted every five years. So there's a lot
45 of change that can happen in one year. We don't really
46 have an understanding of, you know, is the new number,
47 the 6,000 plus, indicative of a real change suggested,
48 that's for sure.

49

50 But we do have this evidence, you know.

1 Most of these birds were observed in Chiniak Bay
2 vicinity here outside of town and were pretty
3 accessible to other forms of counting and so we have
4 been doing some tracking here in conjunction with, you
5 know, one of the local birding experts, Rick McIntosh,
6 and this is really kind of incidental, but some pretty
7 complete counts were conducted over the last few years
8 and he has historic information that suggests that in
9 fact the Emperor population -- or at least a portion of
10 the population that uses the Chiniak Bay area, which is
11 one of the largest in the archipelago, has been
12 increasing over the last 15 to 20 years with a
13 particular increase noted over the last five. So I
14 would suspect on the basis of the combined data sources
15 that in fact the change that is reported here is fairly
16 accurate and so -- and I address the migratory bird
17 components. I'm not really expecting it to change much
18 in terms of our survey methods, but I also do encourage
19 the other types of informal counting that have gone on.

20

21 They've been pretty systematic in terms
22 of counting them. They're pretty visible birds as you
23 know and pretty accessible, so, you know, we'll keep an
24 eye on things here.

25

26 MR. SCHWANTES: Can you tell me what
27 the date of that count was?

28

29 MR. PYLE: You know, I'm recalling that
30 it was -- I can't give you a specific date, but I would
31 say the, you know, last week of January, first week of
32 February.

33

34 MR. SCHWANTES: Okay. Thank you, Bill.

35

36 MR. PYLE: You're welcome.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

39

40 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Bill, I guess the
41 reason Tom's interested in the Emperor geese is as you
42 know, they were kind of favorite food amongst Kodiak
43 folks as well as here on the Peninsula and it's been
44 bouncing close to the reopening threshold and so, you
45 know, where Council's quite interested both --
46 particularly for the Peninsula where the large
47 population is as well as the migrant ones in the
48 Kodiak area as to, you know, total numbers and how they
49 relate and whether they've come close enough to the
50 threshold or exceeded it to justify reopening for

1 subsistence and -- so that's something that we'll be
2 looking at very closely and I'm quite encouraged that
3 Rich is doing that study with you folks because he's
4 certainly one of the best birders in the state.

5
6 So again I'd like to commend you folks
7 for keeping an eye on things like that because they
8 really have a significant importance to subsistence
9 users.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
14 Before I move onto the fisheries section of your
15 report, does anybody have any questions for Bill in
16 regard to the items that we've discussed so far.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Double-checking.
21 We'll move on to fisheries. Anybody have any
22 questions. Mitch, were you able to get back on line?

23
24 MR. SIMEONOFF: Yes. Yes. I'm back on
25 line. I went over to the office and waited for that
26 fax. I didn't receive it. So I'm back I guess. I
27 don't have any questions though.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
32 you, Mitch. Can you give that number again, Mitch, so
33 -- make sure they can try to resend it.

34
35 MR. SIMEONOFF: Okay. Let's try a
36 different number. It's 836-2232.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We'll get
39 that resent to you. Are there any more questions.
40 Let's see, we'll move onto -- we got soil surveys,
41 visitor services, new Refuge staff.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any discussion
46 or questions for Staff.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none,

1 I'd like to thank you for your report and -- much
2 appreciated

3

4 Do we have anyone from Alaska
5 Department of Fish and Game.

6

7 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
8 George Pappas, Department of Fish and Game Subsistence
9 Liaison Team. We'll have two reports. The first
10 report will be from the Sportfishery Staff in Kodiak
11 regarding the Buskin Project and Lem Butler from the
12 Wildlife Conservation Division will be on line at
13 2:00 o'clock when we discuss the SAP and Unimak issue
14 and he'll have information that you discussed earlier
15 today.

16

17 Thank you, Madame Chair.

18

19 I believe Suzanne Schmidtt will be
20 making the presentation on line today.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

23

24 MS. SCHMIDTT: Hello, Madame, Chairman.
25 This is Suzanne Schmidtt. I'm in Kodiak. I would
26 first like to discuss the OSM funded Buskin River
27 sockeye salmon assessment project and then I will
28 follow that by a very brief discussion of our other OSM
29 funded projects, the Buskin River sockeye salmon smolt
30 abundance assessment, if that's to your liking.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

33

34 MS. SCHMIDTT: Okay. For the Buskin
35 River sockeye salmon assessment project, the Buskin
36 River Drainage is located on Kodiak Island about two
37 miles southwest of the city of Kodiak and it
38 traditionally supports the single largest subsistence
39 salmon fishery within the Kodiak/Aleutian Islands
40 Region. The fishery occurs on the near shore of marine
41 waters adjacent to the river mouth and targets several
42 species of salmon, although sockeye salmon typically
43 comprises 76 percent of the total subsistence harvest.

44

45 Between 2005 and 2009, the Federally
46 qualified subsistence users annually harvest
47 approximately 6,300 Buskin River sockeye salmon which
48 accounts for 47 percent of the total sockeye salmon
49 harvest reported in the Kodiak/Aleutian Federal
50 Subsistence Region. In addition, 56 percent of all

1 Kodiak area subsistence users reported activity during
2 this period harvesting salmon in the Buskin River
3 Fishery.

4
5 Sockeye salmon escapement in the Buskin
6 River during 2008 and 2009 as well as 2010, the
7 subsistence fishery markers were extended effectively
8 closing the subsistence fishery. In 2009, the
9 subsistence users harvested only a little under 2,000
10 sockeye salmon which accounts for only 19 percent of
11 the total sockeye salmon harvested within this region
12 and 39 percent -- and only 39 percent of the effort.

13
14 The 2010 subsistence harvest numbers
15 are not available at this time. Sockeye salmon
16 escapements are annually quantified through in-season
17 counts of adult salmon migrating to the drainage.
18 Salmon counting weirs located at the Buskin River for
19 this purpose have been operated by ADF&G since 1985 and
20 in 2002 a second weir was added on the -- measure to
21 return string flowing to the Buskin River from Lake
22 Louise. The total count as of today for the Buskin
23 sockeye salmon count has 9,788 which is the sixth
24 lowest on record and three-quarters below the recent
25 five-year average.

26
27 The final Lake Louise count was only
28 421 fish and that is the lowest count that we've had
29 since 2002. As a result of poor daily and cumulative
30 weir counts, there were no commercial fishery open
31 targeting the Buskin River Drainage. Emergency orders
32 were issued this year restricting the harvest of the
33 sockeye salmon in the subsistence fishery and the
34 sportfishery. The subsistence fishery was closed for
35 two weeks effective June 15th through June 29th, which
36 is the typical time when the majority of the fish are
37 being harvested. And additionally, the sockeye salmon
38 sportfishery was closed by emergency order on June 15th
39 and did not reopen until July 13th. The sportfishery
40 closure also included catch and release.

41
42 The sockeye salmon were sampled for
43 age, length data for both locations, but the samples
44 have not been aged yet. The length data that was
45 collected was similar to past years with the Lake
46 Louise fish being smaller and the subsistence harvest
47 and the fish bound for the Buskin Lake were larger.
48 Genetic samples were collected from the subsistence
49 fishery to determine what portion of the subsistence
50 harvest is actually the Buskin Lake component compared

1 to that of Lake Louise. The samples have been sent to
2 ADF&G genetic laboratory, but they have not yet been
3 analyzed.

4
5 This year, we continued doing the
6 subsistence user interview. The interview -- the
7 purpose of it is to collect information as to where the
8 users typically start their fishing effort as well as
9 what the residency is. A total of 20 subsistence users
10 were interviewed prior to the June closure. Very
11 little subsistence effort has occurred in the Buskin
12 River once the closure was lifted. No interviews were
13 collected after June 10th.

14
15 Of the subsistence users that were
16 interviewed, 20 -- all of them were residents of Kodiak
17 City. Traditionally 18 of them will harvest fish on
18 the Buskin. One of them was -- their traditional
19 harvest location was Pasagshak and most people -- 12 of
20 them will fish in other areas traditionally for their
21 subsistence. The other areas most people will fish
22 were either Pasagshak or Litnik. They were divided
23 equally. For a capacity building component of this
24 project in 2010, the salmon camp participants which
25 salmon camp is a Kodiak National Wildlife summer camp
26 -- the salmon camp participants came to the Buskin
27 where twice during this year -- where they participated
28 -- sorry -- where the participants were shown the weir
29 operations and given an interaction demonstration on
30 identifying, counting, and -- or sampling salmon,
31 although that's part of our capacity building program,
32 they have an internship program, and the internship
33 program has been in effect for eight years, nine years,
34 this year our internship program employed two qualified
35 high school subsistence users from the high school.

36
37 They work on the Buskin project under
38 the supervision of ADF&G staff between June 1st and
39 July 31st. The high school internship has been
40 outstanding success due to the extent that while
41 currently attending college, six former interns are
42 continuing their employment with ADF&G as seasonal Fish
43 and Wildlife technicians. A lot of our former interns
44 have continued this employment with ADF&G as a college
45 intern or working on his Ph.D., and one previous intern
46 is now our SB-1 in the Kodiak Sportfish office.

47
48 At the conclusion, this project has
49 been very well received within the public. While we
50 did have to close the subsistence fishery and the

1 sportfishery early on because of poor escapement, but
2 those numbers increased. Our total escapement is well
3 over the escapement goal of the rate of 36 to -- what
4 is my escapement goal. I can't think of it right now.
5 Our escapement goal is currently 8 to 13, so we're over
6 our escapement goal.

7

8 The project has been well received.
9 Our internship program is a huge success and if you
10 have any questions, I would be willing to take them at
11 this point in time over this project.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat

14

15 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chairman, Suzanne,
16 I'd like to express on behalf of the Council the
17 appreciation for the work that you folks have done so
18 well on the Buskin and I've always been impressed with
19 the quality of your reports and when you folks have
20 been available in person, your power points give us all
21 the information that anybody could want and I think
22 that's given the community reassurance when the runs
23 were going down. Generally we've had some notice on
24 looking at things and had some proper adjustments and
25 lots of good PR and I think particularly with the smolt
26 program starting out, that'll give people even more
27 information and reassurance and I think that our
28 Council's endorsement to OSM for funding of the Buskin
29 as well as Litnik that these studies give the community
30 some idea and some preparation of when they have to
31 move to other areas.

32

33 Certainly going to Litnik and Pasagshak
34 is arduous for some folks and they just can't do it,
35 but at least they have some knowledge that, you know,
36 the runs will be improving and that they're being well
37 watched and monitored and I also appreciate your
38 outreach program with salmon camp and also the
39 internship program had some really good young local
40 folks that have become professionals through that and
41 you may want to consider a little bit of outreach if
42 you have time with some of the tribal council programs
43 similar to your salmon camp interaction because I know
44 some of those young folks, that would give them, you
45 know, encouragement to do well in high school and
46 perhaps start feeding your internship program as well.

47

48 And so I'd like to take my hat off
49 metaphorically to you folks and I think the money that
50 is being spent on the Buskin, that's our major -- the

1 major subsistence system in our region and Litnik is,
2 you know, probably number two and that's really been --
3 you're doing some exemplary work and again I thank you
4 for your report and you usually have pretty much
5 everything even an old geezer, retired fish guy would
6 want to know.

7

8 So, thank you.

9

10 MS. SCHMIDTT: Thank you, Pat.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

13

14 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah. Just one
15 question.

16

17 MS. SCHMIDTT: Madame Chairman, I would
18 like to give a very brief summary of our other project,
19 the Buskin River sockeye.....

20

21 MR. PAPPAS: Suzanne, hold on for a
22 second. We're not done with the questions -- we're not
23 done with the questions yet. Hold on, please.

24

25 MS. SCHMIDTT: Oh, sorry.

26

27 MR. SCHWANTES: Just one question. I
28 note in looking through some of this material we had
29 anticipated prior to this season that you were going to
30 meet your escapement. Can you give me any indication
31 -- did this closure result from a late run over
32 previous years? Was this Buskin run late compared to
33 previous years or was it basically on schedule. I know
34 a lot of other areas seem to be -- this season the runs
35 seemed to be later than normal.

36

37 MS. SCHMIDTT: Yes. Season was later
38 than normal and so we closed it because we didn't think
39 we were going to reach our escapement goal, and since
40 we have not reached the escapement goal the last two
41 years, we want to make sure that this is actually
42 achieved. The run was late when it started to show up.
43 The subsistence fishery opened earlier than the
44 sportfishery. They based it off of a projection that
45 we're going to hit the goal. The sportfishery remained
46 closed until we had reached a minimum escapement.

47

48 MR. SCHWANTES: Thank you.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Mitch, do you

1 have any questions at this time.

2

3 MR. SIMEONOFF: No, thank you.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We'll

6 continue on.

7

8 MS. SCHMIDTT: Okay. So on the Buskin

9 River sockeye assessment of the smolt project, this was

10 the first year of a two-year feasibility study to

11 estimate the number of sockeye salmon smolt annually

12 integrating from the Buskin River Drainage by both a

13 census of the total salmon biomass and by recapture

14 experiments. The word feasibility has a whole new

15 meaning to me. We attempted the study for the first

16 year. We got some really good data on some things and

17 we had some problems that were very unanticipated.

18 During this season, we had a two-week flood that made

19 it very, very challenging. We were able to capture

20 salmon at -- from three different locations. One trap

21 was up at near the Buskin Lake. One was capturing the

22 fish that were leaving from Lake Louise and then we had

23 a third trap down the lower river section for mark

24 recap.

25

26 We have analyzed all the data we have

27 collected so far except for the genetics. We

28 anticipate next year the project will be much more

29 successful because we have been able to take the things

30 that we learned from this year and modify the project.

31 This is a very important study in our minds because we

32 do need to know how many smolt there are leaving the

33 system so we can project future runs. Again this is

34 definitely a feasibility study and it's the first year

35 of a two-year study. We are planning on studying --

36 completing the study again next year and expect to have

37 much better results.

38

39 Madame Chairman.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is there

42 questions.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Comments.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is that all she

1 has?
2
3 MR. PAPPAS: Suzanne, this is George.
4 Is that all you have?
5
6 MS. SCHMIDTT: Yes. that is all.
7
8 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you very much.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
11 you, Suzanne. Appreciate it.
12
13 MS. SCHMIDTT: You're welcome.
14
15 MR. PAPPAS: That concludes our
16 presentations from the Department at this time until we
17 resume at 2:00 o'clock.
18
19 Thank you, Madame Chair.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: At this time we
22 need to check with PenAir to find out what time the
23 flight gets in to find out -- to see if Rick Koso will
24 be here so that we do have a quorum. My recommendation
25 maybe is to reconvene back at 1:15 and hopefully he'll
26 be here by then, that we can do the minutes, some
27 agenda additions, and prepare for the Unimak hearing.
28
29 (Off record)
30
31 (On record)
32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: 1:37. And if I
34 may ask who is on line at this time. Please report.
35
36 MS. WILKINSON: Sorry. If you're on
37 line, would you please -- Lem Butler. And, Mitch, are
38 you still on line?
39
40 MR. COBB: McCrea Cobb, Kodiak Refuge.
41
42 MS. WILKINSON: I'm sorry. Who was
43 that?
44
45 MR. COBB: McCrea Cobb, Kodiak Refuge.
46
47 MS. WILKINSON: And Mitch? Mitch, are
48 you still.....
49
50 MR. SIMEONOFF: I'm here.

1 MS. WILKINSON: Okay. Thank you.
2 Anyone else on line?
3
4 MR. TRACY: Donn Tracy from the Kodiak
5 Fish and Game office.
6
7 MS. WILKINSON: Anyone else?
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 MS. WILKINSON: Okay. Thank you.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Ann.
14 At this time, we'll go through roll call. Pat.
15
16 MR. HOLMES: Tom Schwantes.
17
18 MR. SCHWANTES: Present.
19
20 MR. HOLMES: Patrick Holmes present.
21 Rick Koso.
22
23 MR. KOSO: Present.
24
25 MR. HOLMES: Same Rohrer is excused.
26 Al Cratty is excused. One vacant slot. Alex
27 Panamaroff is also excused, he couldn't get here.
28
29 Della Trumble.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Here.
32
33 MR. HOLMES: And Speridon Simeonoff is
34 on line. And Tommy Johnson is excused. He couldn't
35 get here.
36
37 So I believe we have a quorum, Madame
38 Chairman.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
41 Review and adopt agenda, this morning, Rick, for your
42 information, we had some discussion and the following
43 items were recommended at this point to add. Under No.
44 10, draft 2010 annual report to Federal Subsistence
45 Board, to add updated caribou surveys, alternate for
46 Council members, Refuge reports being turned in ten
47 days prior to a meeting that we'll have time to go
48 through.
49
50 Under other business, No. 13A for the

1 winter .agenda we would like the Unimak caribou update
2 on the counts -- updated counts. Under 9 -- B under 13
3 would be 9D, caribou updates, and under C, the
4 Migratory Bird Co-management Council to hopefully be
5 able to meet with -- or come to our winter meeting to
6 give us a report not only on the way that they are
7 doing their surveys, but to also look at the
8 possibility in the future of a subsistence harvest of
9 Emperor geese.

10

11 And I believe -- did I miss anything.
12 Pat, you had one idea. You were talking about a
13 resolution. I'm not sure.

14

15 MR. HOLMES: Yes, Madame Chairman, we
16 had some discussion of a resolution of censure in that
17 we have been asking for several years for information
18 on the caribou status and that's not being done in a
19 timely manner and we wanted to ask the regional office
20 for the State of Alaska that they make as their
21 highest priority to assure that there is a pilot and
22 plane and personnel to do the adequate surveys for Unit
23 9D and for Unimak Island.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
26 Any other agenda item.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none, do
31 I have a motion to approve agenda as amended.

32

33 MR. HOLMES: I so move, Madame Chair.

34

35 MR. KOSO: Second.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Second.

38 Discussion.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Question. All
43 in favor signify by saying aye.

44

45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed.

48

49 (No opposing votes)

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.
2 Moving down, No. 5, review and approve minutes of March
3 23rd, 2010. Tom.

4
5 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah. I've got a
6 question on the minutes for 2010. I see on Page 9 it's
7 talking about Proposal WP10-42 and it's talking about a
8 bull-cow ratio up on the top of Page 9 of nine bulls to
9 ten cows and then on Page -- which I -- that's got to
10 be a typo because then on the next page, it's talking
11 about him importing bulls from the Southern Peninsula
12 herd to Unimak Island. So I'm thinking that that must
13 be a typo.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

16
17 MR. HOLMES: Tom, I was just thinking
18 about this at lunch and I believe that what they were
19 talking about on the report was in 2008 they had a
20 really good number of bulls to cows and then when the
21 did the later survey in 2009-2010, they found that --
22 and this is an error that's missing from the minutes.
23 I believe we were given a quote that were -- out of the
24 400 caribou, there was something like only 20 bulls.
25 And so that gives you a ratio of like 1 to 20 or
26 something like that cows and so -- you know, there's
27 been a drastic change in the number of cows to bulls or
28 bulls to cows and that's the reason why there was a
29 suggestion from the state for a transplant of some boys
30 from 9E to Unimak. I think that might clarify that
31 question.

32
33 MR. SCHWANTES: And if you read the
34 very next line, it says the 2009-2010 population survey
35 found 400 caribou, but no data is available for age or
36 sex composition.

37
38 MR. HOLMES: Lem Butler did give us
39 that information. I might be wrong around 20 bulls,
40 but that's missing from the data.....

41
42 MR. SCHWANTES: Okay.

43
44 MR. HOLMES:so we need to go back
45 to Lem and see what that ratio was, but there were
46 very, very few bulls and that's missing so that was
47 missing.

48
49 And, Madame Chair, I have a couple
50 other comments on that paragraph and some other places

1 and the minutes.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

4

5 MR. HOLMES: And in the middle, there's
6 a sentence that said there is sufficient vegetation to
7 support calf survival and et cetera, and then it goes
8 on to say the second factor is predation by brown bear,
9 et cetera. Probably in both those cases, they don't
10 know -- I suspect there probably is significant
11 vegetation, but it's only conjecture and my conjecture
12 is false, but his is perhaps incorrect action word
13 there and it should be -- read maybe because I believe
14 that was the context in which the report was given. So
15 that sentence, the second limiting factor may be
16 predation, I think is probably more accurate.

17

18 On Page 10, there's a discussion on
19 Proposal WP10-43 and 44 and in the second sentence, it
20 said wolves are only found on Unimak Island. Well, it
21 should say in the Aleutians, wolves are -- or Unimak
22 Island is the only island in Aleutians with wolves and
23 so that's -- obviously there are wolves in other parts
24 of Alaska, but that's kind of a slight mistake.

25

26 And on Page 11 on the first paragraph,
27 one, two, three, four lines down, Mr. Rohrer said given
28 the circumstances, this is to be a waste of paper, but
29 that implies in different context and really the word
30 should be this proposal is a waste of paper rather than
31 the discussion.

32

33 And I'm sorry to be picky. I used to
34 have a really nasty boss that had a good name with a
35 whip and nails. Down at the bottom of the page --
36 let's see. Oh, I had the comment that the -- would
37 like the Councils to be able to see the recommendations
38 come into the Secretary. I've already discussed that,
39 so that's accurate.

40

41 Page 12, second paragraph, Council
42 action, Mr. Holmes moved to request that Mr. Pourchot
43 offer the Council and -- offer the Councils and
44 opportunity to review. It should be offer the Councils
45 an, rather than and, to review the final outcome sent
46 to the Secretary. And so again a slight typo that
47 changes the entire context. And I was wondering if our
48 letter was sent on that to Mr. Pourchot because it
49 didn't show up in the packet of information that we
50 had. So I hope it was sent.

1 Then when we get down to the black
2 brant and Emperor geese, I thought that there was a
3 mention in there what the threshold was for reopening
4 and it just says the spring survey was 92,000 birds.
5 And I had asked at that same time for the confidence
6 intervals on those surveys and that's not reflected in
7 the minutes. So I'd like to see the threshold included
8 in there and also that I had a requests on behalf of
9 our Council for that confidence information on the
10 range and emperor geese because, you know, we're to the
11 point where those number of geese is bouncing around
12 where, you know, we should be able to be thinking in
13 the future some kind of a subsistence hunt.

14
15 And I'm sorry to trouble you. On Page
16 13, it says the Refuge is also checking in to
17 chartering helicopters for caribou surveys. They don't
18 really need to charter them. All they need to do is
19 ask and I've had Coast Guard say sure, we'll just
20 arrange a training flight for you and the -- Nancy said
21 she had contacted the air station field in Kodiak, but
22 they're always welcome to -- very generous with their
23 machine and helping agencies particularly on critical
24 problems such as this.

25
26 And the next Page 14 down on the second
27 paragraph, first paragraph talking about studies on the
28 Refuge, et cetera. I believe that our Council
29 questioned the Staff about the steep decline in
30 harlequin ducks in Larsen Bay and we did request the
31 Kodiak Staff to implement some kind of a logbook
32 program or a harvest program and they did agree that
33 they would try to do that. And so that needs to be
34 included in the minutes.

35
36 And I think that pretty well has most
37 of my notes, Madame Chairman.

38
39 I'm sorry, but there were quite a few
40 omissions.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick.

47
48 MR. KOSO: Yeah. I was -- just to
49 bring back up the emperor geese subsistence hunt. I
50 know we talked about -- maybe this is not the right

1 place to bring this up, but -- in our last year
2 minutes, but, no, they suggested 80,000 count in order
3 to have a subsistence hunt. All these years I've been
4 on it for the past three, four years, we've always been
5 in the 70,000 mark and this is the first time I've seen
6 the 92,000 mark hit us and for that reason I think we
7 ought to pursue Fish and Wildlife opening up the
8 subsistence hunt for emperor geese is they claim that
9 80,000 was the mark for that.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat
12 and Rick. Rick, we talked about this this morning and
13 I think that was part of what our letter that we'll
14 draft in requesting a representative to attend our
15 winter meeting at the -- in Kodiak from the Alaska
16 Migratory Bird Council.

17

18 And I think -- I only had one
19 correction on Page 14 and it's the second line. It say
20 wildlife grant program to bear proof the town's
21 landfill and to reduce bear-human conflict. Larsen Bay
22 and Port Lions are also working to develop bear proof
23 landfills and I think that should be bear proof
24 landfills.

25

26 Is there any more corrections. Ann,
27 did you get all of the.....

28

29 MS. WILKINSON: Uh-huh

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Hearing
32 none, do we approve these minutes as corrected?

33

34 MR. KOSO: I make a motion to approve
35 as corrected.

36

37 MR. SCHWANTES: Second.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion made by
40 Rick Koso, second by Tom. Discussion.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Question.

45

46 All in favor.....

47

48 MR. SIMEONOFF: Madame Chair, this is
49 Mitch.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Mitch.
2
3 MR. SIMEONOFF: On Page 15 of the
4 minutes under fisheries proposals, there was -- fourth
5 and fifth paragraph, the last sentence on the fourth
6 paragraph, it says that third proposal would remove the
7 500-pound harvest limit of herring and on the next
8 paragraph, it says we will submit a proposal that would
9 set a 500-pound limit on herring. Is there a conflict
10 there or.....
11
12 MR. HOLMES: I think the idea was that
13 there would be a limit.
14
15 MR. SIMEONOFF: But the last sentence
16 says the third proposal would remove the 500-pound
17 harvest limit for herring and on the next paragraph,
18 under a fourth proposal, we're saying that we'd set a
19 500-pound limit for herring.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So it should
22 read set a 500-pound harvest limit not remove.
23
24 MR. HOLMES: Yes.
25
26 MR. SIMEONOFF: So take the word remove
27 then. All right.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Question.
30 All in favor signify by saying aye.
31
32 IN UNISON: AYE.
33
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed same
35 sign.
36
37 (No opposing votes)
38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.
40 Thank you.
41
42 The next item that we have on the
43 agenda will be the Unimak Unit 10 caribou which we'll
44 set up -- we'll start at 2:00 o'clock. What we might
45 want to do in the interim there is while people are
46 getting set up, I see new faces in the room, is to
47 please let's go ahead and do another round of
48 introductions and then we'll get ready to start with
49 the hearing.
50

1 Rick, maybe we'll start with you.
2
3 MR. KOSO: Hi. I'm Rick Koso,
4 originally from King Cove, working and living in Adak
5 right now, and I represent the Aleutians on this Board.
6
7 MR. HOLMES: Pat Holmes, Kodiak. I've
8 lived and worked in Aleutians and Kodiak since 1963 and
9 I'm very passionate about subsistence. Formerly served
10 on the State Advisory Committee, the subsistence chair,
11 and have been on this Board for nine -- ten years.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: My name is Della
14 Trumble. I represent Aleutians on the
15 Kodiak/Aleutians, the Federal Subsistence Advisory
16 Council, and I live in King Cove and was born and
17 raised in the region.
18
19 MR. SCHWANTES: And my name's Tom
20 Schwantes. I've lived in Kodiak and worked in Kodiak
21 in the Aleutians since 1979, involved in fisheries and
22 fish and wildlife enforcement and I too am very
23 passionate about this.....
24
25 MR. SIMEONOFF: This is Speridon
26 Simeonoff from the Native Village of Akhiok. I've been
27 on the Kodiak/Aleutians Board since 2000.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We'll go ahead
30 and go with the people are on line.
31
32 MR. BUTLER: Lem Butler, Fish and Game,
33 King Salmon.
34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is there anyone
36 on line from the Kodiak Refuge?
37
38 MR. COBB: McCrea Cobb here with Kodiak
39 Refuge, Wildlife Biologist.
40
41 MR. WADLE: Jeff Wadle, Region 4
42 Management Biologist.
43
44 MR. KRON: Tom Kron, Fish and Wildlife
45 Service, OSM.
46
47 MR. MARTIN: John Martin, Fish and
48 Wildlife, Anchorage.
49
50 MR. MUNOZ: Dick Munoz, Gap Solutions.

1 MR. ALLEN: Dave Allen, consultant for
2 Gap Solutions.
3
4 DR. CHEN: Good afternoon. Glenn Chen
5 with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
6
7 MR. LOGAN: Good afternoon. I'm Tom
8 Logan with Fish and Wildlife Service, Regional Chief
9 for the Refuge System out of Anchorage.
10
11 MR. FRIED: Steve Fried, Fishing
12 Biologist with the Fish and Wildlife Service, OSM.
13
14 MR. HILSINGER: John Hilsinger with the
15 Fish and Game in Anchorage.
16
17 MS. CUNNING: Tina Cunning for Fish and
18 Game.
19
20 MR. PAPPAS: George Pappas, Department
21 of Fish and Game.
22
23 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Cindy
24 (indiscernible) King Cove.
25
26 MR. EDWARDS: Gary Edwards, Fish and
27 Wildlife, Anchorage.
28
29 MS. BROWN: Cole Brown, Wildlife
30 Biologist, OSM.
31
32 MR. BERG: Jerry Berg, InterAgency
33 Staff Committee Member for Fish and Wildlife Service in
34 the office at Anchorage.
35
36 MR. SHARP: Dan Sharp, Bureau of Land
37 Management.
38
39 MS. KENNER: Pippa Kenner, I'm out of
40 the Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage.
41
42 MS. HOFFMAN: Nancy Hoffman, Izembek
43 National Wildlife Refuge.
44
45 MS. PETERSON: Chris Peterson, Izembek
46 National Wildlife Refuge.
47
48 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Izembek National
49 Wildlife Refuge.
50

1 MR. KESSLER: Bruce Kessler, Cold Bay
2 resident.
3
4 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Cold Bay resident.
5
6 MS. WILKINSON: I'm Ann Wilkinson and I
7 would like to remind everyone if you have not signed on
8 the sign-in sheet, please do so before you leave today.
9
10 Thank you.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Gentleman that
13 walked in, let us know who you are, please.
14
15 MR. DONNELLY: Tyrone Donnelly, Survey
16 and Marine Biologist.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.
19
20 MR. HOLMES: And I believe Donn Tracy
21 was on line earlier. He'll probably pop back on in a
22 minute from Fish and Game, sportfish.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. With
25 that, we'll take a few minutes so everybody -- we can
26 get set up for the Unimak issue and make sure that
27 people get called in -- or call in. So I think if
28 Nancy -- and I think Lem will give a report and then
29 Dave Allen will do his report and then we'll open it
30 for public discussion. Is that -- that's okay with
31 everybody, we'll take a five-minute break.
32
33 (Off record)
34
35 (On record)
36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Let's get
38 started.
39
40 (Pause)
41
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We can have
43 everyone take their seats, please, so that we can call
44 our meeting back to order.
45
46 (Pause)
47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right. I'll
49 try one more time. I'd like to call this meeting back
50 to order, please.

1 (Pause)
2
3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Sorry. I think
4 we only asked three times. Everybody's pretty happy
5 visiting.
6
7 (Laughter)
8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: May I ask at
10 this time did False Pass -- are you on line?
11
12 MR. HOBLET: Yes, we are.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Is
15 that you, Tom?
16
17 MR. HOBLET: Yes, it is.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right,
20 Tom.....
21
22 MR. HOBLET: We have three.....
23
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
25 you. If we may, this process, I think we talked a
26 little bit this morning, Dave Allen and myself, and
27 what we will do I believe is if Dave and Nancy can --
28 or Chris can come up to the table, I think the process
29 -- Lem will be maybe for the state to give the report
30 first. The Izembek Refuge, and then we'll have Dave
31 give his report, and at that time, we'll have the
32 public testimony or discussion and, False Pass, will
33 probably start with you. And if I may, Tom, if you can
34 introduce the people that come forward to speak, make
35 sure they give their name, and if they're a resident or
36 represent an organization, if they could add that also,
37 I'd appreciate it.
38
39 And with that, thank you. And Lem --
40 let me check. Sand Point, is there anybody on line?
41
42 (No comments)
43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: King Cove, is
45 there anybody on line?
46
47 (No comments)
48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. With
50 that, we'll start. Lem, if we can start with you, we'd

1 appreciate it. Thank you.

2

3 MR. BUTLER: Sure. Madame Chair,
4 members of the Council. My name is Lem Butler. I'm
5 the Area Wildlife Biologist for Units 9 and 10, the
6 Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands.

7

8 I guess in summary, what we're looking
9 at with this population is since 2002, there's been a
10 -- well, probably more recent than that I guess --
11 2005, there's been a decline in the population size and
12 at the heart of that problem when it -- for Unimak is
13 calf recruitment in the population. 2005, we
14 documented seven calves per hundred cow; 2007, six
15 calves for hundred cow; 2008, six. In 2009, we only
16 had three calves per hundred cow. That was in spite of
17 relatively good bull numbers throughout the course of
18 that time. In fact we're well above management
19 objectives for the bull.

20

21 When we were able to look at pregnancy
22 rates, pregnancy rates were good. So that obviously
23 points to a problem with calf survival influencing calf
24 recruitment. And more recently, that calf recruitment
25 problem has manifested itself in a lower -- declining
26 bull ratio. We currently have the lowest bull ratio
27 documented for caribou herd in Alaska at five bulls per
28 hundred cow in 2009. That's where the number that Pat
29 had earlier came about, the 20 bulls less in the herd
30 assuming a population size of 400.

31

32 We haven't been able to do population
33 counts on this herd for a number of years. Izembek has
34 taken the lead with their winter counts. We, during
35 our surveys, have had trouble coming up with 300
36 caribou on any given survey. So we aren't quite sure
37 what's going on there, but we currently believe the
38 population size has continued to decrease if nothing
39 else just simply due to that low calf recruitment that
40 we're looking at.

41

42 The few caribou that we've been able to
43 handle are in really good body condition. In fact of
44 the five herds that I work with, Mulchatna herd,
45 Nushagak Peninsula, Northern Peninsula, Southern
46 Peninsula, and Unimak, I'd say Unimak, body weights and
47 condition are the best that I've seen in those herds.
48 Calf weights are good. Calves are being born very
49 mobile. Pregnancy rates are high, 90 percent. We had
50 91 percent pregnancy -- or excuse me. Recently, I

1 think before the bull ratio started to decline -- more
2 recently with the decline in bull ratio, we've been
3 seeing a decrease in that pregnancy rate, currently 68
4 percent.

5
6 So really no indication that nutrition
7 is limiting the herd. Again it appears to be a problem
8 with calf survival which would point the finger at
9 predation. This year we had 14 percent of the calves
10 that we were able to follow survive to one month of
11 age. During the early stage of life, predation is the
12 most typical cause of mortality for calves, typically
13 about 85 to 90 percent of the mortality in that window.
14 Calves are still young, haven't learned to run very
15 fast or elude predators and that's usually what gets
16 them. If they're born, they usually do well provided
17 they're being nursed by their mother. We do
18 occasionally get a few that fall into a creek and
19 drown, just simply can't get back up or a few odd --
20 miscellaneous mortalities associated with that sort of
21 nature. But predation appears to be the most likely
22 cause for this low calf recruitment. And again that's
23 having these negative consequences for the population,
24 which ultimate led to closure of the hunting seasons
25 both Federal and State.

26
27 Hunting seasons, the State has proposed
28 and tried to initiate predator control on the calving
29 grounds and a similar program to what we've done with
30 Southern Peninsula Caribou Herd. We haven't done
31 anything of that nature as of yet. The Feds are
32 currently working through their process to see if
33 that's a viable option for them to pursue with us.

34
35 It's unlikely we're going to see any
36 dramatic change this year in the calf recruitment and
37 that of course makes you wonder what's going to happen
38 with that bull ratio. As that bull ratio declines,
39 obviously you need bulls to reproduce with the cows to
40 create calves. So we think we're going to see
41 continued erosion in the bull ratio which will
42 eventually have greater and greater consequences for
43 pregnancy rates and if it's not corrected, you could
44 see a loss of the population from Unimak.

45
46 There was mention of immigration and
47 emigration from the island. There are a few reports of
48 movement back and forth. The most notable was in the
49 '70s. There was an exodus from Unimak to the mainland
50 associated with very high population sizes. That's

1 probably the main point at which you see any large-
2 scale movements from a population across that straight
3 is when there's a limiting factor. When you get 5,000
4 caribou on Unimak, it was undoubtedly overgrazed with
5 range issues and that probably forced the exodus at
6 that point, but since then, we really haven't seen much
7 exchange. Genetic evidence indicates that there's very
8 little background exchange, you know, and probably most
9 of happened prior to the '80s which would fit with what
10 we know of this population.

11
12 But the Unimak Caribou Herd is distinct
13 genetically from the Southern Peninsula Herd as the
14 Southern Peninsula is distinct from the Northern
15 Peninsula Herd and et cetera. So it is a separate
16 caribou herd with separate calving grounds and there's
17 really no good reason to think that we're going to see
18 any big movement, particularly from the Southern
19 Peninsula Herd which is still low, currently over to
20 the island to replenish those caribou, at least not in
21 the short-term future, which, you know, for most of us
22 would incorporate our hunting life span, next 20 or 40
23 years.

24
25 So in terms of trying to affect this
26 population, it seems like it's going to take more
27 direct efforts from management if we want to see this
28 population recover sooner rather than later. That's
29 pretty much my report in a nutshell.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Lem.
32 At this time, we'll go ahead with Chris with -- from
33 Izembek Refuge report and I apologize, False Pass, that
34 you don't have some of the documentation in front of
35 you.

36
37 MS. PETERSON: This is Chris Peterson,
38 Fish and Wildlife Service, Izembek National Wildlife
39 Refuge. As we went over this earlier this morning,
40 would you like me to just give the figures from the
41 table or give the entire summary of Unimak?

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think maybe
44 giving the entire summary for those in False Pass that
45 have -- were not able -- are not able to see the
46 document.

47
48 MS. PETERSON: Okay. Thank you. Okay.
49 For caribou in Unit 10 of Unimak Island. There's a
50 continuing downward trend in caribou numbers on Unimak

1 Island. Both recreational and subsistence caribou
2 hunting have been closed. The Izembek National
3 Wildlife Refuge biologist accompanied the biologist
4 from Alaska Fish and Game to Unimak Island in late May
5 and we conducted population counts and pregnancy
6 evaluation of the cows.

7
8 In June, the Alaska Fish and Game
9 biologists captured and collared 15 newborn caribou
10 calves on the island. 12 of the 14 were mortalities I
11 believe by July 8th, but they were unable to get in and
12 determine the cause of death on some of those at least
13 due o bad weather and unavailability of a helicopter
14 and I believe one calf could not be located.

15
16 The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is
17 currently preparing an environmental assessment, an EA,
18 and seeking recommendations for a range of alternatives
19 to address conservation concerns for the Unimak Island
20 Caribou Herd. Early this summer, the State contended
21 that wolf control was necessary this year on Unimak
22 Island. On June 7th of this year, the U.S. District
23 Judge ruled that the State's request for a preliminary
24 injunction to kill wolves on the island -- he denied
25 this request.

26
27 Currently, Izembek National Wildlife
28 Refuge along with the University of Alaska, Anchorage,
29 and in consultation with Alaska Fish and Game is
30 beginning a project in 2011 which is designed to
31 evaluate caribou nutritional and habitat ecology of
32 Unimak Island. Ultimately this information will be
33 used to assess the role of habitat and nutrition in the
34 population dynamics of the caribou on the island and it
35 will provide a context or background or assessing all
36 the regulating factors affecting the welfare of the
37 herd.

38
39 And then in the table that is provided,
40 I'll just read the last few years of summary data. In
41 2007, the population count was 806. The fall bulls per
42 hundred cows was 31. The fall calves per hundred cows
43 was six and the fall composition sample size was 433.
44 In 2008, there is no population count for the winter,
45 but the fall bulls per hundred cows was nine and the
46 fall calves per hundred cows was six. The fall
47 composition sample size was 260.

48
49 In 2009, population count in the winter
50 was 300. The fall bulls per hundred cows was five.

1 The fall calves per hundred cows was three, and the
2 fall composition sample size was 221. And then in
3 January of 2010, there was a winter population count
4 which yielded a 400 as a count. This was a partial
5 count. Due to patchy snow cover, visibility --
6 sightability was poor and on the southern half of the
7 island, they were unable to complete the count.

8

9 And that is it, thank you.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Mr. Allen.

12

13 MR. ALLEN: Madame Chair, Committee
14 members. Good afternoon. My name is David Allen. I'm
15 a consultant with Gap Solutions and I was asked by the
16 Fish and Wildlife Service to assist them with writing
17 an environmental assessment for the Unimak Caribou Herd
18 management issue. You heard a very good explanation
19 from Lem Butler with regard to the history and what has
20 brought us to the table today, so I won't repeat some
21 of those things that I had in my remarks, but once
22 again because of the decline and because of the
23 findings that Alaska Department Fish and Game has made
24 and their belief is that the evidence does point to
25 predation of wolves as being the principal cause for
26 this decline and as a consequence, they have proposed a
27 couple of actions, one being the selective shooting of
28 wolves during the calving period, an action similar to
29 one that they had conducted on the Southern herd and in
30 addition to that, a proposal to relocate some young
31 bulls to Unimak from the Southern herd to supplement
32 the Unimak herd with the hopes that it would improve
33 the pregnancy rates.

34

35 These proposals have triggered the need
36 for the Fish and Wildlife Service to fulfill certain
37 obligations with the National Environmental Policy Act
38 and that's being done with the preparation of this
39 environmental assessment. Last month the Fish and
40 Wildlife Service and the Department met as a planning
41 team and at that meeting, they started to develop a set
42 of draft objectives for caribou management on Unimak.
43 They began the identification of some possible
44 alternatives to be analyzed in the environmental
45 assessment along with their proposals and as required
46 by NEPA a no-action alternative.

47

48 And also they began to look more
49 closely and jointly at some of the technical
50 information that we -- that both agencies need to use

1 in their judgments about future management. In
2 addition, a newsletter has just been sent out to
3 approximately 800 individuals and organizations.
4 Copies of that newsletter, by the way, are on the back
5 table for anyone who doesn't have one. And the
6 newsletter again is just primarily to alert people that
7 the environmental assessment process is underway and
8 encourage those who are contacted to offer us any
9 recommendations they might have on this particular
10 issue.

11
12 Next week, there will be two other
13 stakeholder meetings conducted in Anchorage, one with
14 sportsmen's groups and another with conservation
15 organizations, again primarily to seek their advice and
16 recommendations on how to proceed with the development
17 of this assessment. Then on Wednesday and Thursday of
18 next week, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the
19 Department will -- the planning team of the two
20 agencies will meet again and hopefully as a result of
21 that meeting, they'll finalize their objectives
22 consistent with the mandates of the two agencies
23 relative to this issue, if necessary clarify and
24 balance these objectives and mandate should any of them
25 conflict. And lastly, zeroing in on identifying any
26 alternatives that will be evaluated along with the
27 proposals that the State has made as part of the
28 environmental assessment process.

29
30 The EA will be available to the public
31 for comment toward the end of November and the Fish and
32 Wildlife Service plans to make their decision with
33 regard to the findings of this assessment during the
34 month of January. Madame Chair, that concludes my
35 formal remarks and really my primary reason for being
36 here today is to listen to what those local residents
37 have to say about their concerns and issues relative to
38 the current situation on Unimak Island with the caribou
39 herd and the other -- and some of the prey species,
40 wolves and bears, as well.

41
42 So I'll look to you on how to proceed
43 at this point, but again I'm most anxious really to
44 hear what some of the local residents have to say about
45 this issue.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Mr.
50 Allen. And for those of you in False Pass, we did get

1 a letter from the City of False Pass, Department of
2 Public Safety from the VPSO in regard to the increase
3 in bear and wolf activity in the community and island.
4 As far as the process, I think, Mr. Allen, I
5 specifically you're asking -- I think specially I --
6 maybe a little more clearer of what you're asking. Are
7 you -- you know, for the residents of False Pass.

8
9 MR. ALLEN: Well, since we have --
10 yeah. Since -- excuse me. Since we do have the
11 residents from False Pass on the line, yeah, I think
12 that -- I have a series of questions. I'm not sure I
13 need to ask all of them, but once again, to help us in
14 the development of this assessment, to make sure that
15 we do address all the important issues, it was felt
16 that it would be extremely important to hear directly
17 from some of the local people as well as other
18 stakeholders what's important for us to analyze as part
19 of this process.

20
21 So I would really like to hear some of
22 the -- you know, some of the personal experiences and
23 observations that people in False Pass have. You know,
24 for example, in recent years -- I don't know, the -- in
25 say the last three to eight years, what's been their
26 experience or ability to harvest caribou on Unimak
27 Island.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think with
30 that, Tom, if I -- Mr. -- Tom Hoblet, I'll ask you to
31 take the lead in starting this process and if you can,
32 please when you do speak, state your name for the
33 record and if you are representative of an
34 organization, also add that.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 MR. HOBLET: Thanks, Madame Chair.
39 Yes. My name is Tom Hoblet. I'm Mayor of the City of
40 False Pass. I'm a corporation shareholder and I'm a
41 member of the False Pass tribe. I'm a Native from
42 False Pass. I did send an email to Ann Wilkinson the
43 other day stating my concerns and possible solutions to
44 this problem. Did anyone have a chance to read that?

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom, she's
47 saying that -- nodding her head saying that she did not
48 receive it.

49
50 MR. HOBLET: Okay. Okay. It said it

1 went. I sent it to her. I sent it to the Subsistence
2 Board. I know I didn't get a reply. I was wondering
3 why Rich got a reply, our VPSO, and I didn't get a
4 reply that mine was received. I'm trying to pull it up
5 here. You know, I think predator control is probably
6 one of the first things we ought to take a look at just
7 because of the fact the wildlife roams this community
8 in the last few years that we've never seen bears and
9 wolves so frequently in town as we've had the last
10 three, four years.

11
12 Also in that email, I stated that, you
13 know, we're talking about bull to calf ratio here. We
14 should have been looking at that. I know hindsight is
15 20-20, but we should have been looking at that five,
16 six years ago when we allowed trophy hunters to come on
17 this island and hunt the bulls.

18
19 MR. ALLEN: Yeah. If I may. Tom, this
20 is Dave Allen. Are you sugg -- I mean by your last
21 comment, are you suggesting that perhaps hunting has
22 had some effect on this decline, not just predators
23 or.....

24
25 MR. HOBLET: Yes, I am. And, you know,
26 we can't get at the caribou. The bear hunters that
27 come in -- we have -- I think we have a spring --
28 we're not having a fall hunt this year, but next year,
29 there will be a fall hunt. There was a spring hunt on
30 this island this year. But in the past, when those
31 bear hunters came in, there was -- the caribou season
32 was open and they were taking caribou off the other end
33 of the island of which we don't even have access to.
34 We can't get no more than seven miles from this
35 community to do our hunting because we just simply
36 don't have the capability to do that.

37
38 But I -- and again I've never seen so
39 many bears. I think somebody ought to take a look at
40 some of the bears on this island. I mean there isn't a
41 day that you can't go somewhere along this place with a
42 skiff or a boat or something and see a mother with
43 three cubs. That's pretty common. It's common right
44 here in the community.

45
46 MR. ALLEN: So, Tom, if I may summarize
47 what I do hear you saying is there's a heightened
48 concern the number of predators that you've been
49 seeing in the last three to five years at least
50 locally within the community of False Pass would

1 indicate to you there is potentially more predation
2 going on and you expressed some concern -- could you
3 elaborate just a little bit your concern on the
4 competition with sport hunters. You indicate that you
5 have access to only, you know, seven -- is that seven
6 miles from False Pass? Is that by the coastline or,
7 you know, how would you just -- I mean how do you
8 normally access the Unimak when you're hunting caribou.

9
10 MR. HOBLET: Yeah. That's -- like --
11 yes, that is correct. Along the coastline about --
12 well, we can go about ten miles along the coast with
13 our boats and stuff like that, but getting to the other
14 end of the island where the caribou are at, we have no
15 way to access that just because of the terrain and we
16 don't have airplanes, you know, to hunt with. But I
17 think that's -- you know, that contributed to the
18 problem a lot is that -- you know, the bear hunters
19 coming in and taking trophies.

20
21 MR. ALLEN: Okay. I'm going to shift
22 gears just a little bit. In past years when there have
23 been fairly good numbers of caribou on both Unimak and
24 the Southern Peninsula, I mean where do you like to
25 hunt the most. I mean what's the most -- where do you
26 have the best access for purposes of hunting caribou
27 when there's -- when they're available?

28
29 MR. HOBLET: Driving up to the north up
30 towards Bering Sea. I don't know if you have a map in
31 front of you, but it would be the St. Catherine's Cove
32 area, Swanson's Lagoon area, that area there.

33
34 MR. ALLEN: Well, I have a map in front
35 of me and somebody is pointing it out to me. So that's
36 on the -- I'm sorry -- that's on the -- sort of the
37 northeast tip of Unimak? Or is that the Peninsula?
38 I'm.....

39
40 MR. HOBLET: Yes. Well, it would be
41 the northeast side of Unimak Island, yes.

42
43 MR. ALLEN: And in good years, it's
44 common for you to see caribou in that part of the
45 island.

46
47 MR. HOBLET: Yes.

48
49 MR. ALLEN: Okay. And the other part
50 of my question is so in good years for both the

1 Southern Peninsula and Unimak, your preferred area of
2 hunting is in that northeast area of Unimak Island. Is
3 that what you're saying?

4
5 MR. HOBLET: Yeah. It's probably the
6 whole shoreline -- that northeast shoreline of Unimak
7 Island from St. Catherine's Cove to the Peninsula, if
8 you can see that. whole shoreline St. Catherine's Cove
9 to the Peninsula if you can see that. I mean that's
10 our only access. Otherwise, you know, we have -- all
11 we have is boats and skiffs, so we can't fly to the
12 island and we can't get on the beach most of the time
13 up to -- out in the Bering Sea on the other end of the
14 island.

15
16 MR. ALLEN: Okay. There have been a
17 number of reports and comments made with regard to the
18 movement of caribou back and forth between the Southern
19 Peninsula and Unimak and I know there have been some
20 historical reports documented, but I actually am kind
21 of curious if you or anyone that's -- that you know of
22 recently has actually made those observations of any
23 number of caribou moving back and forth between the
24 mainland and Unimak.

25
26 MR. HOBLET: Actually I think I
27 actually saw two animals swimming across the pass at --
28 you know, at different times. That's probably the most
29 I've ever seen, but I understand what I think Lem said
30 that, you know, back in the '70s, there was a lot of
31 caribou on the island. They were right here in the
32 community. We knew there was a lot of caribou on the
33 island. So, yeah, there probably -- you know, back
34 then there was some migration for sure.

35 MR. ALLEN: Okay. And sort of moving
36 along a little bit again. So what -- I assume you know
37 basically what the proposal is on the part of the State
38 to shoot wolves while they're on the calving grounds.
39 What's your -- I mean what's your reaction to that
40 proposal? Is that the sort of thing that you would
41 recommend?

42
43 MR. HOBLET: Yes, I would. You know,
44 for one reason is that we -- like I said, we've never
45 seen so many wolves around this community. They don't
46 usually come into the community till the middle of
47 winter or during the spring and now the last few days,
48 we've seen two wolves in the community. The VPSO can
49 vouch for that and, you know, they're just here.
50 They're looking for food. If there's no -- you know,

1 there's no food out there for them, I guess they're
2 going to come into the community and we can't even let
3 our children go out and play. They're right in our back
4 yard.

5
6 MR. ALLEN: All right. And another
7 part of the State's proposal had to do with relocating
8 and as I understand, you know -- and, Lem, if you're
9 still listening -- up to 20 young bulls, one to two
10 years of age -- and idea here would be to supplement
11 the Unimak herd which has such a low bull-cow ratio
12 right now to improve pregnancy rates. Are -- what do
13 you think of that part of the proposal?

14
15 MR. HOBLET: Was that directed at me or
16 was it directed at Lem?

17
18 MR. ALLEN: No. It was directed at
19 you. I was just sort of referring to Lem just in case
20 I didn't get it exactly right. So, Tom, I was asking
21 you the question. Sorry.

22
23 MR. HOBLET: Okay.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom, this is
26 Della. He was asking you whether you approve or what
27 your thoughts were in regard to trans -- or relocating
28 20 bulls onto Unimak.

29
30 MR. HOBLET: I -- you know, I guess it
31 looks like -- yes, I think that might alleviate some of
32 the problem, but I mean if we're going to put bulls
33 on, we better try to protect them too enough to not
34 open it up for any trophy hunting. That's for sure.

35
36 MR. ALLEN: Okay. And if -- you know,
37 if for some reason the ADF&G does not carry out their
38 plans to selectively shoot wolves on the calving groups
39 and to relocate some bulls to supplement the herd, how
40 long do you think it would be before you'd be able to
41 hunt caribou on Unimak again?

42
43 MR. HOBLET: It doesn't look like it's
44 going to happen in my lifetime the way this herd is
45 declining. I mean they're talking about three calves
46 for 100 cows this last -- in 2009 was that? It's not
47 going to happen. I mean.....

48
49 MR. ALLEN: Have you experienced.....
50

1 MR. HOBLET: I don't think that.....
2
3 MR. ALLEN: I'm sorry. Go ahead.
4
5 MR. HOBLET: Pardon?
6
7 MR. ALLEN: I'm sorry. Go ahead.
8
9 MR. HOBLET: I don't think it's only
10 the wolves. I think the Federal Government and the
11 State need to get together and put some more tags for
12 bear hunting on this island also. So I mean it's not
13 only the wolves.
14
15 MR. ALLEN: I'm kind of curious, you
16 know, sort of connected with my question about how long
17 you might be able to hunt caribou again. Have there
18 been episodes that you can recall in the past where,
19 you know, the herd number was so low that it was closed
20 to hunting? And if so, how long -- can you recall how
21 long it was before the herd actually recovered to
22 huntable levels again?
23
24 MR. HOBLET: I don't recall us ever
25 being really shut down for subsistence hunt on the
26 island. I think we were -- you know, every year we
27 were allowed one or two animals, if I'm remembering
28 right. But I don't remember ever -- you know, it ever
29 being shut completely for subsistence purposes.
30
31 MR. ALLEN: Okay. Thank you, Tom. I
32 guess at this point, really all I -- the only other
33 question I have to ask you is as you have thought about
34 this issue and how you might suggest that it be dealt
35 with, are there any other ideas that you have other
36 than those that have been presented to you that we've
37 talked about this afternoon that perhaps should be
38 taken to address this issue and the concerns you have.
39
40 MR. HOBLET: Well, I guess I -- you
41 know, I will reiterate that and I think that's the bear
42 issue because during the spring when the bears come
43 out, the calves are born, so I think it's -- there's
44 probably natural predators right there.
45
46 MR. ALLEN: Okay. And your suggestion
47 was that perhaps the State should consider issuing more
48 harvest tags for bears; is that correct?
49
50 MR. HOBLET: That's correct.

1 MR. ALLEN: Okay. Well, you know, that
2 sort of takes care of the questions that I had and,
3 Tom, if there's anything else that you feel you would
4 like to say or need to say on this issue, please do.

5
6 MR. HOBLET: All right. Thanks.
7 There's other people in the room. Maybe they have some
8 comments if -- you know, people in the room here --
9 there's nine of us in the room here and all feel the
10 same about -- you know, about this issue.

11
12 MR. ALLEN: Okay. Thank you very much,
13 Tom, and the people that have joined you as well. This
14 is very helpful and for me very enlightening.

15
16 Thank you very much.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom, if we may
19 -- Dave, are we looking at using this as part of your
20 EIS process when they're testifying at this point. If
21 that's the case, then I think it would be appropriate
22 to have the people in the room speak their opinion
23 individually.

24
25 MR. ALLEN: I'm sorry. I mean I guess
26 I'm not exactly sure I understand your question though.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We're going
29 through this process and you're utilizing this
30 information as part of the EIS or your contract and
31 that's why I'm thinking that it may be appropriate that
32 the people that are in the room be able to state their
33 name and whether they support some of the discussion
34 that's been put on the table for them.

35
36 MR. ALLEN: The people here today.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: In False Pass.

39
40 MR. ALLEN: In False Pass. Okay.
41 And.....

42
43 MR. HOBLET: We can do that. We can go
44 around the table and have, you know, people support
45 some of the stuff that we discussed or none support or
46 whatever if that's what you want.

47
48 MR. ALLEN: Yes, that would be fine --
49 I'm sorry. I wasn't exactly sure what Della was
50 asking, but now -- I'm a little dense. That's what

1 retirement does to you, Della. Yes, that would be
2 helpful, if those who are present in the room would
3 state their name and make a statement, I'd appreciate
4 that very much.

5
6 MS. HOBLET: Hi. My name is Nicole
7 Hoblet.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right,
10 Nicole.

11
12 MS. HOBLET: I guess I would just agree
13 with a lot of the stuff that Tom has already said.
14 I've lived here all my life and just for the last few
15 years, just seeing a lot of wolves and bears in town,
16 whereas before they would hardly ever -- it was real
17 rare to see like wildlife just walking through the
18 community like that. I have young kids now and it
19 makes me very leery. They can't go outside to play, so
20 -- and we grew up on caribou. So having subsistence
21 taken away, it makes it hard. Besides that, that's it
22 for me.

23
24 MR. ALLEN: Thank you, very much.

25
26 MR. NELSON: Hello.

27
28 MR. ALLEN: Go ahead.

29
30 MR. NELSON: Yes. My name is Richard
31 Nelson and I'm the one that wrote the letter last week
32 about the bears and wolves in our community. I have
33 received numerous calls about bears and I've witnessed
34 many, many bears in our town. Just recently I would
35 say in the last two weeks, I've written about ten
36 reports on bears being in our area. They are in the
37 area of our school and between homes and I also have a
38 child who's here and I am very worried about her and
39 the other kids in our community.

40
41 MR. ALLEN: Thank you very much.

42
43 MR. NELSON: Thank you.

44
45 MR. ALLEN: And was there someone else
46 there?

47
48 MR. TRAVIS: My name is Travis Hoblet.
49 I'm a resident here in False Pass and I just -- like I
50 said, I support -- or agree with needing predator

1 control on the wolves and also the bears just because
2 of the fact that, what other people have stated, we do
3 see so much more wildlife in the community now and it
4 -- I also have children that are going to school here
5 and we -- you know, you look out your window and you
6 see a bear on one side of your house and you got go run
7 outside to get your kids. So it's kind of -- yes. It
8 seems to be a pretty big issue, so I'd just like to
9 show my support for -- I agree with, you know, needing
10 predator control for the island for sure.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 MR. ALLEN: Thank you. And was there
15 anyone else?

16

17 MS. BEAMER: I'm Cindy Beamer and I'm
18 office manager for Isanotski Corporation and earlier
19 Nancy and I had written a letter to Secretary Salazar
20 and quite a few people about the corporation's opinion
21 of what needs to be done and basically when you look at
22 it, the caribou are healthy, but they're just not
23 surviving due to the predators, the wolves and the
24 bears. So that is an issue and since they're not eating
25 on that end of the island they're coming here to our
26 village and as Rick and Thomas said, they are here and
27 they are not afraid of people and you can look out your
28 window every day and see a mamma and two or three cubs
29 going by or you can see the wolf that hangs out in the
30 yard and won't leave. So it definitely is a problem
31 and one of the reasons I moved here was because I like
32 to eat caribou and I can't. So that's part of it too,
33 but just the danger factor the kids is a big concern.
34 So again I just think that the bears and the wolves
35 need to be controlled.

36

37 MR. ALLEN: Again thank you very much.

38

39 MS. BEAMER: Thank you.

40

41 MR. ALLEN: And was that the last or
42 was there another individual?

43

44 MR. HOBLET: We have a couple more
45 here.

46

47 MR. ALLEN: Okay. Good. Go ahead.

48

49 MR. YATCHMENEFF: I'm Chris Yatchmeneff
50 and I'm a resident, so I just want to say that I

1 support the predator control and something has to be
2 done about that. Okay. Thank you.

3

4 MR. ALLEN: Thank you.

5

6 MR. IVAN HOBLET: My name is Ivan
7 Hoblet and I've been a resident here in False Pass my
8 whole life. And just -- we need some help on this
9 predator control deal and I support everything that
10 everybody else is saying here. We'd like to have the
11 subsistence caribou hunt back for ourselves.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MR. ALLEN: And thank you again. Was
16 there anyone else?

17

18 MS. RUTH HOBLET: My name is Ruth
19 Hoblet. I'm in support of all of this. It used to be
20 taken caribou before. We don't have any caribou at
21 all.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MR. HOBLET: That's it, Della. Thanks.
26 I'll send that email off. I wanted to get that in for
27 comments for the meeting and for the environment
28 assessment, okay?

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Tom, go
31 ahead and send that, but if you can hold on one -- just
32 a few more minutes here. I had some discussion I think
33 with Nancy a bit ago and this had to do with the radio
34 collars versus GPS collars and the reason I asked about
35 this because being involved with the Aleut Marine
36 Mammal Commission, I am aware that this stellar sea
37 lions that the collars -- the GPS collars that they use
38 they're able to track not only the movement of these
39 marine mammals but also when that signal is lost, they
40 know that most likely in that case it's a killer whale
41 because the signal is just gone.

42

43 And I would appreciate if Nancy or
44 Chris could kind of talk about what they're planning to
45 do in their work with the University of Alaska and
46 ADF&G in regard to the studying the movement of the
47 caribou on Unimak and possibly looking at that on 9D at
48 some point in time.

49

50 MS. PETERSON: Okay. This is Chris

1 Peterson from Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. Let me
2 know if I'm not answering your question. We are
3 planning on using some Argos capable GPS collars,
4 putting them on 15 to 20 caribou -- female caribou.
5 Alaska Fish and Game is at the same time would be
6 putting out -- and Lem can correct me if I'm wrong
7 here, but I believe they were putting out 15 to 20 VHF
8 collars at the same time.

9
10 The VHF collars enable us -- and GPS
11 collars as well would have VHF capability so that we
12 can track the animals currently while we're on the
13 island working. We can identify and map the different
14 areas of the island that they are using by season. So
15 if they change their habitat from one month to the
16 next, we will be able to map that. We will then go in
17 -- well, first of all, the VHF collars also enable us
18 to do a much better count. Alaska Fish and Game and
19 Fish and Wildlife Service has I believe a better chance
20 at finding the animals if they can locate them first.

21
22 We would like to be able to go in, find
23 each of the collars, then go back and actually conduct
24 the count and see how many of those collars we find on
25 the actual count and then be able to use that data to
26 correct our observations so that we have an accurate
27 count. The GPS collars then would enable us to have a
28 -- we would probably have them programmed. At this
29 point, we don't have everything set, but we would
30 probably program them for at least one location per day
31 and this enables us to get that location whether we are
32 there or not, which is very nice because it is
33 difficult to have conditions on Unimak where we can
34 actually find the animals.

35
36 We would map each of these locations,
37 identify these areas that they are actually using
38 according to season, go in and actually identify the
39 forage that the animals are using, test those species
40 and plants for nutritional content, sample -- do some
41 pellet sampling from the caribou so that we can
42 determine how much nutrition they are actually
43 acquiring from what they are ingesting, map out this
44 vegetation on the island and determine how much is
45 actually available during the different seasons, and
46 use this to evaluate what is available there, possibly
47 come up with some -- a reasonable option of a range of
48 animals that the island could support. It would not be
49 a set number. It would be a number that was adaptable
50 to constant monitoring of the vegetation on the island,

1 so as the habitat conditions change through time, that
2 number of caribou that the island could support would
3 also change to mirror that change in vegetation.

4

5 Does that answer your question?

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That does
8 partially and maybe before I go to Council members in
9 regard to this, we do have people in the audience from
10 the community of Cold Bay and whether they want to
11 testify or speak, they should also have that
12 opportunity. And then, Tom, given what you've heard
13 from Kris, do you have any comment in regard to that?

14

15 MR. HOBLET: I know this -- you know,
16 this island has always supported a pretty good size
17 herd and I don't know those numbers off the top of my
18 head. Do you have those numbers of the actual number
19 of caribou that this island, you know, sustained in the
20 last say 10 years or 15 or 20 years or anything like
21 that?

22

23 MS. PETERSON: I do not have all of
24 those numbers. I do know that at one time quite a few
25 years back, it was estimated to be around 5,000
26 animals. It fell fairly rapidly from that number and
27 it's been known to fluctuate considerably. There was
28 not much interest in that island population for a long
29 time and so the population surveys were not conducted
30 consistently either by the State or by Izembek.

31

32 The most recent numbers that we do have
33 would go from in 2000, there was -- it was estimated
34 there was more than a thousand. In 2002, there was an
35 estimated 1,262. In 2004, this went down slightly to
36 1,006 animals. In 2005, it was 1,009. In 2007, it was
37 to 806, and in 2009 to 2010, it was between 300 and
38 400. And those -- for the most part, those are partial
39 counts. Those -- anyway.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom, did that
44 answer your question?

45

46 MR. HOBLET: Yeah, it did. Okay. Then
47 you said in 2009, there was three -- was there three
48 survivals to 100 calves -- three surviving calves to
49 100 cows? Is that correct?

50

1 MS. PETERSON: That is the data that I
2 have. Lem may be able to add more information to that.
3 Are you there, Lem?

4
5 MR. BUTLER: Yeah, I'm here and that's
6 correct. Yeah, three calves per hundred cow was the
7 fall estimate. We get that in October.

8
9 MS. PETERSON: Okay. Thank you.

10
11 MR. HOBLET: Okay. And there was no
12 tags -- there was -- was there some tagging done?

13
14 MR. BUTLER: Yeah. In fall of 2009, we
15 deployed I believe six radio collars in the herd to
16 help us locate the extra population and as Chris was
17 saying, it's -- it really makes a difference for us to
18 get out there particularly given the variability in the
19 weather conditions, to get out there and locate the
20 animals quickly and do a good job counting the
21 population. If your counts drag over the course of
22 days or if you have snow in certain places, you know,
23 the population count gets really questionable really
24 quickly. So you really have to just capitalize on the
25 weather windows that you have. That's part of why the
26 data is sporadic. You know, they're -- quite often
27 when we're in the area with appropriate equipment and
28 personnel, we just don't have the weather conditions
29 that we need to do the.....

30
31 MR. HOBLET: You know, I have a hard
32 time with that because 2000 -- you say the year 2000,
33 we have 1,200 or over 1,200 caribou on this island and
34 then you come back around 2006 it was 800, I mean it's
35 a decline of 400 caribou. I mean I know -- like I
36 said, hindsight is 20-20, but shouldn't there -- you
37 know, you see a decline in 400 animals, I mean it seems
38 like you would start taking some action back then. I
39 mean now it's -- we're almost past the point of no
40 return here. That's the problem.

41
42 MR. BUTLER: Well, if you -- wish I
43 could sit with you and look at this comp table that
44 Chris has been reading to you. But basically what you
45 have is there really wasn't indication of problem until
46 2005, we had the first suggestion that there might have
47 been a problem. Prior to that, we had 54 bulls per
48 hundred cow. That was -- the management objective was
49 20 to 40 bulls per hundred cow. So that was, you know,
50 way above the top end of that objective by 14 bulls per

1 hundred cow.

2

3 Calf ratio was 31 bulls per hundred
4 cow. So that was looking really good. And again with
5 no collars in the herd in 2004 or '05, we're -- '06 for
6 that matter and variability in winter survey
7 conditions, Chris mentioned partial counts, modeled
8 snow, you really don't have a whole lot of faith in
9 those numbers and again everything looked like it was
10 chugging along just fine. You'd occasionally see a
11 fluctuation in calf ratios, but just -- isn't chronic,
12 isn't persistent. So even in 2007 when we got the next
13 low calf ratio, six calves per hundred cow, you know,
14 that really wasn't a big indication that there was
15 going to be this problem.

16

17 So the whole thing came about really
18 quickly. Bull ratio that year that was 31 bulls per
19 hundred cow. So it's still high. There's nonlocal
20 harvest that was occurring was minimum, 12 bulls a
21 year, which was very small compared to the population
22 size. Again no indication that anything was at issue
23 at that point. It wasn't until 2008 where we saw that
24 low bull ratio and again the third low calf ratio that
25 we knew we actually indeed had a problem and that's
26 when it was shut down, you know, immediately once we
27 got that figure.

28

29 So really in terms of the data, you
30 know, even -- you can always look over someone's
31 shoulder I guess and say you could have done something
32 different, but given what we knew of the herd and even
33 knowing what I know now, there really wasn't an issue
34 that we could do much about. We certainly could have
35 talked about predator control for calves at that point,
36 although again it wasn't well established that it was a
37 chronic problem until, you know, we got that low bull
38 ratio in 2008 when immediate action was taken.

39

40 And we've really tried to respond as
41 quickly as possible and -- with our actions.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Lem, this is
44 Della. Do you have any ratio information on the bulls
45 and calves for 2010?

46

47 MR. BUTLER: Not yet. We'll do that
48 survey in October. We're probably looking about the
49 12th of October we'll be starting all three herds in
50 the Alaska Peninsula, Northern Peninsula, Southern

1 Peninsula, and Unimak, and what we do is as soon as we
2 get a good weather window on Unimak, we just drop
3 everything we're doing somewhere else and rush down
4 there. So hopefully by the middle of the month, we'll
5 have some more information.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
8 you. Is there anybody in the audience from --
9 residents from Cold Bay that would like to speak to
10 this issue? Okay. Tom, if you can -- you and whoever
11 is there can hold on, we'll go ahead and turn to
12 Council members, discussion. Tom.

13

14 MR. SCHWANTES: Yes. Kris, I have one
15 question. Actually I have a couple. This is Tom
16 Schwantes. And as I recall this morning when we went
17 through this report, you indicated that there were 15
18 animals tagged. 12 of those were lost within the first
19 month and that you were not able to investigate any of
20 those causes of death. And this afternoon, you said
21 that you were not able to investigate the cause of
22 death on some of those. My question to you is were you
23 able to investigate the cause of death on some of those
24 calves?

25

26 MS. PETERSON: I will have to pass.
27 That was a project by Alaska Fish and Game, so I'd have
28 to turn that over to Lem.

29

30 MR. SCHWANTES: Okay.

31

32 MS. PETERSON: Okay?

33

34 MR. SCHWANTES: Lem, could you hear me?

35

36 MR. BUTLER: Yeah, I heard that
37 question and the key problem was, you know, getting up
38 to Unimak in a timely manner to investigate the causes
39 of death. So, yes, I did look at cause of death, but
40 if you get there over 24 hours after the time the
41 calves died, you really can't distinguish scavenging
42 from any other sort of mortality. I mean you could
43 have a calf that starves to death or drowns picked at
44 by scavengers, a bear or what have you, and incorrectly
45 assign cause of death at that point.

46

47 So that's why the statement's made that
48 we weren't able to investigate cause of definitively
49 for any of those individuals. We did look at a few and
50 certainly the evidence points to predation, but I

1 wouldn't want to actually go out too far with that
2 information again just because of the time gap
3 associated with the point of time where the calf died
4 and when we're able to get in there and investigate
5 cause of death.

6

7 MR. SCHWANTES: Okay. Thank you. And
8 then, Kris, my next question is we've heard all this
9 talk and information about predation, and yet in your
10 comments this afternoon, you talk about this collaring
11 program you're planning on doing in the future and
12 everything I heard you say was that you're going to be
13 looking for -- when you find a mortality, are you going
14 to be looking for nutritional studies but nothing
15 about predation and that concerns me.

16

17 Are we going to be looking at cause of
18 predation or are we just going to ignore that?

19

20 MS. PETERSON: Thank you. The study is
21 -- it goes in stage. Okay? And the first step of the
22 study would be to examine habitat and nutrition in
23 terms where we could evaluate whether or not a
24 nutritional lack was a factor in increased predation.
25 So in other words, if the animals have a mineral
26 deficiency as an example that can weaken calves and
27 make it so that they cannot evade predators, that can
28 be a confounding factor in a study on predation. But
29 ultimately what we would like to do is have this go in
30 a step-wise fashion that can be evaluated correctly and
31 predation -- a predator/prey study would definitely be
32 a part of this process. This is just the first step.
33 It's not the entire process.

34

35 MR. SCHWANTES: Thank you.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat Holmes.

38

39 MR. HOLMES: In pursuing Tom's line of
40 questioning, it would appear that in this multi-stage
41 approach analyzing nutrition is that you're rather
42 ignoring some major steps and that's doing serum
43 analysis on the animals and, you know, Lem's
44 preliminary work on looking at the critters, if the
45 females are healthy and dropping calves, singles or
46 twins, then that's certainly the first step of showing
47 that there's decent nutrition. Would you agree on
48 that?

49

50 MS. PETERSON: Most definitely. I do

1 agree. And we are not ignoring serum studies or
2 ignoring Lem's previous work, but what we do need to do
3 is get it documented in data form. There are several
4 studies out there which can also indicate that a visual
5 examination or just even a physical examination of an
6 animal in good condition will not identify certain
7 deficiencies.

8

9 MR. HOLMES: Such as?

10

11 MS. PETERSON: Such as a copper
12 deficiency. It will not show up in a physical
13 examination, but in blood work or blood analysis, it
14 will show up, and that has a significant impact on calf
15 survival or even adult survival. So those are -- we
16 will continue Lem's work of looking at serum and body
17 condition using the same indices that he's using as
18 well as some others but also investigating more of
19 these micro-nutrient deficiencies -- not avoiding
20 macro-nutrients but also getting into the micro
21 nutrients and looking at that as well. So, no, we're
22 not discounting his work at all.

23

24 MR. HOLMES: Well, having a little bit
25 of background in botany and nutrition -- or not so much
26 nutrition, one would assume that if there were a
27 problem why does it show up so recently and why did we
28 not see a fall in calf survival prior to that because
29 if you're lacking copper and vaccinium, let's say, or
30 something like that, or various lichens, that obviously
31 would have been there before, it would seem to me.

32

33 MS. PETERSON: It would seem to a lot
34 of people. However, it's also been shown to be
35 strongly linked to weather conditions and climatic
36 conditions. So if there are results or effects of
37 climate change -- copper is not something that resides
38 in the plant indefinitely. It does cycle annually or
39 even month by month. As plants lose their leaves, they
40 lose what they previously had. If precipitation
41 increases over a certain period, it can leach those
42 minerals from the soil and plants can -- foliage plants
43 can then have deficiencies they did not previously
44 have. So previously the calf to cow ratios may have
45 been quite high and not shown any indication of a
46 deficiency because it was not there. And just because
47 it is there, maybe we will go -- perhaps we will go in
48 and identify a deficiency and a couple years later, it
49 may not be there anymore. These things do not always
50 have an equilibrium through time.

1 MR. HOLMES: I'd appreciate it if you
2 could -- you can get my email from me and if you would
3 send me those references. I'd really like to read
4 them.

5
6 MS. PETERSON: I'd be glad to.

7
8 MR. HOLMES: I'm not particularly
9 familiar with that, but then I'm not a range biologist.
10 It sounds like you're going to do a very efficient
11 study and basically looks like to me to be an Ph.D.
12 thesis and frankly I don't see how you can accomplish
13 all your objectives in your study in probably less than
14 five or six years. I'd be really amazed, and so if
15 there'll be no action and no decisions on caribou in
16 that time, if one looks at the range of decline over
17 the last four years, we'll have no caribou unless it's
18 an absolutely miracle. I mean that's what we're
19 looking at and I guess that's why the angst of our
20 Council is you're doing a study to determine these
21 factors which are really swell and it's academic and
22 it's very interesting to know, but you need to be
23 focusing on the adults right now and all of this is
24 purely academic if you don't get out and count the
25 critters and that's our earlier discussion. Our
26 resolution we'll bring up later.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 MS. PETERSON: Yes. To address that,
31 part of the answer to that would be that that is why we
32 are now involved in this EA process is to determine
33 what action will be taken on a shorter basis. Also it
34 may seem to be academic, but it will also have great
35 impacts on what long-term plans do -- come up with and
36 what actions we take in the future. And hopefully that
37 addresses your question there, so.....

38
39 MR. HOLMES: And I had one more
40 question that kind of comes to mind. What's being done
41 up in Northwest Alaska on predator control and things
42 on the Refuges and the question on doing the
43 environmental assessment, I understand under your
44 policies of the Fish and Wildlife Service that you need
45 to do that. But would it be at all possible for
46 another agency to do that without an EA because the
47 State has critter management control under ANILCA and
48 you folks manage habitat. Could not the State come in
49 and do their project without an environmental
50 assessment?

1 MS. PETERSON: I would have to defer
2 that question.

3
4 MR. ALLEN: I'm not sure that there's
5 anybody that's prepared to answer that question or not,
6 but if I understand what you're saying, Pat, if it
7 wasn't the Fish and Wildlife Service but another
8 Federal land manager?

9
10 MR. HOLMES: No. A State agency
11 because under ANILCA, the State manages critters and
12 under all the memorandums of agreement and I think
13 basically if I'm not mistaken, the Refuges manage
14 habitat and people access, but what I'm wondering is if
15 this isn't a question to be asking the various
16 respective legal-legals if -- couldn't the State come
17 in and do the predator control without an EA.

18
19 MR. ALLEN: What triggers the EA -- and
20 I'm not going to try to be the authoritative answer on
21 it, but what triggers the EA is because it's on Federal
22 land. That's the nexus to a Federal action and having
23 said that, we do have a couple of managers from the
24 regional office here and I'm not going to put them on
25 the spot, but if they would like to try to address that
26 question more completely, I certainly would give them
27 that opportunity.

28
29 MR. EDWARDS: Todd's going to address
30 it.

31
32 MR ALLEN: Pardon me?

33
34 MR. LOGAN: Thank you, Madame Chairman
35 and Board members. That is a good question, Mr. Holmes,
36 and we have actually had this exact discussion rather
37 specifically, both Fish and Wildlife Service leadership
38 with Alaska Department of Fish and Game leadership.

39
40 I believe the State's position is that
41 they should be able to conduct these kind of actions
42 without Federal permission, but that is not the
43 position and we do not believe that's consistent with
44 law. The most recent lawsuit that we are engaged in
45 with the state over this issue of predator control on
46 Unimak, the Court accepted fundamentally that the Fish
47 and Wildlife Service would need to authorize any such
48 activity like that and that that would be a significant
49 enough Federal action to require NEPA compliance. So
50 we have plowed this ground rather extensively.

1 MR. HOLMES: Is that current suit
2 finalized or is that still in process -- in discussion?

3
4 MR. LOGAN: The key points that were
5 raised in the suit by the State of Alaska concerning
6 the requesting the preliminary injunction, the Court
7 accepted that NEPA was required as a fundamental truth
8 basically in their findings. I understand there's
9 still some lingering pieces of that lawsuit. I do not
10 understand the details of what pieces are still being
11 pursued.

12
13 MR. HOLMES: Well, as that progresses
14 if you could advise our Council through Ann so that we
15 could keep up to date as to where things are at, I
16 think we'd be greatly appreciative of that, to knowing
17 where that's at because if that's the case -- and I'm
18 just looking at the rapid decline of these critters and
19 the amount of time that it takes to do an EIS and I
20 know that you've got -- we've got promises of something
21 by January, but then I've been looking at a similar EIS
22 for Kodiak that's drug on for two years over a runway
23 extension and I do know that those things fall aground,
24 people retire, people move, it stalls, and, you know,
25 if you look at a drop in two years of two-thirds of the
26 population, what's going to happen in two years.

27
28 And so that's why we're so concerned
29 and you've heard the comments from people at False Pass
30 on their loss of food and -- because that's what it's
31 getting right down to is food and, you know, we're
32 really worried and I'd really hate to see things be
33 tied up and it probably reflects our entire Council to
34 be tied up in bureaucratic handling over views of
35 policy or views -- philosophical interpretations when
36 we're looking at critters basically disappearing and
37 it's an argument and a discussion that Della's had here
38 since she started for 14 years and, you know, we've
39 said this is going to happen. Things are going to
40 decline and they have. And so we're at the point now
41 where I certainly wouldn't want -- I'm glad I'm retired
42 and not in an agency and have to be responding if we
43 get down to 200 animals.

44
45 So -- because I have done fisheries
46 work on Unimak and, you know, I've done a lot of flying
47 in the Aleutians and the Peninsula and quite frankly,
48 we should have had these answers by now and because you
49 haven't had pilots or planes or transferred planes or
50 pilots from other Refuges or gone to the State or gone

1 to the Coast Guard for machines, we're at a point where
2 -- you know, and I'm not a paranoid curmudgeon. I
3 really try not to do that, but we're at a very, very
4 serious point and I thank you and I certainly
5 appreciate that you folks pursue this pattern in the
6 most expeditious way for a solution.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom Schwantes.

9

10 MR. SCHWANTES: I've got a question.
11 I'm going to be real frank. I want to know why are the
12 Feds dragging their feet on this. It's very obvious
13 that if we don't do something we're going to lose this
14 herd. You've got an agency who has a track record of
15 building a herd back up and they're willing to come in
16 there and do this. It's not going to cost you a dime.
17 Why are the Feds dragging their feet when this is an
18 extremely important subsistence food for the people out
19 here. I mean you're basically saying you don't care.
20 That's what I'm hearing. You're telling me you don't
21 care and that bothers me.

22

23 MR. LOGAN: If I may. If that is what
24 you've heard from me or any of the Federal officials in
25 this room we've interacted with, I'm very sorry because
26 that's certainly not the way we feel nor I think the
27 message that we try to convey. I certainly wouldn't
28 characterize the actions of the Fish and Wildlife
29 Service on this issue to be dragging our feet. What we
30 are trying to do as expeditiously as possible is
31 comply with the Federal law, specifically the National
32 Environmental Policy Act.

33

34 We're on fast track. We've hired a
35 contractor at no small expense to help expedite this
36 process and be able us to reach some sort of decision
37 and I do believe we are able to reach some sort of
38 decision in January this next year in time for action
39 if that is the decision that is made prior to this next
40 calving season. So we are working very hard and we
41 take the needs of the people of False Pass and others
42 out here very seriously.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick Koso.

45

46 MR. KOSO: Yeah. I'd just like to say
47 that Pat and Tom pretty much went over everything I was
48 going to ask you. But I got another little input here.
49 You guys are doing the caribou study and the count, and
50 yet we know for a fact that the bear and the wolf

1 predation is in existence right now and we all know
2 that's happening. Did anybody ever do a bear count or
3 a wolf count to see just how many wolves and bear are
4 on the island now? And if necessary, maybe we can have
5 an emergency opening for more bear hunting on Unimak.

6
7 I think those things could be
8 implemented, you know, very quickly to help out maybe
9 on some of the predation.

10
11 MS. PETERSON: We are considering
12 hopefully including counts on bears and wolves in our
13 project. This is not something that we have any
14 current numbers on. It's not a survey to my knowledge
15 that has been conducted on the island consistently. I
16 know that the State has done some bear counts, but I'm
17 not aware of any others. And again I guess I would
18 refer to Lem if he could add to that.

19
20 MR. KOSO: Yeah. It's quite obvious
21 that the False Pass people have been reporting numerous
22 increase in both wolves and bear and that I think that
23 should be looked into asap and that would be at least a
24 partial way of helping this situation out by opening up
25 a bear hunt.

26
27 I know you guys are battling over the
28 wolf deal. I don't know if that'll ever settle, but
29 the way it looks is Alaska is probably losing that one.
30 So the wolf are going to be there and still present a
31 problem to the caribou unless you guys change that.
32 But at least you could maybe get on the bear situation
33 and maybe get rid of some of those.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Todd, just being
38 involved in another EIS process and you did mention
39 that by January that a decision -- this -- the period
40 for the EIS will be closed and that a determination
41 would be made. And also listening to -- my mind's
42 going blank -- David earlier and that they will be --
43 as part of their contract to meet with conservation
44 groups and sporthunter groups in Anchorage I think and
45 in your future.

46
47 But the -- as part of a weight control
48 when you're looking at -- when you're taking the
49 various user groups and looking, you know, that
50 determination, I just want to state and I'm hopeful

1 that this does go in the favor of the community of
2 False Pass and Unimak and that we look at not only I
3 think because the issue's been ongoing both on 9D and
4 10 for the past 10 to 14 years that a strong effort
5 needs to be made and I do appreciate I think the
6 State's effort in this.

7

8 But we need to coordinate our efforts
9 not only on having these surveys complete to be making
10 good decisions for harvest, but to also make sure that
11 we have a renewable resource. And it's been stated
12 very strongly earlier today in regard to those matters
13 and I think this Council has made a determination that
14 they will put in strong letters not only at the
15 statewide level but to also get letters -- a copy of
16 those letters to Secretary Salazar because we are
17 concerned. We've got to figure out a better way to
18 manage these caribou.

19

20 And with that, is there any other
21 comments. Pat.

22

23 MR. HOLMES: Just one, Della. I would
24 just suggest to your consultant beings you're here and
25 you're going to be meeting with the, you know, big
26 hunter groups and the environmentalists in Anchorage
27 and really we've only heard comments from a very small
28 portion of the Alaska Peninsula population and you're
29 out here now, why not go down to False Pass, charter a
30 plane, take the -- get a Federal plane to fly you down
31 there, go to King Cove and go to Sand Point, see
32 Stanley Mack and have him set something up in Sand
33 Point. Della could help you for King Cove and so that
34 you have a good base of information other than just a
35 few people that were able to call in because one knows
36 statistics and all you have to do is have -- go to a
37 meeting and have the Friends of Wildlife, et cetera,
38 you know, three environmental groups in Anchorage can
39 outweigh -- I mean all you have to do is have one and
40 it's already outweighed the testimony you've got.

41

42 And so often in these EISs, it ends up
43 being a little numbers table. We have 482 people in
44 Anchorage testifying against predator control. We have
45 -- what do we have -- five people from False Pass
46 comment. And so who ends up in the table being totally
47 misrepresented in terms of their -- and I know you have
48 to address the whole nation, but still who needs those
49 critters for food. And so the moral weighting of it
50 becomes very disproportional and I would strongly

1 suggest that before you summarize your project that you
2 really do get out and talk to the folks in those
3 individual villages. Della can tell you where you're
4 at and if you don't want to go there, take the total
5 population of King Cove and multiply Della's comments
6 by that. I would suggest that you would weight the
7 same thing for the total population of the whole Alaska
8 Peninsula Borough with what Della has commented on
9 because if you're going to be going to Anchorage and
10 having a meeting with the environmentalists or the
11 Alaska Outdoor Council, they're going to completely
12 outweigh the people that actually live here. So please
13 take that into account.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Was that-- Tom
18 Hoblet in Falls Pass, do you have any more comments.

19

20 MR. HOBLET: No, I don't think we do.
21 But, yeah, I think that last idea was a great one
22 because like you say the meeting is taking place in
23 Anchorage and, you know, we're dead before we start.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I thank
26 you very much for attending. I appreciate the
27 testimony, the reports, Lem, Kris, Todd, Dave, and the
28 support and comments from the RAC members. This is not
29 an easy issue. Having to kill wolf is not an easy
30 issue. I love -- look at wolf. I love wolf, but I
31 also know that we are subsistence users and this is
32 something we are born with as subsistence food. And
33 it's also something I think that's dear to the culture
34 and the people in this 9D and 10 as communities no
35 matter who you are. So I think it's important we
36 really work together to resolve this issue and be more
37 than willing to do so.

38

39 And with that, I think everybody and I
40 hope with nothing but a good outcome. Tom, we are
41 going to work really hard to make sure we get these
42 reports and try to figure out a way to get these
43 surveys done in a more timely, but thank you.

44

45 With that, I think we'll go ahead and
46 take a ten-minute break and then we'll resume with our
47 Council meeting and go ahead and go into the fisheries
48 proposals.

49

50 (Off record)

1 (On record)
2
3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, everybody
4 if we could get back to our seats.
5
6 (Pause)
7
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We will
9 reconvene. I do have a couple of people in the
10 audience that would like to testify at this point. If
11 you do want to testify or would like to, please fill
12 out a blue form and give it to me and I'd really very
13 much appreciate it.
14
15 With that, I would like to ask Mr. Mike
16 Williams to come forward please and, Mike, please state
17 your name. The mic --thank you.
18
19 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame
20 Chairman, for allowing me to speak after my time is
21 expired. I'm a 50-year resident of Alaska. I live in
22 Valdez. I'm also involved in the predator control
23 program in Unit 13, so I guess you can probably guess
24 where my comments are going to take us. I believe that
25 studying the habitat for the caribou is a.....
26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Excuse me one
28 minute.
29
30 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Nancy, Kris,
33 Dave. Dave, you need to hear this. I apologize. Go
34 ahead.
35
36 MR. WILLIAMS: I believe studying the
37 habitat won't do any harm, but also that doesn't mean
38 that we should wait while we're doing that study. I
39 would to -- if the study shows that there's a regime
40 change due to the lichen or the minerals in the -- for
41 the caribou, you're still going to need to do the same
42 process just farther down the line when you have less
43 caribou and that's to manage the whole life cycle of
44 the predator and the prey.
45
46 I think the Board should do an
47 emergency opener and open both the wolf and the bear
48 hunting in Unimak Island to a larger percentage of
49 take. They should also look at things that they can do
50 now which is method and means. They can allow baiting.

1 They can allow aerial hunting and not just rely on the
2 State of Alaska. But I believe they should also
3 support the predator control program. It's been doing
4 a wonderful job in Unit 13 where I do most of my
5 predator control work and I've seen great things come
6 from it.

7
8 What you're actually going to be doing
9 is you're going to also be saving wolves. There's
10 nobody crueller than Mother Nature when the Unimak
11 population goes down and goes almost completely away.
12 The mothers will eat their young. The bulls will eat
13 the sows, they'll eat the cubs, and what you're going
14 to do now is by taking a small percentage of the
15 predators out of the population, especially the bad
16 wolves that have learned where the calving grounds are.
17 If you get into the calving grounds and take those
18 specific wolves out, you will increase your calf
19 population.

20
21 So if you get in there and do that now,
22 otherwise you're just going to have -- your wolf
23 population is going to cycle right behind the caribou
24 population and then you'll say, well, why are there no
25 wolves left on Unimak. It's because the caribou herd
26 is down so much. So if you want to save the wolves and
27 you want to save the bears and you want to save
28 everything, you have to take a little bit of
29 everything. So I would support the predator control
30 program in the calving areas. I think will really
31 benefit your problems over there. Thanks for your
32 taking the time.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Are there any
35 questions from the Council members for Mr. Williams.

36
37 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah. Could you just
38 give us a little bit of your background, your
39 experience in predator control and what your
40 observations are.

41
42 MR. WILLIAMS: I'm a pilot. I do
43 aerial predator control in Unit 13. I've hunted in the
44 State of Alaska for 50 years. I watched the Nelchina
45 Caribou Herd rise to its all time high and then plummet
46 right behind the bear and the wolf population. So then
47 as the bear and wolf population came up and we would
48 see them everywhere while the herd -- while the
49 Nelchina Caribou Herd declined. And once the State
50 opened that up and allowed us to shoot bears same day

1 airborne and allowed us to shoot wolves from the air,
2 those -- they begun to -- the moose population and the
3 bear populations came back. And also through trapping,
4 the wolves -- when the -- when trapping declined 20
5 years ago with the market going away for fur
6 population, that's when a lot of the wolf populations
7 really came back. That allowed the -- more wolves and
8 allowed more predation and it wasn't until the State
9 came in and allowed us to do predator control that the
10 populations came back around those areas up there.

11
12 MR. SCHWANTES: Thank you.

13
14 MR. WILLIAMS: Thanks, Tom.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom -- Pat, did
17 you have a question?

18
19 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. I had a brief
20 question, Tom, and you can just shake your head or
21 something and.....

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Mike Williams.

24
25 MR. HOLMES:Mike -- Mr. Williams.
26 Do you have a plane down here now?

27
28 MR. WILLIAMS: I don't have a plane
29 here now.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Are you
34 certified?

35
36 (Laughter)

37
38 MR. WILLIAMS: I'm a commercial pilot.
39 I have a Super Cub in Valdez and I also have a Robinson
40 R44 helicopter. Which would like me to bring back with
41 me next time.

42
43 (Laughter)

44
45 MR. HOLMES: The Robinson. Would you
46 be interested in getting a certification and would you
47 be willing to take Nancy out to count caribou whenever
48 you get.....

49
50 MR. WILLIAMS: Of course I would.

1 Yeah. I'd be more than happy to go see Bart Stone and
2 get an OAS certification and fly their plane and take
3 Nancy out wherever she wanted to go. In fact I've
4 volunteered that with the last Refuge manager before
5 her.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. We
8 very much appreciate that.

9
10 MR. WILLIAMS: And I'm a commercial
11 pilot with over 2,500 hours and most of that's in Super
12 Cubs.

13
14 MR. KOSO: Yeah. Hi, Mike. Yeah, I
15 guess in Unit 13 where you did your predator control,
16 is that part Refuge or is that all State property?

17
18 MR. WILLIAMS: It's all State property.

19
20 MR. KOSO: Thank you.

21
22 MR. WILLIAMS: You're welcome.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Mike.
25 Mr. Bettas.

26
27 MR. BETTAS: I'll pass, Della.
28 Everything's been much and up.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Come on now. My
31 money's on you. Get up here.

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right.
36 Okay. We won't press -- do we have another -- anybody
37 else that would like to speak to this. Come on. We're
38 giving out door prizes. Okay. With that, we very much
39 appreciate everybody's input. I thank you.

40
41 Moving on the agenda, we'll go ahead
42 and move to our review and recommendations on fisheries
43 proposals and the first one is FP11-11 and Mr. Fried, I
44 believe you're up.

45
46 MR. FRIED: Good afternoon. My name is
47 Steve Fried. I'm a Fishery Biologist with the Fish and
48 Wildlife Service in the Office of Subsistence
49 Management in Anchorage and I was going to just provide
50 a brief overview and Staff analysis of FP11-11 which

1 concerns king crab in the Kodiak area. This proposal
2 was submitted by this Council. The affected Federal
3 public waters are the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife
4 Refuge Subunits and Womens Bay, Karluk, and Afognak.
5 If you look at Pages 19 to 28 in your books, there's a
6 map that shows those public waters.

7

8 I just want to take a minute to say
9 that Peter Cummiskey is on the line. He's a biologist
10 with the NOAA Lab in Kodiak. He's done quite a bit of
11 research on crab in Alaska including some of the -- a
12 lot of the work in Womens Bay and he was actually going
13 to come to the meeting if we had this in Kodiak, but he
14 was nice enough to say he'd get on line and after I do
15 this presentation, I thought maybe if the -- if any of
16 the Council members had some questions about Womens Bay
17 king crab, he might be able to answer it, you know, in
18 his research or any specific questions about it.

19

20 Anyway, I'll get on with this and
21 essentially what this proposal and the proponent is
22 requesting is a change in the household annual harvest
23 limit from six king crabs to three king crabs in the
24 Federal Subsistence Fishery. If this change were
25 adopted, it would align Federal and State annual
26 household harvest limits for the subsistence fisheries.
27 Essentially all other Federal regulations for taking
28 king crab in Kodiak I think are the same as those in
29 State regulations.

30

31 Council might be interested to know
32 that the Board of Fish is going to have a meeting on
33 statewide king at Tanner and some of the proposals do
34 have to do with Kodiak king crab. One proposal I have
35 at that meeting will be to limit the size of
36 subsistence crab pots. And another proposal is to
37 basically appeal personal use regulations for taking
38 king crab in the Kodiak area and the Board of Fish is
39 meeting in March 22nd-26th, 2001 [sic] in the Anchorage
40 Hilton, so just bring that to your attention.

41

42 Getting back to this, Federal waters
43 have been closed to the taking of king crab by non-
44 Federally-qualified users since 1994 and this is
45 because Kodiak area king crab spots have been at very
46 low levels since the early 1980s. The commercial
47 fishery's been closed since 1983 and there is no open
48 season for sport or personal use harvest currently.

49

50 Alaska Department of Fish and Game does

1 trawl surveys of crab stocks and to date these surveys
2 show the stocks are not rebuilding. If you take a look
3 at Table 2, you can see that the annual subsistence
4 harvest from the Chiniak area which includes the Womens
5 Bay have been around 1,000 king crab during 1990 and
6 1995. They range during that period from about 931 to
7 1,530 and then in 1996 to 2009, these decreased to a
8 hundred king crab or less per year ranging from 42 to
9 204. So you can see that there's been a pretty drastic
10 decline in the population.

11
12 If you look at these harvest on a
13 household basis, the harvest per permit was generally
14 above one king crab during 1990 to 1995 which is still
15 pretty small, but during 1996 to 2009, it's actually
16 been below that. It's below one crab per permit.

17
18 There was -- the Staff did look at some
19 alternatives and one consideration was actually closing
20 king crab fishing to all users in Womens Bay subunit.
21 Looks like the stocks aren't rebuilding. Womens Bay is
22 a nursery area. The harvests are small. Access is
23 easy from the City of Kodiak. But the Staff couldn't
24 figure out whether it was clear that a complete closure
25 was needed or if it would actually be an effective
26 conservation measure and decided that it would be best
27 that there was further discussion by the Council and
28 the public maybe to gather more information during this
29 meeting to see if that alternative, you know, had any
30 merit.

31
32 What would be the effect of adopting
33 this proposal, which this proposal would just limit the
34 harvest from six to three king crab annually per
35 household. Obviously Federally-qualified users would
36 see the reduction in opportunity to harvest to king
37 crab, although it appears that few households actually
38 harvest six king crab limit and, you know, on average
39 most harvest one or fewer. It doesn't mean that some
40 of the users aren't harvesting all six, but just on
41 average they're harvesting a lot less than that.

42
43 It's really difficult to predict the
44 effect on the king crab population from decreasing
45 annual harvest limits since the population is so
46 depressed, the harvest is so low. I mean it could
47 provide some additional protection by doing this. The
48 OSM preliminary conclusion is to support this proposal
49 and the justification is that there's a continuing king
50 crab conservation concern since the stock or stocks are

1 not rebuilding.

2

3 Federal and State subsistence fisheries
4 are currently the only fisheries allowed to take king
5 crab and the State annual harvest limit is currently
6 less than that allowed by the Federal regulations.
7 Federal public waters include a king crab nursery area,
8 Womens Bay, that's easy to access from the road system
9 in Kodiak.

10

11 Reducing the annual harvest limit of
12 Federally-qualified subsistence users would further
13 highlight conservation efforts and provide maybe a more
14 realistic indication of what they might expect to
15 harvest. If the proposal is not adopted and there's
16 still this difference between State and Federal
17 regulations, since it's a State permit that's being
18 used for the Federal and State fishery, it might be
19 necessary to issue a joint permit with the State or
20 possibly a separate Federal permit to ensure that the
21 harvest limit differences are clearly noted by users.

22

23 That's all I wanted to say about this.
24 I'm here for questions and as I mentioned, Peter
25 Cummiskey is here for questions also if you have
26 questions specific to Womens Bay.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

31

32 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I do have a
33 couple of questions. You mentioned that the decline,
34 but yet I see in 2009 we're back up to where we're
35 shown there was a 116 permits issued and a total of 116
36 crab taken. So we're back up to one crab per permit.

37

38 Is there any information out there that
39 shows how many permits were actually fished? Not how
40 many permits were issued, but how many permits were
41 actually fished and then the number of crab that were
42 taken on those permits. I mean what I'm seeing here is
43 we're issuing 116 permits, but there's no indication
44 that the 116 permits were fished. There may have only
45 been six permits fished or some percentage of that and
46 so there is a possibility that some of those people are
47 taking six crab per household.

48

49 Do we have any information on that at
50 all?

1 MR. FRIED: I can't answer that. I
2 don't know if George Pappas who's here could answer
3 that or -- it's still no matter -- you know, even if
4 this is -- they all fished them or if they didn't, I
5 mean it's still a pretty low harvest no matter what and
6 it is true that the State's survey does not show any
7 rebuilding. So.....

8
9 MR. SCHWANTES: I guess where I'm
10 coming from is if our big concern is Womens Bay and we
11 don't really have any data from what I can see to
12 support that these crab are coming from Womens Bay or
13 from Chiniak Bay, these crab may be coming from
14 Afognak. We don't know that.

15
16 MR. FRIED: Well, Table 2, this is the
17 Chiniak Bay area.

18
19 MR. SCHWANTES: Okay. This is
20 strictly.....

21
22 MR. FRIED: So that's -- yeah, that's
23 just Chiniak Bay. What we couldn't find out is which
24 of the -- you know, how much of this was coming out of
25 Womens Bay.

26
27 MR. SCHWANTES: Womens Bay, right.

28
29 MR. FRIED: But all this is coming out
30 of Chiniak Bay.

31
32 MR. SCHWANTES: Okay.

33
34 MR. FRIED: I don't know if George has
35 anything else to add.

36
37 MR. SCHWANTES: But we don't have any
38 information though on how many of those 116 permits
39 were actually fished; is that correct?

40
41 MR. PAPPAS: Through the Chair. George
42 Pappas, Department of Fish and Game. As I understand,
43 these -- on Table 2 on Page 24, the 116 permits that
44 were returned with harvest in Chiniak Bay, so this is
45 the number of permits that actually had a harvest on
46 because we issue a lot more than 116 permits per year.

47
48 MR. SCHWANTES: Okay.

49
50 MR. PAPPAS: A lot more.

1 MR. SCHWANTES: Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

4

5 MR. HOLMES: Pete, I'm glad you're on
6 the line because you know more about crabs in Womens
7 Bay than anybody particularly since Bill Donaldson
8 retired and, you know, some of the concerns from our
9 Council as the, you know, crab pot cookers there on the
10 station and, you know, worries about, you know,
11 probably the primary nursery area for Chiniak Bay being
12 overharvested and we've got a recommendation from the
13 State to close the area. And I think that got
14 forgotten when we wrote the proposal. But kind of
15 what's your observation and what's the status of king
16 crab in Womens Bay. Are you seeing full clutches on
17 the females? Do you see indications of any increase in
18 the population. What are the king crab dynamics look
19 like in the Bay. You're the guy that goes down, dives,
20 and looks at them.

21

22 MR. CUMMISKEY: Well, generally right
23 now we haven't looked at them as intensely in the last
24 few years as we had before, but we're just starting a
25 new project to put acoustic tags on king crab and put
26 some more sophisticated listening arrays around them
27 and we hope to get a whole lot more detailed
28 information than we have in the past.

29

30 But we do know that there are several
31 age groups out there right now. There's some about
32 three year olds that we're going to be putting the tags
33 on. There's another group that we observed diving in
34 May that are probably four years old, around 100
35 millimeter, right on the edge of going to maturity, and
36 then there's also a population of unknown size of adult
37 crab out there. So we saw all those three groups
38 simultaneously in May.

39

40 Over time we have seen ups and downs of
41 the -- you know, the crab population in Womens Bay.
42 We've never seen a really -- anything that really
43 suggests that, yes, they're coming back or no, they're
44 aren't, but one thing is we always found crab in Womens
45 Bay. We've been diving out there since in the '80s but
46 fairly intensely since the early '90s and we've always
47 found crab there. We've always felt it's a nursery
48 area and what we've seen over the years has basically
49 supported that, but I will say that we haven't looked
50 in other areas -- other bays off of the Chiniak Bay

1 main area like Middle Bay or Kalsin Bay, to see if
2 there's similar sorts of populations there. We have
3 seen king crab in Trident Basin. There's an awful lot
4 of near-shore area within the whole Chiniak Bay that
5 could contribute to the -- you know, to the Chiniak
6 population. The smaller crab are generally more near
7 shore.

8
9 So there are other areas that we
10 haven't really looked at intensely, so we can't really
11 make a direct comparison of Womens Bay to other places,
12 but we feel strongly that Womens Bay is a nursery area.

13
14 Also looking through on Page 23 of the
15 harvest history and the trends and it said that the
16 trends that are identified in there generally follow
17 the pattern that we've observed diving as far as the
18 size of the crab pots that we've followed over the
19 years. The size of the pots we've seen in the latter
20 parts of the '90s and into -- after 2000 have been
21 smaller -- smaller irrigation, so that sort of trend
22 follows -- our observations follow the trends
23 identified there.

24
25 We have put acoustic tags on crab
26 within Womens Bay for a number of years and we had one
27 group of crab in the early '90s that numbered -- the
28 estimates were up to -- when the numbers were higher,
29 their estimates were 10- to 15,000 crab that we
30 actually followed that left Womens Bay and went out
31 near Kalsin Bay and then we lost track of them. So we
32 have evidence of one group that grew up within Womens
33 Bay that left. And then after that, we haven't seen
34 that. We haven't seen crab that have migrated out of
35 Womens Bay, although we've -- you know, we've put a
36 couple of hundred eggs on crab over the years. We only
37 had that one group that has left. We've had several
38 groups that have resided within Womens Bay throughout
39 the duration of when we were following them.

40
41 So that's a few preliminary comments.
42 I'm happy to answer any other questions.

43
44 MR. HOLMES: Pete, the last time you
45 looked -- I've heard some rumors about the few females
46 that you are finding adult females having partial
47 clutches. Is that the case and what's that indicative
48 of?

49
50 MR. CUMMISKEY: We have not seen that,

1 although we haven't looked at that many females
2 recently. We've -- every female that we see we observe
3 and, you know, check out whether it's underwater or we
4 bring them to the surface for measurement and closer
5 examination, but we have not seen any partial clutches
6 recently.

7

8 MR. HOLMES: Pardon me. Can't drive
9 this microphone. That's a good sign and probably I got
10 some erroneous information, but obviously with the -- I
11 guess what's your recommendation? Should we close that
12 bay as a nursery area?

13

14 MR. CUMMISKEY: Well, my boss isn't
15 here right now. He isn't available and in the
16 discussion that we've had on this, as far as an Agency,
17 at this time, we have no official position on the
18 proposal right now, but we do overall support king crab
19 conservation of course, but at this time, we don't have
20 an official position.

21

22 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Sorry. I didn't
23 mean to put you on the spot there. Thank you.

24

25 MR. CUMMISKEY: Not a problem.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Questions.
28 Steve.

29

30 MR. FRIED: Well, something that the
31 Staff, you know, during this review and this analysis
32 kind of ended up discussing was is there a problem with
33 potential mortality of juveniles for people -- you
34 know, if you're fishing in Womens Bay and people
35 catching maybe mostly juveniles and having to release
36 them, well, there's been studies, you know, during the
37 commercial winter fisheries with huge pots and big
38 catches and yes, there's mortality and situations like
39 that, but we weren't sure if the same would hold, you
40 know, in some place like Womens Bay where people are
41 fishing. You know, it's summertime or fall I guess and
42 the water's warmer and they're not catching as many
43 crab and I don't know if Peter has any information on
44 that, but that's one of the things we're wondering
45 about if that's -- you know, one of the things -- if
46 there's not much mortality and the catch of adults was
47 -- really it's very low, that's why we really -- you
48 know, we discuss closing the bay as an alternative, but
49 we really couldn't agree and maybe it was just as well
50 just reducing the harvest rate and letting it alone and

1 seeing what happened then. But that's some of the
2 thinking that we went through.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

5

6 MR. CUMMISKEY: Yeah. I don't have any
7 information on -- or observations on handling mortality
8 of crab. I can imagine that, you know, it's similar or
9 less than in the commercial fleet, although, you know,
10 one thing that I do know is, you know, in a commercial
11 operation, people are running their gear fairly
12 regularly and turning it over every few days whereas
13 out in Womens Bay, through my observations is quite
14 often there's crab pots that aren't pulled for extended
15 periods of time and so that could stress the crab that
16 may be in that pot.

17

18 And another issue that is fairly
19 significant that we've seen over the years out there is
20 the problem of ghost fishing by derelict pots that have
21 been lost on the bottom and I believe that that's a
22 fairly significant issue as far as, you know, potential
23 for affecting the populations out there.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Do you have a
26 comment, Pat.

27

28 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. That's probably
29 some good observations there, Pete. I guess at this
30 point I'd like to ask Mr. Pappas if he could maybe
31 summarize the State comments there on -- in relation to
32 Womens Bay and Gibson Cove.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Well, before we
35 move on, Tom, did you have anything else for Steve
36 before we move to Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

37

38 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah. I have one
39 question on talking about the ghost pots, derelict pots
40 that are fishing. Have you taken a look at any of
41 those? I know for a number of years in both the
42 commercial and subsistence fisheries, they've required
43 a biological escape mechanism and can you give us any
44 information on that or whether those pots have those
45 escape mechanisms in them to allow the crab to get out
46 or are we -- are you seeing pots that don't have that
47 and that are catching crab and therefore retaining
48 those crab?

49

50 MR. FRIED: I'm assuming that question

1 will be directed to Peter and not me, right?

2

3 MR. CUMMISKEY: Yeah, that's an
4 important consideration. A lot of the pots that we've
5 seen down there are pretty old and it may be before
6 there was a bio release mechanism required. I don't
7 know what the history and when that was required out
8 there, but we have seen a, you know, fairly significant
9 mortality of crab that we've put our acoustic tags on
10 out there that have crawled into crab pots and died.
11 So we see a fairly -- you know, that's -- I think could
12 be a significant impact on the population.

13

14 We've seen up to 19 mature crab within
15 a dungeness pot out there and so you -- if you throw a
16 bunch of mature female crab in a crab pot and they
17 perish in there, you're impacting the reproductive
18 potential of that area throughout the life of each one
19 of those crab that die out there. So any amount of
20 ghost fishing is -- can have a significant impact. I
21 think that now with the bio release mechanisms on there
22 that's a -- you know, a real positive step, but I'm not
23 quite sure if all the subsistence fishermen actually
24 follow that practice. And we've seen some evidence
25 that some fairly new pots out there don't have any
26 mechanism on them. People just make homemade pots and
27 toss them out there.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

30

31 MR. SCHWANTES: Pete, has there been
32 any effort to clean up any of those pots?

33

34 PETE: There hasn't been any direct
35 effort. I will say that my dive buddy, Eric Munk, and
36 I, whenever we find any crab pot down there, we disable
37 it as best we can. Of course any derelict pot. We
38 don't mess with somebody's actively fishing gear, but
39 we cut the pots open. If it's a dungeness pot, which
40 are stainless steel wire on there, basically we try to
41 mangle the door so it won't close. We do whatever we
42 can to disable the pots and we've, over the years found
43 probably a few hundred pots that have been lost out
44 there over the years. So there is a significant number
45 of pots within the bay and, you know, some of them are
46 still fishing as were speaking right now.

47

48 MR. SCHWANTES: Thank you, Pete.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Anybody have

1 questions for Steve or Pete at this time. Hearing
2 none, we'll move on to Alaska Department of Fish and
3 Game comments. Thank you, Steve and.....

4

5 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
6 George Pappas, Department of Fish and Game. Our
7 comments as appears on Page 27 be entered into the
8 record and I'll do my best to summarize our comments
9 rapidly for you.

10

11 Adopt this proposal would align the
12 Federal and State harvest limits, although most waters
13 were Federal subsistence jurisdiction as claimed have
14 been closed to non-Federally-qualified since 1996. The
15 proposed reduction is not anticipated to have a
16 significant impact on the harvest due to the low levels
17 of harvest reported in Chiniak Bay which includes
18 Womens Bay and Gibson Cove.

19

20 And I would like to point out on Table
21 2, Page 24, those harvest numbers are for the whole
22 Chiniak area and Womens Bay and Gibson Cove area is a
23 much smaller component of that. So the number of
24 animals being harvested within the Federal subsistence
25 jurisdiction claimed waters are potentially a fraction
26 of what you see there.

27

28 Continuing on, conservation issues:
29 the red king crab stocks near Kodiak Island have been
30 depressed for three decades. In 1996, the Board of
31 Fish lowered the daily possession annual harvest limits
32 from six per person to three crabs per household per
33 year. The Fish and Game surveys near Kodiak Island on
34 an annual basis and in 2009, the surveys indicated
35 Kodiak red king crab population remains at historic low
36 levels and in 2009, the population was estimated at
37 28,257 crabs down from an estimated 71,877 crabs in
38 2008.

39

40 Ongoing research reveals that Womens
41 Bay and Gibson Cove are important nursery areas within
42 the greater Chiniak Bay for juvenile red king crab and
43 reducing the annual household and bag limit may reduce
44 injuries and mortality to juvenile red king crabs
45 incurred while being handled, measured, sorted, and
46 returned to the water by Federal subsistence users.

47

48 The Department supports the proposal to
49 reduce the harvest limits with the modification to
50 close Womens Bay and Gibson Cove to harvest of red king

1 crab. NOAA's -- thank you very much for testifying
2 here, Pete. NOAA Staff has recent data on the
3 significance of Womens Bay and Gibson Cove as juvenile
4 king crab nurseries and that information might support
5 a modified proposal based on concerns over handling
6 mortality of juvenile red king crabs that are returned
7 to Womens Bay and Gibson Cove because they are under
8 the minimum legal size limit.

9

10 Thank you, Madame Chair.

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STATE OFFICIAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Comments to the Regional Advisory Council

Fisheries Proposal FP11-11:

Reduce federal subsistence annual and
possession limits for red king crab near Kodiak Island.

Introduction:

The Kodiak-Aleutians Regional Advisory
Council proposal was submitted to reduce household
possession and annual harvest limit of red king crab in
the federal subsistence fisheries near Kodiak Island
from six to three male red king crabs. Adoption of
this proposal would align the federal and state harvest
limits, although most waters where federal subsistence
jurisdiction is claimed have been closed to
non-federally qualified subsistence users since 1996.

Impact on Subsistence Users:

If adopted, federal subsistence user
possession and annual harvest limits of red king crab
per household would be reduced from six to three. The
proposed reduction is not anticipated to have a
significant impact on harvest due to the low levels of
harvest reported in Chiniak Bay, which includes Womens
Bay and Gibson Cove.

Opportunity Provided by State:

The state subsistence fishery harvest
limit for red king crab near Kodiak is three male crabs
per year per household: 5 AAC 02.420 Subsistence King

1 Crab Fishery (1) the annual limit is three king crab
2 for a household;

3

4

Conservation Issues:

5

6

The red king crab stocks near Kodiak
7 Island have been depressed for three decades. In 1996,
8 the Alaska Board of Fisheries lowered the
9 daily/possession/annual harvest limits from six per
10 person to three crabs per household per year. The
11 Alaska Department of Fish and Game surveys the waters
12 near Kodiak Island on an annual basis, and the 2009
13 survey indicates the population is at historically low
14 levels.

15

16

Commercial fisheries began in the 1930s
17 and peaked in the 1960s when over 94 million pounds of
18 crab were harvested. Harvests declined in the late
19 1970s. Commercial fishing closed in 1983/84 and has
20 not reopened. Since 1988, the Alaska Department of
21 Fish and Game conducted trawl surveys to assess king
22 and Tanner crab populations around Kodiak Island, along
23 the Alaska Peninsula, and in the eastern Aleutian
24 Islands. The Kodiak Area remains closed because the
25 abundance estimates of female king crabs are well below
26 threshold levels. The Kodiak red king crab population
27 remains at historically low levels. The 2009 Kodiak
28 red king crab population was estimated at 28,257 crabs,
29 down from an estimated 71,877 crabs in 2008.

30

31

Adoption of this proposal may benefit
32 the depressed red king crab population near Kodiak.
33 On-going research reveals that Womens Bay and Gibson
34 Cove are important nursery areas within the greater
35 Chiniak Bay for juvenile red king crab. Reducing the
36 annual household bag limit may reduce injuries and
37 mortalities to juvenile red king crabs incurred while
38 being handled, measured, sorted, and returned to the
39 water by federal subsistence users.

40

41

Jurisdiction Issues:

42

43

The Federal Subsistence Board
44 authorized a subsistence red king crab fishery near
45 Kodiak Island in the marine waters of the Pacific Ocean
46 enclosed by the boundaries of Womens Bay, Gibson Cove,
47 and an area defined by a line mile on either side of
48 the mouth of the Karluk River, extending seaward 3,000
49 feet. Additionally, federal subsistence users can fish
50 for red king crab in the marine waters within three

1 miles of Afognak Island, and the waters within 1,500
2 feet seaward of the Afognak Island shoreline are closed
3 to red king crab harvest by the non-federally qualified
4 users. Detailed maps are needed in order to assure
5 non-federally qualified and federal subsistence users
6 can identify the boundaries and avoid risk of
7 enforcement actions.

8

9

Recommendation:

10

11 Support the proposal to reduce harvest
12 limits with modification to close Womens Bay and Gibson
13 Cove to harvest of red king crab. The department
14 proposes that Office of Subsistence Management and
15 Alaska Department of Fish and Game coordinate with
16 National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration
17 to review recent data on the significance of Womens Bay
18 and Gibson Cove as juvenile king crab nurseries and
19 provide a presentation to the Regional Advisory
20 Council. Our recommendation in support of a modified
21 proposal is also based on concerns over handling
22 mortality of juvenile red king crabs that are returned
23 to Womens Bay and Gibson Cove because they are under
24 the minimum legal size limit.

25

26

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

27 Before I move to Council questions, Mitch, are you
28 still on line? Do you have any questions at this
29 point.

30

31

32

33

MR. SIMEONOFF: I'm still on line. No,
I don't have any questions. Thank you.

34

35

36

37

38

39

(No comments)

40

41

42

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

43 We'll move on. Other Federal, State and tribal agency
44 comments. Pat.

45

46

47

48

49

MR. HOLMES: I'm sorry. I'm getting
lost here. I'll wait until we get a little further
along in this proposal. Sorry.

50

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Do we

1 have any.....

2

3 MS. WILKINSON: There were no written
4 public comments for this proposal, and just to make
5 things easier along this process, there were not any
6 for any of the proposals.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And that -- I
9 guess does that include the Subsistence Resource
10 Commission, Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: No written
15 public testimony and there -- public testimony.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Regional Council
20 deliberation, recommendation, and justification. Pat.

21

22 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chairman. I did
23 talk with the Fish and Game Advisory Committee about
24 these and solicited their input. They seem to be
25 sympathetic, but I think they kind of got lost in a lot
26 of bigger issues that they were dealing with and I
27 would rather suspect that they would probably go along
28 with this in terms of conservation.

29

30 I would suggest -- I'd like to amend
31 the proposal with the recommendations that we've been
32 given that would include closing Gibson Cove and Womens
33 Bay to the harvest of red king crab because of its
34 importance as a nursery area.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

37

38 MR. SCHWANTES: I guess my comment
39 would be is I certainly understand the concern about
40 Womens Bay being a nursery area and I don't have a
41 problem with closing -- going along with that
42 recommendation to close Womens Bay and Gibson Cove.
43 I'm a little concerned through about closing the entire
44 Kodiak area, Afognak area when it appears that our
45 biggest concern is the nursery area in Womens Bay. And
46 -- so I guess I'd just like to discuss that a little
47 more and hear what other Council members have to say.
48 I -- quite frankly I don't see the need to reduce the
49 harvest limit in the Afognak area, the maritime area
50 surrounding Afognak, but I'm certainly open to

1 discussion on that.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

4

5 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chairman. This is
6 Pat Holmes. I'd like to answer Tom's questions and
7 this proposal was originally set up and discussed at
8 our prior meeting to relate to the justification to
9 island-wide that the State previously had reduced
10 harvest levels because of the declining population
11 island-wide. And some members have gotten comments on
12 again the difficulties with commercial users having
13 lodges and having subsistence pots out and then using
14 those to feed the clients when other locals would have
15 -- normally should be having access to that and so the
16 potential for abuse of those two points were behind the
17 original proposal of dropping from six to three crab
18 per family.

19

20 And we did discuss nursery area, but we
21 forgot to include that into the proposal and so the
22 agencies have reminded us of that, and so hence my
23 suggestion that we amend the proposal. And so that's
24 the reason why is that simply the agencies don't feel
25 that there's enough crab left and then the potential
26 for abuse of harvest on them and then the nursery area
27 issue. And if I'm wrong, I don't know, but that's kind
28 of what we had discussed at our the last meeting when
29 we decided to -- for the Council to put forward this
30 proposal.

31

32 Is that what you recall there, Mitch?

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Mitch, were you
35 able to hear Pat's comments?

36

37 MR. SIMEONOFF: Hello. Excuse me.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Mitch.

40

41 MR. SIMEONOFF: I'm having phone
42 problems here. I didn't get most of that.

43

44 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Mitch, I was just
45 kind of running through the justification we had when
46 we were discussing this proposal before at our last
47 meeting and that we were dealing with it in terms of
48 the fact that the State had reduced their harvest
49 limits previously down to three and that there was some
50 concern from people that had talked to members of our

1 Board of potential abuse by lodges feeding subsistence
2 crab that are greatly diminished to their clients and
3 also the concern of nursery area in Womens Bay. And I
4 think when we -- when I put together this draft for --
5 at the Council's request, I forgot about Womens Bay, so
6 those were the three issues we discussed was reduced
7 population, nursery area handling problems in the
8 Womens Bay area, and then the potential abuse of -- by
9 lodges of using subsistence crab that normally would go
10 to other users.

11
12 So I think that's the background that
13 we discussed previously on this motion. So I was just
14 trying to clarify that for Tom. Is that what you
15 recall?

16
17 MR. SIMEONOFF: Yes, I do recall that,
18 and there was also a concern of people that come from
19 other places in the state and even out of state to
20 subsist for crab, you know, throughout the summer. And
21 we've made numerous reports to the Troopers and they've
22 pulled some pots and taken them out. It doesn't seem
23 to have slowed it down any, but, you know.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Mr. Kron.

26
27 MR. KRON: Madame Chair. Members of
28 the Council. Pat. Just for clarification and the
29 regulation is included on Page 56, but under your
30 Federal subsistence shellfish regulations, 28J(1), and
31 owner/operator or employee of a lodge, charter
32 business, or other enterprise that furnishes food,
33 lodging, or guiding services may not furnish to a
34 client or guest of that enterprise shellfish that have
35 been taken under this section. So again that practice
36 is illegal.

37
38 Thank you, Madame Chair.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

41
42 MR. SCHWANTES: I guess that's what I'm
43 getting back to. My concern is that we may be taking
44 an issue that's an enforcement issue if this is our big
45 concern that we want to eliminate these lodges from --
46 and these commercial operators from feeding subsistence
47 crab to their clients. My concern is, is that we're
48 taking an enforcement issue and because it's not being
49 dealt with as an enforcement issue, we're willing to
50 take the subsistence rights away from the Native people

1 because somebody else isn't out there enforcing the
2 regulations. I have a real problem with that, where
3 we're taking something away I mean because the
4 regulation isn't being enforced. If that's our big
5 concern, then why aren't we pushing for more
6 enforcement rather than taking away from everybody. I
7 guess that's.....

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

10

11 MR. HOLMES: Well, Tom, I don't think
12 we are taking away from everyone. The main issue is
13 simply there aren't enough crab and three crab allowed
14 people some chance to get a few crab and that I know
15 maybe I -- I hope I'm not speaking erroneously, Mitch,
16 but I know talking to Freddy Cole and the folks down in
17 the south end there, they're just worried about crab
18 being really reduced because there -- I mean the
19 nonlocal harvest is a separate issue and, yes, it is
20 illegal for lodges, but, you know, you have a lot of
21 people that used to be Kodiak and now live in Maui.
22 They come up and do their setnetting on the south end
23 and they're busily fishing madly away on reduced
24 population. And, you know, the same thing is probably
25 occurring on Afognak. And all the studies show that
26 the king crab populations are down. The State
27 basically reduced the limit to three I don't know how
28 many years back. Maybe somebody could let us know,
29 but, you know, that's a big problem. There aren't
30 enough crab. Secondary problem is abuse and a third is
31 specifically in Womens Bay. And so that's kind of the
32 rationale that we discussed at great depth at our last
33 meeting. Is that your feeling there, Mitch?

34

35 MR. SIMEONOFF: Yes. Yes. It's -- I
36 don't know. It appears to be a difficult issue because
37 a lot of these fishermen are state residents. They
38 claim if they're a state resident, they could subsist
39 anywhere they want. And, you know, how do you tell a
40 subsistence fisher that he can't subsist in your area.
41 You know, it's difficult and it's hard to tell another
42 person not to -- don't go fish crab. There are not
43 enough. Only I could fish them. You know, that
44 doesn't sound very good.

45

46 Before it was people coming up to fish
47 from Oregon State and Washington and California.
48 They'd come up here to fish and they'd go out and set a
49 crab pot out or set a subsistence net out and put
50 together a home pack and, you know, the size of the

1 home packs are at the end of the summer are pretty
2 significant.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom and then Mr.
5 Kron.

6

7 MR. SCHWANTES: I guess we're getting
8 back to -- again we're trading a traditional
9 subsistence use for an enforcement issue. The limit is
10 -- for those subsistence users, the limit is three king
11 crab per household and those king crab have to be
12 recorded on the back of the subsistence permit: the
13 date they're taken, the pounds, the -- you know, they
14 got to be recorded.

15

16 And so basically what we have is an
17 enforcement issue if in fact those people are coming up
18 and they're taking more king crab than they're supposed
19 to, then, you know, if it's reported, it should be
20 handled as an enforcement issue. But -- you know, I
21 guess I'll refer to Mitch too, but I'm concerned that
22 we as a group are willing to trade what I see as an
23 enforcement issue to -- and in exchange for that, we're
24 willing to take away the subsistence rights of the
25 Native people. And, you know, I have a problem with
26 that because I don't think one justifies the other.

27

28 MR. KRON: Yeah. Madame Chair. I just
29 wanted to -- you know, following the discussion, I'm
30 just trying to be helpful so that everybody is aware
31 of the situation. On Page 21 at the top, it gives your
32 customary and traditional use determination and I'll
33 just again read it real quickly. Residents of Kodiak
34 Borough, except those residing at the Coast Guard base,
35 have the positive customary and traditional use
36 determination for king crab in the Kodiak area.

37

38 So again these regs would apply to
39 residents of the Kodiak area excluding the Coast Guard
40 base. It wouldn't apply to people from outside there.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MR. SCHWANTES: I think what -- if I
45 can comment. I think what Mitch is referring to is
46 there are a number of people who used to live in Kodiak
47 who have setnet sites on the south end who now live in
48 Oregon/Washington. They're still claiming Alaska
49 residency and they are still Alaska residents because
50 they're not claiming residency anywhere else. So when

1 they come up for the summertime, legally they can fish
2 king crab. They can get a subsistence permit. They
3 can fish king crab, but they're still only allowed by
4 regulation to take three crab per household. And so if
5 they're taking more -- if they're doing a home pack,
6 then we're looking at an enforcement issue and to take
7 away the subsistence rights of all the Federal
8 subsistence users on Kodiak just because of a few
9 people I have a problem with that. I think that's an
10 enforcement issues. It should be addressed as an
11 enforcement issue.

12

13 MR. HOLMES: Again, Tom, you know, the
14 Fish and Game Advisory Committee talked over this thing
15 for a couple of hours when they reduced it several
16 years ago. They had extensive comments from the State
17 Staff that there simply aren't enough crab left to
18 justify a larger harvest level and that's the point.
19 The enforcement issue is an important criteria and we
20 probably should send a letter to both the Federal and
21 State enforcement people saying that this continues to
22 be a problem. But as I mentioned before, the main
23 issue is there's simply not enough crab except for in a
24 very few places. There seems to be some vestigial
25 populations and I don't think we're depriving any
26 Native people. Mitch doesn't feel that way and, you
27 know, I think we probably should tidy up this
28 discussion and just simply should have a vote.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Steve, did you
31 have a comment.

32

33 MR. FRIED: The only thing I wanted to
34 add was that the Federal Public Waters, Womens Bay area
35 has been closed to non-Federal subsistence users also
36 for quite some years. So -- and that was reviewed by
37 -- I think by the Council at the last meeting and it's
38 still closed. So only Federally-qualified users can
39 fish in Womens Bay.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And there's a
42 trick to that. A Federal-qualified user is a resident
43 of that community and -- but you can get -- have
44 residency by living in a community for say Kodiak, what
45 is it, 30 days? A year. It is a year? So how are
46 these guys getting the permits if.....

47

48 MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair, I think
49 what -- the concern here is the Coast Guard people and
50 those people are not -- they are not

1 Federally-qualified users and they are out there
2 fishing dungeness and tanner crab. Now I'm not aware
3 that they're taking any king crab. They're not
4 qualified to take any king crab out of that area.

5
6 But for the Native people that live in
7 Kodiak Womens Bay is the closest access for them to
8 take subsistence king crab. It's available by the
9 road. They can drive out there. They can launch their
10 skiff. They can set a pot and they can catch king
11 crab. It's one of the few areas where they can do
12 that. And I understand the concerns about the nursery
13 area and I'm -- I guess my -- from what I heard, it
14 doesn't seem like there has been a lot of fluctuation
15 one way or the other, growth or decline in that king
16 crab population in Womens Bay over the years. You
17 know, it comes and goes and there's only been one time
18 we've been able to track any king crab -- any adult
19 king crab actually leaving Womens Bay.

20
21 And from -- correct me if I'm wrong,
22 but I believe what I've heard is that population within
23 Womens Bay has not really fluctuated that much from
24 year to year. And so I don't see where if we're taking
25 a few king crab out of that area and obviously we're
26 only taking a few, what harm is that going to do to the
27 population of the crab in Womens Bay.

28
29 MR. HOLMES: Well, Tom, I think you're
30 wrong honestly because, you know, Pete has mentioned
31 and the population they've got in there is two sublegal
32 size classes and a few adults and the numbers that are
33 there, you know, I don't -- I can only -- what I said
34 before is the State has reduced the harvest level
35 island-wide because of the lack of population. We've
36 had comments about handling mortality. Then there are
37 the other concerns that are socioeconomic and
38 enforcement and I just suggest, Madame Chairman, and
39 call for a vote.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Before we go to
42 a vote, I want to go back just one more time. We have
43 the proposed regulation. It says that in the
44 subsistence taking of king crab (a) the annual limit is
45 three crabs per household. Only male crab with shell
46 width of seven inches or greater may be taken or
47 possessed.

48
49 Now, Steve, let's go back to the OSM
50 preliminary conclusion says support. Is that still the

1 case.

2

3 MR. FRIED: Right. That's still the
4 case. And if you look at a map, the Federal waters are
5 those darker waters and those waters around Afognak.
6 There's the Womens Bay. You know, it's within Chiniak
7 and then there's a small area right next to the coast
8 in Karluk. So those are the Federal waters.

9

10 You know, what happened with the
11 proposal is that for all those waters, for Federally-
12 qualified users, you know, if the proposal as
13 originally submitted is passed, then the household
14 limit each year would go from six to three.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right Given
17 that, do I hear a motion to support the proposed
18 regulation as written.

19

20 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chairman. Go
21 ahead.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Mitch, go ahead.

24

25 MR. SIMEONOFF: Yeah, this is Mitch.
26 Akhiok is not on Federal waters. I know under State
27 rules we can get three. Federal waters, we got to go
28 all the way over to (indiscernible) and Old Harbor to
29 get crab.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
32 Mitch, but I'm going to.....

33

34 MR. SIMEONOFF: How we got to Akhiok.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Mitch, I'm going
37 to remind us as Council Members when we sit on here, we
38 represent Kodiak/Aleutians and I think -- so we're
39 making decisions based on the whole so to speak.
40 Anyway.

41

42 MR. SIMEONOFF: I heard him say it was
43 specific to Womens Bay, but then you mentioned
44 Federally -- Federal public lands and waters and Karluk
45 is part of it. If that's the case, but Akhiok's not on
46 Federal public waters and lands. So is Port Lions and
47 Larsen Bay.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Steve.

50

1 MR. FRIED: This is Steve Fried.
2 Mitch, if you have the Board book, there's a map that
3 goes along with FP11-11 Map 1, and you can see that
4 we're talking right now is Federal public marine waters
5 and those are pretty limited and those are within the
6 Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. And you're
7 correct, there are no -- you know, that doesn't include
8 any marine waters around Akhiok. It doesn't include
9 any marine waters around Old Harbor. The only thing it
10 includes is a little strip of marine waters off of
11 Karluk. It includes, you know, that Womens Bay area
12 off the Kodiak road system and then there's a pretty
13 big area that basically encircles quite a bit of
14 Afognak Island, but those would be the only marine
15 waters that this regulation would pertain to. The rest
16 of the marine waters are State waters.

17
18 MR. SIMEONOFF: Okay.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

21
22 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chairman. I
23 originally had hoped that we would -- I would like to
24 make a motion that we adopt this proposal and I -- do
25 we adopt the proposal and then if I wish to add the
26 modification suggested by the Staff to close Womens Bay
27 or Gibson Cove, would we do those both simultaneously
28 or one at a time? Would it be easier if I just made
29 the motion to adopt this proposal with the modification
30 to close Womens Bay and Gibson Cove or do we need to do
31 the amendment separately?

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Ann.

34
35 MS. WILKINSON: Excuse me. It would be
36 quite acceptable to say make a motion to support the
37 proposal as amended by.....

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:amendment?

40
41 MS. WILKINSON: Yeah. Amended with OSM
42 recommendation.

43
44 MR. FRIED: That wouldn't -- OSM
45 recommendation is the original.

46
47 MS. WILKINSON: Oh, okay.

48
49 MR. FRIED: That was an alternate that
50 we considered, but we couldn't -- nobody could -- we

1 didn't reach any consensus on closing Womens Bay and we
2 thought that maybe there might be some other
3 information that might make it more compelling and so
4 we decided to -- that's why.....

5
6 MS. WILKINSON: Either way. You can
7 make a proposal -- I mean you can make a motion that
8 says we support with the amendments and then make the
9 amendments in that same motion and you can do it all at
10 one time.

11
12 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Madame Chairman. I
13 would like to propose that we adopt Proposal FP11-11
14 and that we amend it with a modification to close
15 Womens Bay and Gibson Cove to the harvest of red king
16 crab and this motion would change the Federal harvest
17 limit in Federal waters from six to three crab.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Do I hear a
20 second on the motion.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Mitch, was that
25 you?

26
27 MR. SIMEONOFF: No.

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: One more time.
32 Do I hear.....

33
34 MR. SIMEONOFF: I have a question
35 though.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Go ahead,
38 Mitch.

39
40 MR. SIMEONOFF: I think we should --
41 I'll second it for the sake of discussion.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

44
45 MR. SIMEONOFF: My question would be is
46 if we close Gibson Cove and Womens Bay, the traditional
47 users in Kodiak, how is that going to affect their --
48 them, you know. I talked with the elders in Kodiak
49 who's -- good, we can go right into Womens Bay has and
50 get three king crab and if we close it, we recommend

1 closure, and now they have to go out to Middle Bay or
2 Kalsin Bay. You know, that's quite a trip for an
3 elderly person.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Mitch, I'm going
6 to go ahead and let, Tom -- maybe you can hear what he
7 had to say because he basically spoke to that issue
8 earlier. But hopefully, Tom, you can speak a little
9 louder so Mitch can hear you.

10
11 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah. I agree, Mitch.
12 My concern is that from what I've heard in the
13 testimony before this Board this afternoon is that the
14 population of crab in Womens Bay has not changed,
15 increased or declined that much over the years with the
16 fishing that has taken place in there. It's one of the
17 only places on the Island that the elders from Kodiak
18 can drive to, put a skiff in the water, put a pot in
19 the water, and be there.

20
21 I guess I just have a problem with
22 taking that away from them. I -- especially since I
23 don't hear -- I haven't heard the information that says
24 that that amount of fishing and from the information we
25 have that there's only a few crab taken out of all of
26 Chiniak Bay and no stats on what's actually taken out
27 of Womens Bay, I have a problem with taking that away
28 from them. And so I would have to vote no on that
29 proposal. I just -- I think that's one area where the
30 elders from Kodiak area can go. It's close. They can
31 get their king crab and I don't see that it's hurting
32 the population and so I would have to oppose it.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick Koso.

35
36 MR. KOSO: Yeah. Madame Chair. I just
37 -- even though I'm not familiar with the area very well
38 and whatnot, but, you know, we're decreasing it from
39 six to three. So by the decrease, you know, I think
40 people would be more inclined to go for this proposal
41 if they wouldn't close the two bays down. It seems to
42 me we're already getting a deduction and a limit, so I
43 guess I would have to say -- I'd have to go along with
44 Tom to the aspect that, you know, you're going to put
45 the older elders out of business just trying to get
46 some subsistence. Although we got a conservation
47 problem and I think that's already being acted on by
48 deduction of the crab from three to six [sic].

49
50 So I think I would, in my mind, vote

1 against this proposal with the closures in it. Without
2 the closures, I think I would be for the proposal.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rick.

7 Tom.

8

9 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah. I could support
10 the proposal without the closure. I could support the
11 reducing from six to three, but if we're going to
12 include the closure, I can't support it.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Mitch.

15

16 MR. SIMEONOFF: Yes. I would support
17 the proposal from six to three, but I would not support
18 the proposal with the amendment of closing Womens Bay
19 and Gibson Cove. So if you remove the amendment, you
20 know, I'd be fine.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Let's go
23 ahead and vote on the motion as amended. If I may,
24 I'll ask -- and that basically says to limit -- the
25 annual limit will be three per household and that would
26 eliminate Womens Bay and Gibson Cove and with that
27 should we just take a roll call vote, Ann, or should we
28 just do aye and nay.

29

30 MS. WILKINSON: Since you have someone
31 on the line, I think it would be better to do a roll
32 call.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Before we
35 do a roll call vote, I'm going to call for question.
36 Tom.

37

38 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah. I just want to
39 make sure that what we're voting on here is -- right
40 now is the proposal to reduce the limit from six to
41 three and the amendment to close Womens Bay and Gibson
42 Cove.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That is correct.

45 Rick.

46

47 MR. KOSO: Yeah. Madame Chair. I just
48 -- on this proposal, I think if I'm not mistaken,
49 wouldn't it be easier for Mitch to rescind a second on
50 the motion and it'll go away and then we just go back

1 to the original motion? Just -- that's up to you,
2 Mitch. I mean I'm hearing that you're against it,
3 so.....

4
5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:have
6 original motion.

7
8 MR. KOSO: We did. We had one right
9 here. He put a -- he made a motion. Pat made a
10 motion.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. First of
13 all, the motion was to support limiting -- reducing it
14 to three plus closing Womens Bay and Gibson Cove.
15 That's the original motion. So my guess is at this
16 point -- well, no. We need to vote that up or down at
17 this point and then depending on what the Council would
18 like to do, if the Council wants to accept the proposed
19 regulation as written, that's what you'd have to do.
20 The second motion would be to accept -- okay.

21
22 Given that, we'll take a roll call vote
23 on the first motion as presented.

24
25 MS. WILKINSON: Thank you. Mr. Koso.

26
27 MR. KOSO: No.

28
29 MS. WILKINSON: Mr. Holmes.

30
31 MR. HOLMES: Yes.

32
33 MS. WILKINSON: Mr. Simeonoff.

34
35 MR. SIMEONOFF: No.

36
37 MS. WILKINSON: Ms. Trumble.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: No.

40
41 MS. WILKINSON: Mr. Schwantes.

42
43 MR. SCHWANTES: No.

44
45 MS. WILKINSON: Okay. The motion fails
46 four to one.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Now do I
49 hear a motion to accept the proposed regulation as
50 written.

1 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair, I would like to
2 make a motion that we accept the proposal as written
3 without the modifications to close Womens Bay or Gibson
4 Cove.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is there a
7 second.

8
9 MR. SIMEONOFF: Second.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Second by Mitch
12 Simeonoff. Discussion.

13
14 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. Seems to be
15 a reasonable solution.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Question.

18
19 MR. SIMEONOFF: Question.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Question's been
22 called. May I have another roll call vote, please.

23
24 MS. WILKINSON: Mr. Schwantes.

25
26 MR. SCHWANTES: Yes.

27
28 MS. WILKINSON: Ms. Trumble.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.

31
32 MS. WILKINSON: Mr. Simeonoff.

33
34 MR. SIMEONOFF: Yes.

35
36 MS. WILKINSON: Mr. Holmes.

37
38 MR. HOLMES: Yes.

39
40 MS. WILKINSON: And Mr. Koso.

41
42 MR. KOSO: Yes.

43
44 MS. WILKINSON: Okay. Motion carries.
45 Thank you.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I want to
48 make for the record one comment and that one goes back
49 to Tom's original issue and that had to do with
50 regulating this -- what is going on here. I think we

1 need to take a very close look at that because that
2 does have an impact on the future from now until five,
3 ten years down the line on what kind of impact that
4 does have on the king crab and I know what the king
5 crab means to the Kodiak people. I lived in Kodiak for
6 four years, went to high school there. I know it's a
7 part of -- like the caribou is for us.

8
9 Given that, I think it would be really
10 helpful for Steve or somebody to help us put together
11 something that how do we strengthen this enforcement or
12 what -- you know, do we send a letter to the main
13 board? What exactly are our options here. Maybe
14 that's what we to think about so that we get some
15 letters in regard to that issue to the main board --
16 statewide board, Federal Subsistence Board for one.
17 But -- and add it to our annual report. But what other
18 options do we have that we can guarantee at least more
19 effort is made as far as in regard to enforcement.

20
21 Pat.

22
23 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chairman. I would
24 suggest that we also send a similar letter of concern
25 to the State Board of Fish and also to the Department
26 of -- State Department of Public Safety and then Fish
27 and Wildlife Service Enforcement folks at the Kodiak
28 Refuge that we'd like to -- we've received comments
29 from the public and we feel that they need to do their
30 job, do more enforcement in relation to the subsistence
31 crab harvest. Does that seem reasonable, Tom.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

34
35 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah. I think if we
36 would include -- maybe include that as an enforcement
37 issue in our annual report and then send a letter to
38 the Director of Fish and Wildlife Protection and the
39 other enforcement agencies along with a copy of that
40 annual report, that would certainly go a long way may
41 be to get us some additional enforcement.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: It's a starting
44 point.

45
46 MR. SCHWANTES: Right. Okay.

47
48 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
49 George Pappas, Department of Fish Game. Just a
50 reminder this is a Federal subsistence fishery only for

1 Federally-qualified individuals. It has been closed to
2 everybody else since '96 and I'm not sure who can
3 specifically enforce these regulations. I believe it's
4 just Federal enforcement officers.

5

6 Thank you, Madame Chair.

7

8 MR. SCHWANTES: I believe a lot of the
9 State Fish and Wildlife officers are Federally
10 deputized, so I think they can enforce those Federal
11 regulations.

12

13 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you.

14

15 MR. HOLMES: We probably should also do
16 it to the Fish and Wildlife enforcement, the Federal
17 ones because they're really probably the ones that
18 ought to out in the skiffs now and then anyway.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good point.
21 What is the wishes of the Council at time. Do you want
22 to break and start again tomorrow morning or do -- what
23 would you like to do.

24

25 MR. SIMEONOFF: Break.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Mitch is ready
28 for a break.

29

30 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, well, you're home,
31 Mitch. We're not.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 MR. HOLMES: I haven't been home
36 for.....

37

38 MR. SCHWANTES: I guess my preference
39 would be we only have a few more of these to go through
40 and hopefully they won't all be as contested as this
41 one, but I'm game to go.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Mitch, do you
44 want to take a five-minute break and then just keep
45 going. Maybe the rest of them won't be quite as
46 contentious as this was.

47

48 MR. KOSO: Yeah. I'm all for the break
49 and then continue and finish it up.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Let's
2 take a five-minute break. I'd say 5:00 o'clock.
3 That's seven minutes and then we'll get ready --
4 everybody ready to move onto the next proposal.

5
6 (Off record)

7
8 (On record)

9
10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. If we can
11 get called back to order.

12
13 (Pause)

14
15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The next thing
16 on the agenda is FP11-12.

17
18 (Pause)

19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right,
21 ladies and gentlemen. Mr. Fried.

22
23 MR. FRIED: Good afternoon. My name is
24 Steve Fried with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, OSM.
25 And just going to present the Staff analysis for FP11-
26 12. It's on Pages 30 to 36 of your books. It was
27 submitted by this Council. It affects the same Federal
28 waters as the last proposal we spoke about, which is
29 the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge subunits,
30 Womens Bay, Karluk, Afognak on Map 1.

31
32 It requests adoption of an annual
33 harvest limit of 500 pounds of herring per permit
34 holder. And this change would align Federal and State
35 annual herring harvest limits so they'd be the same.
36 State subsistence regulations currently set an annual
37 limit of 500 pounds of herring per permit. This was
38 done in 2002 to eliminate the use of subsistence caught
39 herring as bait in commercial fisheries. I'll bring to
40 your attention there's already a regulation -- a
41 Federal regulation, that does not allow the use of
42 subsistence caught fish as bait in commercial or
43 sportfishing purposes. So that's already illegal under
44 Federal regulations.

45
46 Kodiak area herring stocks appear to be
47 healthy and it appears that recruitment and abundance
48 have been increasing, which for a change is good news.
49 Most of the herring harvest occurs in commercial sac
50 roe and bait fisheries, and there's some information on

1 Tables 1 and 2. The State has guideline harvest levels
2 for each season and it's based on herring abundance.

3
4 Subsistence fisheries take a much
5 smaller amount of herring. And the 2005/2009 average
6 was less than 150 pounds of herring per permit. If you
7 look on Table 3, you can see that information.

8
9 As I mentioned before, State users are
10 limited to 500 pounds per year per permit holder, can
11 harvest herring all year, and they must have an Alaska
12 Department of Fish and Game permit. Federally-
13 qualified users have no harvest limit currently. They
14 can also harvest herring all year. They're only
15 required to have an Alaska Department of Fish and Game
16 permit when they fish during the commercial -- State
17 commercial sac roe season, which is April 15th to June
18 30th.

19
20 So the effect of adopting this proposal
21 is that Federally-qualified users would see a reduction
22 in opportunity to harvest herring, even though the
23 Kodiak area herring stocks are healthy and increasing.
24 There may be no actual effect on their herring harvest
25 since the actual harvest per permit is less than 150
26 pounds. However, this 150-pound average is based on
27 all subsistence users and it's based on permit
28 information. So, you know, we don't really know
29 exactly what the Federal users take plus the Federal
30 users don't need a permit if they're fishing outside
31 the window of the State commercial sac roe season,
32 although it would probably be a lot harder to take
33 herring on those other times of years than it is when
34 they're ensuring spawning.

35
36 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
37 oppose.

38
39 The justification is there is no
40 conservation reason to restrict Federal herring
41 subsistence harvest since the Kodiak area herring
42 stocks are healthy and increasing in abundance. And
43 there's no need to restrict Federal herring subsistence
44 harvest or discourage use of subsistence caught herring
45 for commercial bait or sport bait because it's already
46 illegal under Federal regulations.

47
48 Any questions, I'd be happy to answer.
49 That's all I had to say about it.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Mitch, do you
2 have any questions for Steve at this time.

3
4 MR. SIMEONOFF: I thought of a
5 question. If Federal subsistence users are not even
6 reaching the 500 limit, why put a limit on it in the
7 first place. I wouldn't support this proposal.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

10
11 MR. HOLMES: Madam Chair.

12
13 MR. SIMEONOFF: We're not even reaching
14 the 500 limit and were -- for southern Kodiak to get
15 herring we have to go such a great distance, it's
16 almost easier for us to barter with Southeast.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
19 Mitch. Pat.

20
21 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chairman. When we
22 discussed this at our last meeting, I think that myself
23 and the members were just trying to close a potential
24 enforcement problem, but I don't think we knew that
25 there was a Federal regulation that already permitted
26 -- prohibited the harvest use of subsistence herring
27 for commercial use. And so I'm wondering if maybe our
28 expectations with this proposal to try to help solve a
29 problem would appear that it may not be necessary. So
30 maybe we should just withdraw the proposal. I'm just
31 wondering what my colleagues think on this.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

34
35 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah. I would also
36 point out that the State of Alaska does issue
37 commercial herring bait permits and restricts the
38 amount to 500 pounds. So I'm not sure what we would be
39 accomplishing by this. I would agree. I think that,
40 you know, we're not coming even close to utilizing the
41 500 pounds that we would limit them to now. So I don't
42 see any real reason for this proposal. and I would
43 agree with Pat. I think maybe we ought to just
44 withdraw it.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick, go ahead.

47
48 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Madame Chair. I'm
49 going to have to agree with the other two guys. There
50 was some new information came to light here that I

1 wasn't aware of, and so by that coming to light, I
2 think this proposal would be ineffective. So I would
3 be against the proposal. I think we should drop it.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Before we get
6 too far, do you want to hear the State Alaska
7 Department before or do you want to just -- at this
8 point, I think you've pretty much got a consensus.
9 We'll just skip the State and say Regional Council
10 deliberation, recommendation, and justification.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

15

16 MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair. I'd make
17 a motion that we withdraw this proposal.

18

19 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chairman. I
20 second.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion by Tom,
23 second by Pat. Discussion.

24

25 MR. HOLMES: Well, I think we probably
26 got the discussion down. We were operating on a
27 misassumption that it was needed to parallel the State
28 limits and it's not necessary because it's illegal
29 under Federal law. So if somebody gets caught doing
30 it, that's their tough luck.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
33 you, Pat. Question.

34

35 MR. KOSO: Call the question.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Question's been
38 called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

39

40 IN UNISON: Aye.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed same
43 sign.

44

45 (No opposing votes)

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.

48

49 MR. HOLMES: Moving right along.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
2 Moving right along.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The next item on
7 the agenda is FP11-13.

8
9 MR. FRIED: Okay. I'm still here.
10 Steve Fried, Fish and Wildlife Service, OSM.

11
12 The Staff analysis for FP11-13 on Pages
13 40-54 in your Council books, once again submitted by
14 this Council. Affected public waters are different.
15 On Map 1, it's the freshwaters of Kodiak National
16 Wildlife Refuge and the saltwaters of the Alaska
17 Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, Womens Bay, Karluk,
18 and Afognak. So we've added some freshwaters on this
19 one.

20
21 The proposal requests the following
22 changes in household annual harvest limits and
23 reporting for salmon.

24
25 And so one of the changes is, is it
26 would not associate an annual household harvest limit
27 with permits issued to Federally-qualified users
28 fishing in Federal public waters not accessible from
29 the Kodiak road system. So if you're fishing in waters
30 that aren't accessible from the Kodiak road system,
31 then you'd get a permit, and there's no annual harvest
32 limit associated with that permit.

33
34 Right now there is one on the permit,
35 and if you reach that limit you have to go and get
36 another permit. In this one, if you fish on waters
37 that you can't get to from the Kodiak road system, you
38 could just use that same permit all year. That's one
39 of the things this proposal would do if it was adopted.

40
41 It would also change reporting
42 requirements from recording harvested fish on the
43 permit immediately upon landing fish to having to
44 record it before leaving the fishing site. So right
45 now under Federal regulations, as soon as you catch a
46 fish, you're supposed to record it on your permit. If
47 this was adopted, you could -- you wouldn't have to do
48 it as soon as you caught a fish, but you would have to
49 do it by the time you left the fishing site. So that's
50 another change.

1 And those would be the two big changes.

2

3 The first one about the Federal --
4 about associating the harvest limit with the permit
5 would actually align Federal regulations with those of
6 the State.

7

8 The second would actually make Federal
9 regulations different than State regulations because
10 current State regulations include the wording that you
11 have to record it on your permit immediately upon
12 landing a fish. However, there is an Alaska Board of
13 Fisheries proposal that would do this. So there's sort
14 of a companion proposal for this one aspect of it
15 that's been submitted to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

16

17

18 I'm trying to remember when the meeting
19 would be for the Alaska Board of Fish. I think the
20 finfish would be January 16 to 19, 2011, Anchorage
21 Hilton. So it could be that, you know, if this was
22 adopted, the State could adopt a similar one and they'd
23 be aligned. But otherwise as written now, it would
24 make Federal regulations different from current State
25 regulations.

26

27 Since existing State regulatory
28 language was used for most of the proposed Federal
29 regulatory language, there's some other minor changes
30 to Federal regulations that would occur if this was
31 adopted as submitted that probably maybe were not
32 intended anyway. These weren't discussed at the
33 Council meeting. In other words, there's a requirement
34 in the State regulations to record information on the
35 back of a permit. There's also a requirement to return
36 the permit to an ADF&G representative. So, you know,
37 that's kind of a minor thing, but, you know, if it was
38 adopted just as submitted, then you'd get no household
39 annual harvest limit on a permit if you fished on
40 Federal waters outside -- off the road system. You'd
41 be able to record your harvest before leaving a fishing
42 site instead of immediately, but you'd also be required
43 to record the information on the back of the permit and
44 you're required to turn your permit into an ADF&G
45 representative, under law.

46

47 As far as the salmon stocks affected
48 go, the salmon stocks in Kodiak are generally healthy.
49 If you look at Table 1, it shows the number of permits
50 issued, the estimated harvest from these permits. Some

1 subsistence salmon fishing has been restricted or
2 closed in some years to meet escapement objectives.
3 For sockeye, this occurred in Afognak from 2002 to
4 2005, again in 2006 and 2007. Since that time and even
5 last year, the stocks seemed to have increased, and
6 actually last year, if I recall right, the area for
7 fishing was actually expanded for Afognak.

8
9 We have had restrictions or closures
10 also for sockeye on the Buskin in both 2009 and 2010.
11 I think that came up earlier in some reports.

12
13 For chinook, there have been some
14 closures and restrictions for Karluk in both 2009 and
15 2010 and in Ayakulik in 2009 but not in 2010. And
16 those really are two of the -- the major fisheries that
17 have -- the major stocks that have, you know, seen some
18 declines and have seen some restrictions of subsistence
19 fishing.

20
21 While the total salmon harvest reported
22 on permits are much greater from communities on the
23 Kodiak road system than off the Kodiak road system, the
24 average household harvest is greater in communities
25 that are inaccessible from the road system than the
26 communities of the road systems. So even though
27 there's more people that fish off the Kodiak road
28 system, if you look at the permit harvest, actually per
29 permit, people are taking more in the fisheries off the
30 road system, so you can see that -- there's some
31 information on that on Tables 2 and Table 3.

32
33 The effect of adopting this proposal:
34 Federally-qualified users fishing in Federal public
35 waters not accessible from the Kodiak road system would
36 not have a salmon harvest limit attached to their
37 permits. As I mentioned before, this would align
38 Federal permit requirements with those recently adopted
39 by the State so it would make regulations, you know, a
40 little less confusing and certainly less burdensome
41 because they'd just need to get one permit.

42
43 We didn't expect it would affect the
44 actual harvest, but we actually think that it might
45 make harvest reporting more accurate since harvest
46 estimated from household surveys on -- there's an ADF&G
47 study that showed that the harvest estimates from
48 surveys, actually of the households, have been much
49 greater than the estimates that are gotten from the
50 permits. So it appears that people may not be

1 reporting all their harvest on the permits, maybe
2 because they can't get another permit and they're
3 worried about reporting their actual harvest on a
4 permit and getting in trouble. But for whatever it is,
5 the harvests that they report when they go in the
6 household and do a survey are greater than the ones
7 that they get when just tabulating things off of the
8 permits.

9

10 Right now, all Federally-qualified
11 users in the Kodiak area are required to record their
12 harvest on the permit only before -- excuse me. It
13 would require all Federally-qualified users to record
14 their harvest on their permit only before leaving the
15 fishing site if it was adopted. And so this would
16 make, as I mentioned before, Federal regulations
17 different from the current State regs, but it would
18 also make recording requirements less burdensome to
19 users. We don't expect it to affect the actual or
20 reported harvest. And as I mentioned before, there's a
21 proposal to actually change this and State regulations
22 that would be before the Board of Fisheries.

23

24 So it could be that if this is adopted
25 and the State adopts it, then they'd be the same, but
26 currently if the Board adopts it, it would be
27 different. If this was adopted as written, all
28 Federally-qualified users would have to fill out the
29 return information on the back of the permits and
30 return the completed permit to an ADF&G representative
31 under regulation.

32

33 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
34 support the proposal with modification and the
35 modifications would be retain some of the current
36 wording in the current Federal regs because proposed
37 wording doesn't change the meaning of the existing
38 regs. So we didn't think there was any point in
39 changing wording if the current wording still works.
40 It would change the proposed wording for the regulation
41 from if it can be shown that more fish are needed (2)
42 an additional permit may be obtained upon request and
43 this would apply to people on the road system. So
44 current, if you have the wording here, the people would
45 have to show that they needed more fish because they
46 can get a permit. Whether or not that would be a
47 problem, we didn't know, but, you know, why don't you
48 just put it an additional permit may be returned upon
49 request and not put that burden on the user. And, you
50 know, managers could decide that enough fish have been

1 caught I guess and not issue any more permits, but
2 we're suggesting that that wording would be better
3 than, you know, additional permit may be obtained upon
4 request.

5
6 OSM recommends amended modification
7 would be to retain most of the existing wording for the
8 regulation with changes to when harvest need to be
9 recorded and when permits need to be returned and to
10 omit proposed wording on more information needs to be
11 recorded on permits and to whom the permits are to be
12 returned and also to remove existing wording on when
13 the permits are needed to be returned.

14
15 The justification for adopting the
16 proposal with the modifications is that it would
17 achieve the same outcomes requested. There would be no
18 harvest limit associated with permits issued to users
19 fishing in Federal public waters nonaccessible from the
20 Kodiak road system, and recording of harvest would be
21 required prior to leaving the fishing site rather than
22 upon landing fish. It would align Federal regulations
23 for the first issue with State regulatory requirements,
24 make them different with the second one. Both these
25 changes would make regulations less burdensome to the
26 users and could improve accuracy of cash reporting.

27
28 Regulatory language concerning where to
29 fill out information on permits, to whom permits are to
30 be returned, and when to return permits isn't needed
31 since the information is already on the existing
32 permit. And we didn't really see any reason to put it
33 in regulation. It's just going to be included. It's
34 on the permit. It could also be included in the
35 instructions.

36
37 If the proposal is adopted, it might be
38 necessary to issue joint permit with the state or a
39 separate Federal permit to ensure that the regulatory
40 differences are clearly noted. Although if the State
41 adopted, you know, some of these other regulations,
42 then maybe it wouldn't, but that's something to
43 consider, but it shouldn't really stop the Council
44 from, you know, either adopting or rejecting the
45 proposal. I'm just, you know, bringing that to your
46 attention.

47
48 Hopefully that's not too terribly
49 confusing, but I'm here to answer questions, hopefully
50 straighten anything out.

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

2

3 MR. SCHWANTES: I'm not sure who can
4 help me out on this one, but I have a -- one of my
5 questions here is on Page 37 in the new wording for the
6 regulation, it says in the freshwaters of Kodiak Island
7 east of the line and it talks about subsistence fishing
8 in freshwaters. To my knowledge right now, there are
9 no subsistence fishing in those freshwaters.

10

11 MR. HOLMES: Defer to Mr. Wadle.

12

13 MR. WADLE: Madame Chair. Jeff Wadle
14 with Alaska Department of Fish and Game. There
15 currently is -- you can fish in freshwaters outside the
16 areas of the road system and Afognak Island. So you
17 can fish in freshwaters on the south end of the island,
18 Karluk and Uganik, and those places.

19

20 MR. SCHWANTES: And I understand that,
21 but this -- the way this is worded, to me this says in
22 the freshwaters of Kodiak Island east of the line from
23 Crag Point south to the western-most point of Saltery
24 Cove. In that area, there are no freshwater
25 subsistence fisheries to my knowledge.

26

27 MR. FRIED: This is Steve Fried. I
28 think that's trying to describe the area that's
29 accessible from the Kodiak road system under
30 regulation.

31

32 MR. SCHWANTES: Okay. But if you go on
33 and read the regulation -- let me just read it in full.
34 Maybe I'm missing something here, but it says in the
35 freshwaters of Kodiak Island east of the line from Crag
36 Point south to the southernmost point of Saltery Cove
37 including the waters of Woody Island and Long Island
38 and the saltwaters bordering area within one mile of
39 Kodiak Island excluding the waters bordering Spruce
40 Island, 25 salmon may be taken by permit. So that
41 tells me I can take 25 salmon in freshwater.

42

43 So I'm just -- I want to make sure
44 we're not opening up something we don't want to here.
45 I think if we eliminate that in freshwaters, we'd
46 probably be okay, but if we're including in the
47 freshwaters, then I think we're opening up those river
48 systems to subsistence fishing.

49

50 Pat, what's your take there?

1 MR. FRIED: Yeah. I mean I think what
2 it is, it's trying to describe the waters that are
3 under -- you know, the areas that under Federal
4 jurisdiction, although it looks like it's the same and
5 that's what I'm wondering. I don't know where Jerry
6 went. It looks like it's the same wording as in
7 current State regulations. No, it's -- is it?

8
9 MR. HOLMES: Basically it's taken
10 straight from the permit and I think the -- they're
11 having a little discussion over there on the State side
12 as to what it means, and so I think they'll get back to
13 us in a minute. But basically that's describing the
14 area of the road system that applies and so under State
15 regs, unless it says an area is open, it's closed, and
16 so that's kind of some boilerplate language would be my
17 guess, but I think we'll get an update from the area
18 regional salmon management fellow here in a second.

19
20 Maybe I'll just have some general
21 comments on this and our intent. Go ahead.

22
23 MR. WADLE: Madame Chair. That is a
24 little confusing even to myself. However, because the
25 freshwaters of the road system are closed to
26 subsistence and that is in regulation in the closed
27 water areas, so even though it -- this is just
28 describing the area of the road system, and you're
29 right, it is a little confusing and I'm not
30 disagreement with that. But we do have other waters
31 closed to subsistence which describes the freshwaters
32 of those areas. So it's in regulation in that manner.

33
34 MR. SCHWANTES: Thank you.

35
36 MR. FRIED: Yeah. The intent would be
37 to describe the waters accessible from the road system,
38 but this regulation would only affect Federal public
39 waters, would be the waters in the Refuge and, you
40 know, and the Maritime National -- the Alaska National
41 Maritime Refuge, so -- I'm assuming if we make that
42 case that that's the intent which is describe those
43 waters that can be fixed at some point later. It's
44 just more of an administrative kind of a housekeeping
45 fix rather than anything else. As long as everybody's
46 clear on that.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, do you have
49 a comment.

50

1 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Madame Chairman. I
2 thought that Steve gave a very good description of what
3 this proposal means and its intent and I'd just to add
4 a few -- maybe two Board cycles back -- I don't recall
5 -- the State has for several years tried to find a way
6 to improve reports from the villages and did some
7 extensive meetings and went through the advisory
8 committee and they kind of felt that they needed to
9 make it more flexible.

10
11 They tried having VPSOs distribute
12 permits and things like that and for some places, it
13 just got to be too complicated and folks just really
14 weren't reporting. So they went to this program on the
15 State side a few years back and I think what we'll be
16 doing with this is we're just going to be making the
17 Federal regulations similarly liberal and easier for
18 people that fish and particularly those that live out
19 of the road system to report.

20
21 And myself, while the OSM Staff
22 suggests that some of the wording isn't necessary, I
23 think that it would be just as easy to leave it in
24 because it's the same as in the State permit and I'm
25 sorry to add a few lines to the Federal regulations,
26 but I think it'd be just as simple to leave it there.

27
28 I think that after our last discussion
29 about herring, however, that we should -- we have no
30 need to have herring in that discussion on the Federal
31 regs, so I would suggest that when we bring the motion
32 up that we delete the references to herring, leave it
33 as it is, and even though the State recommends against
34 our proposal that allows the recording before leaving
35 the site, I did talk to Mitch at our meeting and I did
36 submit one of our village elders -- Iver Malutin and I
37 jointly submitted a proposal to the Board of Fish to
38 modify to that because it makes it much easier for the
39 person fishing to do that.

40
41 The way it's written now makes it
42 enforcement perfect, but yet anyone that's gillnetted
43 salmon knows that you don't stop for every single fish
44 you have and make a mark on the back of the tally
45 because if you have a family of five, there's not
46 enough room on the permit to tally every fish as you
47 catch them.

48
49 And so it's much easier to wait till
50 you get all the fish in, got your net done, your hang

1 it on the end of the anchor, you sit down to figure out
2 what you got and you tally it up and then before you
3 make a landing -- there are some areas I believe in the
4 State -- correct me if I'm wrong, Mr. Pappas -- where
5 they do have different points at which you report and
6 so we felt at our previous Council meeting that this
7 would be a way to make it work better for people. It
8 would make it easier to report, and you wouldn't have
9 such a mess on your report sheet and you could
10 physically report your catch in a convenient way and it
11 still would be enforceable and, you know, even if you
12 go over your limit, you just get on your cell phone or
13 when you get to town, you call up the area biologist
14 and you say, hey, James, you know, I got a big hit of
15 fish and I need to extend my permit and he refers you
16 to the gal that does the permits and they extend it,
17 and, you know, the fish that you don't put in your own
18 freezer, you bring them to the elders or the senior
19 center and everybody gets a fish and you get it
20 tallied.

21

22 But when you get too picky on that,
23 then people just say nuts and they quit reporting and
24 so the idea of this report -- this new format is to
25 make it easier for the people catching the fish and
26 also to make it easier to get it reported and to get
27 better information to the agencies on what's being
28 harvested.

29

30 So I think it's a win/win proposal and
31 unless there's a really strong concern from the Council
32 to delete the wording that OSM feels would be
33 redundant, I'm not all that hard on it, but I
34 think.....

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, maybe what
37 we need to do at this point is are there any more
38 questions for Steve.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none,
43 maybe we'll go ahead and move on to Alaska Department
44 of Fish and Game comments.

45

46 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you. Madame Chair.
47 George Pappas, Department of Fish and Game. Our
48 comments are located on Page 53 of the book. They'll
49 be adopted as reference in the transcripts. And this
50 was thoroughly discussed, so I will try to pick out

1 what has not been discussed.

2

3 Of course this proposal is to remove
4 the annual limit from salmon harvested by Federal
5 subsistence users off the road system. Also requires
6 herring harvest be recorded on a subsistence fishing
7 permit consistent with State regulations and discussed
8 about the time when you're supposed to fill out your
9 harvest -- excuse me -- reporting your harvest on your
10 permit instead of immediately to change when you fish
11 -- when you leave the fishing site.

12

13 If this proposal's adopted, subsistence
14 users who choose to fish in the Kodiak waters not
15 adjacent to the system will no longer have an annual
16 limit for salmon which is consistent with our
17 regulations. And you also be required to record
18 herring on the permit.

19

20 Skip over conservation issues. In
21 Kodiak, currently there is no designated salmon stocks
22 of concern. However, the Karluk River chinook salmon
23 stock has not met its minimum goal which is 3,600 fish
24 in the last couple years and has had commercial, sport,
25 and subsistence restrictions for actually the last past
26 three years. Karluk River early-run sockeye salmon has
27 not met its minimum escapement goal of 110,000 and has
28 had restrictions on commercial, sport, and subsistence
29 for the past two seasons.

30

31 Ayakulik River has not met its minimum
32 escapement of 4,800 king salmon and it also had
33 restrictions for the last three of the past four years
34 and subsistence harvest from both the Karluk and
35 Ayakulik Rivers is minimal or has been restricted.

36

37 The Department recommends supporting
38 the proposed limit of fish that can be harvested on and
39 off the road system contained in this proposal and
40 supports the proposed requirement to record herring
41 harvested on a Federal subsistence -- excuse me -- from
42 the Federal subsistence fisheries on a permit, but the
43 Department opposes reporting requirements that may
44 allow subsistence fisheries -- fishermen to be in
45 possession of a harvest but not record it until they
46 leave the fishing site.

47

48 Thank you. Madam Chair.

49

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STATE OFFICIAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Comments to the Regional Advisory Council

Fisheries Proposal FP11-13:

Remove harvest limit for non-road system federal subsistence salmon fisheries on Kodiak Island, require a permit and recording of Pacific herring harvested under federal subsistence regulations, and require harvest recording prior to leaving the fishing site.

Introduction:

A total annual household limit for salmon harvested in any Kodiak federal subsistence salmon fisheries exists in federal regulations. The Kodiak-Aleutians Regional Advisory Council submitted this proposal to remove the annual limit for salmon harvested in federal subsistence fisheries on Kodiak Island from waters that are not adjacent to the Kodiak Island road system. This proposal also requires herring harvest be recorded on the subsistence fishing permit, consistent with state regulations. It proposes to change reporting requirements to allow fishermen to record harvest prior to leaving the fishing site, whereas the state requirement is to record harvest immediately. Except for the reporting requirement, the proposed federal regulations would be consistent with existing state regulations. #

Impact on Subsistence Users:

If adopted, federal subsistence users who choose to fish in waters of Kodiak not adjacent to the road system will no longer have an annual harvest limit for salmon, consistent with state regulation. Federally qualified subsistence fishers fishing in waters where federal subsistence jurisdiction is claimed will be required to record subsistence-harvested herring. The requirement to record harvest prior to leaving the fishing site is inconsistent with state regulations and may put fishermen at risk of citation, depending on location of harvest.

Opportunity Provided by State:

1 State subsistence regulations for
2 Kodiak salmon fisheries have different annual household
3 limits depending upon location of harvest. Subsistence
4 fishermen who harvest fish from road system streams are
5 limited to 25 salmon for those named on the permit, and
6 an additional permit is available based on needs of the
7 permit holder. There is no annual harvest limit for
8 subsistence fishermen that harvest in waters that are
9 not adjacent to the road system, but fishermen are
10 required to record harvest and submit the permit to
11 agency staff by February 1 of the following year.
12 Subsistence fishermen may harvest up to 500 pounds of
13 herring in a calendar year under the same state
14 subsistence permit.

15

16 Conservation Issues:

17

18 Kodiak currently has no designated
19 salmon stocks of concern. However, the Karluk River
20 Chinook salmon stock has not met its minimum escapement
21 goal (3,600) and has had commercial, sport, and
22 subsistence fishery restrictions for the past three
23 seasons. The Karluk River early-run sockeye salmon
24 stock has not met its minimum escapement goal (110,000)
25 and had commercial, sport, and subsistence restrictions
26 for the past two seasons. The Ayakulik River Chinook
27 salmon stock has not met its minimum escapement goal
28 (4,800) and had commercial, sport, and subsistence
29 restrictions for three of the past four seasons.
30 Subsistence harvest from both the Karluk and Ayakulik
31 rivers is minimal or has been restricted.

32

33 Jurisdiction Issues:

34

35 The federal subsistence salmon
36 fisheries on or near Kodiak Island can take place in
37 the fresh and marine waters of the Pacific Ocean
38 enclosed by boundaries of Womens Bay, Gibson Cove, and
39 an area defined by a line mile on either side of the
40 mouth of the Karluk River extending seaward 3,000 feet.
41 Additionally, federal subsistence users can fish for
42 salmon in marine waters of Afognak Island within three
43 miles seaward of shoreline.

44

45 Recommendations:

46

47 Support the proposed limits of fish
48 that can be harvested on and off the Kodiak road
49 system. Support the proposed requirement to record
50 herring harvested in federal subsistence fisheries on a

1 permit. Oppose reporting requirements that allow
2 subsistence fishermen to be in possession of harvest
3 but not record it until they leave the fishing site.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Are
6 there any questions.

7
8 MR. SIMEONOFF: This is Mitch. I have
9 a question.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Mitch.
12

13 MR. SIMEONOFF: That proposed
14 regulation, there is a sentence in there that says that
15 additional permits may be obtained if it is shown that
16 more fish are needed. Why should a subsistence user
17 prove that he needs more fish. Why should I have to
18 show anyone that I want more fish and I'm a subsistence
19 user.

20 I could eat fish year round. If I get
21 a permit for 25 for each member of my household, you
22 know, that's -- I use more than that. But why should I
23 have to show that I need more. Can I just request
24 another permit and just keep going back for permits if
25 I want more fish without having to show that I need
26 more fish?

27
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Steve.

29
30 MR. FRIED: I guess I didn't hear the
31 whole question. It was about changing the wording to
32 -- about an additional permit required -- obtained upon
33 request versus, you know, showing that you need more
34 fish -- as to why? Well, he wouldn't if it just -- if
35 the wording were changed to an additional permit may be
36 obtained upon request, you just have to go in and
37 request it. If the wording stayed that, you know, an
38 additional permit can be obtained -- what was the
39 original wording -- if it can be shown that more fish
40 are needed, then I suppose, you know, when you go in
41 and ask for a permit, they can ask you why you need
42 more fish or -- I mean the change would make it less
43 restrictive I guess and a little bit less burdensome.

44
45 Managers still have in-season authority
46 to open and close fisheries, so we didn't think that
47 that would, you know, hamper them in any way. So
48 that's why we -- you know, OSM came up with that
49 suggestion for wording.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Doesn't that
2 also align with the State regulation at this time.

3
4 MR. FRIED: No. As far as I know, the
5 current State regulation says an additional permit may
6 be obtained if it can be shown that more fish are
7 needed. So our change would be upon request. So it's
8 less -- you just go in and request it and you don't
9 have to show them that more fish are needed.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: But it seems to
12 me in the past it was a lot easier trying to align
13 these regulations so that, you know, people -- you
14 don't get so confused with two different permits and --
15 I'm not sure.

16
17 Pat, did you have a comment.

18
19 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. That was the intent
20 is just to parallel the law that's on the existing
21 State permit and I think that either way, it does the
22 same thing and, you know, the wording that's in the
23 existing permit -- because there are going to be people
24 that'll be fishing under Federal waters at the Buskin
25 that won't go anywhere else. And so you can on
26 occasion go over or sometimes your neighbor gets
27 injured or, you know, one of the elders asks could you
28 get me more fish this year. So you go and the thing I
29 described earlier and just ask for more fish and that's
30 all that needs to be done as far as under the existing
31 wording to show.

32
33 Under these new regulations, Mitch,
34 down in your neck of the woods, if you needed more
35 fish, you wouldn't have to bother to do a darn thing.
36 You just write down what you catch and send it in at
37 the end of the year. I do think on the OSM comments on
38 whom to return it to and whom -- when, that will all be
39 on the State permit, but it still would be good for
40 folks to know that, you know, it needs to be turned in
41 on the end of February so that everything gets tallied
42 up. But I don't honestly know that it makes any
43 difference how that part is worded, dysfunctionally,
44 the way it works now and so our whole discussion at our
45 last meeting was to just try to get things as parallel
46 as they can be and to streamline it for people that
47 live and fish in rural areas, and so that's kind of the
48 intent of the whole thing and I don't think that the
49 way we presented this would change anything or make
50 more difficulty for folks.

1 Down at your end of the island, Mitch,
2 it'd make it a whole lot easier and then you don't have
3 to renew your permit. But folks in town where it's
4 more intense and probably more important for them to
5 report, then they would still have to do what they've
6 done in the past and -- so I hope that answers you.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

9

10 MR. PAPPAS: Through the Chair. Two
11 examples of showing you need more fish. On the road
12 system, there's a household limit of 25 fish, for the
13 head of the household, another 25 fish. Well, if you
14 have a household of one or two people that want 4-, 5-,
15 600 fish, the intent of -- I guess understand what the
16 State subsistence regulations is for your domicile and
17 that brings up the question of where -- what are you
18 doing with the thousand pounds of fish for two people.
19 Well, some people can eat that much.

20

21 Conversely, we do have the individual
22 here who does approve that when people come in that
23 have big families. They need more fish. That's almost
24 automatically approved every time. It doesn't happen
25 too often. And a third case that came up, okay, a bear
26 took out my smoker, took all my fish for the year, what
27 do I do. Well, you just come on in and tell us that
28 and it's very simple. It's not a -- it's to keep track
29 of how many fish are going where and, Pat, you made a
30 great point. If this proposal's adopted, there's not a
31 limit on the -- off of the road system, there's no need
32 for an additional permit.

33

34 Thank you. Madame Chair.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Good
37 points. Any other questions. Tom.

38

39 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I want to go back
40 to the wording again. And to me it's very confusing.
41 It says in the freshwaters of Kodiak Island. When you
42 go to the Federal subsistence book, it mentions closed
43 areas in the Kodiak area for subsistence salmon. It
44 says absolutely nothing about the American River, the
45 Old River, Pasagshak, Sacramento River. The way this
46 is written, I could go by this regulation and go to the
47 Sacramento River, go to Pasagshak, go the American
48 River, go to the Old and throw out a net and I'm
49 perfectly legal, the way this is written because
50 there's nothing in this book that says those waters are

1 closed.

2

3 I think we could eliminate that by just
4 changing that wording to say in the saltwater.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Federal water.

7

8 MR. SCHWANTES: Or, you know, east of
9 that boundary that we're talking about and that would
10 eliminate those -- all those freshwater areas would no
11 longer -- it wouldn't be confusing. But right now,
12 it's confusing and this book doesn't mention those
13 particular streams at all.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is this the
16 description -- the correct description is right here.

17

18 MR. HOLMES: Tom, the permit when you
19 get it, it does have a listing of the areas that are
20 closed and this is boilerplate language that the State
21 has used since statehood and that does not allow you to
22 -- this part here doesn't tell you where you're
23 fishing. This is telling you where you need to have
24 the permit for 25 fish per family. And then when you
25 get your permit, then there's a document that says
26 these are closed waters. And so those freshwaters are
27 closed.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

30

31 MR. SCHWANTES: I -- to me it's
32 confusing and I think we could change it -- take that
33 confusion out of there just by taking freshwaters out
34 of there.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Maybe what I
37 recommend at this point -- are there any more questions
38 for the two gentlemen that are before us.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So if not, then
43 we'd be at -- technically -- are there InterAgency
44 Staff comments.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Subsistence
49 Resource Commission comments.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Fish and Game
4 Advisory Committee comments.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

9

10 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. I wonder
11 before these folks leave as they're the legal folks or
12 the best thing we've got. Is Tom correct or not?
13 Because if he is correct and it does say it's open,
14 then we need to change it. If it isn't and it's just
15 merely defining an area that you report, then we don't
16 and that's a major question that we need to have
17 answered from you folks.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah. That's
20 why I said we get to the Regional Council.

21

22 I think what I pointed out to Pat is
23 during the Council deliberation, recommendation, and
24 justification, the legal description I think is where
25 we need to have that -- this discussion so that the
26 wording changes and that is part of the motion and also
27 it includes eliminate the herring from that motion. So
28 we need a legal opinion at this point.

29

30 MR. BERG: Well, I'm not a lawyer. I'm
31 not sure about legal advice, but it is a little bit
32 confusing. I agree with that because if you read the
33 description of the area, it looks like it's the whole
34 area. But there is a provision on Page 6 of those
35 regulations that say that these regulations only apply
36 to Federal public waters. And that -- so that applies
37 to this whole book.

38

39 And I realize it's not immediately
40 apparent to most people. They don't realize that, but
41 that's kind of an overlying part of these whole
42 regulations. And we've kind of tried to stay away from
43 listing all of the exceptions in there because if we
44 did that statewide, you know, this book would probably
45 twice as thick as it is because there are a lot of
46 exceptions all over the state just like you're
47 mentioning. So that's why it's not in there with that
48 kind of specificity, but I understand that it's not as
49 clear as it probably could be. But that's why it is
50 is because there's a lot of exceptions all over the

1 State and if we listed them all, it would be pretty
2 lengthy. That's probably the best explanation I can
3 give. Unless you have another question.

4
5 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah. What if we just
6 changed the wording then to read in the Federal public
7 waters of Kodiak Island east of that line and that
8 eliminates any question at all. I mean I think we
9 should be eliminating any confusion if we can in this
10 process.

11
12 MR. BERG: Well, and just a quick
13 response. I agree, that does make it more clear, but
14 if we put that -- you know, that phrase everywhere
15 throughout the whole book, you know, it's the same
16 thing. But I understand and I agree with -- you know,
17 it's -- clarity is always better.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And it just
20 eliminates the confusion. There's a distinction here.
21 I think that's what Tom is after.

22
23 MR. SCHWANTES: I guess my comment is I
24 -- you know, I would just hate to see -- I've been on
25 the enforcement end of these things for a long time and
26 I would hate to see somebody go out there and get in
27 trouble just because it's worded wrong and if we can
28 clear it up, let's clear it up so we don't put anybody
29 in that position.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

32
33 MR. HOLMES: I was just wondering if
34 the State had any thoughts on this perplexing problem
35 that we're at.

36
37 MR. PAPPAS: Being the fisheries
38 liaison statewide for all ten RACs, the situation is
39 unique in Kodiak because there are marine waters under
40 Federal jurisdiction. It's a fraction of a fraction, 1
41 percent of the State that actually allows Federal
42 subsistence in saltwater. It's all freshwaters and
43 they did it straight over from our word for word from
44 our regulations. And the permit stipulations that do
45 come out tell you where you can and can't fish and a
46 lot of the State -- the freshwaters, there is just
47 Federal subsistence only during times of concerns.

48
49 You did make a very good point. I
50 really don't have any more clarification on that except

1 that if somebody does pick up this book, reference to
2 Page 6 -- to Page 9, it could be a challenge. There
3 could be a challenge if folks don't follow through, but
4 conversely you go the subsistence permit in hand that
5 tells you where you can and can't fish. I don't have
6 any good advice for you, sir.

7

8 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Because if we're to
9 do this, I mean I see Tom's point, but, you know, the
10 whole thing is written like a lawyer and, you know,
11 once you read the whole thing down at the bottom, it's
12 defining an areas and it's not saying where you fish.
13 It's defining an area where you're responsible for your
14 permit and when I'm worried about and I think it'd be
15 great -- completely logical thing to make fresh public
16 waters of Kodiak.

17

18 But the thing that I'm concerned is if
19 once we do that there, does that mean that we're going
20 to have to change things in the Federal reg book, that
21 we end up with another permit because right now the
22 Federals say you use the State permit and so, you know,
23 I just -- by trying to sole something that's confusing
24 in the legalese that it's been done in for the last --
25 since statehood -- or could we be creating another
26 problem. That's what I'm worried about.

27

28 Or should we just pass it and say we
29 have a concern about this and ask to have the legal
30 folks work it out. I don't know.

31

32 MR. SIMEONOFF: Why don't we just send
33 it back for more clarification.

34

35 MR. KRON: Madam Chair.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

38

39 MR. KRON: And then I guess to Tom's
40 point about just specifically inserting the word
41 Federal in front of waters. That's is done in other
42 parts of the regs, in other parts of the State. We
43 don't do it everywhere. We've got this overall cover
44 language that's used in both places, but to insert it
45 is perfectly reasonable.

46

47 MR. SCHWANTES: Then I think we ought
48 to do it. If that would clear it up, then let's do it.
49 Why put something out there that's confusing.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right.
2 Thank you. Given that, do I hear a motion at this
3 point. And there were -- the distinction of Federal
4 waters, public waters of Kodiak Island instead of
5 freshwaters and also I believe there was to eliminate
6 herring from the wording.

7
8 MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair. I'll
9 make a motion that we eliminate the herring from that
10 regulation and that we change the wording under Section
11 A to read in the Federal waters of Kodiak Island rather
12 than in the freshwaters of Kodiak Island.

13
14 MR. HOLMES: Tom, would you accept a
15 friendly amendment to that to include deletion of or
16 pounds because the or pounds was in relation to the
17 herring and we're trying to -- we found out we didn't
18 need a herring thing, so if we did your suggestion on
19 Federal waters, delete herring, and delete or pounds,
20 then I think we got it.

21
22 MR. SCHWANTES: I agree with that.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We have a
25 motion on the floor with a friendly amendment. Do I
26 hear a second.

27
28 MR. KOSO: Second.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Second by
31 Richard Koso. Discussion.

32
33 MR. HOLMES: I think we've kind of beat
34 it around pretty well.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Just want to make
37 sure.

38
39 MR. SIMEONOFF: Question.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Question's been
42 called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

43
44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed same
47 sign.

48
49 (No opposing votes)

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.
2 Moving on, Steve, to FP11-14.
3
4 MS. WILKINSON: I'm sorry. I was
5 trying to figure out when you made the first motion.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: He made the
8 motion to.....
9
10 MS. WILKINSON: That one is the first
11 one? Okay.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And he asked if
14 he could add a friendly amendment to that motion. And
15 so that meant.....
16
17 MR. HOLMES: Amended, yeah.
18
19 MR. SCHWANTES: My motion was to amend
20 it not to approve it.
21
22 MS. WILKINSON: Right. So you have the
23 motion to amend it but no motion to support.
24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I got you.
26 Thank you. I'm sorry. So let's go back and make -- I
27 need a motion to approve that regulation as amended.
28 There we go.
29
30 MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair. I will
31 make a motion that we approve the regulation as
32 amended.
33
34 MR. HOLMES: Second.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We have a
37 motion made and second to approve. Discussion.
38 Question.
39
40 MR. KOSO: Question.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Question's been
43 called. All in favor signify by saying aye.
44
45 IN UNISON: Aye.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed same
48 sign.
49
50 (No opposing votes)

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.
2 Thank you for that correction. Okay. We'll move to
3 FP11-14.

4
5 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
6 Good afternoon, Madame Chair and members of the
7 Council. My name is Pippa Kenner and I work with the
8 Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage. I'm an
9 Anthropologist. The analysis for FP11-14 begins on
10 Page 55 of your Council book.

11
12 This proposal was submitted by the
13 Kodiak/Aleutians Council and it requests that in the
14 Kodiak area a Federally-qualified user of salmon that
15 is also an owner, operator, or employee of a lodge,
16 charter vessel, or other enterprise that furnishes
17 food, lodging, or sportfishing guide services may not
18 furnish to a client or guest of that enterprise salmon
19 that has been taken under Federal subsistence
20 regulations.

21
22 This is necessary particularly with the
23 fishery is closed to retention of salmon by other user
24 groups for resource conservation. The local concerns
25 are compounded because Federal regulations allow rod
26 and reel as legal gear which permits sportfishing
27 guides to fish alongside their clients and retain
28 subsistence fish which are subsequently furnished to
29 the client while their clients are prohibited from
30 retaining salmon.

31
32 In the analysis in the proposed
33 regulation, the term furnish to a client or a guest is
34 intended to mean feeding or giving subsistence caught
35 salmon to a client or a guest. This regulation will
36 apply to the residents of the Kodiak area, the Kodiak
37 Island Borough that is, except for those residing on
38 the Kodiak Coast Guard base. Those are the
39 Federally-qualified users.

40
41 During the Council meeting in March
42 2010 and in the proposal book, the Ayakulik and Karluk
43 River Drainages are specifically mentioned in
44 discussions of this proposal. In recent year,
45 conservation concerns have resulted in widespread
46 salmon sportfishing closures in the drainages. Just
47 how much salmon is shared with guests and clients of
48 lodges and guides in the Kodiak area is not known.

49
50 The practice of a business purchasing,

1 receiving, or selling subsistence caught fish as part
2 of a business transaction is already prohibited under
3 Federal Subsistence Management regulations. However,
4 there is a precedent for inclusion of a specific
5 regulation that clarifies that certain activities are
6 prohibited and that example is in the analysis. In
7 1999, State shellfish regulations were adopted into the
8 Federal Subsistence Management regulations and this
9 included a provision that prohibits a commercial
10 service operator from giving subsistence caught
11 shellfish to clients or guests of the commercial
12 service operator.

13

14 Adoption of this proposal would have
15 basically no effect in law as the practice of
16 commercial service operators providing subsistence
17 caught salmon to paying clients is already prohibited.
18 Adoption of this proposal would provide additional
19 clarity to commercial service operators such as lodge
20 owners and guides that this practice is prohibited.

21

22 Therefore the OSM preliminary
23 conclusion is to support the proposal but with
24 modification and the modification is to delete
25 sportfishing but retain guide services and in that way
26 the proposed regulation would apply to all guides not
27 just sportfishing guides. So that is the end of my
28 presentation and I'm available to answer questions.

29

30 Thank you, Madame Chair.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Do we have any
33 questions at this time for Pippa. I would like to make
34 sure that we don't get into Council deliberation but
35 just questions at this time. Pat.

36

37 MR. HOLMES: I thought you did a swell
38 job.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right.

41 Thank you.

42

43 MR. SIMEONOFF: This is Mitch.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Mitch.

46

47 MR. SIMEONOFF: Providing fish to
48 clients, is that -- by providing subsistence caught
49 fish to clients for consumption at the lodge or for
50 providing to clients to take home? If a subsistence

1 fisher chooses to share their fish with clients at the
2 lodge, would this proposal make that illegal?

3

4 MS. KENNER: Through the Chair. Mr.
5 Simeonoff, according to OSM, giving a fish to a client
6 is already illegal and this regulation would just
7 clarify that it is.

8

9 MR. SIMEONOFF: Okay. We got to define
10 that somehow. What happens if, you know, a subsistence
11 fisher -- an employee of the lodge, fishing alongside a
12 client and they decide to have a barbecue and they
13 barbecued their fish and they shared it with the
14 client. He would be committing an illegal act?

15

16 MS. KENNER: Through the Chair. Mr.
17 Simeonoff, there are going to be gray areas. So rather
18 than answer your question, I could explain it this way
19 that this regulation is directed towards people --
20 individuals who are clearly trying to get around a
21 sportfish closure in order to provide their clients
22 with a harvest to take home, people who otherwise could
23 not retain their salmon.

24

25 MR. SIMEONOFF: If there was a
26 sportfish closure, they wouldn't have any
27 sportfishermen in the area.

28

29 MS. KENNER: Through the Chair. Mr.
30 Simeonoff, sometimes a closure doesn't mean that you
31 can't fish. Sometimes a closure means that you can't
32 retain and you can catch and release and if you can't
33 retain, you can still fish for other species of fish.

34

35 So you're right. We're talking -- and
36 also we're only talking about Federally-qualified
37 users. I should mention that there is a parallel
38 proposal that has gone into the State system for the
39 Federal -- the Alaska Board of Fisheries to consider.
40 So, right. This is very -- it's very narrowly directed
41 towards specific behavior that probably isn't universal
42 nor is it that common.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

45

46 MR. HOLMES: Mitch, I may not remember,
47 but this was one of the problems that -- I'm sorry --
48 Nick or -- my brain's going dead -- the gentleman
49 that's now on our Council from Larsen Bay and that they
50 had the closure of king salmon in Karluk last year and

1 I think maybe the year before and yet people were able
2 to be fishing there and then some of the lodge owners,
3 being generous people and not realizing that it wasn't
4 the right thing to do, were catching king salmon that
5 normally would be used by people in Larsen Bay for
6 subsistence and then he was giving them to clients
7 going back to the states. And so this is to -- the
8 whole objective of this is to clarify the same problem
9 that's come up on -- using subsistence shellfish, king
10 crab. That's sort of the same sort of thing only for
11 sportfishing, so that it leaves -- if there's a limited
12 number of fish let's say in Karluk or Ayakulik, that
13 the folks that live there, if there's enough fish for
14 them to have subsistence that it goes to those people
15 and not to a paying client.

16

17 That's the whole intent and so I think
18 that -- anyway, that's my best coverage of it, Mitch.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

21

22 MR. SIMEONOFF: Okay. I would say we
23 need clarification then because, you know, we are a
24 sharing people. We share no matter who you are. We'll
25 share it with you, but, you know, it should be
26 clarified that, you know, I will share my food with
27 you, but I will not give you a whole fish for your
28 take-home pack. You know, you know what I mean. You
29 know, when I put food on the table, anybody and
30 everybody is welcome to come and eat with me, but if I
31 catch a subsistence fish, I am not going to put it in
32 my client's cooler for him to take home.

33

34 If I were a sports fishing operator,
35 you know, it's pretty clear cut. It's -- you know,
36 that's not something you should do. If the sports
37 fishing was closed, a lodge owner should understand
38 that he should not be doing that. That jeopardizes our
39 subsistence way of life.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

42

43 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah. This regulation
44 doesn't apply to sportfishing. It specifically salmon
45 taken under the subsistence fishing regulations. So if
46 I'm out sportfishing with a friend, there's absolutely
47 nothing that prohibits me from building a fire on the
48 beach and taking a sport caught fish and cooking it and
49 sharing it with my friend or inviting a friend to my
50 home and eating sport caught fish. This specifically

1 applies to subsistence -- fish taken under subsistence
2 fish regulations.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think that
5 might have been -- correct me if I'm wrong, Mitch, that
6 you were using the subsistence fish not the sportfish
7 as not being able to give the subsistence fish to a
8 client to take home but to be able to consume, if he's
9 there, he's there, but I think -- correct me if I'm
10 wrong. Mitch is looking for a clarification. You can
11 sit at my table and eat. I can make fish and potatoes
12 for breakfast with our eggs with my subsistence caught
13 fish, but you can't take my subsistence caught fish off
14 the premises to take home.

15

16 MS. KENNER: Madam Chair. Something
17 that might be of use to you is to see the proposed
18 language. I'm just going to walk up and give this to
19 you.

20

21 MR. SIMEONOFF: Why don'[t you make it
22 illegal for the sports fisher to accept and, you know,
23 leave the subsistence fisher alone.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 MR. HOLMES: Well, Mitch, the problem
28 is, is that some of the people in commercial services
29 are charging people for their, quote, wilderness
30 experience and then going to Karluk River and then king
31 fishery was closed and so there's a couple of people
32 that are taking a fish and saying, well, hey, I'll
33 catch one for you. I can do it. And so they're
34 catching a fish that normally they ought to be taking
35 back to the village and given to an elder to eat. So
36 they're giving it to one of their clients that's paying
37 a lot of money for the experience.

38

39 And so I understand where you're coming
40 front in terms of culture and sharing, but when
41 somebody is at a lodge and paying for things, then, you
42 know, what you're doing is you're selling that
43 subsistence fish to a client and it's the same problem
44 that we had and still have in some respects on king
45 crab where a lodge will have a king crab pot out and
46 they'll have it right in the middle of Larsen Bay right
47 next to where some of the elders and other folks have
48 theirs and then they're continuously taking those crab
49 to feed to people that are coming up from the states
50 and, you know, when you get reduced resources when

1 there's only enough left for people that live in a
2 community, then I think -- you know, then those are the
3 ones that get out not somebody that's paying me 300
4 bucks a day. That's too bad, you know, but if you --
5 you know, they've got opportunity to catch silvers and
6 reds and everything else or if it's season and you know
7 you want to cook something up for them, hey, that's
8 swell.

9

10 But, you know, it's like we've often
11 talked and you and Al have mentioned many times that
12 subsistence fish and game just isn't for sale. And so
13 that's what this is clarifying. That is just saying,
14 hey, you know, we got to take care of our folks at
15 home.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

18

19 MR. SIMEONOFF: Yeah. I understand
20 what this is doing, but what's irking me is that we're
21 just putting another regulation on a subsistence
22 fisher, whether they're breaking the subsistence
23 regulations. Should make it illegal for the client to
24 accept that.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom, go ahead.

27

28 MR. SCHWANTES: This is the proposal
29 that's before the State; is that correct? Okay.

30

31 MR. HOLMES: There'll be a parallel
32 one.

33

34 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah. Let me just read
35 this. Maybe it'll help Mitch. It says the owner,
36 operator, or employee of a lodge or charter vessel or
37 other enterprise that furnishes good, lodging, or
38 sportfishing guide services as defined in 580(c)
39 75.9995 may not furnish to a client or guest of that
40 enterprise finfish that have been taken under this
41 chapter unless -- number 1, this says unless the
42 finfish have been taken with gear developed, operated,
43 or retrieved by the client or guest and the gear has
44 been taken -- has been marked with the client's or
45 guest's name and address and then under the finfish
46 portion of it, it says finfish is to be consumed by the
47 client or guest or is consumed in the presence of the
48 client or guest.

49

50 So, you know, I don't see a problem

1 with you going out and catching a fish and -- if it's a
2 sport caught.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Let me throw a
5 little curve in here. And somebody needs to maybe
6 refresh my mind, but in looking at subsistence fish and
7 let's hypothetically say I went and got, oh, 50
8 subsistence fish. I smoked them. I kippered them.
9 Now -- and under the current subsistence regulations,
10 you can -- can you not sell some of that product. What
11 it currently is a regulation under Federal guidelines.

12

13 MR. KOSO: That's only halibut, Della.

14

15 MR. SIMEONOFF: We've dealt with
16 something like this before that subsistence good -- you
17 can sell subsistence food up to I think \$500 worth, but
18 you can't go higher than that.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Didn't it seem
21 like the various areas under -- on this before had
22 different regulations.

23

24 MR. SIMEONOFF: Yeah. But you could
25 sell subsistence food to another subsistence user, but
26 you can't sell it to your client of your lodge.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So basically if
29 I smoked a bunch of fish and I had a lodge, then you
30 can't have any of my smoked salmon.

31

32 MR. SCHWANTES: They can eat it. You
33 just can't sell it.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm just saying
36 you can't eat it or -- that's kind of what.....

37

38 (Pause)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

41

42 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
43 I could have read you the customary trade regulations
44 verbatim, but unfortunately I have misplaced them.
45 Basically -- oh.

46

47 Well, one of your questions, Madame
48 Chair, concerns the limits in the Kodiak area and I
49 can't remember if there are limits. There are -- the
50 \$500 limit, I believe, applies to the Bristol Bay area.

1 I do not believe in Kodiak this Council has opted to
2 set limits on what commercial enterprise is.

3
4 The idea is that customary trade exists
5 until it becomes a commercial exercise. And what some
6 of the Councils have been advised to do and have done
7 is define what a commercial enterprise is by the amount
8 of money -- amount of transaction in a year -- monetary
9 transaction in a year and I do not -- however, I think
10 what we're talking about now may or may not fall into
11 customary trade.

12
13 But in addition to that, there are
14 regulations that talk about how commercial enterprises
15 can benefit or can -- or more properly cannot benefit
16 from the use of their subsistence caught fish.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. But the reason I
19 brought that up because I was the Chair before when we
20 were at the statewide level defining the various
21 regions and I don't recall to be honest with you what
22 the Kodiak/Aleutians had agreed on at the time. So --
23 and whether that plays any part in this discussion, you
24 know, it's -- I don't know, but just somewhere in the
25 back of my mind, I'm -- just it was raising a flag.

26
27 Are there any more questions. I'm not
28 sure I have an answer at this point.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Do we have
33 Federal, State, tribal agency comments.

34
35 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
36 Department of Fish and Game, George Pappas, comments.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm right by
39 you, George.

40
41 MR. PAPPAS: No problem. I'll move
42 this right along. Comments on Page 61 in the book, be
43 adopted by reference in transcripts. I'll try to
44 summarize here.

45
46 This proposal was submitted to address
47 concerns by the Council, the Kodiak Refuge Staff, and
48 the Department of Fish and Game's Fisheries Managers.
49 These shared concerns focus on prohibiting Federally-
50 qualified subsistence users when acting as a commercial

1 operator or their employees from furnishing their
2 paying clients with salmon harvested in a Federal
3 subsistence fishery, particularly with the fishery is
4 closed to retention by other user groups for resource
5 conservation reasons.

6
7 If adopted, Federally-qualified
8 subsistence users who are acting as commercial
9 operators or employees will be prohibited from gifting,
10 bartering, trading, or selling to paying clients salmon
11 harvested under Federal subsistence regulations in the
12 Kodiak area. Data regarding Federal subsistence
13 harvest of salmon in the Kodiak area do not record the
14 possession, transfer of salmon harvested under Federal
15 subsistence regulations by commercial operators to
16 paying clients. Therefore the extent of this practice
17 is difficult to determine.

18
19 And I touched on earlier the
20 conservation issues in Kodiak regarding the king salmon
21 runs in Karluk and Ayakulik. There have been
22 restrictions to all users in recent years.

23
24 Based on personal communications with
25 the Federal legal counsel, gifting of fish to nonrural
26 residents, clients, or guests as part of a commercial
27 enterprise is not subsistence under ANILCA and is not
28 customary trade as defined in Federal regulation.

29
30 Adoption of this proposed regulation is
31 not necessary because these activities are already
32 prohibited. Alternatively, Fish and Wildlife Service
33 Staff in the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge could
34 modify commercial operator permit stipulations to
35 prohibit the possession of any fish harvested by the
36 operator or his employees while providing guiding and
37 other commercial services. So it could be actually
38 addressed through Federal permit stipulations for folks
39 operating commercially on Federal public lands.

40
41 Alternatively, the Alaska Board of
42 Fisheries could adopt a similar proposal that you have
43 in front of you to address the gifting of fish by
44 commercial operators and their employees and that
45 meeting's in Kodiak on the 11th and 14th of January
46 this coming -- coming up here. The Department
47 recommends adoption of this proposal if this activity
48 is determined to be legal under existing Federal
49 statutes and regulations, but modify the proposal to be
50 applicable to all commercial operators not just fishing

1 guides.

2

3 If this activity is not legal under
4 Federal statutes and regulations, then this proposal is
5 not necessary.

6

7

8

STATE OFFICIAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

9

10

11 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
12 Comments to the Regional Advisory Council

13

14 Fisheries Proposal FP11-14:

15

16 Prohibit federal subsistence qualified
17 owner, operator, or employee of a lodge, charter
18 vessel, or other enterprise that furnishes food,
19 lodging, or sport fishing guide services from
20 furnishing salmon taken under federal subsistence
21 regulations to a non-rural resident of the state,
22 client, or guest of that enterprise when non-retention
23 regulations or sport fishery closures are in place.

24

25 Introduction:

26

27 The Kodiak-Aleutians Regional Advisory
28 Council submitted this proposal to address concerns of
29 the Council, Kodiak Refuge staff, and Alaska Department
30 of Fish and Game fisheries managers. These shared
31 concerns focused on prohibiting federally qualified
32 subsistence users, when acting as commercial operators
33 or their employees, from furnishing their paying
34 clients with salmon harvested in a federal subsistence
35 fishery, particularly when the fishery is closed to
36 retention of salmon by other user groups for resource
37 conservation. The local concerns are compounded
38 because federal regulations allow rod and reel as legal
39 gear, which permits sport fishing guides to fish
40 alongside their clients and retain subsistence fish,
41 which are subsequently furnished to the client while
42 their clients are prohibited from retaining salmon.

43

44 Impact on Subsistence Users:

45

46 If adopted, federally qualified
47 subsistence users who are acting as commercial
48 operators or employees will be prohibited from gifting,
49 bartering, trading, or selling to paying clients salmon
50 harvested under federal subsistence regulations in the

1 Kodiak area. Data regarding federal subsistence
2 harvest of salmon in the Kodiak area do not record the
3 possession transfer of salmon harvested under federal
4 subsistence regulations by commercial operators to
5 paying clients. Therefore, the extent of this practice
6 is difficult to determine.

7

8 Opportunity Provided by State:

9

10 State subsistence regulations for the
11 Kodiak salmon fisheries have two annual household
12 limits depending upon location of the harvest, as
13 follows:

14

15 5AAC 01.530 Subsistence Fishing Permits

16 (b) (1) in the fresh waters of Kodiak Island, east of
17 the line from Crag Point south to the western-most
18 point of Saltery Cove, including the waters of Woody
19 and Long Islands, and the salt waters bordering this
20 area within one mile of Kodiak Island, excluding the
21 waters bordering Spruce Island, 25 salmon for the
22 permit holder plus an additional 25 salmon for each
23 member of the same household whose names are listed on
24 the permit: and additional permit may be obtained if it
25 can be shown that more fish are needed;

26

27 (b) (2) in the remainder of the Kodiak
28 Area not described in (1) of this subsection, there is
29 no annual limit.

30

31 Conservation Issues:

32

33 Kodiak has no designated salmon stocks
34 of concern. However, the Karluk River Chinook salmon
35 stock has not met its minimum escapement goal (3,600)
36 during the last five years, had commercial and sport
37 restrictions for the past six seasons, and had
38 subsistence fishery restrictions for the past three
39 seasons. The Karluk River early-run sockeye salmon
40 stock has not met its minimum escapement goal (110,000)
41 and had commercial, sport, and subsistence restrictions
42 the past two seasons. The Ayakulik River Chinook
43 salmon stock has not met its minimum escapement goal
44 (4,800) during three of the last five seasons and had
45 commercial, sport, and subsistence restrictions during
46 that time. Subsistence harvests from both the Karluk
47 and Ayakulik rivers are minimal or had been restricted.

48

49 Jurisdiction Issues:

50

1 The federal subsistence salmon
2 fisheries on or near Kodiak Island can take place in
3 the fresh and marine waters of the Pacific Ocean
4 enclosed by boundaries of Womens Bay, Gibson Cove, and
5 an area defined by a line mile on either side of the
6 mouth of the Karluk River extending seaward 3,000 feet.
7 Additionally, federal subsistence users can fish for
8 salmon in the marine waters of Afognak Island within
9 three miles seaward of the shoreline. Detailed maps
10 are needed that depict land ownership and specific
11 boundaries of areas where federal regulations are
12 claimed to apply in order for federal subsistence
13 fishermen to identify boundaries and reduce risk of
14 enforcement action.

15

16 Other Issue:

17

18 Based on personal communication with
19 federal legal counsel, gifting of fish to non-rural
20 residents, clients, or guests as part of a commercial
21 enterprise is not a subsistence use under ANILCA and is
22 not customary trade as defined in federal regulation.
23 Adoption of this proposed regulation is not necessary
24 because this activity is already prohibited. If no
25 action is taken on this proposal by the Federal
26 Subsistence Board, Fish and Wildlife Service staff at
27 Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge could modify commercial
28 operator permit stipulations to prohibit possession of
29 any fish harvested by the operator while providing
30 guiding and other commercial services. Alternatively,
31 the Alaska Board of Fisheries could adopt a similar
32 proposal to address gifting of fish by commercial
33 operators and their employees.

34

35 Recommendations:

36

37 Support adoption of this proposal if
38 this activity is determined to be legal under existing
39 federal statutes and regulations, but modify the
40 proposal to be applicable to all commercial operations,
41 not just sport fishing guides. If this activity is not
42 legal under federal statutes and regulations, then this
43 proposal is not necessary.

44

45 Thank you, Madame Chair.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pippa.

48

49 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.

50 I just wanted -- I did get clarification that in the

1 Kodiak/Aleutians area, there is not a limit on the
2 amount -- a monetary limit set for the definition of
3 commercial transaction through customary trade. I just
4 wanted to confirm that.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And that's what
7 I think I recall. Pat.

8
9 MR. HOLMES: I have a brief question
10 and I'm getting pretty foggy and my blood sugar's
11 awful. And probably already one of you has stated it,
12 but going from State comments I guess back to the
13 Federal, is this activity illegal under Federal law and
14 if it is, we just simply make the recommendation to the
15 Refuge Staff. I guess that's the question. And if it
16 is legal now without this regulation, then we need to
17 do the regulation and I think that's kind of the --
18 what we need to do and as both agencies are suggesting
19 modifying including all commercial services. So I
20 guess the question is, is it legal now to -- for a
21 guide at Larsen Bay to take a king salmon caught in the
22 Karluk River when it's closed to sportfishing and
23 commercial fishing and subsistence is the only thing
24 open. Is it legal for him to give that fish to a
25 client -- paying client.

26
27 MS. KENNER: Mr. Holmes through the
28 Chair. That is illegal.

29
30 MR. HOLMES: Okay. So I guess that
31 answers that. So it would seem both agencies are
32 saying we don't need the regulation and so I would
33 suggest that, Madame Chairman, that when we come to our
34 motion discussion is instead of having the regulation
35 that we make a resolution to the Kodiak Refuge and then
36 that would solve Rick's question to doing this for the
37 whole region and that we make a recommendation to them
38 that would be the -- this wording suggested by OSM on
39 Page 60, that they implement that for their conditions
40 for guides and commercial services and then that avoids
41 the problem of additional Federal regulation, but I
42 think will solve the problem for the subsistence users
43 in Larsen Bay and other areas that are having the
44 problem on the island.

45
46 Does that seem logical to my colleagues
47 here?

48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Mitch, were you
50 able to hear Pat's comments.

1 MR. SIMEONOFF: Yes. Yes. I would
2 agree with.....
3
4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.
5
6 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah. I just have one
7 question. It's currently illegal under State
8 regulations as well?
9
10 MR. PAPPAS: Through the Chair. No.
11 It is currently legal under State regulations and
12 that's why there's a proposal that's go up in front of
13 the Board.
14
15 MR. SCHWANTES: Okay. So this proposal
16 will be going before the Board this spring.
17
18 MR. PAPPAS: Correct.
19
20 MR. SCHWANTES: Thank you.
21
22 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. And that
23 other proposal is one Iver and I tossed in to try to
24 get things covered and doing the same on both sides.
25 So -- but if we get that covered on the State side,
26 whoever goes to there can say, okay, well, the Federal
27 Council has identified this as a problem and we've
28 addressed it under the operational guide things through
29 the Refuge, but that, you know, we're continuing to
30 support this action on the State side to close the
31 State loophole.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right. Are
34 we set. I think we've pretty much taken care of
35 Council deliberations. Before I got to that though,
36 are there any other agencies or committee.
37
38 (No comments)
39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Public written
41 comments.
42
43 (No comments)
44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any public
46 testimony.
47
48 (No comments)
49
50 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Council,

1 what would you -- like to entertain a motion. Pat.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chairman and fellow
4 Council members. Based on our previous discussion here,
5 it seems that the appropriate action to take on this
6 proposal is to recommend to the Board that they not
7 implement it and that we will pursue the wording as
8 presented on Page 60 with the Kodiak Refuge Staff
9 because this is a Kodiak problem, but we also identify
10 it as potential problem in a broader sector and that
11 there's a loophole in the State Government and that we
12 would support that the State close that loophole. And
13 then whoever goes to the State Board meeting can make
14 that presentation for us.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

17

18 MR. SCHWANTES: Question. Wouldn't we
19 better off just to instead of recommending that the --
20 it's not approved that we just withdraw it and make the
21 recommendation to the Refuge people rather than even
22 having it go forward.

23

24 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. That's basically
25 what I said is that we don't -- we withdraw the
26 proposal on the Federal side.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pippa.

29

30 MR. HOLMES: I make a motion, Madame
31 Chairman, to withdraw this proposal and then we would
32 need a separate action to make this recommendation to
33 the Refuge because then that would allow them to
34 tighten it up themselves.

35

36 MR. SCHWANTES: Second that.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Second the
39 motion. Discussion.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Question.

44

45 MR. KOSO: Question.

46

47 MR. SIMEONOFF: Question.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Question's been
50 called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed same
4 sign.

5

6 (No opposing votes)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.

9 Thank you. All right. Given some current or new
10 information, I'm going to introduce the next item which
11 is FP11-15. However, Thomas Schwantes like to get a
12 letter prior to any introduction of FP11-15. So if I
13 may, Tom, I will turn it over to you.

14

15 MR. SCHWANTES: Thank you, Madam Chair.

16 I have a letter that was written on September 21st by
17 the Shunaq Tribal Corporation of Kodiak. It's
18 regarding this proposal FP11-15. It says to whom it
19 may concern. We have recently learned that Proposal
20 FP11-15 is being presented at the Kodiak/Aleutians
21 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting being
22 held on September 23rd and 24th, 2010, at Cold Bay,
23 Alaska.

24

25 The proposal will potentially diminish
26 subsistence use in our area as well as time for Alaska
27 Natives in the Kodiak area and quite possibly other
28 Alaska Native subsistence use areas and times in the
29 future. This proposal is in effect an ANILCA
30 Title VIII closure to subsistence use No. 816(B) and
31 this proposal is not following the Congressional
32 statement of the ANILCA. Quite possibly may even
33 ponder a discussion of the possibility of an attempt to
34 diminish the authority of the Secretary to designate
35 areas where and establish periods when no taking of
36 fish is prohibited, which is referred to in this
37 section as well.

38

39 So having read the information and
40 researched the topic, the Shunaq Tribe of Kodiak, a
41 Federally-recognized tribe with a membership of 1,548
42 Alaska Natives, is opposed to the Executive Summary of
43 FP11-15. And it's signed sincerely.

44

45 I would like to at this time,
46 considering the fact that we represent that tribe and
47 they're opposed to this and it would have an effect on
48 that amount of people, I would make a motion that we
49 withdraw the proposal.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We have a motion
2 on the floor. Do I hear a second.

3
4 MR. KOSO: I'll second the motion.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Second by
7 Richard Koso. Discussion.

8
9 MR. HOLMES: Madam Chairman.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

12
13 MR. HOLMES: I agree with Tom's
14 discussion and I'll probably vote in favor of
15 withdrawal. I had previously presented this at the
16 last RAC meeting and when we drew up the discussion and
17 prior to that had discussed it with Mr. Paloski (ph)
18 and with Rich's predecessor and with some other people
19 and it appears that some of them have changed their
20 mind and feel that it would be advantageous to be able
21 to fish earlier. And what it was trying to do was to
22 solve a problem with a few people that weren't Federal
23 users that were going out and preempting sites that as
24 most folks in Kodiak -- all of them really -- everybody
25 started at 6:00 o'clock for the last 20 or 25 years,
26 and the State, as a matter of history, implemented that
27 program -- the hours to provide for enforcement because
28 people were leaving nets in all night and so a lot of
29 fish were being caught, eaten by seals, and creating
30 lots of other problems.

31
32 And so I was just trying again to have
33 a parallel of State and Federal regs, but it appears to
34 me that if folks at Shunaq have changed their mind or
35 had further discussions, they probably represent a
36 quarter of the subsistence harvesters and so maybe the
37 best thing would be to withdraw this proposal and then
38 if there's further discussion in the community --
39 anyway, if there's further discussion amongst the
40 community and they feel it is a problem, then it can be
41 readdressed on the next Board cycle. So I'll go along
42 with the withdrawal.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
45 Mitch, did you have any comments.

46
47 MR. SIMEONOFF: I was going to make a
48 comment along the lines that subsistence users, you
49 know, our way of life is not about wasting or wanton
50 waste or taking more than you can handle and I don't

1 know what it's like in the Kodiak area, but around here
2 in the south end area, nobody ever leaves their net out
3 overnight, you know.

4
5 In the summertime, we fish until it
6 gets dark, you know, and sometimes it don't get dark at
7 all, but we're out there watching the net and when
8 we're done fishing, we take the net out of the water.
9 Never ever do we just set it out and leave it and
10 that's showing lack of respect for the resource. You
11 know, subsistence is a way of life that deals with
12 respect for everything that you -- is provided to you
13 by land and the sea. You don't respect it, you just --
14 you know, you're going to put a limit on everybody else
15 that have that respect and you'll lose their respect
16 for you.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

19
20 MR. SIMEONOFF: But I'm in favor of
21 removing that, but if it persists to be a problem, we
22 could come back to it at a later time.

23
24 MR. SCHWANTES: Mitch, I agree with you
25 a hundred percent and I think that the regulations
26 still require you to be present at the net when it's
27 being fished. So you wouldn't be able to go out there
28 and set a net and leave it overnight without being
29 there present and so all this is going to do is extend
30 -- it's going to allow those in Kodiak who want to get
31 out there before 6:00 o'clock in the morning and who
32 want to stay after 9:00 o'clock at night to be able to
33 do that, but they're still going to have to be present
34 at their net when it's being fished.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
37 you.

38
39 MR. SIMEONOFF: Question.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Question.

42
43 MR. KOSO: Question.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Question's been
46 called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

47
48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49
50 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed same

1 sign.

2

3

(No opposing votes)

4

5

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.

6 Thank you. The next item on the agenda is Draft 2012
7 Annual Report to the Federal Subsistence Board. This
8 morning we talked a little bit about our letter that
9 Ann would draft a letter for our winter meeting for us
10 to approve. Some of the items that we discussed of
11 importance were the need to have the caribou surveys
12 done in a more timely manner and that a plan -- option
13 plan in the event that there is not pilot available or
14 a plane that assistance being forward so that we can
15 get accurate counts.

16

17

The other item that we talked --
18 another item we talked about was that we get the Refuge
19 reports ten days -- at the minimum ten days prior to
20 our scheduled meetings so that we have the time to
21 interact with the people that we represent in our
22 various -- the two regions to be able to make better
23 decisions in the future.

24

25

I think the other item that we'd like
26 to introduce in this and also talk about in our winter
27 meeting is the ability to have alternates. The
28 Kodiak/Aleutians has had some problems with getting a
29 quorum on occasion and Ann is pointing her finger at
30 me, so I'll let her talk about that.

31

32

MS. WILKINSON: Madame Chair. For the
33 idea of alternates, that I think would be better suited
34 to when the Council addresses its charters and you can
35 -- that would be at the same meeting that this annual
36 report would be drafted, but by doing it that way, it
37 will go to the Secretary. If you do it with the
38 charters, it will go clear to the Secretary's office
39 that -- your recommendations. And it won't be kept
40 just with the Board.

41

42

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Can we do both?
43 Because you're looking at other regions hopefully
44 looking at this as a potential -- because all the --
45 for it to pass, all of the regions are going to have to
46 accept it, wouldn't they.

47

48

MS. WILKINSON: When the.....

49

50

MR. SIMEONOFF: I've got a question.

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Mitch.
2
3
4 MR. SIMEONOFF: This is Mitch. When is
5 the review of our charter?
6
7 MS. WILKINSON: At your winter meeting,
8 winter 2011, next meeting.
9
10 MR. SIMEONOFF: In March?
11
12 MS. WILKINSON: Yes.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We'll just add
15 it to our winter agenda to not -- get some confusion
16 here. But those are some of the ideas and, Mitch, you
17 may have other things to add to that based on what you
18 have done in the past year. And correct me if I'm
19 wrong, Ann, you will start putting some of that letter
20 together and have that draft available for the March
21 meeting.
22
23 MS. WILKINSON: Right. Yes, I will.
24
25 MR. SIMEONOFF: Okay.
26
27 MS. WILKINSON: May I ask a question.
28 I was just wondering about your intention for this
29 evening. Were you intending to finish the complete
30 agenda tonight? Okay.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: At this point, I think
33 -- the only items we have left after this is the dates
34 and locations for winter 2011 and fall 2011 meetings.
35 The other business was the winter agenda which we've
36 kind of pretty well covered and then sending a letter,
37 migratory birds. We're basically.....
38
39 MS. WILKINSON: Excuse me. But there's
40 also the fisheries monitoring plan recommendations.
41 Those -- that is Item 9, the monitoring program.
42
43 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chairman. I'm
44 wondering if perhaps beings we've got the censure and
45 the monitoring thing to do and I suspect our host
46 probably has dinner ready, may we have dinner and then
47 come back and try and knock off these last two, three
48 items.
49
50 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: This evening?

1 MR. HOLMES: Yeah.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, all right.
4 and not meet tomorrow morning at all?
5
6 MR. HOLMES: Yeah.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Because you
9 still have time in the morning to meet before the plane
10 would come.
11
12 MR. HOLMES: Well, I think if we did
13 that, we've got an invitation from the Refuge for a
14 brief tour and some of the members had wanted to try
15 for that before they departed and so if we came back
16 after dinner, we should be able to knock it off in an
17 hour or less hopefully.
18
19 MR. KOSO: Good idea.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm ready for a
22 break regardless what we do, so.....
23
24 (Off record)
25
26 (On record)
27
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: 7:57 and we'll
29 call our meeting back to order and we'll go to the
30 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. Steve and
31 Pippa.
32
33 MR. FRIED: Good evening. This is
34 Steve Fried, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of
35 Subsistence Management. And what I'd like to do is
36 provide an overview of the 2012 Fisheries Resource
37 Monitoring Program and then Pippa's going to provide
38 the priority information needs that we've come up with
39 thus far and then you can ask questions, discuss it,
40 and decide whether or not those information needs are
41 adequate for Kodiak and add them or just adopt what's
42 there. So -- anyway.
43
44 This November, OSM is going to
45 advertise request for proposals for the 2012 Fisheries
46 Resource Monitoring Program and taking into the account
47 the commitments we have for ongoing projects and
48 assuming that funding's going to be stable, there
49 should be about \$2.7 million available for new
50 projects. Not a huge amount compared to what we've had

1 for new projects, but it's not -- you know, it's not
2 too bad.

3

4 The monitoring program is designed to
5 provide information needed for management of Federal
6 subsistence fisheries and a key part of the request for
7 proposal is a list of priority information needs to
8 help focus the proposals on the issues and needs of the
9 greatest concern in managing Federal subsistence
10 fisheries. And we have priority needs for each region
11 as well as statewide needs.

12

13 In the draft of the priority needs is
14 provided to -- is being provided to all ten Regional
15 Advisory Councils for review and comment and you can
16 find them on Pages 73 to 78 of your book here. The
17 draft document and list was developed by OSM and Forest
18 Service Staff and it's been reviewed by the Technical
19 Review Committee which is comprised of the five Federal
20 agencies and subsistence management as well as members
21 of the Alaska Department Fish and Game.

22

23 In developing the draft, we drew upon
24 existing strategic plans for the regions, any
25 previously identified priorities and any issues and
26 information needs that were identified by the in-season
27 managers and this has been done in the context of
28 projects that have already been completed or are still
29 being conducted. So if there's something that's still
30 going on, there's no reason to put a priority
31 information need for it at this point. We can take it
32 up the next cycle.

33

34 So now we're looking for Council's
35 input in the process to ensure that the items that were
36 identified in this draft are really truly priority
37 needs and that we hadn't left other important, you
38 know, issues and needs for subsistence fisheries
39 management off the list.

40

41 One thing to keep in mind too is that
42 even if something isn't on the list, we still consider
43 all proposals that come in. So this just helps focus,
44 you know, on people that are providing proposals on the
45 most important ones. I think about 20 percent or so of
46 the things that get funded actually aren't on the list.

47

48

49 So as I said in November -- so this
50 November, they advertise and then the proposals and the

1 investigation plans that come in and -- let's see.
2 It's advertised in 2012. The proposals come in I think
3 in February and then those are reviewed. They ask
4 the -- some of the proponents for an investigation plan
5 and those come in next and then the investigation plans
6 go through the whole process with Staff, the Tech
7 Review Committee, the Council, the public, you know,
8 and right up to the Board. 2011. Okay. Thanks.

9

10 What else. So -- yeah, and then the
11 Board reviews the draft plan in 2012 and then the
12 projects begin -- you know, the funding begins in April
13 of 2012. So now that I've messed that up, I'll turn it
14 over to Pippa. Anyway, that's sort of the background
15 and where we are. It's a whole year project -- a whole
16 year process. So we'll let Pippa provide the Southwest
17 Regional review with the information needs and then the
18 statewide ones.

19

20 MS. KENNER: One of the reasons -- this
21 is Pippa Kenner with OSM. One of the reasons why I'm
22 going to present you with the information needs for the
23 Southwest Region and specifically the Kodiak/Aleutians
24 area is because they are social science priority
25 information needs rather than biological.

26

27 MR. FRIED: Yeah, that's why -- part of
28 the reason why it's social science.

29

30 MS. KENNER: The ongoing projects for
31 the Kodiak/Aleutians concern assessment of sockeye
32 salmon smolt and adult production in both the Buskin
33 and Afognak Drainages and funded through 2013. So we're
34 not included as priority need for this cycle. So
35 they're already funded through this cycle. It will
36 come up next time.

37

38 For Kodiak/Aleutians, the 2012 request
39 for proposals would be focused on two priority
40 information needs, both of which would concern harvest
41 monitoring. This is on Page 77 of your Council book
42 under the Southwest Region Priority Information Needs.

43

44

45 The first is environmental,
46 demographic, regulatory, cultural, and socioeconomic
47 factors affecting harvest levels of salmon for
48 subsistence use in the Kodiak area. Researchers should
49 consider evaluating factors influencing use patterns
50 and describing the socioeconomic impacts of other

1 fisheries.

2

3

4 I'd like to take a minute to describe
5 to you how this came to the top of the priority
6 information needs. We put together a list and then we
7 take off of the top the things that we think are most
8 important. One of the reasons why this was at the top
9 was because there is a strategic plan for the Kodiak
10 area and in that strategic plan, other things that were
11 higher priority had already been achieved. For
12 instance, the information that was obtained through the
13 report, I had a couple of them on the back table that I
14 think that you got a copy of and this is the
15 subsistence harvest and uses of salmon and trout and
16 char in Akhiok, Larsen Bay, Old Harbor, Ouzinkie, and
17 Port Lions, Alaska, for '04 and '05. And this was an
18 investigation that helped answer the question of why
19 the harvest of salmon for subsistence that was reported
20 on the formal permit system and the harvest that was
21 being reported on house-to-house, face-to-face surveys
22 was so different and this is one of the reasons why the
23 proposals went before the Alaska Board of Fisheries and
24 now in front of the Federal Subsistence Board to change
25 some of the aspects of that permit and the rules around
26 subsistence harvest of salmon so people didn't need to
27 get another permit when they had already filled in
28 their permit with 25 fish.

28

29 And so one of the reasons why this
30 priority information floated to the top and was
31 included was it was a concern that now so much work and
32 outreach work had been done with the rural communities
33 on the Kodiak Borough that it might be a good idea to
34 go back and find out how people were seeing the permit
35 system now and to do more outreach work so that now
36 that people have gotten into the habit of reporting and
37 more consistently, to reinforce that activity and also
38 at the same time to expand the research to explore how
39 prosecution of commercial fisheries or sportfisheries
40 is affecting subsistence.

41

42 The other priority information need for
43 the Kodiak/Aleutians areas is the harvest of salmon for
44 subsistence use by residents of the Aleutian Islands
45 area, including current and traditional harvest methods
46 and means by species and current and traditional uses
47 and distribution practices. Just want to take a minute
48 to tell you that one of the reasons why this priority
49 information need has come to the top had to do with the
50 strategic planning effort and this was part of the

1 information gap that was identified, information that
2 we don't have, but may need either now or in the future
3 for regulatory purposes, but also in reviewing
4 transcripts from your past Council meetings.

5
6 There were issues around, for instance,
7 Adak particularly that they may be experiencing the
8 same reporting problems that were happening in the
9 rural Kodiak -- the off-road system Kodiak area because
10 of permit stipulations and lack of following through,
11 people having to have permits reissued after they'd
12 already filled up one and it was going -- it was
13 requiring long-distance phone calls and fax machines,
14 and then it might be time to look at this, so just to
15 give you an idea of why these two priority information
16 needs are there.

17
18 There's also a multi-regional overview
19 that involves more than one area and we have three
20 priority information needs there. The 2012 request for
21 proposals would be focused on three priority
22 information needs that concern climate change,
23 customary trade, harvest monitoring, and traditional
24 knowledge and these can be found on Page 78 of your
25 Council book and again this is for the proposals for
26 multi-regional research.

27
28 The first is changes in subsistence
29 fishery resources and uses in the context of climate
30 change where relevant, including but not limited to
31 fishing seasons, species targeted, fishing locations,
32 harvest methods and means, and methods of preservation,
33 include management implications. The second of the
34 three is an indexing method for estimating species
35 specific white fish harvest on an annual basis for the
36 Kuskokwim and Yukon Drainages. Researchers should
37 explore and evaluate an approach where subregional
38 clusters of community harvest can be evaluated for
39 regular surveying with results being extrapolated to
40 the rest of the cluster, contributing to drainage-wide
41 harvest estimates.

42
43 I'd like to add that this priority
44 information need came out of a strategic planning
45 process that is just in -- it's just now being
46 completed.

47
48 The third of the three priority
49 information needs for the multi-regional category is
50 evaluation of conversion factors used to estimate

1 edible pounds from individual fish and from unorthodox
2 units such as tubs, sacs, or buckets.

3

4 Steve, would you like to close.

5

6 MR. FRIED: Okay. Anyway we just to
7 remind the Council that the list of needs is used as an
8 aid to focus proposal topics, but all proposals
9 received will be reviewed and given full consideration
10 with those addressing identified needs and we'd like to
11 remind the Council that approval of the draft priority
12 information needs list including any recommended
13 modifications is an action item for the meeting, so I
14 encourage you to fully discuss the list, determine
15 whether it really truly reflects your priorities.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is there a copy
20 for the strategic plan somewhere for Kodiak and the
21 Aleutians?

22

23 MR. FRIED: There is on the Website. I
24 don't have one with me. I apologize for that, but --
25 if you can't find it, we can send you a copy.

26

27 MS. KENNER: I'll follow through.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Are there any
30 questions for Steve or Pippa.

31

32 MR. HOLMES: I was wondering if you
33 could send me a paper copy because I can read the
34 computer and find it on the Website, but it's -- I
35 don't know -- my brain doesn't process as nicely as
36 paper. Or I guess I could print it myself. What's the
37 Website? Just the OSM one? Okay.

38

39 Now, I have a question. I mean these
40 are going to be some really important questions and I
41 think particularly redoing the subsistence harvest
42 information and see how that tracks, you know, with the
43 changes is going to be really important and I guess the
44 question of this being a 2010 for the census and a year
45 from now -- or when the census is compiled, it comes up
46 in a year, and then we start the old ten-year review of
47 whether or not communities qualify for subsistence and
48 remembering the passion of the last one for Kodiak.
49 That was five or six years late. Will the -- any kind
50 of feeling for when the review process will come again

1 for whether or not communities qualify and will this
2 information be available then because this is what, you
3 know, will be discussed and will be so important to the
4 community to document that, yes, we still are a
5 subsistence community.

6

7 MS. KENNER: Mr. Holmes, through the
8 Chair. Yes, a very good question. These projects will
9 be starting in the spring of 2012 and they are
10 typically two-, three-, or four-year projects, and I
11 anticipate the proposals that we get in will probably
12 be for either two, three, or four years. Let's see.
13 It's -- we will be starting that review process
14 probably about -- excuse me. There will be work going
15 in to setting up to start that review process, but that
16 review process, the nonrural review process will begin
17 officially probably in about 2015.

18

19 MR. HOLMES: Hallelujah.

20

21 MS. KENNER: I mean I could be a year
22 off, but in general I think that's the schedule that
23 we're on. We wait for the census process to be
24 completed and for that data to be compiled.

25

26 MR. HOLMES: Well, that'll be good
27 because then we'll have a good new fresh data set and
28 hopefully we'll still qualify. I suspect so. Anyway,
29 that's good news. Hopefully I can find some young
30 puppies that want to take over my role on the Council
31 by that time.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
34 Is there any more questions or comments in regard to
35 the report.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: When you're
40 looking at harvest of salmon for subsistence use by
41 residences of Aleutian Islands area, are you looking at
42 the whole Aleutians area?

43

44 MS. KENNER: The process we go through
45 is we encourage people to give us a one- to two-page
46 proposal of a project that they see doing and then that
47 proposal is reviewed and if that proposal is accepted
48 as something that we possibly -- the FRMP might
49 possibly fund, an investigation plan is requested and
50 when that investigation plan is requested, we generally

1 work very closely with the investigator to pinpoint
2 exactly the kind of information we're looking for
3 combined with what they have suggested.

4
5 So generally in a situation like this,
6 no, it wouldn't be for the entire Aleutian area. It
7 would be a community, maybe two. It's very expensive
8 to do research out there. And it may also be connected
9 to a certain drainage or stock of fish that not much is
10 known about or that are a conservation concern. That
11 is probably where that proposal would be directed.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The reason I was
14 asking because you had mentioned Adak. I wasn't sure
15 if you were using it as an example or if that was the
16 intention.

17
18 MS. KENNER: Madam Chair, it was an
19 example.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. I
22 don't -- oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead.

23
24 MR. BERG: Madame Chair, Members of the
25 Council. Jerry Berg with the Fish and Wildlife
26 Service. I wanted to relay some comments on behalf of
27 Doug McBride who's the Federal in-season manager. He
28 wasn't able to be here. He's the in-season manager for
29 Bristol Bay, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula, and the
30 Aleutian areas. He wasn't able to attend the meeting,
31 so I told him I'd bring these comments along regarding
32 the fisheries monitoring plan.

33
34 And he reviewed the priority needs that
35 you guys have in your booklet on Page 77 as Pippa went
36 over the -- there's three priority needs there, two
37 that specifically address the Kodiak area and the
38 Aleutian Islands area. And Doug is concerned that the
39 draft plan for the Southwest Region does not address an
40 ongoing concern for chinook salmon for this area and he
41 suggests -- makes a recommendation to add a fourth
42 priority for this area that would basically be a
43 priority that would provide reliable estimates of
44 chinook salmon returns including assessments of
45 escapement, freshwater production, harvest, and
46 migratory patterns. So he suggests adding that as a
47 fourth priority need for that region.

48
49 And he goes through some rationale.
50 I'm sure as you are all aware, there's, you know, been

1 some declines in chinook runs in many areas of the
2 State and that includes areas in Kodiak and the Alaska
3 Peninsula and the Bristol Bay areas. And -- so he
4 thinks it's -- it would be a priority for this region,
5 would help improve assessment of chinook salmon
6 returns, particularly escapements in Federal public
7 waters and he realizes that, you know, the program
8 already funds some chinook projects in the area, but he
9 thinks that the recent declines in chinook salmon
10 returns has -- you know, continues to make it a
11 conservation issue and should be included as a priority
12 information need.

13

14 So I just wanted to pass that along to
15 the Council for your consideration tonight. Thank you.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick, do you
18 have any comments in regard to that.

19

20 MR. KOSO: Ms. Chair. I think that it
21 certainly wouldn't hurt to put it on there and add it
22 to the -- to our list here. So I would say, yeah, put
23 it on.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

26

27 MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair. I concur
28 -- with the problems we have with the chinook runs in
29 the last few years, I certainly think that that would
30 be beneficial.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

33

34 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. I think I'd
35 like to take a look at this document and see how much
36 chinook salmon is actually being used. I know chinook
37 is particularly important in the sportfishing industry
38 on Kodiak, but I need to look at some of the tables to
39 see how much has been consumed in the past years. I
40 think on a regional priority, you know, we've had a lot
41 of work done at McLees Lake and we've never had a
42 report to this Council on any of that work that I
43 recall. I might have missed a meeting for family
44 business and missed that, but, you know, having been
45 involved in monitoring that before there was a weir
46 there and trying to fly that lake and count the fish
47 and having chats with Arnie Shaw who is the area
48 biologist and who's dead now, but, you know, we have
49 some real reservations when we started getting those
50 huge escapements at McLees Lake and that's a good

1 example of climate change and of changing fish
2 abundance and yet we have yet to see and had enough
3 time now just could be starting a brood table because I
4 think folks should have been cautioned at the time of
5 when we had those big escapements that that run was
6 going to collapse and it did. It fell really bad and
7 then folks had some very severe cutbacks in their
8 harvest and I think some of that could have been
9 avoided if -- and again it's hind casting, but if there
10 had been a good data set to say, whoa, after you got
11 15,000 fish into this little tundra lake -- or this
12 little -- it's not a tundra lake, but Aleutian lake and
13 my experience here in Westward is in some of these
14 shallow lakes that, you know, you have problems with
15 things being spawning limited, but if you get warm
16 weather and sun, you get these tremendous plankton
17 blooms and tremendous productivity, probably tremendous
18 out-migration of smolt.

19
20 And, you know, then you get big
21 returns. But then you can -- when you're spawning area
22 limited, you -- the system can't compensate when you
23 get large numbers of fish back and so once you get, you
24 know, two, three years of a tremendous escapement and
25 so I think that would really help with the management
26 of the area to have the folks that are working at
27 McLees Lake sit down and work with Fish and Game or
28 whoever and take a look at the data they've got and,
29 you know, you probably don't have enough years to
30 really do a really good brood table, but I think
31 developing a forecast, taking -- doing something with
32 the data that's been gathered. I think that's really,
33 really important for the Aleutians and McLees Lake
34 because that's -- you know, there's some very small
35 minor sockeye systems in Alaska, but that's the one
36 that feeds a town. And when that run collapsed --
37 George used to live out there and when they -- I mean
38 they just didn't have any rents left and so when you
39 have that thing that's stimulated by some really warm
40 summers, nice warm weather, tremendous production, then
41 you get this huge surplus and then, you know, half a
42 life cycle later, people are eating nothing but pinks.
43 That's all the fish they had and silvers and so when
44 there's more emphasis on the silvers in Alaska, there's
45 really just only a couple real productive streams,
46 right, George -- for silvers and so then the effort
47 gets really intense on that.

48
49 So there's all this interconnection of
50 socioeconomics that go along with climate change and so

1 that's a place where got a good data set and in my
2 mind, that's something that should be worked on to try
3 to clarify things and probably might have a lot more
4 impact as far as a subsistence food source and all the
5 social-cultural interactions more than chinook salmon
6 at Kodiak.

7
8 And I'm arguing against my own home
9 island, but -- and then I -- you know -- anyway, I
10 couldn't help but probably tease Doug because he used
11 to be the sportfish head for the region and that was
12 the thing that he used to get chewed on a lot was
13 chinook and it is a matter of concern, but anyway, I
14 would ask you cogitate and consider about McLees Lake
15 sockeye because that's probably going to be one of the
16 really good examples of change of environment and
17 effect on subsistence.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

20
21 MR. FRIED: On 20 -- excuse me -- the
22 2010 call on McLees Lake, sockeye came in as an off and
23 kind of out-of-cycle request came in late. It was
24 supposed to end in 2010 and it's run by the Fish and
25 Wildlife Service out of the Anchorage Fish and Wildlife
26 Field Office by people Doug supervises and it was -- it
27 came in late. It didn't come in as a -- I think it was
28 discussed at this point in time for 2010 and nobody
29 ever -- I think I brought it up as a possible priority
30 need and at that point, the run was looking fairly good
31 and it didn't get very far.

32
33 But after we got into the process of
34 2010 and the run was down, things -- people started
35 getting more concerned and so it came in as an out-of-
36 cycle request because it was already kind of late in
37 the cycle and it did get funded, so that's going on at
38 McLees as far as the weir goes.

39
40 So that's why that one's not on 2012
41 because we are funding that I think it's for another
42 four years. And I know the Fish and Wildlife Service
43 was hoping to either get a local organization or maybe
44 even the State to maybe put in a proposal to keep
45 running it. But an interesting part of that, it
46 actually cost a little bit more because since they were
47 thinking of terminating that in 2010, they hadn't
48 really been maintaining the weir very well, and so they
49 actually had to buy new weir materials to fix the weir
50 up.

1 But I mean the weir's in good shape now
2 and it's still operating, so -- just a little history
3 on that one. But you're right. I mean I think when we
4 did the strategic plan, chinook didn't come up as very
5 important here, but, you know, Doug's area of
6 responsibility isn't Kodiak. It's the Peninsula, you
7 know, Aleutians, Chignik, Bristol Bay, and they do have
8 a project going for chinook on -- in Togiak on the
9 Togiak River because there is no escapement project
10 there. And so they've been working on developing a
11 mark or capture estimate for chinook there, so -- but
12 he is interested in chinook.

13

14 MR. HOLMES: Well, I wanted to really
15 salute you guys for funding McLees again and I think
16 the timing was really good because that is so important
17 to folks out in Unalaska.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
20 Mitch, do you have any comments in regard to what's
21 been presented so far.

22

23 MR. SIMEONOFF: Just one on that second
24 down on the -- the (indiscernible). Did you get that?

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Well, you're
27 kind of cutting in and out. Maybe you can -- either
28 talk in -- in regard to the second one in the Southwest
29 Region priority information needs. Did you.....

30

31 MR. SIMEONOFF: Yes.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:what was --
34 what is the issue of concern in regard to that?

35

36 MR. SIMEONOFF: Well, is -- that the
37 last sentence says the socioeconomic impacts of other
38 fisheries. My question -- does that include the
39 draggers? Am I losing you?

40

41 MS. KENNER: No. Thank you. Mitch,
42 when you say the draggers, could you be more specific,
43 please. This is Pippa with OSM.

44

45 MR. SIMEONOFF: Well, we recently heard
46 that draggers have -- as their bycatch, they dump like
47 40,000 juvenile halibut over the side and a year or two
48 ago, they dumped some somewhere around the numbers of
49 king salmon over the side. Is there -- does this plan
50 include, you know, getting specific numbers from the

1 draggers of how much bycatch king salmon, chinook
2 they're throwing over the side? Or chinook salmon or
3 -- have crashed and, you know, we want to study the
4 chinook -- we study -- it says here socioeconomic
5 impacts of all the fisheries. My question is does that
6 include the draggers.

7

8 MS. KENNER: Through the Chair. Mr.
9 Simeonoff, it does include the draggers but only in the
10 sense of how it impacts subsistence users, for
11 instance, on Kodiak . What I mean is that mention of
12 the draggers or research into the effect of those
13 fisheries on the subsistence fisheries on Kodiak
14 wouldn't be excluded from the research, but it would
15 not be the focus of the research. So it wouldn't
16 include, for instance, genetic studies.....

17

18 MR. SIMEONOFF: Understood.

19

20 MS. KENNER:or where those fish
21 are coming from, that sort of thing.

22

23 MR. SIMEONOFF: Yeah. Yeah, that's
24 understood. Yeah. I'm just really curious if they
25 were going to be included in the study since nobody
26 seems to want to confront the draggers and say you're
27 killing too much bycatch over the side and, you know,
28 nobody has come up with a good solution of how to save
29 that -- the bycatch I'm talking about.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Steve and Pippa,
32 you've got on the Southwest Region, the priorities, we
33 have four of them. Do we accept all four of them as
34 potential or do we have to narrow this list down?
35 Well, the one in the Lake Clark is -- Bristol Bay, but
36 if you look -- we look at the Kodiak and then -- are we
37 just adding the chinook as a fourth?

38

39 MR. FRIED: Yes. If you wanted to add
40 some, that's fine. If you didn't think some were -- if
41 you thought some of the ones that were there were
42 inappropriate, I mean you could also recommend to take
43 them off, so we're not limited to a certain number.

44

45 MR. SCHWANTES: I guess I have a
46 question how the white fish -- well, I guess we're
47 including Bristol Bay in this, aren't we?

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah.

50 Because.....

1 MR. SCHWANTES: So that would -- okay.
2
3
4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Southwest.
5
6 MR. SCHWANTES: Southwest. Okay.
7
8 MR. FRIED: And they're not listed in
9 any priority order. I mean, you know, just because of
10 the bullets is first and another one -- it doesn't mean
11 it's the first priority. It's just they're.....
12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We need a motion
14 to approve the four requests for proposals and then I
15 guess we should do a separate on the multi-priority
16 information needs.
17
18 MR. FRIED: I suppose you could handle
19 it either way. I mean, you know, we -- yeah. We
20 provided the multi-regional ones because some of them
21 might be appropriate for this area and one of them
22 obviously isn't because it's Yukon/Kusko, but.....
23
24 MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair. I would
25 make a motion then that we accept these and -- all four
26 under the Southwest region priority information needs
27 and as well as the multi-regional priority information
28 needs and request proposals on those.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Do I hear a
31 second.
32
33 MR. KOSO: Madam Chair, I second it.
34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Second by
36 Richard Koso. Discussion.
37
38 MR. SIMEONOFF: Madam Chair, can you
39 read the motion again, please.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Tom made
42 a motion to approve the four proposals for the
43 Southwest Regional priority information needs list and
44 to also include the multi-regional priority information
45 needs on Page No. 78.
46
47 MR. SIMEONOFF: Okay, thank you.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: You're welcome.
50 Discussion. Pat.

1 MR. HOLMES: I think that we need to
2 add the suggestion from Jerry Berg and Doug on chinook
3 onto the multi-regional information because obviously
4 multi-regional, that's a difficult thing. You got
5 Chignik kings as well as problems up in Bristol Bay.
6 So I think we should that in there.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That's part of
9 the Southwest. So Bristol -- or Chigniks are part of
10 the Bristol Bay.

11
12 MR. HOLMES: Oh, okay. Beg your
13 pardon. I think multi-regional. I mean it's multi-
14 regional and it's beyond our RAC, but it's still valid.

15
16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: It comes out --
18 it comes under the Southwest Region priority.

19
20 MR. HOLMES: Okay. But anyway, need
21 the chinook in there some place.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, that's
24 right here -- included. It'll be the fourth one
25 numbered under the Southwest.

26
27 MR. HOLMES: Oh, okay. Okay. Well,
28 that's -- because I thought we were just dealing with
29 the printed list. So we have chinook added and I was
30 wondering also about my comments on McLees Lake whether
31 that would merit something in the priorities or if that
32 could be done to the existing research project that's
33 already ongoing.

34
35 MR. FRIED: I think it's ongoing and it
36 should be covered already. I don't think we need to
37 worry about that until the next cycle.

38
39 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Well, if you could
40 maybe mention to the folks it'll be drawing that
41 funding through your folks, that it would be nice if
42 they could develop some brood tables if possible and
43 see if they could develop a forecast for people in
44 Unalaska with the information they got, I think that
45 would be -- it wouldn't take a lot of extra effort if
46 they've got enough data at this point.

47
48 MR. FRIED: Yeah, I could certainly do
49 that. And they do come out with, you know, annual
50 reports and final reports and I don't know if we've

1 been -- we've been working on our Website, so I'm not
2 sure what reports are actually posted on the Website.
3 So we might be a little bit behind on that, but
4 eventually they'll be up there too and we could always
5 send you copies of reports if you'd like or the latest
6 one.

7

8 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, that'd be nice if
9 some time we could get, you know, an actual
10 presentation at one of our meetings about McLees Lake
11 because that's been an area that we've endorsed funding
12 for a long time and I know Rick's got connections and
13 folks in Unalaska and Della probably has some relatives
14 and I know lots of folks there too and it would be good
15 for us to kind of be in the loop.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is there any
18 other discussion at this time.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none,
23 call for question.

24

25 MR. KOSO: Question.

26

27 MR. SIMEONOFF: Question.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Question's been
30 called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

31

32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed same
35 sign.

36

37 (No opposing votes)

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.
40 Thank you. And I think we've covered the draft annual
41 report at this time or do we need to do anything else
42 with that.

43

44 MS. WILKINSON: Thank you. I have the
45 general drift of what you want in that and I can go
46 back to the transcripts and pick up more information
47 from it and I'll draft it up and have it ready for you
48 at the winter meeting. I can send it out before that
49 if you would like to look at it before the winter
50 meeting. Okay.

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I guess on
2 behalf of Mitch, I would -- and the Council, I would
3 agree. That way if people want to add to it, they can
4 -- we can get that at our agenda next -- at the
5 meeting, so -- but that letter is ready to go.

6
7 MS. WILKINSON: Okay. Dates and
8 location of winter 2011 and fall 2011 meetings. That's
9 Page No. 84 I believe is the calendar. Calendar looks
10 full.

11
12 MR. HOLMES: Well, I think for February
13 and March, the winter one, kind of tentatively looks
14 like we're down there for the end of March and that's
15 probably about the only place you could squeeze us in
16 unless we did it up in February.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm just kind of
19 thinking out loud here. The EA for the Unimak is
20 supposed to be complete, am I correct, in January?

21
22 MR. HOLMES: Oh, yeah. Let's go for
23 it.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah. I'd
26 recommend we might try to have this meeting in February
27 if at all possible.

28
29 MS. WILKINSON: I just would say that
30 these dates are the ones that Council selected at our
31 previous meeting, so if you have some new information
32 in mind that makes you want to move it up, you should
33 be aware that we can't do any more than two in a week.
34 So that would be the week of February the 21st or the
35 week of February 14th.

36
37 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chairman, I think
38 considering the importance of this issue and how far
39 behind we are on assessment and taking action at
40 Unimak, I would suggest that we consider the -- well, I
41 guess it opens February 15th, so let's go for the 15th.
42 And maybe that time of year maybe we bounce back to
43 Kodiak.

44
45 MR. SCHWANTES: I guess my only concern
46 would be is -- I got to wonder out loud whether that
47 EIS is going to be done when they say it's going to be
48 done. So they're saying January. I'm wondering if it
49 really.....

50

1 MR. HOLMES: Well.....
2
3 MR. SCHWANTES: And so we might be
4 better off giving them a little more time. If we meet
5 in early February, it may not be ready for us.
6
7 MR. HOLMES: Well, I think we should
8 put the pressure on them. Let's meet then and then if
9 they don't do it, then we'll have to change the date
10 because they weren't ready.
11
12 MR. SCHWANTES: Well, we could do that.
13
14
15 MR. HOLMES: I don't think we should
16 give them any slack. They're behind the eight ball. I
17 think if you were to ask anybody at False Pass whether
18 they want to wait longer for a solution, I think we
19 ought to just go for it.
20
21 MR. SCHWANTES: I guess can we change
22 dates if.....
23
24 MR. HOLMES: If they're not ready?
25
26 MS. WILKINSON: Thank you. Yes, you
27 can. It can get tricky though. Yeah. Like I said
28 with the two a week thing, it can get tricky, but it's
29 possible.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick or Pat --
32 Rick, do you have a comment.
33
34 MR. KOSO: Well, I'm off. This is my
35 last meeting. They've shit-canned me after today
36 unless they -- we go through the whole process again,
37 but I never did understand why I kept getting -- when
38 they told me three-year term that I always end up with
39 a one year for the last three years. So I'm not sure
40 what the scoop is on their deal, but as of now, this is
41 my last meeting until I could get reappointed or put
42 back on the Board. So me making the motion, I guess it
43 really doesn't matter to me because -- not unless I get
44 reappointed, really doesn't make a difference. I
45 should be -- but I can attend. You know, February
46 15th's fine for me.
47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.
49
50 MR. SCHWANTES: I'd say let's go with

1 February 15th and if the report's not ready, then we
2 can look at changing the meeting.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah. They've
5 got us already down here on March 22nd as it is. We're
6 at the tail end of this whole process for the winter
7 meetings as is. So I don't -- if we need to change
8 this, we just go back to the end of the line where they
9 have us anyway, so -- go with February 15th and we'll
10 put the pressure on and if we have to keep with the
11 March -- end of March, then we will do so as we get
12 closer in January and see where everybody's at.

13

14 MS. WILKINSON: Okay. Here's the
15 tricky part. We still have several more Councils that
16 are going to be reviewing their schedules as well. So
17 if I tell them that you picked February 15th, they
18 might say, oh, wow, hey, that last week of March is
19 open -- has an opening. And it's hard to put in two
20 and reserve two spaces because we have so little time
21 to get everybody fitted in. That's why I say it can
22 get tricky. It can be done, but if you want to change
23 it, you'll have to wait and see what everybody else has
24 selected too.

25

26 (Off record comments on dates)

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: You got to look
29 at the calendar. February 14th is Valentine's Day for
30 those of you who are married. February 21st is a
31 holiday. So I would look at possibly a travel day as
32 the 15th and our meetings be the 16th and 17th.

33

34 MR. HOLMES: Sounds good to me.

35

36 MR. SCHWANTES: So 16th and 17th in
37 Kodiak?

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes. 16th and
40 17th in Kodiak. And we also need to set the -- is that
41 agreeable with you, Mitch?

42

43 MR. SIMEONOFF: It is.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
46 you.

47

48 MR. SIMEONOFF: The only thing --
49 problem I might have is airline flights are -- flights
50 are generally Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Tuesdays

1 there's two or more people flying, they'll come out.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Well, the deal
4 is you have to take your wife to Kodiak on February
5 14th, so that's a Monday.

6

7 MR. SIMEONOFF: There you go,
8 Valentine's Day, right?

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Valentine's Day,
11 yes.

12

13 MR. HOLMES: I think with Mitch's
14 importance as Chairman and the difficulties of travel
15 in Kodiak that I would certainly hope that OSM could
16 find one extra day's per diem for him to be able to do
17 so.

18

19 MS. WILKINSON: Well, and -- don't know
20 what the full agenda is going to be at either. So it
21 may not be a full two-day meeting. We could start it
22 later the first day or something, you know. There are
23 options.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We will have two
26 full days. I think we're going to have some caribou
27 and bear things going on. Okay. Fall meeting. I'd
28 like to try to make the fall back in the Aleutian
29 region, either.....

30

31 MR. SIMEONOFF: Yep.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Preferably in
34 King Cove if I can get everything in order. Got a
35 whole year. And if not, again in Cold Bay.

36

37 MR. HOLMES: Madam Chair, I -- you
38 could have a good feeling for weather. I know we can
39 -- Cold Bay is a little easier to get into, but I'm
40 wondering if we should meet either early in September
41 or maybe into more October because this is -- you know,
42 first time I've ever been to Cold Bay on an equinox and
43 being able to just pop right in and hopefully leave if
44 there's space on the plane. I'm just wondering
45 weather-wise -- well, heaven knows any more. I
46 shouldn't even conjecture. Just go with the flow and
47 bring my can if kippers.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, I'll remind
2 you were in Aleutians -- but I guess Mitch or Tom, do
3 you have any suggestions.

4
5 MR. SIMEONOFF: I would say keep it in
6 September. It's -- October is a pretty busy month for
7 me as far as serving on other boards and commissions.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Tom.

10
11 MR. SCHWANTES: Well, you got a holiday
12 on the 5th of September, so why don't we look at the
13 8th and 9th, travel on the 7th or we could even travel
14 on the 6th and have the meeting on the 7th and 8th.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: One of the
17 things that I'm hopeful there are some seats open that
18 we'll be able to get some people from Aleutians onto
19 these seats and Rick's able to keep his seat. The one
20 concern I -- I guess at this point regardless of what
21 happens in September, people are going to be fishing
22 anyway. So it doesn't matter. That's fine with me.

23
24 MR. SIMEONOFF: Are you saying later in
25 September then?

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: No. I think Tom
28 suggested the 7th and 8th or even the -- yeah and I
29 think that works good for me.

30
31 MR. SIMEONOFF: Okay. Works for me.

32
33 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. That'll be fine.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Do we need a --
36 we don't need a motion or just it's Council consensus.

37
38 MS. WILKINSON: Council consensus.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. That's
41 good. All right. That takes care of that. Ann.

42
43 MS. WILKINSON: One thing I just want
44 to bring up is that we do have a policy -- because of
45 our budget, the limited budget, we do have a policy
46 about where Council meetings are held and that there
47 are hub communities that they are to be held in. And
48 that means the places that are least expensive that
49 generally we'll get the most bang for our buck so to
50 speak. And for this region, that is Kodiak. So what

1 the process is and if you want to hold the meeting in
2 someplace other than Kodiak, then the coordinator needs
3 to do a cost evaluation between the two communities,
4 getting Council to and from the two communities, and to
5 provide a justification for having it in that other
6 community and then that information is given to the
7 Regional Director -- I mean -- for our office, Pete
8 Probasco, and he makes the decision on whether it's
9 going to be in that community or in the hub community.
10 And that is the policy that was set up by the Office
11 and the Board, so that's what we go by.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Ann, I had a
14 long discussion with Pete Probasco about this and Gary
15 Edwards.

16

17 MS. WILKINSON: Uh-huh.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And it's my
20 understanding that I know we're -- Kodiak/Aleutians is
21 -- it's basically we're put together as a region.

22

23 MS. WILKINSON: Uh-huh.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: However, there
26 is -- we do understand we're two separate regions and
27 that our hub communities are technically two separate
28 places. It's Kodiak and then we'll have -- and most
29 likely it's going to end up being Cold Bay for
30 Aleutians. But I really -- I -- and I would -- I
31 actually would like something in writing in regard to
32 this because I don't want to us to have to go through
33 this each time.....

34

35 MS. WILKINSON: Uh-huh.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:and to have
38 to go through what I did to get this meeting where it's
39 at today, it was frustrating and very disheartening.
40 I'm telling you, it was almost a driving thing for me
41 to say, you know what, I don't want me to be dealing
42 with this stuff.

43

44 MS. WILKINSON: Uh-huh.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And it's -- but
47 the other part of it was there's too many issues for
48 the Aleutian region without very limited representation
49 that having to stick to this at least for now is what
50 I'm doing.

1 MS. WILKINSON: Uh-huh.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: But I would like
4 it and absolutely would appreciate it if I can get it
5 in writing. If the only place we're going to have
6 meetings is Kodiak, then the Aleutians really are not
7 represented.

8

9 MS. WILKINSON: Uh-huh. Okay. We do
10 have it in writing and I can give you a copy. I don't
11 have it with it and I will talk to Pete because he did
12 not talk to me about extending that for this region and
13 if -- I will talk to him and ask him about that and if
14 he's going to amend the policy, then he needs to tell
15 me.

16

17 And, you know, and it's fine with me
18 personally. You know, it's fine with me. But I can't
19 hold one region to something and not another. So --
20 okay.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Tom had
23 his hand first and then Pat. Thank you.

24

25 MR. SCHWANTES: Della, I got to agree
26 with you. You know, a lot of these issues we've been
27 dealing with are Aleutian specific and they're
28 extremely important issues.....

29

30 MS. WILKINSON: Uh-huh.

31

32 MR. SCHWANTES:for the people out
33 here and for us to have these meetings in Kodiak to me
34 it is just a slap in the face to the people on the
35 Peninsula. And then I think we need to have more of
36 these meetings, especially when we're dealing with
37 these major issues that affect these people out here.
38 Then I think we have to bring these meetings out here.
39 If we're just dealing with issues that are not real
40 important or that are primarily Kodiak issues, yes, we
41 can do them in Kodiak. But when we're dealing with
42 issues that affect the people out here as much as these
43 do, then we need to bring -- we need to be out here so
44 these people can have -- and I understand there's
45 funding issues, but I think we need to do what we can
46 to make sure these people are represented and.....

47

48 MS. WILKINSON: And if I may, there's
49 just one thing. With that policy and getting the move
50 to another location, it's very rare that Pete has ever

1 said no. You know, because generally you do -- you
2 know, provide a good justification. The other thing is
3 about the Council membership and lacking
4 representatives from the Aleutian Islands, we can only
5 -- the Board can only recommend and the Secretary can
6 only appoint people who apply and we just don't have
7 applicants. And so I really would urge you to -- you
8 know, if you know someone who would be good, ask them
9 to apply.

10

11 And the charter for this Council, you
12 know, includes a certain number that should be from the
13 Aleutians and we always discuss that, but if there's
14 not enough people applying, we can't fill that, you
15 know, so it's just a consideration.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Well, I'd like
18 to see it in writing because if Kodiak is now our hub,
19 then we're going to have a hard time filling those
20 positions period. And I don't mean any disregard for
21 everybody in Kodiak. I know these guys very well and I
22 very much appreciate all they have done for us and I
23 have some -- you know, a lot of background with people
24 around Kodiak and the surrounding area.

25

26 But I think it puts the Aleutians in a
27 very -- you know, not a good position and this is a
28 discussion I think that I think I'll talk to Stanley
29 Mack as the Borough Mayor -- Aleutians East Borough
30 Mayor and actually Aleutian Pribilof Island Association
31 and we need to get something in writing from OSM in
32 regard to this because this is not the discussion that
33 I had with Pete.....

34

35 MS. WILKINSON: Uh-huh.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:a month ago
38 and it's not something that I ever understood when I --
39 as I participated before and was the Chair.

40

41 MS. WILKINSON: Right.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And it's quite
44 -- even disheartening to even be having this discussion
45 to be honest with you.

46

47 Pat, you did have your hand raised.

48

49 MR. HOLMES: Yes, ma'am. And this is a
50 comment that is no reflection on you that I have made

1 at almost every meeting when it comes to discussing
2 meetings in a remote area.

3

4 MS. WILKINSON: Uh-huh.

5

6 MR. HOLMES: And many times, it has
7 never made it to the minutes and I would like these
8 comments to be in the minutes. First in the positive
9 way, the comments on having representation from the
10 Aleutians should be Aleutians and Alaska Peninsula
11 because that includes Shumagin Islands. I think we've
12 been -- I would like to get my point first, then I'll
13 swing back.

14

15 My point is, is that if we have a fall
16 meeting in Cold Bay and all you people that came, I
17 really appreciate you coming. It's great to have you
18 here. But we had our last meeting on the Peninsula,
19 was at Sand Point and Steve Fried came, Michelle
20 Chivers and our recorder. Here we have a nice fall
21 meeting and it's no offense. It is great to take
22 advantage to come someplace and do a little fishing,
23 but how many people did we have from OSM at this
24 meeting and what did it cost compared to going to Sand
25 Point and my words are to Pete, old friend, is that if
26 we want to meet in a remote place, why can't we get the
27 members of the Council to that place so they can meet,
28 talk with folks. It's great because we've got Rick.
29 He's from King Cove. He's lived in Sand Point. He's
30 lived in the Aleutians.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Lived in Cold
33 Bay.

34

35 MR. HOLMES: Cold Bay. We've all
36 worked -- all of us have worked in multiple areas, but
37 if we were from another part of the state, we wouldn't
38 have that experience and we need to be able to go to
39 remote places and the Staff that isn't essential -- you
40 can have one person from OSM come, one person, and
41 everybody else can teleconference. And that saves --
42 look at the proportion. We have one, two, three, four
43 people from the Council, and what do we have, 10, 12
44 people from the Federal Government come to this
45 meeting.

46

47 MS. WILKINSON: If they had all
48 those.....

49

50 MR. HOLMES: Bunches. And it should be

1 Mitch that made it here. He should have been able to
2 go to Anchorage two days earlier, you know. So I'm not
3 criticizing you. It's just your process and there is a
4 way to facilitate meeting here in the fall.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think Ann just
7 -- I think we need to just kind of close this
8 discussion because as our coordinator, I think this
9 isn't a discussion we should be.....

10
11 MS. WILKINSON: Right.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I mean this is
14 at a different level and we need to make it clear that,
15 you know, we want something in writing exactly what our
16 directive is and that this discussion shouldn't even be
17 brought to us by you. It should have been brought to
18 someone else -- you know, Pete or somebody else at a
19 different level if that's the case because we would
20 like to know what our restrictions are if indeed that
21 is the case.

22
23 Tom.

24
25 MR. SCHWANTES: Ann, I hope you know we
26 appreciate what you've done for us here and getting
27 these things going. And again my comments are not
28 directed towards you, but I do believe that as a
29 Council -- especially when we're dealing with issues
30 that are so important to the people out here, we need
31 to be meeting out here.

32
33 MS. WILKINSON: Uh-huh.

34
35 MR. SCHWANTES: And, you know, if we
36 can, we can. If we can't, well, then we can't, but I
37 think if we can, we should be out here.

38
39 MS. WILKINSON: Madame Chair, I would
40 say that I do need to talk to Pete about this. I'm not
41 just the coordinator. I'm the Division Chief and I
42 oversee the Council system. So I will talk to Pete
43 about it and get it straight. I do have a copy of the
44 policy as it is current, but if he wants to change
45 that, it's certainly fine with me. Absolutely fine
46 with me. But I need to talk to him and please let me
47 talk to him about it and get that straightened out
48 before you talk to other people in the communities.

49
50 If it doesn't -- if -- you know, if he

1 wants to change it, he can change it. That's his
2 purview.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: This is actually
5 a really good item for our charter because -- and I'm
6 just going to leave it at that, otherwise I might say
7 something I shouldn't.

8

9 MS. WILKINSON: Okay.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

12

13 MR. KRON: Madame Chair and again just
14 in support of Ann and again it was -- the policy was
15 put in place after the program -- the Federal
16 Subsistence Program took a million dollar cut and they
17 were trying to figure out how to try to skinny things
18 down but allow things to proceed. And it was a
19 statewide, ten Council approach to things.

20

21 So I'm sure when -- you know, Ann wants
22 to pursue it, but when you do end up talking to Pete,
23 that was the reason for the development of that
24 original policy to try to skinny things down and we --
25 some reasons we had lots of concerns from Council
26 members about having to travel too many days
27 particularly during the winter when they've got
28 freezing pipes to deal with and that kind of thing. So
29 it's a -- it was a balancing act and that was what
30 precipitated the policy that Ann's been discussing.
31 Again you'll hear that when you talk to Pete.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.

36

37 MR. HOLMES: Just very brief. I think
38 we do have justification. I mean the Unimak caribou
39 can't be any more of a subsistence crisis than exists
40 anywhere in the State.

41

42 MS. WILKINSON: Right.

43

44 MR. HOLMES: So we've got that criteria
45 to enter into the argument and then my other
46 suggestions. I had some thoughts on the charter and
47 Della mentioned, you know, the meeting structure is an
48 item for discussion and how do we get to places and how
49 do we facilitate it, but Rick has brought up a good
50 comment and that's on membership appointment. And, you

1 know, we do have a great representative, but so often
2 what happens in this process is a person you don't find
3 out that you're reappointed until you've only got a
4 year left and I'm sure that's happened because of
5 changes of presidents and secretaries and stuff. But
6 it happens to all of us.

7
8 And, you know, you look down on the
9 thing and you think, oh, gee, I'm done. And you think
10 you just finished your appointment process and
11 applications and we certainly will help you on trying
12 to hustle up some more folks from the Peninsula. I
13 suggested to Stanley that maybe he get one of his
14 borough staff that normally goes to different villages
15 out here so that they would be in touch with people and
16 just appoint them and say, hey, it's your job. You go.
17 You apply and we'll all endorse him because we need
18 some more people like Rick and like Della from Sand
19 Point and the Shumagins and -- because it won't be too
20 long before old geezers like Tom and I fade away and
21 you're going to need to be -- you're not going to have
22 somebody that can talk about different places that have
23 been to the whole region.

24
25 So anyway thank you so much for all
26 your help, Ann, and.....

27
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick, go ahead.

29
30
31 MR. KOSO: And I just -- I guess I was
32 a little frustrated because I've -- every year I
33 applied. I had to apply every year for three years in
34 a row and each time I applied they told me I was
35 appointed for a three-year term. Well, after I come to
36 looking at the deal, it's all of a sudden a one-year
37 term. So that happened again this year. Very
38 frustrating.

39
40 So there was three times is when they
41 told me I had a three-year term and three times I ended
42 up with a one-year term. And I go through the same old
43 process every year filling out all the paperwork and
44 it's very frustrating.

45
46 MS. WILKINSON: Uh-huh.

47
48 MR. KOSO: I mean I get the phone calls
49 and have the interviews over the telephone and, you
50 know, it's just a pain in the neck. So it frustrates

1 me almost enough to not even want to run anymore.

2

3 And I don't know how you set these up
4 because I'm the only one with one year. The rest are
5 anywhere from three to nine years. I don't know where
6 the system comes in play on how to determine the time
7 on each deal. Is there -- you got an answer or is -- I
8 got to go to someone else for that?

9

10 MS. WILKINSON: No. No. I can explain
11 it now or I could explain it to you afterwards if you'd
12 like, but.....

13

14 MR. KOSO: Well, people want to go
15 home. Let's.....

16

17 MS. WILKINSON: Right. Okay.

18

19 MR. KOSO: I don't think it's anybody
20 else's business.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right. I
23 think we pretty well beat this thing to death and we
24 know what we need to do.

25

26 The other items we had was the winter
27 agenda and we talked about adding the Unimak caribou on
28 Unit 10 and also from Unit 9D, like to add that and I'm
29 assuming we will have our counts and information by
30 then to be able to look at whether there's a
31 possibility of having a subsistence hunt on 9D next
32 fall.

33

34 The other issue I think was -- that
35 came up was the -- oh, what do I have here -- the --
36 yeah. The Migratory Bird Comanagement Council getting
37 a letter to them to hopefully have a representative at
38 the winter meeting and if I recall, this seemed like
39 this came up at the last winter meeting, this very
40 issue. And we can have -- hopefully get a letter to
41 them and also an invitation to attend the winter
42 meeting.

43

44 MS. WILKINSON: Uh-huh.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And Pat had the
47 issue of whether we come up with a resolution in regard
48 to the censure or -- maybe you want to add -- discuss
49 what you had in mind there.

50

1 MR. HOLMES: Can I ask a question about
2 our winter meeting. I was wondering on our winter
3 meeting, usually we get a report from Fish and Game on
4 the Kodiak area game status and so that would be good
5 to have worked into that. And then I was thinking on
6 our resolution, I've got some rough verbiage if people
7 wanted to talk about it. Go ahead?

8
9 And I haven't -- we've had all sorts of
10 people that we wanted to talk to, so I don't know what
11 would be the best area, would it be the Regional
12 Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service or the
13 Secretary or Director of OSM, but I think maybe a
14 resolution of censure isn't the right wordage, but the
15 Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory Council is extremely
16 disappointed about the lack of monitoring of the Unimak
17 caribou population. We have been promised that
18 alternatives for monitoring would be developed for
19 surveys and that there would be a survey each year and
20 this has not happened.

21 And funding and policy needs to be
22 assured so that these surveys can present data to this
23 Council so that we can help develop management policies
24 for this herd. We've seen the herd diminish severely
25 and we feel that it is in the point of crisis.

26
27 Does that summarize our -- and if you
28 could get that off the tape. I don't think I could do
29 it twice.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Is there
32 any other items you want to look at adding for the
33 winter meeting.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think that
38 just about takes care of it at this point in time.
39 Hearing no other.....

40
41 (Conference call interruption)

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Well, I guess
44 it's time to adjourn. We're being terminated.

45
46 (Laughter)

47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think given
49 that I think I'd like to thank everybody for being here
50 and thank you, Mitch, for the opportunity. I think

1 being in this position and -- and given that we had the
2 Unimak caribou was beneficial and I think we had a
3 great turnout in Cold Bay. I'm sorry you weren't here.
4 We did have quite a number of people and we did have
5 the participation from False Pass.

6

7 And with that it really was a good
8 meeting. So I thank everybody and you guys are -- made
9 me work really hard today, but we did good, so thank
10 you very much.

11

12 MR. KOSO: I made a motion to adjourn.

13

14 MR. SIMEONOFF: Well, thank you, Della.
15 I really appreciate that and, Ann, I'll be in and out
16 of Anchorage this next week. I'll give you a call.....

17

18 MS. WILKINSON: All right.

19

20 MR. SIMEONOFF: Sounds like we got a
21 letter to draft up.

22

23 MR. HOLMES: And I'll probably see you
24 there trying to get home, Mitch.

25

26 MR. SCHWANTES: Second.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We had a
29 motion made by Rick and a second by Tom to adjourn and
30 the time is 9:12 p.m. All in favor signify by saying
31 aye.

32

33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

36

37 (Off record)

38

39 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 208 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the KODIAK/ALEUTIANS FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically by our firm on the 23rd day of September 2010, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. at Cold Bay, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 8th day of October 2010.

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