

1 KODIAK/ALEUTIANS FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 Sand Point, Alaska
7 September 25, 2012
8

9
10 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
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- 12
13 Speridon Simeonoff, Chairman
14 Patrick Holmes
15 Richard Koso
16 Sam Rohrer
17 Richard Rowland
18 Antone Shelikoff
19 Della Trumble
20 Vince Tutiakoff
21
22 Regional Council Coordinator - Thomas Jennings
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Sand Point, Alaska - 9/25/2012)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Let's go ahead and call the meeting to order of the Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory Council. My time says it's 9:04. May we have a roll call, please.

MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Folks on line, if you could please mute your phones for a little while it would be helpful, thanks.

Roll call.

Antone Shelikoff.

MR. SHELIKOFF: Yeah.

MR. JENNINGS: Patrick Holmes.

MR. HOLMES: Here.

MR. JENNINGS: Rick Koso.

MR. KOSO: Here.

MR. JENNINGS: Sam Rohrer.

MR. ROHRER: Here.

MR. JENNINGS: Thomas Schwantes.

MR. SCHWANTES: Here.

MR. JENNINGS: Peter Squartsoff. Mitch, I believe he was excused.

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes. He had jury duty when I talked to him.

MR. JENNINGS: Thank you. Vince Tutiakoff.

MR. TUTIAKOFF: Here.

MR. JENNINGS: Della Trumble.

1 MS. TRUMBLE: Here.
2
3 MR. JENNINGS: Speridon Simeonoff.
4
5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Here.
6
7 MR. JENNINGS: And Thomas Johnson is not
8 active on the Council. Thank you. You do have a quorum.
9 Very good attendance.
10
11 Thank you.
12
13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Tom. I'd
14 like to welcome everyone to our Kodiak/Aleutians meeting
15 here at Sand Point. We'll start with a round of
16 introductions. I guess I'll start. I'm Speridon
17 Simeonoff from the Native Village of Akhiok on Kodiak
18 Island.
19
20 MR. KOSO: Rick Koso from Adak. Thank
21 you.
22
23 MR. SHELIKOFF: Antone Shelikoff from
24 Akutan.
25
26 MR. SCHWANTES: Tom Schwantes, Kodiak.
27
28 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Vince Tutiakoff,
29 Unalaska.
30
31 MR. HOLMES: Pat Holmes, Kodiak.
32
33 MR. ROHRER: Sam Rohrer, Kodiak.
34
35 MS. TRUMBLE: Della Trumble from King
36 Cove.
37
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: People of the
39 audience. Do we have anybody else online?
40
41 MR. JENNINGS: We do have folks online.
42 I'll introduce myself. Tom Jennings from the Office of
43 Subsistence Management in Anchorage. The folks that I
44 have online: Steve Thompson from Fish and Game in
45 Kodiak. You heard Pat Holmes, Sam Rohrer and Della
46 Trumble from your Council. Bill Pyle from the Kodiak
47 National Wildlife Refuge. Susie Jenkins-Brito from
48 Dillingham. Pippa Kenner from OSM in Anchorage. Jerry
49 Berg from Fish and Wildlife Service in Anchorage.
50

1 That's all that I've got right now
2 online.
3
4 Thank you.
5
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Tom.
7
8 MS. MELENDEZ: Excuse me. If I may.
9
10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.
11
12 MS. MELENDEZ: This is Leticia from
13 Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. I'm sorry, I stated my
14 name earlier, but I guess I wasn't on speaker. I have
15 Stacey Lowe, our new biologist here. We are here and
16 present.
17
18 MS. JENKINS-BRITO: Excuse me. This is
19 Susie Jenkins-Brito from Dillingham. I'm with the Alaska
20 Department of Fish and Game board support and here for my
21 advisory committees down the Aleutian Chain in the
22 Chignik area.
23
24 MR. EVANS: This is Tom Evans from the
25 Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage.
26
27 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair. Tom Evans is
28 a Staff member in OSM and he is a wildlife biologist, so
29 you'll get to know him down the line when we deal with
30 wildlife issues.
31
32 Thank you.
33
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Is there
35 anybody else online?
36
37 (No comments)
38
39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If not, thank you.
40 People in the audience please introduce yourself.
41
42 MR. FRIED: Steve Fried from the Office
43 of Subsistence Management in the Fisheries Division.
44
45 MR. CHEN: Good morning, Council members.
46 My name is Glenn Chen, Bureau of Indian Affairs.
47
48 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Patty
49 Schwalenberg, Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management
50 Council.

1 MR. DEVINE: Peter Devine,
2 Aleutian/Pribilof Islands rep to the AMBCC and vice
3 president of the Shumagin Corporation.

4
5 MR. ALCORN: Good morning. I'm Doug
6 Alcorn. I'm the assistant regional director of migratory
7 birds and State programs in Anchorage with the U.S. Fish
8 and Wildlife Service. I'm also the chair of the Alaska
9 Migratory Bird Co-management Council. You'll see it's on
10 your agenda to discuss a potential proposal for Emperor
11 Geese. Patty Brown-Schwalenberg, the executive director
12 and myself decided to come in person so that we could
13 visit with you all.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Once
16 again, welcome. Tom.

17
18 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 Just a housekeeping. Everybody walked in upstairs, so
20 you know where the restrooms are. If you go out in the
21 hall, they're on your left. If everybody would please
22 sign in so our recorder can get all the attendees,
23 please.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. With all
28 the introductions done, we'll move on. The first one is
29 adoption of our agenda. Can I have a motion to adopt our
30 agenda, please.

31
32 MR. KOSO: I'll make a motion to adopt
33 the agenda.

34
35 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman, I'll second
36 that motion.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and seconded.
39 Discussion. Any additions. I do have one. Under new
40 business.....

41
42 MR. HOLMES: I can't really hear anybody.
43 I can hear Tom, but I can't hear the board members.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Under new business
46 in our agenda I'm adding one. It will be Item H, the
47 Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association, KRAA. Peter,
48 did you have something?

49
50 MR. DEVINE: Yes, Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Come up to the mic,
2 please.
3
4 MR. DEVINE: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
5 You don't have it on your agenda, but I would like to
6 address RB-525. It's brown bear hunt for Popof Island,
7 Sand Point. I know it's been passed a couple years ago,
8 but they did this without consulting us. The rest of the
9 Council has no problem with allowing it, but I would like
10 to see it extended to the whole island, you know, because
11 right there where we hunt that's the residential areas.
12
13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We can probably add
14 that to our agenda probably under I, I guess, on new
15 business.
16
17 MR. DEVINE: Thank you.
18
19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Brown bear. Tom.
20
21 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair. I just wanted
22 to check with folks online if they can hear any better.
23
24 MR. HOLMES: Hear you better, Tom, but
25 panel members it's hard to hear.
26
27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any Council members
28 online, do you have any agenda items you'd like to add at
29 this time?
30
31 MR. HOLMES: No.
32
33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della?
34
35 MS. TRUMBLE: I don't have anything at
36 this time.
37
38 MR. ROHRER: This is Sam Rohrer. No, I
39 don't either.
40
41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Tom.
42
43 MR. JENNINGS: We didn't identify
44 anything specifically on this agenda, I don't think,
45 regarding the Unit 9D caribou hunt. If somebody would
46 report out on that, that would be a good thing. So I
47 suspect that could be covered either in the Staff report
48 somewhere or Council member reports.
49
50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you.
2 Is there anything else.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, if there's
7 nothing else, is there any objections to the motion.

8
9 (No objections)

10
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
12 objections, then the motion carries with two additional
13 items on our agenda. With that, we'll move on to the
14 adoption of the minutes. The minutes of our March 22nd
15 and 23rd.

16
17 MR. TUTIAKOFF: I move, Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved by Vince.

20
21 MR. SCHWANTES: I'll second that.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Seconded by Tom.
24 Discussion. Is there any questions or corrections we
25 need to make to the minutes of our last meeting?

26
27 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Just a question on the
28 removal process for Tom Johnson, Thomas Johnson. In the
29 motion, we recommended an alternate. Is that process
30 going ahead or are we just going to have a new
31 appointment or wait for his term to expire?

32
33 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, Vince. We did
34 in our office follow up on the Council's request to
35 recommend removal of Mr. Johnson. We sent that to the
36 Federal Subsistence Board. The Federal Subsistence Board
37 did act upon that and sent a letter of recommendation to
38 the Secretary of Interior for his removal. There was
39 discussion. I believe that letter went out June 27th
40 from our office to the Secretary and we do not have a
41 signed letter yet from the Secretary's Office.

42
43 In regards to appointing the alternate,
44 initially the Board wanted to move forward and do that,
45 recommend appointment of an alternate. However, upon
46 further consideration, they determined that individual
47 would only be in place for one meeting and they chose not
48 to do that and then they would be off the Council because
49 that term would be expiring.

50

1 So that's what occurred.
2
3 Thank you.
4
5 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Thanks.
6
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other question
8 or corrections to the minutes of our last meeting.
9
10 (No comments)
11
12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing none, is
13 there any objection to the motion.
14
15 (No comments)
16
17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Seeing no
18 objections, the motion carries. The next item on our
19 agenda is the reports. We have Council member reports.
20
21 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Mr. Chair, it's Vince.
22
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Vincent.
24
25 MR. TUTIAKOFF: During this meeting I'm
26 hoping that we'll get a clear understanding of where this
27 9D caribou hunt is at and what happened because in our
28 last meeting we were going to have a working group and
29 teleconference. I understand that did happen. Hopefully
30 Della or somebody from Izembek will be able to give us a
31 good report on that issue and look forward to trying to
32 get done today as far as getting our business done and
33 trying to get out back home, but we'll see how that goes.
34
35 Thank you.
36
37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Vincent.
38 Any other Council member reports. I don't have a report,
39 but I do have a little bit of information from the
40 Setnetters Association. It's in the agenda. We'll get
41 to that later.
42
43 Rick.
44
45 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair. It sounded like
46 the hunt that Della and them created, I suppose we're
47 going to have a get-together in the springtime and a
48 teleconference, which I probably wasn't -- you probably
49 weren't able to get a hold of me or something. Anyway,
50 it sounded like it went well and I'm just looking to see

1 an update on that. I know there was a lot of excited
2 people out at King Cove and Cold Bay on that caribou
3 hunt. Anyway, I'd just like to get a report on that.
4 I'm kind of curious on that Emperor Goose survey. We'll
5 get to that, I guess, down the road here.

6

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

8

9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Rick.

10 Antone.

11

12 MR. SHELIKOFF: I'm just saying that
13 Akutan was pretty busy with infrastructure upgrades. Not
14 much effort was made by me towards subsistence this year.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Antone.

19 Della, do you have a Council member report.

20

21 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair. I don't really
22 have anything to report on. I think in regard to the
23 caribou I think Izembek will be able to give a report on
24 that, but there was some big numbers, I think, that came
25 out of people that turned in their names. Households on
26 just King Cove as an example, I think there was 92 names
27 in households submitted for the drawing, and we ended up
28 catching four caribou per community is what the numbers
29 came out to in Akutan, did elect to not be part of the
30 drawing, so that allowed for four caribou for the rest of
31 the communities.

32

33 I'm not sure if anybody has harvested
34 any. I think that would be a question for Izembek.
35 Other than that, I really don't have a lot. We had a lot
36 of problems with bears this summer because there was a
37 lot of fish in the creek, so that's a big problem, but
38 other than that I think everything else is good.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Della.

41 Sam Rohrer.

42

43 MR. ROHRER: Yeah, I don't have any
44 reports at this time. Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Pat

47 Holmes.

48

49 MR. HOLMES: The only thing I've gotten
50 feedback on was a lot of the elders that I've chatted

1 with in the Kodiak area and folks I called out west think
2 the idea of having a small Emperor Goose subsistence
3 harvest for elders is a really good idea. Of course
4 folks out west are glad that caribou there on the south
5 peninsula are picking up a little bit. I find it
6 interesting that one area that the birds have improved
7 was where there was that selective removal of the 23
8 adult wolves, is the one area that the population started
9 to increase. So that's some pretty good information.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat. I
14 don't have a chair's report. I did get a response back
15 from Tim Towarak on the letter we sent him. I'm guessing
16 a copy went to all the Board members. Today, at the end
17 of this meeting, we'll probably put together another
18 report to the Federal Subsistence Board. I think that's
19 one thing I didn't catch. I think it's early on in the
20 agenda. I'd like to move that to the end of the day
21 after we hear the reports and then we can formulate a
22 report to the Federal Subsistence Board. Yes, Tom.

23

24 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Mr. Chair. So you're
25 referring to soliciting for 2012 annual report topics, I
26 believe. Like we did at the last meeting, you put that
27 at the end so you can base it upon your Council's
28 discussions.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: After we hear all
33 the reports, then we can formulate a report to FSB. Yes.

34

35 MR. JENNINGS: At this point in time, we
36 don't need to finalize it, but through your discussions
37 you can identify your key topics or issues that you want
38 to raise with them and we can draft that in the letter
39 forms that you'd then approve in the winter meeting. So
40 we can get ideas today.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thanks, Tom. Item
45 7, public and tribal comment on non-agenda items. It
46 seems like we have mostly Staff here. Unless you have
47 public comment, we do have.....

48

49 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Who's online? Who
2 is that? Pat?
3
4 MR. HOLMES: This is Pat. I just wanted
5 to let you know I did pass on the code numbers to the
6 Native Village of Afognak and then also to Johnny Reft
7 and Iver Malutin on the Sun'aq Council. I think Iver
8 will try and connect up with you a little bit later on.
9 He was driving into town. And I chatted with -- gave
10 Herman Squartsoff a call over at Ouzinkie, but he's in
11 the process of traveling back to Kodiak, so you may end
12 up getting a few people checking in a little bit later on
13 and maybe wanting to just make a comment or two, but I
14 haven't heard them on yet.
15
16 Thank you.
17
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat. Was
19 that somebody else coming online or what was that?
20
21 MR. JENNINGS: Has anyone else come
22 online on the teleconference? Please identify yourself.
23
24 MS. PETERSON: Yes, please. This is
25 Chris Peterson from Alaska Fish and Game in King Salmon.
26
27 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Chris.
28
29 MS. PETERSON: Thank you.
30
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Peter.
32
33 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd
34 just like to thank Council for their involvement in
35 getting this caribou hunt gone. I know I submitted my
36 name, but I wasn't one of the lucky recipients, but I see
37 this as a step forward and hopefully with some good
38 surveys we could increase the numbers, you know, over the
39 years.
40
41 So thank you.
42
43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Peter.
44 Tom.
45
46 MR. JENNINGS: Another teleconference
47 joiner, please identify yourself.
48
49 (No comments)
50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If there are no
2 other public and tribal comments, we'll move on to the
3 next item. Regulatory proposals on king and tanner crab.
4 This will be an action item by the board, so we can go to
5 Page 5. I think that's where it's at, where it starts.
6 Have the board members had a chance to read that
7 proposal?

8

9 Tom.

10

11 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman. I've read
12 this proposal and I'm certainly going to be opposing
13 this. I think it just creates a bigger hardship on the
14 subsistence users of the area. For years we've used the
15 same pots to harvest tanner crab and king crab. Now, to
16 place these limits on the subsistence users, it's just
17 going to create a hardship. In the economic times that
18 we're in, I think this is a totally ridiculous proposal
19 and I will not be supporting it.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Thomas.
22 Tom Jennings.

23

24 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If
25 we could proceed through allowing the analysis to be
26 presented and then go through the steps of appropriate
27 comment and deliberation.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, thank you, Tom.

30

31 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Steve, you can go
34 through that process with us, please.

35

36 MR. FRIED: Did you want me to review
37 these procedures before I start on the analysis, Mr.
38 Chair?

39

40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go through the whole
41 thing.

42

43 MR. FRIED: Okay. On Page 4 there's the
44 proposal -- oh, let me identify myself first. Steve
45 Fried from Office of Subsistence Management. On Page 4
46 there are the proposal review procedures. First is the
47 introduction of proposal and presentation of analysis and
48 I'll kind of quickly go through that. The lead analyst
49 for this was Kay Larson-Blair and she wasn't able to come
50 out. She might be online to answer questions. Otherwise

1 I'll do my best to answer questions.

2

3 Second are agency comments. That will
4 include Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Federal
5 agencies, Native/Tribal/Village/Other, and Interagency
6 Staff Committee comments. Then there's the advisory
7 group comments from different advisory groups. Summary
8 of written comments, any public testimony and then the
9 Regional Advisory Council will make a recommendation
10 motion which is supposed to be always a positive motion
11 to either adopt or oppose or adopt with modification, et
12 cetera. They will then discuss the proposal and justify
13 their recommendations.

14

15 Things they need to consider is there a
16 conservation concern? Is the recommendation supported by
17 substantial evidence, how will the recommendation address
18 the subsistence needs involved, will it be detrimental to
19 subsistence users. The other thing the Council would
20 need to consider is will the recommendation unnecessarily
21 restrict other uses of the resource. After the Council
22 gets done with their discussion then they will take a
23 vote on their motion.

24

25 So that's essentially the review
26 procedures. You're welcome to refer back to Page 4 for
27 that. So if there's no questions about that, I can go
28 through a summary of the analysis at this point.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Steve.

33

34 MR. JENNINGS: Did someone come online on
35 the teleconference?

36

37 MR. HOLMES: Tom, that was me. I bumped
38 my hearing aid and it fed back through the system there.
39 Sorry.

40

41 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Patrick.

42

43 MR. FRIED: Okay, I'll proceed then.
44 There were 25 proposals that were received and there was
45 only one that was for the Kodiak/Aleutian areas and
46 that's FP13-14 and it had to do with crab pots. If I
47 follow along with this, I'll just present the analysis of
48 this proposal first. So that starts on Page 6.

49

50 This Proposal FP13-14 was submitted by

1 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and they are
2 requesting a modification to the Federal subsistence king
3 and tanner crab fisheries regulations for the Kodiak area
4 and they're requesting establishing definitions for king
5 and tanner crab pots, modifying gear marking
6 requirements, and clarifying crab pot limits per vessel.
7 These modifications, if adopted, would bring -- Federal
8 regulation would then be the same as State regulations
9 for this fishery. So they're trying to align the Federal
10 and State regulations.

11
12 On Page 6 and 7 you can see the existing
13 Federal regulations, the proposed Federal regulations and
14 you can see this proposal would change C, which right now
15 you may only use one crab pot and it may be of any size
16 to take king crabs. This regulation that was adopted you
17 can use only one king crab pot per person with a maximum
18 of only one pot per vessel, so you couldn't have two or
19 more permit holders fishing out of the same vessel, each
20 having their own pots to take king crab.

21
22 They also, instead of having any size
23 pot, this regulation, if adopted, would say it's a king
24 crab pot that is not more than 10 feet long by 10 feet
25 wide by 42 inches high and it goes on to describe what
26 that pot would look like. Also the marking requirements
27 would follow those in State statutes and you'd have to
28 have legally inscribed on the keg or buoy attached to the
29 pot the word king crab.

30
31 The other change then would be to the
32 pots used for tanner crabs and you can see that on Page
33 8 under Roman numeral V and again it would define what
34 sort of pot you can use for tanners and also the keg or
35 buoy on the pot would have to be inscribed with the word
36 tanner crab on it. So that's what the changes of this
37 regulation would do.

38
39 There's relevant State regulations you
40 can see on Pages 8 and 9. The extent of Federal public
41 waters that this regulation entails are basically the
42 Federal marine waters, the Pacific Ocean enclosed by the
43 boundaries of Womens Bay, Gibson Cove, an area defined on
44 either side of the mouth of the Karluk River extending
45 seaward 3,000 feet from shoreline, and all waters within
46 three nautical miles of Afognak Island. There's a map
47 you can see on Page 10 that shows where these would be.

48
49 Residents of the Kodiak Area have a
50 customary and traditional use determination for the

1 harvest of tanner crab in the Kodiak Area. Residents of
2 the Kodiak Island Borough except those residents of the
3 Kodiak Coast Guard Base have customary and traditional
4 use determination for king crab in the Kodiak Area,
5 except for the Semidi Island, the North Mainland, and the
6 South Mainland sections.

7
8 There is some regulatory history and some
9 biological background, but, as you all know, the king
10 crab population has plummeted. It's not anywhere near
11 what it used to be. It used to be a substantial
12 commercial fishery as well as subsistence and sport
13 fisheries and now there is no commercial fishery allowed
14 and it's only subsistence fishing.

15
16 For tanner crab, the tanner crab
17 population as far as the trawl surveys, I think it peaked
18 in 2007, which was an all-time high, and the last survey
19 was estimated at 76.3 million crabs. Still a large
20 population but not as large as it has been. Definitely
21 not as dramatic a decrease as we've seen for the king
22 crabs.

23
24 To fish for king crab, you do need a
25 subsistence permit from the Department of Fish and Game
26 to participate in the Federal subsistence king crab
27 fishery. Reported king crab harvest in the Kodiak area
28 are very small, especially since the collapse of the
29 stock. There's some tables that show some of the harvest
30 information. They're Tables 1 and 2 on Page 13 for king
31 crab. You can on Table 2 that since 1996 the catch per
32 permit has been less than one king crab in the Chiniak
33 area, which included Womens Bay. It hasn't been possible
34 to really break out Womens Bay from the Chiniak area. So
35 Chiniak is even a larger area than that and you can see
36 the catches have been very, very low.

37
38 There's some similar information for
39 tanner crab in Table 3 and you can see the harvest here
40 has been much larger than that for the king crab.

41
42 The effects of the proposal if it were
43 adopted it could limit harvest opportunities for
44 Federally qualified subsistence users to harvest king and
45 tanner crab because it would limit the number of king
46 crab pots to one pot per vessel. This could
47 force users to make several trips to harvest household
48 limit of crabs, which would increase the amount of fuel
49 needed to harvest these crabs. Also because it would
50 change from any pot to now a specific definition of what

1 size pot would be allowed, some people would either have
2 to modify existing crab pots or have to buy new ones. So
3 it could actually make some people unable to
4 harvest crab. In 2011, within the Chiniak Area,
5 including Womens Bay, 134 king crab were harvested in
6 both Federal and State waters. It's possible that if this
7 proposal were adopted there may be a decrease in crab
8 harvest in Federal waters.

9
10 The OSM preliminary conclusion would be
11 to oppose this proposal. Justification. There is a
12 well-documented conservation concern for king crab in the
13 Kodiak Area, which includes all the Federal public
14 waters. The Kodiak Area king crab stock remains at very
15 low levels of abundance and from the trawl surveys there
16 is no indication that there's any improvement in the near
17 term for this stock. The marine waters under Federal
18 jurisdiction in Womens Bay are a known nursery area for
19 the larger Chiniak Bay. This area is easily accessed from
20 the Kodiak road system, but all the Federal public waters
21 contain only about 2 percent of the available crab
22 habitat in the Kodiak area. A very small area. And the
23 subsistence harvest in those waters is very small also.
24 Maintaining the current regulations for both king and
25 tanner crab in the Kodiak area would seem to provide for
26 subsistence harvest of crab with minimal impacts to the
27 crab stocks.

28
29 That's the justification for why the OSM
30 preliminary conclusion is to oppose this proposal.
31 There's more information in the proposal about history
32 and past regulations, but hopefully that's enough
33 information. I can take questions if any of the Council
34 members have any.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Steve.

37
38 MR. FRIED: Kay Larson-Blair is a
39 graduate student that works with the Office of
40 Subsistence Management. She was the lead analyst. She
41 put together all the comments for this proposal analysis
42 and she's online. She'd probably be able to answer some
43 of the questions better than I could. It's nice to have
44 her. Welcome, Kay.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thomas Schwantes, do
47 you have a question?

48
49 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, Kay, I have a
50 question. It says here there's well-documented concerns

1 for the king crab population. What has been done in the
2 way of surveys recently regarding king crab and tanner
3 crab?

4
5 MS. LARSON-BLAIR: Right now ADF&G does
6 a trawl survey throughout the Kodiak area checking for
7 abundance of king crab and tanner crab and they also look
8 at the ratio of females and amount of females that are
9 carrying eggs.

10
11 MR. SCHWANTES: Can you tell me when
12 those last surveys were done?

13
14 MR. HOLMES: I have a question. This is
15 Pat. I don't believe, unless they've changed their
16 survey strategy, that they survey any of the Federal
17 waters. Unless there's something done differently, it's
18 just a relative index -- a relative index of what's
19 happening offshore, but doesn't really specifically
20 relate to inshore, but doesn't negate that there's a
21 problem.

22
23 On Page 14 and Page 15, there was
24 comments in here of the Fish and Game Advisory Committee
25 about illegal subsistence fishing of king crab and then
26 the comment in there about using tanner crab pots to
27 harvest king crab. I was at that meeting and it was --
28 you know, folks don't feel there's a problem on taking
29 tanners in king crab pots per se, but just that people
30 were cheating and the matter is enforcement. I know our
31 Council has commented on subsistence violations all
32 around the island on people running lodges and things
33 like that and taking king crab and, quite frankly, I
34 think that's a much more significant problem of non-
35 subsistence users taking crab than actual subsistence
36 users taking crab. When you can go online and see
37 somebody running a facility where they're cleaning and
38 providing king crab to their clients, most of whom are
39 non-residents, I'm sure that if Tom was still packing a
40 badge he would have somebody down there in disguise and
41 bust them, but nothing has happened. That's where the
42 problem is at. It's not taking with which pots.

43
44 I think the idea of having a 10-foot
45 square crab pot, where does that come from? I mean that
46 would increase handling mortality having one of those
47 versus classic ring nets. And then there's also no
48 provisions in here for using small conical pots because
49 there's a lot of folks that still have the old Japanese
50 longline conical pots that are pretty light and, you

1 know, where does that fit in the description.

2

3 I know at the advisory committee there
4 was a whole lot of argument against this proposal and I
5 don't know if they eventually voted for it or not. To
6 me, I agree with Tom Schwantes and it's going to decrease
7 the potential for people to get crab. Usually to get a
8 king crab now you go out with a friend that's got a
9 seiner or something and several people put out maybe a
10 pot each family and you'll be lucky to get a couple of
11 crab even with multiple pots per boat.

12

13 To me, the whole argument is dumb and I
14 would think maybe Tom and I ought to get together for the
15 next Board of Fish cycle and write a counter-proposal.
16 It's just absurd.

17

18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20 MS. LARSON-BLAIR: Was there a question?

21

22 MR. HOLMES: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm just old
23 and rambling. I guess.....

24

25 MS. LARSON-BLAIR: Thank you.

26

27 MR. HOLMES:my question was is any
28 of the really Federal waters actually surveyed and I
29 answered it, so I beg your pardon. I'm just an old
30 geezer and get off launch. Good thing you don't have
31 Iver and I going at the same time.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.

36 Richard.

37

38 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair. I just got one
39 question. I guess the enforcement part of that when
40 you're in Federal waters or in State waters doing this,
41 who does the enforcement or does the State have
42 jurisdiction to go into the Federal waters to enforce or
43 does the Feds have the jurisdiction to go in State water.
44 I mean how does it work? It sounds like you've got two
45 separate areas.

46

47 MR. FRIED: That's a good question. I
48 mean I would think -- I mean most of the waters are under
49 State jurisdiction. Like I say, there's only like 2
50 percent of the whole crab habitat that's under Federal

1 jurisdiction. I don't know -- I would assume, since
2 there could be -- well, of course, Womens Bay is closed
3 and on Federal subsistence users. So, I'm not sure who
4 would go in there and do the enforcement to tell you the
5 truth. I would think either -- they usually cooperate
6 pretty closely and communicate. So who would issue a
7 citation I'm not sure.

8

9 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair. I just wanted to
10 say that.....

11

12 MR. HOLMES: Tom, didn't there use to be
13 -- there was a long-standing MOA of mutual enforcement
14 between Federal and State folks, wasn't there?

15

16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Let Rick finish his
17 questions.

18

19 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair. I just wanted to
20 emphasize that I'm not from the Kodiak area, but
21 listening to Tom and other folks, you know, I'm going to
22 oppose this measure also. So I just wanted to be on
23 record for that.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Rick.
26 Tom Schwantes.

27

28 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chair. I believe
29 there has been in the past a cooperative agreement
30 between the State and the Federal enforcement people
31 working with these regulations, so I'm sure that that's
32 probably still in place.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I have one question
37 for my own clarification. All this bold type on the
38 proposal, that's the proposed change?

39

40 MR. FRIED: So you're looking at the
41 proposed Federal -- that's correct. The cross-out is
42 what would be omitted and then the bold type would be the
43 new language that would be added to the regulation, so
44 you're correct.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you.
47 Tom Schwantes.

48

49 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I'll
50 just reiterate what -- hopefully make it a little

1 clearer. What this will do is under the current
2 regulation if you and I and Rick go fishing for king
3 crab, we can each take a pot. Under this new regulation,
4 if the three of us went on one boat, we'd only be able to
5 take one pot. To me, that's just going to be a hardship
6 on subsistence users and I would -- I'm going to oppose
7 this and I would encourage this Council to oppose it.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Tom.

12

13 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat Holmes.

16

17 MR. HOLMES: I might suggest that Council
18 consider if they prefer the old regulations to not only
19 state that they oppose the State proposal but that we,
20 you know, make a very firm statement that we'd like the
21 existing ones remain in place.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I didn't get what
24 you said, Pat. What was your suggestion?

25

26 MR. HOLMES: What I would suggest is
27 while we're opposing this we also make a firm statement
28 that we feel that the existing regulations are more
29 effective and provide more protection while allowing for
30 reasonable subsistence use or something. But put in some
31 type of a firm comment that we'd like to see it remain
32 the way it is and that we feel that these new regulations
33 would cause significant difficulties for subsistence
34 users.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you,
37 Pat. Any other questions for Proposal FP13-14?

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Discussion.

42

43 MR. KOSO: Question.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No, we haven't -- we
46 don't have a motion yet.

47

48 MR. KOSO: Sorry.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I think that's where

1 we should have started. Steve.

2

3 MR. FRIED: Just a few other things
4 before you get into that. Were there any agency
5 comments. Well, obviously, Alaska Department of Fish and
6 Game submitted this and they support this. I'm not aware
7 of any other agencies that have commented to date on this
8 proposal. There might be some comments at this meeting
9 or later. Advisory group comments, I'm not aware of any
10 advisory committees or resource commissions that have
11 submitted any comments on this at this point. I don't
12 think we have received any written comments.

13

14 We did have -- I think it was last
15 Tuesday and Wednesday reserved some time and contacted
16 Alaska Native tribes and ANCSA corporations if they had
17 any questions or comments on any of the fisheries
18 regulatory proposals. They were given a number they
19 could call in to do that. I'm not aware that any of the
20 tribes or ANCSA corps made any comments on this
21 particular proposal. At least nobody said anything to me
22 about it. So, really, there haven't been any other
23 comments that I'm aware of at this point in time. I'm
24 sure there will be as we go through the process.

25

26 That would get us down to 5, public
27 testimony. So I guess if there's anybody from the public
28 here that would want to comment on these it would be
29 appropriate to do so now.

30

31 *****
32 STATE OFFICIAL WRITTEN COMMENTS
33 *****

34

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

37

38

39 Fisheries Proposal FP13-14: This
40 proposal establishes size limits for subsistence crab
41 pots in the Kodiak Island area to eliminate discrepancies
42 between state and federal regulations and alleviate
43 complications of this discrepancy for subsistence users.

44

45 Introduction:

46

47 This proposal was submitted by the Alaska
48 Department of Fish and Game to alleviate contradictions
49 in existing state and federal Regulation for subsistence
50 users, enforcement authorities and management personnel.

1 The proposal aligns the size and marking requirements for
2 king and Tanner crab subsistence pots in the Kodiak Area
3 for state and federal regulations.

4

5 Impact on Subsistence Users:

6

7 Adoption of this proposal will eliminate
8 the discrepancies between state and federal regulations
9 which are currently confusing and leave subsistence users
10 vulnerable to unintentional violation citations.

11 Subsistence users who haul more than one king crab pot
12 per vessel will be affected. Adoption of this proposal
13 will require federal subsistence users to add the word
14 King Crab or Tanner Crab on their pot buoys.

15

16 Impact on Other Users:

17

18 Adoption of this proposal will eliminate
19 confusion for subsistence users who participate in both
20 the state and federal subsistence fisheries. Adoption of
21 this proposal could assist with rebuilding of red king
22 crab stocks over time, eventually leading to additional
23 harvestable surplus other user groups

24

25 Opportunity Provided by State:

26

27 The Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF)
28 adopted a modified proposal #308 at the March 2011
29 meeting, resulting in several changes to subsistence crab
30 fishery regulations for the Kodiak Island area. The BOF
31 adopted the same commercial king and Tanner crab pot
32 definitions for the Kodiak king and Tanner crab state
33 subsistence fisheries, found in Alaska regulations 5 AAC
34 02.420 and 5 AAC 02.425. Previously, subsistence king
35 and Tanner crab pots were not defined in state regulation
36 even with pot limits for the taking king and Tanner crab.

37

38

39 The BOF also specified that both pots and
40 ring nets may be used for subsistence Tanner crab, and
41 the Tanner crab pot/ring net limit of five crab applies
42 per person or a maximum of 10 crab per vessel. Abuses of
43 the red king crab subsistence fishery have been
44 documented and some fishermen are suspected of retaining
45 king crab from pots in addition to their one allowed king
46 crab pot.

47

48 The BOF also adopted subsistence king and
49 Tanner crab pot buoy marking requirements to assist with
50 enforcing pot limits and to help identify crab pots from

1 which a person may legally retain subsistence-harvested
2 crab. New regulations require that subsistence fishermen
3 mark the pot buoy with the word King Crab or Tanner
4 Crab to identify which type of pot is being fished

5

6 Conservation Issues:

7

8 Conservation concern for the red king
9 crab population prompted the BOF to adopt regulations for
10 enforcement of the one king crab pot per person limit by
11 modifying gear marking requirements and by clarifying
12 that the pot limit also applies as one king crab pot per
13 vessel.

14

15 The BOF specified definitions of king and
16 Tanner crab pots, including maximum crab pot dimensions,
17 and established tunnel-eye opening perimeters which
18 differentiate king from Tanner crab pots. The new
19 maximum crab pot dimensions for both king and Tanner crab
20 pots is 10 feet long by 10 feet wide by 42 inches high or
21 a pot that is no more than 10 feet long by 10 feet wide
22 by 42 inches high that tapers inward from its base to a
23 top consisting of one horizontal opening of any size.
24 The new subsistence crab pot definitions include
25 tunnel-eye opening perimeters for king crab pots (greater
26 than 5 in one dimension) and Tanner crab pots (less than
27 5 in one dimension). Restricting the tunnel-eye opening
28 to less than 5 in Tanner crab pots excludes legal king
29 crab from entering a Tanner crab pot. Excluding king
30 crab from Tanner crab pots will assist with conservation
31 efforts by reducing handling mortality and illegal king
32 crab harvest caught in Tanner crab pots.

33

34 Enforcement Issues:

35

36 Adoption of this proposal will assist
37 enforcement personnel to differentiate between
38 subsistence users and those operating illegally
39 configured or incorrectly marked gear by eliminating
40 minute differences in state and federal regulations which
41 currently create confusion.

42

43 Jurisdiction Issues:

44

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

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

9

10 Other Issues: None identified at this
11 time.

12

13 Recommendation: Support.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, I was
16 reviewing this. I do have a comment from my tribal
17 council in Akhiok. I did let them know that this
18 proposal was coming up at this meeting and they looked it
19 over and they said if we go with this proposal, then it
20 would create such a hardship in the village that no one
21 would be able to go out and get the king crab except for
22 -- you know, usually one person can go out and get king
23 crab except for -- you know, usually one person can go
24 out and get crab for a couple of families. You know,
25 just take another person along with them to get crab
26 with. With this proposal, the people were saying I'd
27 have to buy my own skiff, buy my own crab pots, spend all
28 the money on fuel. It would create such a hardship that
29 they didn't think they would consider harvesting king
30 crab. They told me to come to this meeting and do not
31 support it. That was the comment from the Native Village
32 of Akhiok.

33

34 We can continue with Item 5, I guess,
35 public testimony.

36

37 MR. JENNINGS: Has someone else come
38 online?

39

40 MR. HOLMES: That was just me. I ran
41 down the battery on one of the phones I was using here.
42 This is Pat. No problem.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, let us
45 continue.

46

47 MR. FRIED: At this time there doesn't
48 seem to be any public testimony on this particular one,
49 so I guess that moves us to item number 6. I guess now
50 the Regional Council can make a motion and have a

1 discussion, justification and vote.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: A motion would be in
4 order for Proposal 13-14.
5
6 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Mr. Chair.
7
8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Vince.
9
10 MR. TUTIAKOFF: For purposes of
11 discussion, I'd like to move to adopt FP13-14.
12
13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Do I hear a second.
14
15 MR. HOLMES: I'll second. This is Pat.
16
17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved by Vince,
18 second by Pat. It appears we've done all our discussion
19 already. Mr. Schwantes.
20
21 MR. SCHWANTES: Just under item number 6,
22 Regional Advisory Council recommendation, under 6(3), how
23 will the recommendation address the subsistence needs
24 involved and will it be detrimental to subsistence users.
25 I don't think there's any question that this proposal
26 would be a detriment to subsistence users. Again, I'm
27 going to oppose this when it comes up.
28
29 Thank you.
30
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any further
32 discussion.
33
34 MR. ROHRER: Yeah, this is Sam Rohrer
35 here. Generally speaking, I'm all for trying to align
36 our State and Federal regulations whenever possible, but
37 like Pat said I was at that advisory committee meeting
38 where this was discussed and there was quite a bit
39 opposition to it. I would have to -- you know, maybe
40 this all needs looked at more, but for now I would oppose
41 this proposal.
42
43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Sam. Any
44 other discussion.
45
46 (No comments)
47
48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If there's no
49 further discussion, may we have a roll call vote, please,
50 since we have people online here.

1 MR. JENNINGS: Antone Shelikoff.
2
3 MR. SHELIKOFF: No. Oppose.
4
5 MR. JENNINGS: Patrick Holmes.
6
7 MR. HOLMES: No.
8
9 MR. JENNINGS: Rick Koso.
10
11 MR. KOSO: Oppose.
12
13 MR. JENNINGS: Sam Rohrer.
14
15 MR. ROHRER: Oppose.
16
17 MR. JENNINGS: Thomas Schwantes.
18
19 MR. SCHWANTES: Oppose.
20
21 MR. JENNINGS: Vince Tutiakoff.
22
23 MR. TUTIAKOFF: No. Oppose.
24
25 MR. JENNINGS: Della Trumble.
26
27 MS. TRUMBLE: No.
28
29 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chairman.
30
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Oppose.
32
33 MR. JENNINGS: Your vote is unanimous to
34 oppose.
35
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Vincent.
37
38 MR. TUTIAKOFF: For the record, the FP13-
39 14 we voted it down and I think I would like to say that
40 we support the present wording of this king crab and
41 tanner subsistence in this area. We want to keep the
42 original wording and opposed to any changes that make the
43 subsistence user have to pretty much change their whole
44 lifestyle to get one crab.
45
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Vincent.
47 Before we move on I see a couple more people came in.
48 Will you please introduce yourself, please.
49
50 MR. JACOBSON: Dick Jacobson, Sand Point.

1 MR. DUSHKIN: William Dushkin from Sand
2 Point.
3
4 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We're going through
5 a proposal that's called FP13-14 and deals with king crab
6 and tanner crab in the Kodiak area. Any other comments.
7 Thomas.
8
9 MR. SCHWANTES: I would just agree with
10 Thomas. I think we ought to put some comment in there to
11 that effect that a change to this regulation would be
12 very detrimental to subsistence users and I think that we
13 should leave it as it is and strongly support the
14 original regulation.
15
16 Thank you.
17
18 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. This is Pat.
19
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pat.
21
22 MR. HOLMES: I would like to suggest that
23 maybe Tom and Vince work with Tom Jennings and work up a
24 response to that and my thoughts would be to add on that
25 that we would encourage the State to review this proposal
26 and address it more specifically to the subsistence
27 community rather than to solve problems with commercial
28 -- whatever. I'm sorry. I'm losing my train of thought.
29 But I'd like to see them bring the whole topic back up
30 and if there's a way we can submit a Federal proposal
31 when we oppose this to have them review it again and
32 let's see if there's a way we can get them to do that.
33
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat. Any
35 other discussion.
36
37 (No comments)
38
39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you,
40 Steve. Appreciate it. I guess I'll work with Tom
41 Jennings and we'll put together a statement for the
42 opposition of this proposal.
43
44 We're into old business. Does anyone
45 need to take a break? Five minutes.
46
47 MR. ROWLAND: Mitch, this is Rick Rowland
48 from Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak.
49
50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hey, Rick. Welcome.

1 MR. ROWLAND: Hey, I just was able to get
2 on the call and I'm wondering what time you're going to
3 talk about the Emperor Goose questions and answers. That
4 way I could call back in.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I would say within
7 probably an hour.

8
9 MR. ROWLAND: Okay.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Are you going to be
12 online until we get there, right?

13
14 MR. ROWLAND: Yeah.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: All right, Rick.
17 We're going to take a quick break and then we'll
18 continue. We're going to get coffee.

19
20 (Off record)

21
22 (On record)

23
24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Review of the draft
25 Memorandum of Understanding between Federal Subsistence
26 Board
27 and State of Alaska. Go ahead, Glenn.

28
29 MR. CHEN: Good morning, Mr. Chair and
30 Council members. My name is Glenn Chen. I'm with the
31 Subsistence branch of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I've
32 been asked to give this presentation to the Council about
33 the review of the Memorandum of Understanding pertaining
34 to the State of Alaska and the Federal government on
35 subsistence matters.

36
37 Jerry, are you still online?

38
39 MR. BERG: Yeah, Glenn, I'm here.

40
41 MR. CHEN: Very good. Jerry, with your
42 permission, perhaps we could tag team this presentation.
43 I will turn your attention in the book to Page 19. This
44 is where the briefing materials are found on this topic.
45 If you look at the bottom of Page 19, you'll notice that
46 there were working group members from both the State of
47 Alaska and the Federal government on this particular
48 effort. Jerry Berg is one of the Federal working group
49 members and he's probably in a position to better answer
50 some of the detailed questions about some of the changes

1 that are made here. So, Jerry, with your permission,
2 perhaps I could direct some of the Council's specific
3 questions to you later on.

4
5 MR. BERG: Yeah, that would be fine.
6 Yeah, I'll be here.

7
8 MR. CHEN: Thank you, Jerry. I'll keep
9 my presentation brief. It, again, starts on Page 19 in
10 your book. Basically what the Federal Subsistence Board
11 would like from this Council is some additional review,
12 feedback and comments on this Memorandum of Understanding
13 between the State of Alaska and the Federal government
14 for the coordinated interagency fish and wildlife
15 management for subsistence on Federal public lands in
16 Alaska.

17
18 This MOU has come to you before and
19 following its original signature in 2008 a number of the
20 Councils were given the opportunity to provide review and
21 feedback. After that occurred, the Secretary of
22 Interior, Secretary Salazar, put this on his list of
23 items as far as review of the Federal program is
24 concerned, to have the Councils again review the MOU. So
25 this is why this is before the Council again today.

26
27 At the initial round of reviews, there
28 were a series of subsequent meetings. These took place
29 in 2012, this winter, past winter, where the State and
30 Federal workgroup members got together and made a number
31 of changes to the MOU. These changes are now being
32 presented to you here in this briefing material.

33
34 Following the effort by the workgroup, it
35 was then presented to the Federal Subsistence Board in
36 July. The Federal Board approved that interim version
37 for release to the Councils. It's going before all the
38 Councils during this fall cycle and we're again
39 soliciting comments from you.

40
41 To summarize, some of these changes
42 include the following. A number of the Councils asked
43 that some language in the MOU be changed and rewritten to
44 be more plain, so you'll see a number of changes in the
45 revised MOU that speak to this, statements and
46 information presented in plain language. There's been a
47 reordering in whereas the discussion about Federal
48 regulations and Federal purposes for subsistence
49 management are placed ahead of discussions about State.
50 The former version had a glossary and a definition of

1 terms. That's been removed now and substituted by, again,
2 inserting plain language in the MOU itself.

3

4 There's also some specific changes. A
5 number of the Councils wanted inclusion of traditional
6 ecological knowledge, TEK, in the MOU, so what the
7 workgroup decided as an alternative was to use words
8 pertaining to customary and traditional use and that
9 would make the MOU consistent with the language that's
10 actually found in ANILCA.

11

12 A number of Councils also wanted some
13 stronger language or additional language that discusses
14 predator management in this MOU. So what the workgroup
15 members decided was to include reference to some
16 policies, the Federal Board's policies on predator
17 management.

18

19 Perhaps one of the primary criticisms of
20 the original MOU that was signed in 2008 was reference to
21 the State management plans. So what the workgroup has
22 decided subsequently is to -- instead of discussing State
23 management plans is to also discuss Federal, State as
24 well as other cooperative management plans. So what the
25 workgroup has decided subsequently is to -- instead of
26 just discussing State management plans is to also discuss
27 Federal, State, as well as other cooperative management
28 plans. So this MOU contains not just reference to the
29 State management plans but also other Federal and other
30 cooperative management plans.

31

32 The Southeast Regional Advisory Council
33 wanted to have in the MOU some provision to review
34 progress and success in achieving some MOU goals. So now
35 this version that is before you includes specific
36 language that references opportunities for the RACs and
37 also the advisory committees to comment on how the MOU is
38 working and for those comments and feedback and review
39 items to be considered by the Federal Board and the State
40 Boards as well in the MOU.

41

42 Lastly, a number of Councils wanted to
43 ensure that there was a process for additional review and
44 updating of this MOU, so this is now included in this
45 version of the MOU.

46

47 So just to review the schedule here,
48 there was a version approved earlier in 2012 by the
49 Federal Board for review by this Council and other
50 Councils. This occurred on July 18th. There's been an

1 opportunity from August through October for Councils,
2 including this Council, and advisory committees, as well
3 as tribes and ANCSA corporations to review the revised
4 MOU. Following the round of reviews this fall, the
5 Federal and State MOU working group will then reconvene
6 to address and incorporate some of these comments. Then
7 sometime in November, perhaps December, the signatories,
8 which would include the Federal Subsistence Board as well
9 as members of the State Boards, will then again meet to
10 discuss these proposed revisions and edits. If
11 necessary, send the document back to the working group.

12
13 Hopefully next January during the Federal
14 Subsistence Board's public meeting in January 22nd to
15 24th, the Federal Board and the signatories will meet and
16 then sign the revised MOU.

17
18 Again, what we're looking for from the
19 Council today is additional comments, reviews, so forth
20 from the Council on this version of the draft MOU and we
21 will take these comments and suggestions for changes back
22 to the working group for their consideration and further
23 processing.

24
25 If you guys have specific comments about
26 the revisions, I would ask that Jerry Berg step in and
27 help answer some of those questions.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Glenn.

32
33 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Pat.

36
37 MR. HOLMES: I assume that was my
38 favorite Minnesotan Glenn Chen giving the presentation.

39
40 MR. CHEN: Yes, Pat, it was.

41
42 MR. HOLMES: Hey. Hi, Glenn. I have an
43 overall comment on the document and I can go into
44 specifics later. There was concern from the Councils to
45 make the wording simple and yet I would suggest overall
46 if you would take the document to -- I took a really cool
47 class from Fish and Wildlife Service about 20 years ago
48 on how to write things and make them simple. Basically,
49 if you were to take it to a sixth grade English teacher,
50 I think you would find it much easier for old geezers

1 like me to read because there still are some huge
2 compound, complex sentences that are written in
3 bureaucratese by one of your lawyers that make it very
4 difficult, I would think, for someone in the Bush or even
5 an old geezer to understand. You know, subject, object,
6 verb, period. If you've got a semicolon in there or more
7 than two commas, then it should have a list. That makes
8 it easy to understand.

9
10 The document is written in my perspective
11 from a bureaucrat rather than from how the public would
12 read it. So it says blah, blah, blah, blah and it
13 relates to the process rather than hitting the subject of
14 each specific sentence or each specific item that it's
15 talking about. So if you were to sit down with somebody
16 and break those things up into simple sentences, it would
17 make it so much easier to read. I will stop at that
18 point and then come back on a little later if you want
19 something more specific.

20
21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat. Any
24 other board comments on the MOU. Vincent.

25
26 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, this is Vince. On
27 the traditional and ecological knowledge provision, it
28 needs to be emphasized wherever there's a scientific-
29 based process. I mean we need to keep that in play. I
30 agree with what Pat said about the language. I get
31 suspicious when we start reading these MOUs and they
32 don't come out to say the full purpose, but they give you
33 10 sections to tell you about how to be a --
34 cooperatively pursue the development of information.

35
36 I mean I agree there's a needed MOU, but
37 it needs to be very plain so that the local individual
38 who's in the community can just pick it up and read it
39 without having to go get an attorney. I read some of
40 these comments from the other regions and about every one
41 of them talk about making it very clear and easy to read
42 and I think that's what we need to tell them also.
43 Thanks.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Vince.
46 Any other comments on the MOU. Glenn.

47
48 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. If you would
49 wish, I could give a little more detail on my comments.
50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Right after Glenn.

2

3 MR. CHEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and Mr.
4 Holmes and Mr. Tutiakoff, both. We definitely appreciate
5 those comments about the MOU needing to be written in
6 plainer language that's easier to understand. That
7 comment came across from not just this Council but from
8 other Councils and other members of the public.

9

10 One of the things that's involved because
11 this is both a State and Federal process is that every
12 single word that's before you goes through rather
13 excruciating review and feedback. So the State folks and
14 the Federal folks had to take the language in the MOU
15 back to the others that were involved in developing this
16 protocol. This document undergoes a lot of review, so
17 every word and every sentence and phrase has been
18 subjected to this level of review.

19

20 Certainly we tried in this version --
21 Jerry, you can correct me if I'm wrong, but we tried in
22 this version to simplify the language. Certainly some
23 further simplification would be worthwhile and we'll
24 definitely take this comment back to the working group
25 and hopefully we'll be able to get at those.

26

27 Jerry, did you want to add anything else?

28

29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Is there an
30 anthropologist involved in the writing of this thing,
31 someone who understands other people?

32

33 MR. CHEN: It's interesting that you
34 bring it up because this -- before the Council meetings
35 occurred this fall cycle we did have a Federal agency --
36 interagency review of this document and Dr. David Jenkins
37 from the Office of Subsistence Management, who is an
38 anthropologist, he did take a look at this and he did
39 have some suggestions as to how this document could be
40 improved with regards to readability and
41 understandability. While Dr. Jenkins' comment were, I
42 think, very -- merit consideration and very worthwhile,
43 there is, again, this very lengthy process in which each
44 phrase and each word in this MOU has to be reviewed by
45 both the State and Federal governments. So I think this
46 is something to be considered further down the line. We
47 certainly would like Dr. Jenkins to continue to be
48 involved in terms of helping us write this document in a
49 way that would be more understandable to subsistence
50 users.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Glenn.
2 Pat, did you wish to say something more?

3
4 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Mr. Chair. It's
5 interesting that this was carefully considered. This is
6 Pat Holmes. And the wording was precise as needed. But
7 if you look at those sections where you have Section 4,
8 Item 9. Section 3, guiding principals. Anyway, there's
9 several places where it says tribal and/or local
10 representatives. Well, if that is taken literally, then
11 you could use either tribal only and not local
12 representatives or you could use local agency
13 representatives. There's some discussion in some places
14 about local fish and game advisory committees, but not in
15 all of those sections where there's this discussion of
16 and/or and I think that the or should be deleted because
17 that completely changes the context of the statements.
18 So it should be and tribal and local advisory committees
19 and agencies or commas or whatever, but and/or -- you
20 need to have the tribal, you need to have folks that are
21 subsistence users that are non-tribal and other people
22 that are involved in the management and other advisory
23 committees. So and/or is improper phraseology all the
24 way through there.

25
26 The other thing that is -- I could just
27 Xerox all this and get it faxed to you. Almost every
28 phrase or page when you get over to the MOU on Page 26 it
29 starts out with the Secretaries primary implement this
30 priority through Federal Subsistence Board, et cetera,
31 whereas the State of Alaska and it goes into, but that
32 whole thing there, there's at least three or four
33 sentences in that phrase that's one sentence that runs
34 two, four, six, eight, 10 lines long and similar all
35 through the document. You really, really need to sit
36 down and put the subject first and put things in a simple
37 list rather than have these complex sentences because
38 unless somebody's got years of graduate school and law or
39 something -- they're just poorly written, Glenn. I just
40 have to identify that.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Glenn.

45
46 MR. CHEN: Mr. Holmes, thank you very
47 much for those comments. Pat, if you actually have a
48 written marked-up version that you would like us to
49 consider, could you please send it to us and we will
50 definitely consider those comments. Those would be very

1 helpful to include.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Could you give me a
4 fax number because I'm down in America here. We had our
5 grandson christened and I don't have access to a lot of
6 things.

7

8 MR. CHEN: Tom, can you provide a fax
9 number?

10

11 MR. HOLMES: Just give me a call and then
12 I can fax it.

13

14 MR. CHEN: Mr. Holmes, I think Tom
15 Jennings could give you OSM's fax number right now.

16

17 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Thanks a bunch.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Tom.

20

21 MR. JENNINGS: Pat, area code 907-786-
22 3898 is our fax number in our main office.

23

24 MR. HOLMES: 3898, roger that.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Is there any other
27 questions, comments for Glenn.

28

(No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Did you have more,
31 Glenn?

32

33
34 MR. CHEN: Mr. Chair, Council members.
35 I just wanted to thank you for the time that you gave me
36 this morning to present the MOU and we received your
37 comments. This is a work in progress and it will
38 undoubtedly be back before you again.

39

Thank you.

40

41
42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Glenn.
43 I do agree that language needs to be simpler and somebody
44 mentioned you taking it to a 5th grade teacher, but have
45 you seen the show Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?

46

(Laughter)

47

48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Tom.

49

50

1 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair. On Page 21 at
2 the end of the material that's presented.....
3
4 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. We can
5 develop.....
6
7 MR. JENNINGS: We can develop and provide
8 the Board and working group your Regional Advisory
9 Council comments.
10
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Will this take all
12 our comments and working with Pat and you'll probably get
13 the transcript of all the comments here. Okay. Mr.
14 Schwantes.
15
16 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I agree. As far as
17 having language that the average person can understand.
18 This isn't it. I think we really need to -- you know,
19 it's -- I've spent a lot of years working with
20 regulations and so on and if we want the people to
21 understand this, we really do need to clarify it and
22 simplify it so that everybody can understand it.
23
24 Thank you.
25
26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Anything else?
27
28 (No comments)
29
30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If not, thank you.
31 We'll move on. New business. Discussion of open Council
32 application/nomination period and outreach to increase
33 the number of applications/nominations for Regional
34 Advisory Council membership.
35
36 Mr. Jennings.
37
38 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If
39 you look at Page 3 with your roster and I know you're all
40 quite familiar how your Council seats kind of rotate out
41 like every three years. The end of this -- well, in
42 December of this year Della Trumble's seat and the
43 Chairman's seat and Thomas Johnson's seat expire. Those
44 have already been addressed and we have applications and
45 recommendations to the Secretary for those seats, so
46 those are covered. What we're looking at doing now is,
47 again, we have an application period to fill the seats
48 that will expire in 2013 and those are the top four
49 listed seats on your roster. Antone's, Pat's, Rick's and
50 Sam's seat will be expiring in 2013 and those are the

1 one's that we're going to recruit for, then the Federal
2 Subsistence Board will have made recommendations based
3 upon the applicants that we get in this coming cycle.

4
5 So, typically, this cycle opens in the
6 fall, you know, with concurrence of AFN. That's usually
7 when we do our outreach. I included an application form
8 in your Council packets. One of the things that our
9 office does, it does send out by mail to approximately
10 1,500 individuals statewide and other organizations,
11 tribes and ANCSA corporations. That's one effort that
12 our office does to get outreach and solicit for people to
13 join a Council.

14
15 Some of the applications have declined
16 over time over the years that we've been operating there.
17 One of the things we encourage members like yourselves to
18 do is solicit within your own communities and the folks
19 that you do business with and things like that that you
20 would deem appropriate to fill these types of seats. I
21 certainly wouldn't discourage anyone from reapplying
22 either. We have a lot of good Council members. Those of
23 you that have been serving and your seats are expiring,
24 please give a good consideration if you want to continue
25 on. I'm sure you'd receive strong consideration once
26 again.

27
28 One of the things from our office that
29 we're trying to push is for members like -- I'll
30 reiterate again, members as yourself and other tribal
31 members to spread by word of mouth. Everybody gets
32 things in the mail and people don't pay attention to
33 them, so if you could bring it up at your village
34 meetings or other business meetings, that would be
35 helpful. If you have any other specific questions, I'll
36 try to answer.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I've got one
39 question, Tom. Incumbent members, if they want to
40 resubmit -- if they want to be considered for another
41 term on the Council, can they just submit the application
42 that's on file instead of doing all the paperwork over
43 again?

44
45 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair. I know in the
46 past we have accommodated members. We do have records on
47 file of everyone. If you can get an application in, you
48 may -- because one of the things you may want to do is
49 provide different references if somebody has moved on or
50 if you want to use different references like that. Most

1 long-standing members that have been productive we work
2 with them and encourage them to stay on the Councils and
3 that. So, yeah, we'll work with you and we've done that
4 in the past, used the application on file and try to make
5 it easy. But if there is some other information --
6 truthfully, there are other strong applicants too and
7 people who make decisions may lean one way or the other
8 based upon what's in their application as well as the
9 personal references people are called specifically. But,
10 yes, we've done that. Thanks.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: That's an option,
13 but it sounds like you're saying it's stronger if you
14 submit an application. Okay. Is there board comments,
15 questions. Is there somebody asking to be on or what?

16
17 MR. JENNINGS: Folks on the
18 teleconference could you either mute or move away if
19 you're having a conversation outside of the meeting.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No questions or
24 comments for Tom Jennings. Next item under new business.
25 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program priority
26 information needs. Steve Fried.

27
28 MR. FRIED: Good morning again. My name
29 is Steve Fried with the Office of Subsistence Management,
30 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I just wanted to bring
31 to the Council's attention that we will be issuing a call
32 for proposals for projects under the Fisheries Resource
33 Monitoring Program. These proposals will -- these
34 projects funded would begin in 2014, but the call for
35 proposals will be issued this coming -- probably
36 somewhere between mid November, early December.

37
38 Part of the process when a call goes out
39 is to provide potential investigators with a list of
40 priority information needs for each of the geographic
41 regions. While we don't -- you know, while we will fund
42 projects that are based on other information needs, this
43 sort of gives people an idea what our most important
44 needs are for Federal fisheries management. What we've
45 done so far is just use the needs from 2012, taken out
46 some of the ones that were already met and use that as a
47 starting point for 2014, so we're sort of soliciting
48 ideas from Councils and the managers, anybody else that's
49 interested, as to what might be an important issue in the
50 region or area that we might be able to address with a

1 project.

2

3 If you look at Page 37, there's only two
4 needs listed under the Southwest Region and this would
5 include Kodiak/Aleutians as well as Bristol Bay, Chignik.
6 We do have what we call strategic plans. I don't know if
7 people recall, but a few years ago we had several
8 meetings to try to get to what are the most important
9 fisheries resources, what are the important systems, what
10 sort of information is lacking, you know, where the
11 information gaps are. We kind of go to these plans every
12 year to review whether or not we've filled some of the
13 information gaps. As time goes on, different issues come
14 up.

15

16 Right now for 2014 the only things we
17 have in this draft are obtain reliable estimates of
18 chinook salmon escapements and that's just in general for
19 Southwest Region. Then there's the other one that's
20 specific to the Kodiak area. It's for environmental,
21 demographic, regulatory, cultural and socioeconomic
22 factors affecting the harvest levels of salmon for
23 subsistence use in Kodiak area. We are asking research
24 to consider evaluating factors that influence use
25 patterns and describe socioeconomic impacts of other
26 fisheries, be they commercial or sport, et cetera.

27

28 So right now we're just asking all the
29 Councils to take a look at this, are there any other
30 things that come to mind that they might want to see on
31 the priority information needs list. If this Council has
32 any ideas, I'd be happy to.....

33

34 MS. KENNER: Steve, this is Pippa Kenner.

35

36 MR. FRIED:consider those.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Who is that?

39

40 MR. JENNINGS: Pippa, can you hold on a
41 second, please.

42

43 MR. FRIED: Okay. I was basically done.
44 I'm just saying that we're looking for information.

45

46 MS. KENNER: I do have something to say
47 about the FRMP.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Let Steve finish,
50 Pippa, and then we'll come back to you, okay.

1 MS. KENNER: Oh, okay, I thought he was.
2 Sorry.

3
4 MR. FRIED: I'm essentially finished. I
5 mean if there's any questions about the process or, you
6 know, what we do. What we're looking for now is actually
7 ideas for needed information for the fisheries in
8 Kodiak/Aleutians that are Federal subsistence fisheries
9 in Kodiak/Aleutians that we might find a project.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I've got a question.
12 Would these project fall in line with subsistence
13 enhancement, like the Kodiak Regional Advisory Council
14 would like to back stock a river down in Olga Bay. Would
15 this fall in line with what you're proposing here?

16
17 MR. FRIED: That's a good question. I
18 mean there are some things that the Board decided not to
19 fund with these monies. For example, we wouldn't fund
20 the -- if you wanted to fertilize it, like we wouldn't
21 fund the fertilization part of it. We wouldn't fund fish
22 stocking, but we could fund other aspects. We might go
23 in and do limnology work and that might indicate that
24 maybe a lake would benefit from fertilization for sockeye
25 production or things like that. We wouldn't fund the
26 actual enhancement or rehab work. We'd look to somebody
27 else to fund that.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I see. Okay.
30 Pippa, did you have a question or comment?

31
32 MS. KENNER: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
33 I'm the anthropologist for the Office of Subsistence
34 Management and I'm the go-to person for the harvest
35 monitoring and traditional ecological knowledge projects
36 through the Fisheries Monitoring Program and I just
37 wanted to point out that -- I'm sorry I couldn't be
38 there. On Page 37 of your Council book, I wanted to
39 point out that what is currently under Southwest Region
40 priority information needs were the priority information
41 needs from the last round and we did get a very good
42 proposal for work to be done in the Kodiak area. So that
43 priority information need has already been met or it is
44 being met right now.

45
46 So what I'm looking for is -- I do have
47 a strategic plan specifically for Kodiak/Aleutians area
48 and I'll be looking through that and assessing what of
49 these information needs in that strategic plan have or
50 have not been met, but on top of that I'm also looking

1 for things that have come up in the region outside of the
2 strategic plan that you may see as an immediate
3 information need.

4
5 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Steve.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pippa.
8 Any other questions for Steve.

9
10 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Mr. Chair. This is
11 Pat.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pat.

14
15 MR. HOLMES: Steve, I understand, you
16 know, that you're spinning this off of your last plan to
17 see, you know, what wasn't done there, but a few years
18 back you had an advisory committee that involved Council
19 members from around the region that were part of this
20 priority determination discussion and your document on
21 Page 37, down at the bottom paragraph, these strategic
22 plans are reviewed to ensure remaining priority
23 information. Reviewed by who? Is that just only by
24 Staff, you and two other people and Pippa or by whom? I
25 guess that's one question on the process.

26
27 MR. FRIED: Okay. Thank you, Pat. Yeah,
28 you're correct. We did spend a lot of time and effort
29 developing strategic plans. I can't remember if it was
30 four years ago, five years ago, but we do -- Staff
31 does.....

32
33 MS. KENNER: It was published in two
34 thousand and.....

35
36 MR. FRIED:we'll look at that --
37 Staff will look at that and, you know, see whether or not
38 there are things in there that are still relevant, that
39 are still information gaps because, you know, like you
40 said, they were developed by the Councils, by tribal
41 members, anybody else that participated in those meetings
42 and it had pretty wide distribution. So that is one
43 source of information needs.

44
45 As Pippa pointed out, what's in here
46 right now is basically what was actually put out in the
47 call for proposals for 2012. The other thing is, for
48 that second information need, while we might have a good
49 study, I mean I would think there might be more than one
50 study that might cover that, that's a pretty broad topic.

1 In any case, what we're looking for is
2 any sort of issue that might have come up in which
3 there's not enough information to really do a good enough
4 job for Federal subsistence management that we might be
5 able to fund a project that would address that and try to
6 collect that information. You'll hear later, I think,
7 from Fish and Game about two projects. They are
8 operating under this in Afognak and Buskin, the sockeye
9 assessment. They count adults and they've also done some
10 smolt assessment work. I believe there's been some
11 limnology work done on Afognak also. Hopefully that
12 answers your question, Pat.

13

14 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, roger that. Yeah,
15 those have been some really critical studies and I think
16 in fact on some of those that they're being able to have
17 a reasonable forecast. That helped folks out a lot in
18 town when the Buskin crashed from not overfishing but
19 from overescapement and people understood from the
20 information they were getting from smolt that, gee, it
21 looks like in two, three years things will be building
22 back up again.

23

24 I would suggest to the agencies -- I know
25 for a while the Feds were running that weir at McLees
26 Lake and I think the Department is doing it now, but I'd
27 certainly encourage Vince and anybody from the Aleutians
28 to give the agencies a poke to try to do some similar
29 work for McLees Lake because I think a lot of those
30 smaller lakes like that are cyclical and that's a really
31 darned important place for Unalaska and most people
32 forget that there's a really large community of
33 subsistence users at Unalaska.

34

35 Between Unalaska Lake, which is severely
36 environmentally stressed from degradation and silt and
37 fill, to McLees Lake there's just not a lot of places to
38 get your sockeye, so I'd like folks to kind of cogitate
39 on that and maybe, Vince, you could chat with the tribal
40 folks and Fish and Game and I'll do some poking in Kodiak
41 because that's probably an area that's going to need some
42 work.

43

44 And then I was wondering, Steve, what
45 happened to the coho studies at Perryville? Were those
46 all finished up and that's done or what's happening out
47 there?

48

49 MR. FRIED: Pat, those studies in
50 Perryville were all completed, I think, a few years ago

1 and there hasn't been any further submissions for further
2 work. I assume either that the information was helpful
3 or the issue isn't as strong of an issue anymore. But
4 those studies were done. The reports are available for
5 people that are interested, but there's been no further
6 request at this point.

7

8 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Fine. Thank you so
9 much.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other questions
12 for Steve?

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Steve, this program
17 deals with studies of subsistence harvest and you said it
18 doesn't finance or support projects such as enhancements.
19 What happens to your information when you're done? I'm
20 trying to figure if you're not actually supporting
21 projects that would support or enhance subsistence, what
22 are these programs doing? Are they just gathering
23 information of how the subsistence product is used? I'm
24 kind of -- I'm thinking about the Olga Lakes area. Those
25 are fertile lakes that can support a great number of
26 fish, but for some reason the stocks just keeps dwindling
27 down. If we applied for some kind of a study of why
28 that's happening or if it's a healthy system, why are the
29 stocks going down? Are they being commercially
30 overharvested? There's never been a study up there. What
31 would qualify as a program under this?

32

33 MR. FRIED: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I mean
34 the project could fund an assessment of the run. It
35 could look at freshwater survival. It could look at how
36 many adults are coming back, where they're spawning.
37 Maybe there's places they're not going anymore. It could
38 do radiotelemetry and things like that. It could look at
39 subsistence uses, harvest patterns. It could look at
40 effects of the commercial fishery on Federal subsistence
41 users and things like that. It could take a look at the
42 lakes and see maybe what the plankton population is. If
43 it's a sockeye lake, to see whether or not there's enough
44 plankton to support, you know, substantial populations.

45

46

47 What it won't do is fund -- provide money
48 say to an aquaculture association to put sockeye fry in
49 a lake or chinook smolt and stock those in a system or to
50 actually apply the fertilizer, but it can do, you know,

1 lots f other studies to take a look at a system that
2 could collect important information so that somebody
3 could make -- use the information to decide whether or
4 not there's other things that could be done to improve
5 the production.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah. Okay. I
8 think what the aquaculture association is intending to do
9 is take the sockeye from that system, bring them to a
10 facility where you get a greater percentage of hatch and
11 then after they hatch go put them back in the system.
12 Right now they're saying the hatchery percentage is like
13 1 percent. If you take them to a place where you get --
14 a better controlled place and let them hatch, you
15 probably get a 10 percent hatch and you put those back in
16 the system. Instead of getting 1 percent, you get 10
17 percent. It's not bringing sockeye or other fish from
18 another system. It's taking the eggs from that system,
19 hatching them and putting them back in the same system.
20 Would they support something like that?

21

22 MR. FRIED: No, actually that doesn't
23 sound like something we would fund. I know the State has
24 some very specific policies and regulations about how to
25 rehab a system. So I mean you can't bring fish in from
26 another system necessarily.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah.

29

30 MR. FRIED: There's a lot of concern
31 about genetics and disease control and things, so there's
32 a lot of hoops you'd have to jump through to do that. I
33 mean we might do a study to see how many spawners there
34 are, how much spawning area there is and determine
35 whether or not there's even enough spawners to really
36 seed all the spawnings areas in the lake. As far as
37 actually providing money to a hatchery to do an egg take
38 where they would fertilize eggs and then bring the eggs
39 to the hatchery and then restock, you know, either the
40 fry or the smolt, that isn't something that this program
41 would fund at this point.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Any other
44 questions.

45

46 MS. JENKINS-BRITO: This is Susie out of
47 Dillingham. I was wondering -- somebody had mentioned a
48 specific lake in Unalaska and I didn't catch the name.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Who is that?

1 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair. I believe
2 that's Susie in Dillingham with Fish and Game.
3
4 MS. JENKINS-BRITO: Yeah, I missed --
5 somebody had mentioned that there was a possible lake in
6 Unalaska that this would be beneficial for and I missed
7 the name of that lake. I wasn't sure who was speaking at
8 the time.
9
10 MR. TUTIAKOFF: That was McLees Lake.
11
12 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, that was me, Pat
13 Holmes. I'm in Kodiak. I was speaking specifically of
14 McLees Lake, but Unalaska Lake is not a Federal one, but
15 it's also one that is potentially severely impacted with
16 sedimentation and has had -- I used to be the area
17 biologist out there years ago, so you can get my phone
18 number from Tom or anybody there at the Kodiak office.
19 I'll be back in Kodiak on the 28th.
20
21 MS. JENKINS-BRITO: Okay. Thank you.
22
23 MR. HOLMES: Uh-huh. Bye-bye.
24
25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other questions
26 for Steve?
27
28 (No comments)
29
30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: None. Thank you.
31
32 MR. FRIED: Thank you. If anybody has
33 any ideas for studies, I mean please feel free to contact
34 us any time before the call goes out. Just to bring to
35 your attention just because we don't have it as a
36 priority information need, I mean we view any proposal
37 that comes in. As long as it has to do with Federal
38 subsistence fishing, we will -- you know, it could be
39 funded. It gets equal consideration. So if something is
40 missed on the list and somebody decides something is
41 important and sends it in as a proposal, it will still
42 get full consideration.
43
44 MR. KOSO: Just a quick question, Steve.
45 How do you fund this or what's your funding for this? Is
46 it just all Federal or do you deal with State?
47
48 MR. FRIED: The funding comes through
49 both the Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest
50 Service and it's specifically to fund Federal subsistence

1 fisheries management. So the studies that are funded
2 either have to be done on a fish stock within Federal
3 waters that are utilized under Federally qualified
4 subsistence users. I know that's a mouthful, but it
5 can't just be -- we wouldn't fund a study that was just
6 done in State waters for State subsistence users and
7 there's no Federal public waters around, so it's pretty
8 specific as far as that goes. There is a year-long
9 process, so I mean it's -- the call will go out in
10 November 2012 or maybe early December 2013 for studies
11 that won't be done until 2013.

12
13 So the proposals come in, they're first
14 reviewed by us initially just to make sure that they're
15 actually something that affects a Federal subsistence
16 fishery. Then it goes through what we call a technical
17 review committee, which is composed of more agency
18 people. They're the five Federal agencies that are
19 involved with subsistence management. Also three members
20 from the Department of Fish and Game, from Subsistence,
21 Commercial Fish and Sport Fish. They make -- they review
22 these for technical merit and make a recommendation as to
23 whether or not they think it should be funded or not and
24 that's all within the confines of how much money is
25 available for the studies.

26
27 Then that goes through a process where
28 it's reviewed by other people, including the Council,
29 before it gets to the Federal Subsistence Board and
30 that's been, I think, usually in its January meeting
31 where they will adopt a suite of proposals that they call
32 a monitoring plan to recommend for funding and then Pete
33 Probasco, who is the assistant regional director for
34 Subsistence, needs to sign off on that to make sure there
35 is enough money to do that and then those projects are
36 then funded through cooperative agreement.

37
38 So that's the way it goes.

39
40 MR. KOSO: Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Steve.
43 Any other questions. Peter, you have a question?

44
45 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. This is Pat.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Just a moment, Pat,
48 please.

49
50 MR. HOLMES: No problem.

1 MR. DEVINE: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 I just had a question on can these monies be used for --
3 we have a number of streams in our area that get blocked
4 up every year and there's no way to get them unblocked.
5 There's no funding. If there was funding available, I
6 think people would, you know, be more liable to go and
7 unblock these systems. You know, just in the
8 neighborhood here there's like four streams that are
9 blocked up and aren't going to be productive in the
10 future. We've been unblocking them, but if there was
11 some Federal dollars to help, it could create a job for
12 somebody.

13
14 MR. FRIED: That's a good question to.
15 I almost think that might fall under the same board
16 policy that enhancement comes under, but I'd have to take
17 a look and make sure about that. I mean we could at
18 least try to help find a suitable source of funding if
19 there was one. I'm not sure that's something the
20 monitoring program might do. It might be able to fund
21 some of the supporting studies. I'm not sure it would
22 fund like a fish ladder or for somebody to come out and
23 take out a beaver dam or something like that.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Steve.
26 Pat, did you have a question?

27
28 MR. HOLMES: I just had a compliment to
29 pat Steve on the back there and his committee. I really
30 like the comments at the end on the regional priority
31 information because so often in subsistence and fish,
32 critters, you know, problems often arise from multiple
33 region things and what's going on in the Gulf of Alaska
34 affects the Bering Sea and vice versa and I think
35 developing some of those models to look at those
36 questions on what's happening with chinook salmon and
37 other species. You know, those are some really big
38 questions. There's big biological changes and then you
39 have other countries that are dumping gazillions of
40 chinook smolt out there are those competing further
41 downstream so to speak in the ocean cycle. Those are
42 really commendable things. Then they're trying to do
43 stuff on whitefish in the AYK. That's kind of beyond my
44 experience, but I know how important that is. I think
45 that's really good. And then coming up with conversion
46 units at the end there on how you actually figure out
47 what's being harvested. Those are all very good goals in
48 a broader contacts that are non-region specific. So
49 attaboy, attagirl to your team on those.

50

1 MR. FRIED: Thanks, Pat, but, you know,
2 keep in mind we're only as good as the investigators that
3 get that money, so that's why we're always looking for
4 good, qualified people and good studies to fund.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other questions
7 or comments.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Steve.

12
13 MR. FRIED: Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Next on our agenda
16 is review of annual report reply from Federal Subsistence
17 Board. Does the Council have copies of that? I've got
18 mine.

19
20 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair. On Page 43 in
21 the book is the reply to your annual report issues.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes. Has the
24 Council had a chance to review that. Does the Council
25 have any questions or comments on the reply we received
26 from the Federal Subsistence Board.

27
28 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rick.

31
32 MR. KOSO: I've just got a question. I
33 don't know if it's in the proper order or not, but
34 Leticia in Cold Bay, if she could give us a report on the
35 subsistence hunt and wildlife and how many caribou was
36 taken. On the other report of the survey, I've never
37 seen any numbers, so I'd like to get some numbers from
38 you on what 9D and area 10 is for total count.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MS. MELENDEZ: I'd love to. Good
43 morning, everybody. This is Leticia from Izembek. I
44 have Stacey Lowe, our new biologist, here with me as
45 well. I think Della did a great job of filling in some
46 of the information as far as how the caribou hunt and the
47 permits were distributed, but I'll go ahead and elaborate
48 a little bit more.

49
50 This year the numbers of the caribou were

1 just such that we were able to have a 20 bull count
2 harvest hunt this year. How we divided that was we had
3 some talks with some of the other biologists on the
4 refuges and did the numbers and worked them to where we
5 wanted to have them and have the capability of giving
6 everybody the chance to harvest the caribou, one bull,
7 totally 20, but yet having the herd -- keeping the count
8 in consideration as well.

9
10 So what we did was we got the villages
11 False Pass, Akutan, Sand Point, King Cove, Nelson Lagoon
12 and Cold Bay. As Della mentioned, Akutan opted out and,
13 therefore, it left us with the remaining villages, which
14 we distributed four permits. Now, during the conference
15 call we talked about how we would like to see these four
16 permits get distributed however they felt comfortable
17 within the village distributing them, whether it be
18 through a lottery system or how they would like to
19 conduct distributing the four permits.

20
21 Cold Bay had a lottery system and we also
22 involved Nelson Lagoon in that lottery system. Once we
23 picked the winning permittees we notified them. I was
24 trained on how to make the permits and what I did was got
25 all the information from the successful permittees and
26 put these permits together, sent them out with the
27 pertinent information so that they would be able to
28 follow the rules accordingly.

29
30 So far we've only had two taken that have
31 been reported and those two caribou taken were here in
32 Cold Bay. So at this point we are in the middle of the
33 split caribou season. The first season was August 10th
34 through September 20th and the second season will resume
35 November 15th through March 31st.

36
37 The villages who are the successful
38 permittees did have to make sure their licenses were
39 current and if they were over the age of 65 could carry
40 a card that would give them the ability to hunt. If, in
41 fact, any of these successful permittees chose not to
42 hunt for whatever reason and wanted to designate somebody
43 to hunt for them, they were to notify me and I could
44 generate a permit for the person whom they chose to
45 harvest their one caribou. Once they've harvested the
46 caribou it is written in the regulations that the person
47 designated cannot keep any of the harvested bull and must
48 give it to the permittee who won the lottery and it is up
49 to the permittee to distribute that caribou however he or
50 she feels fit. I was impressed with how a lot of these

1 villages, having only one bull, totally four each
2 village, how they wanted to distribute it by either
3 having a potluck or giving some of the harvested caribou
4 to the elders. So it sounded like a really good way to
5 have our first caribou hunt.

6
7 I can't and don't have a final tally of
8 the caribou that were counted. We were unable to do the
9 winter count. We still have a grounded pilot and we have
10 no solid numbers other than what the State has counted.

11
12 MR. KOSO: Thank you, Leticia. Are you
13 guys working with the State on that? I notice on this
14 deal they're only able to hunt on Federal lands or are
15 they able to also hunt on State lands?

16
17 MS. MELENDEZ: The hunting territory is
18 on Unit 9D and it is only on Federal land. I did include
19 a map with the regulations and instructions so that there
20 was no confusion. I also sent a card so that if there
21 was any questions they could call me and I could clarify
22 where these hunt areas were.

23
24 We are currently trying to work with the
25 State. I believe that there's going to be some
26 composition counts that are going to happen on the SAP
27 and Unimak herds. I think we're going to work on
28 logistics with that with Christine Peterson. Other than
29 that we've been working with Megan Riley and they've been
30 doing some counts as well. So we are definitely
31 establishing rebuilding that relationship with the State
32 and working together on those numbers.

33
34 MR. KOSO: So does that mean you're going
35 to start predator control next year?

36
37 MS. MELENDEZ: That -- I couldn't answer
38 that. A good question though. I appreciate your all's
39 patience with how we're executing all of these issues.
40 As all of you are well aware, we're under a management
41 changeover. It has been a little bit busy here with the
42 minimal amount of people that we have.

43
44 We had our Refuge manager Nancy Hoffman,
45 who is now working in Region 8, Nevada. To be specific,
46 at Fallon, Nevada at the Stillwater National Wildlife
47 Refuge. She took a job there in June. We've also sent
48 our maintenance lead worker to Kenai and he's working now
49 in Kenai and has been as of August. We lost our
50 biologist, Chris Peterson, and she's now working with the

1 State, so we look forward to working with her again on
2 the caribou. We are looking at hiring a seasonal
3 wildlife biologist that will be coming in. Our Refuge
4 manager position was posted on the 10th, so hopefully
5 we'll have somebody here by the new calendar year.
6 Stacey Lowe is on board full time as our biologist.

7
8 So we're trying to fill the positions
9 with what little we have and we're trying to fulfill what
10 we can. Sometimes things are going to fall off the
11 plate, but we're trying really hard to make sure that we
12 stay on top of things. As far as control is concerned,
13 I think we're just going to have to wait until we cross
14 that bridge before we can answer those questions.

15
16 MR. KOSO: Thank you, Leticia. That
17 answered pretty much all my questions. It sounds like
18 you've got your hands full there. Anyway, I'd like to
19 compliment you and Della on getting this caribou deal
20 going and the subsistence deal. It sounds like you've
21 got everything pretty much under control. I'd like to
22 see some numbers eventually though to see where we stand
23 especially with the critical snowy winter we had.
24 Anyway, thanks.

25
26 MS. MELENDEZ: Right. I understand. I
27 can appreciate that. Yeah, Della, has been wonderful as
28 far as coordinating and working with this caribou hunt
29 and other issues with the VIPs and we feel a little
30 handicapped, but with supporting people like Della and
31 others we feel like we're going to pull through and we
32 see the light at the end of the tunnel, so we look
33 forward to being able to provide at the next RAC meeting
34 some better numbers and answer your questions more
35 specifically.

36
37 MR. KOSO: Just one more quick question.
38 On that caribou, did you do anything on Unit 10? Did you
39 do a count on that one? When do you anticipate your next
40 count, I guess, in 9D and 10? Is that going to be in the
41 spring or what?

42
43 MS. MELENDEZ: Well, I think we're
44 working on that right now. We're trying to coordinate
45 that and get the logistics worked out on that. Again, I
46 couldn't give you a definitive answer on that. I
47 apologize. With the information, it comes to me or we
48 kind of coordinate these things as we're coming along
49 with the people that we can get to make this happen. So
50 we're trying to fill in those voids so that we can make

1 these things happen. Right now I couldn't answer that.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. Leticia. This
4 is Pat Holmes.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pat.

7

8 MS. MELENDEZ: Yes, sir.

9

10 MR. HOLMES: A year or two back we --
11 just for your help because you may not have been told and
12 I hope that your leadership is listening there from the
13 Refuge management up to the top, but we did receive a
14 commitment from caribou surveys down there would receive
15 the highest priority from them at our meeting said the
16 caribou surveys down there would receive the highest
17 priority from the Refuge management staff and that's from
18 your bosses.

19

20 So if you get a little bit aghast that,
21 gee, we can't get somebody down there, but, gee, they
22 want your Form 37 reports on inventory, just remind them
23 that they had made that commitment to our Council that
24 getting those surveys done on Unimak and working with
25 Fish and Game there on 9D were the highest priority for
26 your shop. So please give them a poke and we'll be glad
27 to reinforce those needs for you.

28

29 We've had -- when we were having turnover
30 every year or two or three years, then it always -- we
31 could just plan that those surveys wouldn't happen and we
32 were guaranteed that they would happen unless there was
33 something weather -- and we were even given commitments
34 that you folks would have additional pilots online if
35 something might happen with your pilots or they'd bring
36 down other planes to do those surveys. We got that on
37 the transcript. I forget when it was, but it's there, so
38 go for it.

39

40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41

42 MS. MELENDEZ: Thank you, Pat. I
43 appreciate that input. But, yeah, if you're talking
44 about field level, you are talking to management. I'm
45 currently the Acting Refuge Manager and I understand that
46 there is some writing that states that we will fulfill
47 the surveys and we're doing the best that we can.

48

49 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Tom
2 Schwantes.

3
4 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I also have a
5 question. Kind of a three-part thing here. Can you tell
6 us when your last survey was and what the count was?
7 Then it's kind of been covered, but I want to express my
8 concern too. I sat on this Council for several years
9 when we had no numbers and it's very difficult -- puts us
10 in a different situation to try to come up with the
11 regulations when we don't have the information in front
12 of us.

13
14 Again, I would encourage you to do
15 everything possible to make sure that we have those
16 current numbers we need for our winter meeting.

17
18 MS. MELENDEZ: Duly noted.

19
20 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair. This is Della.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Della.

23
24 MS. TRUMBLE: I think first of all I just
25 need to thank Leticia for making a strong effort to work
26 with the people in the region. I think she really has
27 done an exceptional job in that respect and continues to
28 do so.

29
30 A comment I wanted to make was in regard
31 to the planning of the caribou. We had strong
32 participation from all the communities and one of the
33 messages that we had at the time that came across was to
34 have a local to participate when these surveys are being
35 done because that actually made a difference in numbers
36 in the past because the locals are on the ground, on the
37 fishing ground and they do see what's happening more than
38 the people that are just directly working in Cold Bay at
39 the Izembek Refuge.

40
41 The other thing I think was to continue
42 that effort to try to at least have some communications
43 or conferences a couple times a year so if there are
44 issues that people can participate in. I think when
45 Izembek does hire that one position, that will help a lot
46 with the relationship between the people in the
47 communities and the Refuge there.

48
49 On a total different note, there's a
50 couple of things in King Cove that I've been hearing a

1 lot on and I'm not sure who exactly, but number one is an
2 issue that has to do with sport hunting of birds and the
3 taking of the breast only. Basically, you know, I don't
4 know what the law actually says when you harvest a bird,
5 but you're supposed to take only a certain amount and the
6 rest is basically waste.

7
8 The other issue has to do with what
9 exactly is the subsistence regs on the harvesting of
10 fish. I know it's basically State and I know that we've
11 applied for subsistence permits and get -- I think it's
12 250, but if you're fishing directly in Cold Bay as a
13 resident, we've been told that people there can take more
14 fish than if I came over there for a day. You know,
15 what's my limit? There's some understanding or feeling
16 maybe that people in Cold Bay can take more than people
17 that are just coming in and harvesting fish.

18
19 Those are two things that I've been
20 hearing a lot of in the last two months.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rick.

23
24 MR. KOSO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah,
25 Della, I agree with you on that harvesting of birds
26 there, just taking the breasts. There's sure a lot more
27 to eat on it than just the breast. On that deal on the
28 fisheries, I don't know. I've talked to Fish and
29 Wildlife, you know, on Adak subsistence numbers too and
30 out in Adak they only give us 25 fish for subsistence.
31 Cold Bay I got -- my subsistence there was 250 and I did
32 talk to the guys about it. They said if you get your 250
33 and then you need more that they will possibly issue
34 another 250 or whatever you require. So it depends, I
35 think, on the run of the fish and your requirement. If
36 you need more, he said just call in and they would issue
37 another permit. So that was one of the questions I had
38 too because I was battling over this Adak deal.

39
40 Anyway, I just thought I would throw that
41 out to you.

42
43 MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We had that same
46 situation in Kodiak. They issued permits of 25 fish and
47 after you get your 25 fish you had to go back to Fish and
48 Game and get another permit, but they changed that. Go
49 get your fish and when you're done just report how much
50 fish you've got. That made it easier for us on Kodiak.

1 I did have a question for Natasha --
2 Leticia, sorry. Of the five communities that were
3 eligible to apply for these permits, did you see -- was
4 it an equal distribution of permits for these
5 communities?

6
7 MS. MELENDEZ: Absolutely.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Any other
10 questions.

11
12 MS. MELENDEZ: There were five total
13 villages with four permits a piece totaling 20.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you.

16
17 MS. MELENDEZ: You're welcome.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom Jennings.

20
21 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair. That's a good
22 discussion on the subject of 90 caribou and a few other
23 things. Just a point of order. Right now on the agenda
24 you're still addressing the response from the Federal
25 Subsistence Board to your issues.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Oh, yes.

28
29 MR. JENNINGS: So if there's anything
30 else that strikes you that you wanted to discuss or
31 comment on, it would be a good time to do it and then you
32 can wrap that up if you're comfortable with that.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Tom.
37 Rick, did you have something?

38
39 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I just wanted to
40 clarify. Did you say November 15th to December 1st,
41 Leticia, on the opening, the second opening on that, and
42 does that carry over on the first four per village that
43 the people got? If they didn't get it August to
44 September, are they still able to get it then through the
45 15th of November to December 1st?

46
47 MS. MELENDEZ: The second split is
48 November 15th to the 31st and the permittees who were
49 successfully chosen will keep the permit and are able to
50 hunt on that second split. I mean March.

1 MR. KOSO: All right. Thank you very
2 much for that.
3
4 MS. MELENDEZ: November 15th through
5 March 31st is the split. Did I just make that clear as
6 mud?
7
8 MR. KOSO: Yeah, thank you very much. I
9 just didn't hear that last part there.
10
11 MS. MELENDEZ: Yeah, I apologize.
12
13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Leticia.
14
15 MS. MELENDEZ: You bet.
16
17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other questions
18 or comments on our reply from the FSB.
19
20 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair. I don't know if
21 this is on that same issue, but it's on the same page.
22 Do the Emperor Geese come under that? I know it's on the
23 same paper written here, so I don't know if that's in
24 order right now or not.
25
26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: It's the next item
27 on our agenda.
28
29 MR. KOSO: Okay. Then I'll wait for
30 that. Thank you.
31
32 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Mr. Chair.
33
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Vince.
35
36 MR. TUTIAKOFF: This is Vince. On the
37 response letter from Tim Towarak, the Chair of the
38 Federal Subsistence Board, in regards to the Federal
39 budgets and the Council meeting travel restrictions. I
40 know it seems to be a sore subject with us every year
41 where we meet and why we meet in some places. We should
42 be meeting amongst the communities. We're doing that
43 here, but in a lot of cases we do our meetings because of
44 restrictions of the budget.
45
46 I think we need to contact our senators
47 and representatives in Washington, D.C. and ask them to
48 bring that OSM budget back up where it was seven or eight
49 years ago. I think about one-third of the budget has
50 disappeared in the last five, six years. To make it even

1 worse we've expanded our Council. The Council went from
2 I think it was seven members and now we have 10. We
3 might have to be thinking about because of budget
4 restrictions about how we're going to resolve that issue
5 maybe discussing or getting something from Tom Jennings,
6 our coordinator, about what the other Councils are doing.
7 How are they going to survive.

8

9 We are the most spread out region and it
10 costs us a lot of money to get to different places
11 whereas Kodiak -- I mean Fairbanks, North Slope Borough,
12 they're all connected in a great way by roads, so that's
13 a lot cheaper. I'm concerned that maybe in two or three
14 years we're going to be having all of our meetings in
15 Anchorage and not benefitting the people that we're
16 supposed to be representing unless we fly them into
17 Anchorage or they're there for some other reason.

18

19 I think we should keep an eye on that
20 issue. It was a response from the Federal Subsistence
21 Board and it's basically a warning saying that it's going
22 to continue to reduce in the future. It says right
23 there. Reductions in the Advisory Council to continue
24 and meet in the community that provides the best cost
25 efficiency. It could be Anchorage in a couple years. So
26 we need to write a letter. Maybe Tom could get something
27 drafted for us to have Speridon sign that we need to get
28 to like our senator, senators and representatives, that
29 we need them to keep an eye on our budget here for us to
30 continue this process.

31

32 Other than that, I think the letter from
33 Tim is a good response letter to our concerns early on
34 last year. Thanks.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: At the end of this
37 day when we do our annual report we can include that.

38

39 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Okay. I'll bring it up
40 again.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, we'll bring it
43 up again and again until we get a favorable response.

44

45 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Mr. Chair. Are we going
46 to do the Emperor Goose thing.....

47

48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: It's coming up.

49

50 MR. TUTIAKOFF:or are we going to

1 break for lunch. We've got half an hour. Are you going
2 to get a full discussion in in a half hour?

3

4 MR. HOLMES: Before we break can I make
5 a couple comments on that response to our report. Mr.
6 Chair, this is Pat.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pat.

9

10 MR. HOLMES: On the first response on the
11 surveys I just would refer folks to think back to my
12 earlier comments on the assurance for getting those
13 surveys done. Sometimes I think the idea of trying for
14 our winter survey on Unimak is rather absurd. I know
15 they've done it occasionally in the past, but all the
16 other refuges do their surveys during the spring calving
17 period. I know weather plays a critical role, but I
18 lived and worked out there and I noticed that this last
19 year when the Refuge had problems doing surveys Fish and
20 Game was out surveying streams in the same area and they
21 got several surveys done. So it's a matter of priority
22 within the office and whether people are flying on Sunday
23 or whether you've got back-up people. I'd just strongly
24 reiterate our Council's feelings about making sure those
25 are done.

26

27 Under the Emperor Goose harvest, when I
28 did that original resolution for our Council, it was for
29 a small subsistence harvest for elders and that's been
30 changed to a small subsistence harvest and that would
31 allow, again, sentence structure, but it does change the
32 context of what we were looking at.

33

34 I certainly do agree with Vince on the
35 travel and I'd like to make my annual pitch that most of
36 the Staff, unless they're necessary for the meeting, stay
37 in Anchorage and teleconference and then that would allow
38 the members that can travel to go to more remote
39 locations and visit people. I think you could even look
40 at -- I mean this year, how many of us are
41 teleconferencing that are RAC members, but the savings of
42 those of us that didn't go, folks could have gone out to
43 Unalaska easily for those of you that made it to Sand
44 Point.

45

46 So I think there needs to be some
47 flexibility in the budget structure and some ways looking
48 at not necessarily sending the whole Staff because I've
49 seen times at Cold Bay where there were 12 Federal people
50 there, the local Fish and Game biologists and two people

1 from the public and then our Staff. Golly, we could have
2 gone to King Cove for that meeting, you know. So there
3 needs to be some flexibility and creativity in use of the
4 existing budgets.

5
6 I do agree with Vince that we need to
7 poke all of our Auntie Em and everybody else to make sure
8 that we have adequate funding for travel for the
9 Councils. Anyway, thanks a lot. Sorry to talk so much.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat. Any
12 other questions or comments on the annual report
13 response. Tom Jennings.

14
15 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
16 was thinking about Vince's proposal about trying to reach
17 your senators or other elected officials in this regard.
18 I know our office -- Federal government offices are not
19 allowed to lobby for funding directly to senators. We
20 have to work through our agencies. I'm not sure, and
21 somebody else might be able to answer that specifically,
22 Jerry Berg or somebody that's knowledgeable or maybe
23 Doug, I don't know, if our Council -- if your Council is
24 allowed to reach in that direction. I do know, like I
25 say, that our office is prohibited from soliciting in
26 that manner. I don't know if it applies to a FACA
27 committee, which the Council is.

28
29 Jerry, do you have any knowledge about
30 that?

31
32 MR. BERG: No, I don't really have
33 anything to add, Tom. I guess I'm just trying to keep,
34 you know, like Pat was mentioning, to try to keep the
35 discussion on the emphasis to support member travel, you
36 know, and just leave it at that and send that message
37 forward rather than sending the message of actually
38 talking about funding. That might be more appropriate.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: All right. Thank
41 you, Jerry. Any other questions, comments.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If there are none,
46 then we'll move on. We have a half hour until the lunch
47 break, but we have the migratory bird subject next on the
48 agenda. Would you like to get started on it and then
49 take a break or work right through it and take a break
50 after we're done with this.

1 MR. KOSO: Let's finish the Emperor
2 Geese. I say finish the Emperor Geese and then we'll go
3 to lunch.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. So we'll move
6 on to Emperor Geese. There was a proposal that was
7 drafted up by this Council. From what I heard, that
8 proposal never made it to AMBCC or to regulatory people
9 that reviews those, so I guess we're back at square one.
10 We have Patty, Peter -- I'm sorry, I forget your name
11 again.

12
13 MR. ALCORN: My name is Doug Alcorn.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Doug Alcorn. And we
16 have Rick Rowland on teleconference. I guess the purpose
17 of this agenda item is to revive that proposal to provide
18 a subsistence hunt of Emperor Geese. Information on that
19 begins on Page 49 of our book -- or 48, I'm sorry. Tom.

20
21 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 Just as background, at the last meeting we did have good
23 discussion on there and Migratory Bird Management did
24 provide some population information and status and a
25 little information about the surveys. We are fortunate
26 today to have representatives from the Alaska Migratory
27 Bird Co-management Council. We've heard from the Council
28 that you'd like representatives here to be able to engage
29 and have that discussion, so this is a good opportunity
30 and I'm glad you're able to have it on your agenda item.

31
32 One note. I think at our last meeting
33 Della had suggested -- since this has been a recurring
34 subject for a number of meeting you should just maybe
35 have an item in your agenda in the future for migratory
36 bird issues possibly. Because it is part of subsistence
37 I don't think it's inappropriate, so I'd say continue to
38 do that.

39
40 Now you're meeting and getting more
41 familiar with this other process, regulatory process.
42 You've got the contacts now. You know that we have to go
43 through a different regulatory system. That's all I've
44 got to say.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Tom. I
47 do like that suggestion made by Della to have this as an
48 agenda item. We just need probably the proper contact
49 person. Either get them on conference or get them to our
50 meeting. How does the Council want to proceed? Do we

1 want to revive that proposal and ask these ladies and
2 gentlemen to bring it forward for us? That proposal we
3 wrote up last year is not in here. Can you get a copy of
4 that somehow?

5

6 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Mr. Schwantes.

9

10 MR. SCHWANTES: I wasn't on the board
11 last year or wasn't here when we did that. I was not
12 present at that meeting. I have not seen it. I would
13 like to hear some of the reports before we move forward.
14 I think maybe there's some suggestions out there what we
15 should include in that proposal to have a better chance
16 of going somewhere.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: You can pose some
21 questions to them and they can come up to the mike. Do
22 you have specific questions?

23

24 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, in talking -- I
25 don't remember your name.

26

27 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Patty.

28

29 MR. SCHWANTES: Patty earlier she said
30 that -- indicated that possibly a proposal where we
31 included limits would go further than just submitting a
32 proposal, so I'd like to hear some more on that if we
33 can.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Maybe you can come
36 up to the table and we can begin this discussion. Come
37 on up all three of you.

38

39 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Vince.

42

43 MR. TUTIAKOFF: I guess my question is --
44 last year we made a motion to encourage hunting for
45 elders primarily because of the counts we've been seeing
46 and hearing about. Last year or two years ago they've
47 been increasing. In order to get this back on track, I
48 guess, what is it that you, the Council, needs to hear
49 from us as far as a motion or wording or things like that
50 because I've got this aerial survey that was done the

1 spring of 2011 and also the fall survey of 2011. Very
2 good information in there that shows -- they have a map
3 in here showing where the counts were taken. I don't
4 know if this is your product. I guess it came from Fish
5 and Wildlife Service, migratory bird management.

6

7 But, yeah, I think we're all wanting to
8 re-word it and get it back on the table so that we can
9 have a hunt.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Patty.

12

13 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Mr.
14 Chairman. Patty Brown-Schwalenberg. I was listening to
15 the discussion earlier and I believe Mr. Holmes mentioned
16 that it was a hunt that was originally proposed for
17 elders only, but the language right now is a little bit
18 more broad. The way the AMBCC works is we submit
19 proposals similar to the process that OSM uses for
20 subsistence proposals and then they are -- the Federal
21 biologists have their opinions and professional comments
22 on it, the State does and then the Native Caucus comments
23 on it and it's deliberated and voted upon.

24

25 The difference with the migratory birds
26 -- and, Doug, you can feel free to jump in -- is that we
27 deal with the whole Pacific Flyway Council, which is many
28 states across the Pacific Northwest, California, Arizona,
29 all the way up into Alaska. So they have a population
30 objective that they've set for Emperor Geese. Once that
31 population objective is met, in other words whenever
32 there's that many birds to be able to be harvested, they
33 will consider opening harvest. So we're pretty close to
34 that population objective but we haven't met it yet.

35

36 So when I was talking to Mr. Schwantes
37 earlier I was suggesting that if the Council or if you
38 designated Peter or Rick to work with the AMBCC Staff, we
39 may be able to craft a proposal that has limitations on
40 it that could be considered at the AMBCC level. Right
41 now the proposals are either -- you're either opening a
42 harvest to a species or you're closing it. We've never
43 considered something that discussed harvest limits. So
44 it will be a new thing for the Council, but I don't know
45 if it would be impossible, Doug.

46

47 MR. ALCORN: Mr. Chair. Thank you. This
48 is Doug Alcorn with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
49 I would like to speak to Patty's comment and perhaps to
50 update you on some of the more current survey information

1 that we have. I'll speak first to Patty's suggestion or
2 comment. The Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council
3 does entertain proposals and the Council is comprised of
4 three voting entities. There's a Federal vote, State
5 vote and a regional representative collectively have one
6 vote, so it's a three-voting triumvirate group.

7
8 Fish and Wildlife Service is also a part
9 of the Pacific Flyway Council as an advisor. The Pacific
10 Flyway Council is comprised of states that work together
11 to manage migratory birds and to recommend to the Fish
12 and Wildlife Service Regulation Committee regulations
13 that would affect the harvest of those birds in that
14 flyway.

15
16 The management plan that was put together
17 and I believe Peter might have sat on the last committee
18 that put together the plan. The latest version I have,
19 I think is dated 2006, did set a population objective of
20 80,000 as a minimum before limited harvest would be
21 considered or harvest would be considered. The actual
22 population objective is 150,000 birds, but as the
23 population grows and reaches a minimum threshold of 80,
24 then the states have agreed to work together to consider
25 harvest in whatever capacity that might come and it would
26 come in the form of proposals.

27
28 A proposal that would be presented to the
29 AMBCC would be subject to discussion under the terms of
30 that management plan that's been approved. So to provide
31 you a current estimate of the three-year running average
32 based on the spring count. It's an aerial, an airplane
33 survey that they fly the coast along the Alaska Peninsula
34 and then they fly along the coast in Southwestern Alaska
35 and including the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta area. They fly
36 transect surveys.

37
38 A three-year running survey estimate is
39 -- or the estimate of the population based on that three-
40 year survey dropped in the past year. It was very close
41 to 80,000 in 2011 because of a very high count year in
42 2009. It ran the three-year running average up to
43 76,892. So there were nearly 77,000 birds based on that
44 estimate and based on that survey. However, in 2012,
45 when that survey was flown, the number counted dropped
46 substantially. It dropped 8.9 percent. The count was
47 67,588.

48
49 Because it's a three-year running average
50 and that high count from 2009 fell off the average, it's

1 no longer in the average count. 2010, '11 and '12 are
2 now the three-year counts. That caused the estimate to
3 drop. The three-year running average dropped to 68,772.
4 So there are 11,228 birds as an estimate below the
5 minimum threshold of 80,000 before the Flyway Council
6 management plan suggests that hunting be considered.

7
8 So we're still not there as a population
9 objective, but the AMBCC can entertain proposals for
10 discussion and to talk about strategies for limiting
11 harvest. Again, not being at the population objective
12 level, the Fish and Wildlife Service would find ourselves
13 in a difficult position to approve a proposal that's in
14 direct contradiction to the agreed to objectives at this
15 point. I don't want to predispose the Fish and Wildlife
16 Service to supporting a proposal or rejecting a proposal
17 just simply based on that number. I think a good
18 dialogue is important and I think the population trend
19 has demonstrated the ability to grow the population.

20
21 We do have sort of a nagging issue, I
22 think, dealing with harvest throughout the range of the
23 Emperor Goose. That particular species is hunted
24 throughout its range in eastern Russia, across the Bering
25 Strait, Southwestern Alaska, Western Alaska, and in the
26 Aleutian area as well. So the population hasn't
27 rebounded like other goose populations, but it has
28 demonstrated an ability to grow. It's grown slowly.

29
30 We do have a nagging amount of harvest
31 that occurs even though the species is closed to harvest
32 right now. It's closed throughout its range, but we do
33 have estimates of harvest between three and four thousand
34 birds per year that are being taken and that is not
35 consistent with the way the regulations are written right
36 now.

37
38 If there are any other questions, I can
39 provide answers to status and trends.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Rick.

42
43 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair. Doug, I've got a
44 question on -- I don't know if it's just a coincidence or
45 what, but we were looking at 80,000 for a harvest and we
46 always maintained 76,000 to 78,000. Always a couple
47 thousand under the mark. Now we've requested maybe to
48 drop it to 70,000 to have a hunt and then I noticed since
49 then it dropped down to 67,000. So I don't know if
50 that's a coincidence or what, but it seems like it's

1 always going under two to three thousand birds under what
2 we would require for a subsistence hunt. It could be a
3 coincidence or whatever.

4

5 I also noticed on your survey you didn't
6 go out past Unimak. I mean there's 2,000 miles of islands
7 that they still -- they're there. I've counted five, six
8 hundred in Adak alone just in the community, not counting
9 like Sunak Island and the other islands out west.
10 There's thousands of birds that aren't being counted.
11 What's your take on that?

12

13 MR. ALCORN: Thanks, Rick. That's a good
14 question. I think it's important to know that the survey
15 is not a census. It's not an attempt to count all the
16 birds. This is based on an estimate of a known and
17 regularly reoccurring survey and based on that survey
18 then there are estimates made of the population. If the
19 birds have changed their distribution, that would be good
20 to know and it would take a discussion of how the
21 biologists that plan these surveys would then reroute the
22 survey. It would then change the model that makes the
23 estimate.

24

25 There's a fairly sophisticated
26 mathematical model that generates this estimate and I
27 don't know -- I can't speak to the specifics of how that
28 model works, so it's important to understand that it's
29 not an absolute census. It's not an attempt to count
30 every bird. It's based on an index and that survey is a
31 quantified area and then the mathematicians then do their
32 work to make that estimate.

33

34 So if you did change that, it would
35 change the model, but it is important to know that those
36 birds do occur elsewhere. If they are shifting because
37 of climate or habitat changes, that would be important to
38 know and then we could incorporate that into the survey.

39

40

41 I do know that when you go beyond Unimak
42 Island flying conditions and the ability to refuel and
43 the distances between areas where you can fuel are
44 further, it's more difficult logistically and it's
45 possibly less safe, so I don't know if that's been a
46 factor in the past or not. I would have to talk to my
47 pilot biologist to find out what the actual reasons are
48 for not having extended past that time historically.

49

50 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair. I know in the past

1 they did fly all the way to Atka and do surveys all the
2 way up to Atka, but I noticed this past year that they
3 only went as far as Unimak. I know in Dutch Harbor alone
4 I think Vince could speak on that behalf that they were
5 spotted up in the thousands in the Dutch Harbor area.
6 Nikolski has been reported and Atka reported some and I
7 reported and then Adak that we seen a substantial amount
8 of Emperors just within the community area and that's not
9 going around the island and looking at other places. So
10 there's a substantial amount of Emperors out west, you
11 know, of Unimak and I think it's being underrated, I
12 think. Thanks.

13

14 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Tom.

17

18 MR. SCHWANTES: I would also like to note
19 that Kodiak doesn't appear to have been surveyed. We
20 have, I would say, a fairly large population of Emperor
21 Geese on Kodiak. It seems to be increasing over the last
22 several years. Originally we started out just seeing 100
23 birds. Now we're seeing several hundred, into the
24 thousands. So those birds aren't being counted.

25

26 MR. ROWLAND: Mr. Chair. This is Rick
27 from Sun'aq.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rick Rowland, you
30 have something to add?

31

32 MR. ROWLAND: Yes. Am I okay to speak
33 now?

34

35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, go ahead, Rick.

36

37 MR. ROWLAND: Okay. Hello, this is Rick
38 Rowland from Sun'aq Tribal Kodiak. I'm also the Alaska
39 Migratory Bird Co-Management Council representative for
40 Kodiak region. We have two meetings per year that has
41 representatives from the villages come in from Old
42 Harbor, Akhiok, Larson Bay, Karluk, Sun'aq
43 representative, Native Village of Ouzinkie and Native
44 Village of Afognak. And then we have two meetings we
45 attend per year in the statewide level. So our last
46 meeting was design a proposal to be submitted this fall
47 at the Alaska Migratory Bird meeting that addresses a
48 couple of things. One is that we discussed a proposal
49 that will give migratory bird hunting to all communities
50 that have migratory birds within the flyway path. Of

1 course the proposal has not been voted on by the Alaska
2 Migratory Bird Co-management Council, but we, as our
3 region, are submitting that.

4
5 The other couple reasons why we've
6 attempted to do this proposal is, one, Mr. Schwantes is
7 correct, there is a large amount of population of Emperor
8 birds here in the Kodiak area as well as the Kodiak
9 Archipelago. From further research, it's showing that
10 there are a considerable amount of birds throughout the
11 whole flyway. So one of the things that's occurring are
12 these Emperor Geese are pushing the smaller ducks out of
13 habitat and so the Emperor Geese in the habitat of the
14 ducks are pushing the subsistence users away because the
15 hunters that go to hunt the ducks can't hunt the birds
16 because the Emperor Geese are there.

17
18 Another thing that's occurring is that
19 there is legal hunting that is occurring in Russia. I
20 mentioned this in the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management
21 Council meeting referring to a United States LLC that is
22 advertising Emperor Geese in Russia. Additionally,
23 Emperor Goose hunting in Western Alaska for the migratory
24 bird is illegal. As Doug mentioned, there are
25 approximately 34 to 35 hundred taken illegally per year
26 within this area.

27
28 One of the reasons why we put this
29 proposal together was, one, to have a traditional
30 subsistence hunt of the Emperor Geese as it was always.
31 Two, to make the hunting that is now considered illegal
32 and make it legal in comparison to the legal hunting that
33 is occurring in Russia.

34
35 One more thing that I'd like to mention
36 too is that in these survey population estimations I did
37 have a chance to look at Eric Taylor's information with
38 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife. I had a chance to look at
39 the migration of Emperor Geese in a report by Jerry Hupp.
40 I also looked at aerial survey information related to
41 migratory bird Emperor Geese in the Southwestern Alaska
42 in the spring of 2010 by Christian Dau and Edward Maleck.
43 So the one thing that is really apparent is that the
44 survey populations are estimates, which do not factor in
45 the movement of the bird or the decision of where the
46 bird will be during the survey.

47
48 Mr. Koso is correct. They do not survey
49 out past Unimak like they used to, so it's possible that
50 the population is larger than it is being estimated. We,

1 as a group here, are submitting this proposal to the
2 Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council.

3
4 Another thing to mention is that the
5 birds are subsistence items and there is a co-management
6 council that deals specifically with Alaska migratory
7 birds. Part of this proposal will request that there be
8 an Alaska flyway committee designed specifically for the
9 Emperor Goose, which only migrates from Kodiak to Russia.

10
11 With that, Mr. Chair, I'm happy to answer
12 questions or give you any more information if you need
13 it.

14
15 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. This is Pat.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

18
19 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I'd like to spin off
20 of Rick's comments there because I know when he was on
21 our committee we discussed this and he was going to start
22 doing some work to try to get that proposal going then,
23 a year ago, and I don't know what happened there or what
24 happened with our earlier request, but here we are
25 talking about it, so let's go for it.

26
27 The gentleman there commented that that
28 was just an index, but you're presenting your data to
29 individual (indiscernible - cutting out) population
30 estimate to individual animals (indiscernible - cutting
31 out) of that on other critters. I would suggest that --
32 and we've asked for this before through the Izembek
33 Refuge, why no confidence intervals on the surveys there
34 and I think that would be really important to be part of
35 the information that our Council receives every year.

36
37 Any kind of survey index you do is an
38 index and it might be plus or minus 20,000 individuals
39 and it all depends on how the survey is conducted. I
40 would add whether or not surveys -- how they are done
41 because I've talked with some of the folks when they've
42 come through Kodiak and I just wonder is it a straight
43 linear area projection survey. Are the indexes
44 stratified when you find a high concentration? Do you
45 spend more time in the areas where there are more
46 critters to get a more precise index? Do you do like
47 they do in fisheries and some -- well, they should do
48 adaptive sampling. You know, those are all real
49 important questions and they're probably not what should
50 be addressed to you, but there's some really big

1 questions on these.

2

3 I would like to make a comment and then
4 I'll let you go for it. To go off of Rick Koso's
5 thoughts and maybe use a model that Dolly's used and has
6 been done in other areas and pool up a little bit of
7 money for local communities for when you're doing your
8 survey to pay for some fuel and provide some folks who
9 have boats at Adak or Atka or other places to -- if the
10 weather allows, to go out around the island and just do
11 a rough index. Give them guidelines on how to do that
12 and then you'll know whether or not you've got birds out
13 there at the same time you're doing your index or if your
14 distribution (indiscernible).

15

16 I'd like to have one other comment. You
17 mentioned that the 3,500 harvest includes estimates
18 (indiscernible) and that might be showing up on the
19 subsistence surveys, but there haven't been any for
20 years. (Indiscernible) they know are less than the
21 Aleutians. They'll bat their kids on the head if they
22 even think about doing something like that because they
23 want to see the numbers come up so that they can have
24 that as a regular subsistence item again.

25

26 Anyway, good luck and I hope that you
27 guys can give us some more answers and provide a way for
28 some small harvest for the elders because a lot of them
29 will probably be dead before the bureaucracy comes up
30 with a way to provide for them.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman. This is Tom
35 Evans. Could I have time to speak?

36

37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Who?

38

39 MR. JENNINGS: Tom Evans.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom Evans?

42

43 MR. JENNINGS: Evans, yeah. He's from
44 OSM.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Go ahead,
47 Tom.

48

49 MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, can you hear
50 me?

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We're getting bad
2 reception out here, so maybe you can get closer to the
3 mic or something, speak louder.

4
5 MR. EVANS: I'm talking on the phone.
6 This is Tom Evans. One thing that we did some surveys in
7 the Aleutians in the month of April back in '92 and 2000
8 and the one thing that we noticed was that a lot of those
9 birds -- something that should be considered. A lot of
10 those Emperor Geese that are seen in the Aleutians, which
11 is an area that they winter in, over into Russia as well,
12 that those birds are migrating. So when we see those
13 birds during April, depending on where the survey is, a
14 lot of those birds will migrate north and then breed up
15 in the Y-K Delta and a few other places.

16
17 So that should be considered in any kind
18 of estimates of the populations of what stage of the life
19 cycle the birds are in in terms of migrating or not
20 because counting the birds during migration may not be as
21 an accurate of an estimate than they would be on the
22 breeding grounds.

23
24 MR. HOLMES: Amen to that.

25
26 MR. EVANS: That's all, Mr. Chairman.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Doug.

29
30 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
31 appreciate those comments and while I am not a
32 statistician and a modeler, population modeler, I will
33 ask Tom for copies of these transcripts and these
34 recommendations can be carried to the experts that are on
35 my staff that are modelers and be able to look at those
36 and provide responses to those and incorporate those
37 where they can be incorporated into our modeling and our
38 estimating, how we do the population estimates. So
39 that's good input.

40
41 We appreciate that.

42
43 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Tom Schwantes.

46
47 MR. SCHWANTES: In looking at this aerial
48 survey of Emperor Geese dated April 2012, in the
49 conclusion, I don't see anything in there that indicates
50 where that would indicate that there are other

1 populations of Emperor Geese out there that are not being
2 surveyed and I think that -- to me, that makes this
3 report misleading in the fact that, yeah, we're doing
4 some surveys and we're covering some areas, but there's
5 known populations that are not being surveyed. There's
6 nowhere in that report where those numbers are being
7 taken into consideration whatsoever. I think that's
8 something that if we're not going to survey all of the
9 areas, when we write the report, that should be indicated
10 in there that this is the information we have but there
11 are areas we haven't surveyed.

12

13 MR. DEVINE: Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Peter and then
16 Vince.

17

18 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Peter
19 Devine here with AMBCC. One of the problems I have with
20 the survey is they're not taking into consideration local
21 knowledge. I mean you've got 3,000 birds in Womens Bay
22 not being counted. We have a whole flock over in Semidi
23 Islands that probably aren't being counted. We have an
24 island out here in the Shumagins, Simeonof, which was --
25 oh, they killed everything except for the birds and the
26 birds are supposed to be increasing and I've actually
27 seen them increasing. We've got upwards of 7,000 birds
28 coming from out that way.

29

30 When they do their survey, they're flying
31 at 150 feet off the ocean. You know, you can't really do
32 a survey, you know, and get results because before you
33 even get there the birds are flying away. I think if
34 they increase that ceiling up 600 feet, they'd probably
35 see more.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Peter.
40 Vince.

41

42 MR. TUTIAKOFF: On the harvest levels it
43 says here in one of these comments here that based on
44 2004 and '09 subsistence harvest data collected by the
45 Department of Fish and Game that there was 3,517 birds
46 taken. Is this -- I guess what I'm wondering is why or
47 how did they have that number. I mean it was illegal or
48 maybe it wasn't at that time. Are they taking birds up
49 in the Y-K, their eggs? Is that counted? Is that put in
50 some kind of a figure for your management system to say,

1 well, they're taking 4,000 eggs a year and then counting
2 it as a subsistence hunt. I don't know.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Doug.

5

6 MR. ALCORN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. These
7 numbers, as I understand, come from perhaps -- the
8 Department of Fish and Game may do additional subsistence
9 harvest surveys, but the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-
10 management Council and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
11 sponsor an annual survey of subsistence harvest and that
12 includes fall and winter seasons as well, depending on
13 the way the survey is conducted. The numbers here --
14 certainly one of the reports that is used to generate
15 this number is the survey that's conducted by the AMBCC
16 and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

17

18 The survey is actually conducted by the
19 Alaska Department of Fish and Game under contract from
20 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, but it is a survey
21 that's been designed by a committee of the AMBCC. So
22 it's the three co-managing entities working together to
23 conduct that survey and then there may be additional
24 survey information that's collected by the Department in
25 other surveys. I'm not aware of where that might come
26 from, but I wouldn't say that it doesn't exist, but I am
27 aware that the AMBCC does conduct information gathering
28 effort surveys.

29

30 MR. ROWLAND: Mr. Chair. This is Rick
31 from Kodiak.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Rick.

34

35 MR. ROWLAND: One question I have about
36 the surveys is the legal hunting amount in Russia
37 considered in these population estimates?

38

39 MR. ALCORN: Mr. Chair. I don't think,
40 Rick, that this estimate of take -- this estimate of
41 harvest of 3,517 birds, I don't believe that that
42 includes any estimate of harvest in Russia.

43

44 MR. ROWLAND: Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I know you mentioned
47 that the surveys are made by a model, but is there
48 something we can do about including the whole flyway
49 range of Emperor Geese to get a real count? We're
50 talking Kodiak/Aleutians. I see in your survey there's

1 a big area that you do a survey, but we're looking for
2 real numbers so that we can entertain a proposal that
3 would give a small subsistence harvest.

4

5 MR. ALCORN: Mr. Chair. This is Doug
6 Alcorn again. I think that that -- I don't know how to
7 answer that question. I do know that we can fly
8 airplanes in other places when safety concerns are
9 considered into that and we minimize risk. This
10 particular survey and the way that models are designed
11 and the reason I mention that these are index surveys
12 that are used as an index, we don't generally fly with
13 the attempt of counting every bird.

14

15 There's the methodology that Peter was
16 describing, flying at 150 feet above the surface. That's
17 a standardized methodology for this type of survey and
18 there is a sight range that pilots are instructed to use
19 so that it's a consistent counting methodology so that
20 the numbers are comparable from one year to the next.

21

22 So the question being can the survey be
23 changed so that it is an attempt to count more birds or
24 an attempt to estimate in a different way, then it makes
25 it more difficult to compare one year to the next. The
26 reason I say that is because the management plan is
27 designed on that aerial survey methodology and it's a
28 spring period when it's agreed that it's a consistent
29 time and a consistent methodology and a consistent place.

30

31 So if that method changes, then it
32 changes the number, obviously changes the result and so
33 interpreting that number it would have to go back and
34 through a discussion in the context of this plan and then
35 does that number change. I suspect that the number would
36 change based on a changing methodology and then there
37 would have to be an agreement on what that number would
38 need to be for hunting to be considered or whatever the
39 objective would be, the total population objective.

40

41 So it's a very technical question and
42 it's a very technical answer and I'm giving you more
43 general ways that it would be discussed and concluded.
44 The model would then have to be changed, the methodology
45 would have to be changed, and a discussion of that and
46 comparison with the old numbers would have to also occur
47 so that we could make sense of what those numbers meant.

48

49 MR. HOLMES: I don't think that's quite
50 true. In some cases that's partially true.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Who are you?
2
3 MR. HOLMES: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman.
4 This is Pat.
5
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.
7
8 MR. HOLMES: Because you can do adaptive
9 sampling and then run your model on your existing
10 strategy, but you can do an adaptive sampling to test as
11 to the validity of the counts that you're getting. I'm
12 certainly not a statistician either, but you can easily
13 sit down before you do your next thing and do as a group
14 and say, hey, how do we test to see how this is working
15 and you can work that into your survey plan. So that's
16 not precisely correct, but thank you.
17
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you for that,
19 Pat. For those of you that we have online, please
20 identify yourself before you start speaking so we know
21 who you are. Thomas Schwantes.
22
23 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman. A
24 question, Doug. Am I understanding that you're doing the
25 surveys in the exact same places every year?
26
27 MR. ALCORN: I think that's the general
28 understanding, is that we try to bracket a date and then
29 we try to survey, weather permitting. We survey the
30 similar lines for the survey at the same altitude so that
31 we do get an index. Again, that's why it's not a census.
32 We get an index of the birds that occupy that area and
33 that sight window on those dates that the surveys are
34 flown so that the numbers then are comparable, but I
35 would say that I appreciate the earlier comment by Pat.
36 Again, I'm not the technician and the person that would
37 be able to respond in a technical way, but that comment
38 is valuable and I think that our statisticians and
39 modelers can take that comment and weigh that as well.
40
41 MR. SCHWANTES: In response to that, for
42 the areas that you're not surveying, the National Audubon
43 Society does a bird count every year. In fact, they do
44 it, I believe, a couple different times a year. Is that
45 something you could use for these outlying areas where
46 you're not counting? Could you set a specific date and
47 -- I know what they do is they take maybe an eight-hour
48 period during certain times of the year and they send all
49 kinds of people out and they count all the birds they
50 see, every bird. Is that something we could do for the

1 Emperor Geese in these outlying areas that you are not
2 surveying that would help you get a better handle on the
3 numbers?

4
5 MR. ALCORN: Again, I'm not the
6 technician, so I think that any time you can get
7 information data it's good. Whether or not that data can
8 be incorporated into this particular model, I don't know
9 the answer to that. I do know that there is what's been
10 referred to as a Christmas bird count. Christmas day
11 apparently Audubon has been involved in sponsoring some
12 of those sorts of events. So that type of information
13 could be considered, but I don't know how it would be
14 incorporated into any type of modeling.

15
16 MR. SCHWANTES: Well, I guess what my
17 point is, is if you're taking a certain time of the year
18 to do your surveys in certain areas and there's certain
19 areas that you are not surveying, for those areas that
20 you are not surveying, if the people in the region could
21 do surveys and report the number of birds they're seeing
22 in those locations that you're not surveying at the same
23 time that you are doing your surveys, couldn't you add
24 those numbers to your -- I mean you're going to come up
25 with a certain population based on the information you're
26 getting, but then there's all these other birds that
27 you're not counting. So couldn't those numbers be
28 somehow added into that? I'm not sure exactly what kind
29 of model you'd want to use, but it seems like that
30 information would be valuable and we'd have a lot better
31 count than what we have now.

32
33 MR. ALCORN: Mr. Chair. Intuitively, I
34 think I agree with you. Again, you said it and I'm
35 saying it too, neither of us are the technicians that
36 know how that information does get incorporated and it
37 would be added into that kind of a modeling effort, but
38 there's no reason why that discussion can't occur and
39 look at those kinds of datasets that might exist.

40
41 MR. SCHWANTES: I certainly thing that
42 people in the region would be more than happy to
43 participate in something like that if we could get
44 something like that going.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I somewhat
47 understand the model they're using to get the numbers
48 they've got to use for a three-year average. But, on the
49 other hand, like Tom is saying, not all the birds are
50 being used in that model and it's consistently keeping

1 that number low. I know for a fact there's more than
2 thousands of birds on Kodiak, not to mention Tugidak,
3 Chirikof, Sitkinak and other villages on Kodiak Island.
4 There's a lot of birds that aren't being counted and the
5 model that we're using keeps that population threshold
6 consistently low where they're just not going to
7 entertain a proposal to allow a subsistence hunt. We can
8 discuss it until we're blue in the face, but we've just
9 got to get some real numbers.

10

11 Do you want to continue discussing this?
12 Do you want to take a lunch break and then come back to
13 it?

14

15 MR. KOSO: We're done with this subject?

16

17

18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We're not done with
19 the subject.

20

21 MR. KOSO: We've done it pretty good,
22 didn't we?

23

24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We're not done with
25 it. We can come back to it after lunch and finish it.

26

27 MR. KOSO: I suggest a lunch break then.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Tom.

30

31 MR. JENNINGS: I think -- to answer
32 Rick's question about being done, I think one of the
33 things that this Council wants to do is to get a proposal
34 in the proper form through the proper regulatory body.
35 So that would be your end point, I believe.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes.

38

39 MR. JENNINGS: Or at least get moved
40 along with these representatives in that direction.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes. I appreciate
45 Peter giving us that guide for submitting a proposal.
46 When you guys come back after lunch maybe we could start
47 drafting up a new one. Is that okay with you, Peter?

48

49 MR. DEVINE: Mr. Chair. I think what
50 Rick did was -- you know, I heard that it started at this

1 body, but realizing that it couldn't go anywhere, I think
2 what is needed is a letter of support saying that
3 Subsistence Advisory Council supports this because the
4 numbers that we're being shown do not reflect what is
5 actually out there. I think a letter of support today
6 and AMBCC would greatly appreciate it.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Rick.

9

10 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Mr. Chair. On that, am
11 I hearing that we don't necessarily need now to put in a
12 proposal but just to send in a backing towards their
13 proposal? Is that what I'm hearing now?

14

15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I don't think they
16 necessarily have a proposal. The proposal that we
17 started never got to them.

18

19 MR. KOSO: That's what I mean. Tom was
20 talking about us drafting another proposal and put it in.
21 I wasn't sure if that's what we're going to do.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom.

24

25 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair. Peter provided
26 this copy for you all and it's from the Kodiak region or
27 Kodiak area and I'm not -- so this is a proposal for a
28 harvest, right?

29

30 MR. DEVINE: Yes.

31

32 MR. JENNINGS: But I'm not certain. Does
33 it apply for the entire range of the Emperor Goose or
34 just specifically to the Kodiak area?

35

36 MR. DEVINE: Specific to Kodiak.

37

38 MR. ROWLAND: This is Rick Rowland from
39 Sun'aq Tribal. Yes, it does.....

40

41 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Mr. Schwantes.

44

45 MR. SCHWANTES: It does read.....

46

47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Oh, sorry, Tom.
48 There's someone on there speaking already.

49

50 MR. SCHWANTES: Oh, okay.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead. What
2 happened?
3
4 MR. JENNINGS: That was Rick.
5
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rick.
7
8 MR. ROWLAND: Okay. Is that me to go
9 ahead, Mr. Chair?
10
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Rick.
12
13 MR. ROWLAND: Okay. Yeah, in that
14 proposal that we are going to submit to the Migratory
15 Bird Co-management Council, it does represent all of the
16 communities that those Emperor Geese interact with, not
17 just the Kodiak area.
18
19 MR. TUTIAKOFF: What we need is a letter
20 from us.
21
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: So you were asking
23 for a letter of support for this proposal.
24
25 MR. DEVINE: Yes.
26
27 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman.
28
29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Tom Schwantes.
30
31 MR. SCHWANTES: I think we should take a
32 break, come back, take a look at this proposal and then
33 decide whether we want to rewrite it, reword it or just
34 add a letter of support to it.
35
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. We'll break
37 for lunch. Give us an hour, about 1:30.
38
39 (Off record)
40
41 (On record)
42
43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Let's go ahead and
44 call the meeting back to order. We are continuing on
45 with the migratory birds, specifically the Emperor Geese.
46
47 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Mr. Chair.
48
49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Vincent.
50

1 MR. TUTIAKOFF: On this proposed changes
2 on the Migratory Bird Co-management Council subsistence
3 for Emperor Geese, we have this paper that's kind of like
4 a proposal, but I'd like to revise it. It says what is
5 the problem you're trying to address. The first issue
6 there says Emperor Geese around Kodiak, Afognak, Akhiok
7 and areas of the Peninsula and Aleutians.

8
9 The second paragraph, how should the new
10 regulation read. We're going to change that to two
11 Emperor Geese per 60 and older per season between October
12 1 to January 31st. Of course, strike Kodiak Island,
13 northeastern Russia and all that other stuff.

14
15 The third one, to what geographic area
16 does this regulation apply. It's Kodiak, Aleutian Chain,
17 Western Alaska, North Slope, Bering Sea areas. Kodiak
18 and the Aleutian Islands, Aleutian Chain, that's it, and
19 the Bering Sea areas, I guess.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Strike off.....

22
23 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Oh, striking out Western
24 Alaska.....

25
26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: North Slope,
27 Interior and Bering Sea.

28
29 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, and the Bering Sea
30 areas.

31
32 MR. DEVINE: How much opposition is that
33 going to get us?

34
35 MR. TUTIAKOFF: They can file their own
36 or they could add onto it. I'm sure this is a process
37 that they can -- they'll get it. Other groups will get
38 it. They could add on if they wanted to.

39
40 What is the impact? Very little. It
41 will affect -- make the elders have the benefit of
42 getting their traditional foods. Why should this
43 regulation be adopted? I mean we're all for manageable
44 sustained yield and all that. We'll also cut down on
45 illegal hunting. I'll leave it at that I guess for now,
46 Mr. Chair, unless you want to add something else in
47 there.

48
49 MR. KOSO: I guess the date, Vince, on
50 that I would like to see it -- since they do start to

1 subsistence hunt in Cold Bay on August 15th to August
2 31st, why not just start the other one from August 15 as
3 an opener because around Cold Bay, King Cove area the
4 Emperors show up pretty early down there versus out in
5 the Aleutians, you know. So I would say if it's okay I'd
6 like to see that August 15th.

7

8 MR. TUTIAKOFF: August 15th to January
9 31st?

10

11 MR. KOSO: Yeah.

12

13 MR. ROWLAND: Mr. Chair. This is Rick
14 Rowland from Sun'aq Tribe.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, Rick. We just
17 started back up. We're modifying the proposal.

18

19 MR. ROWLAND: I've actually been on the
20 line. I just have a couple comments.

21

22 MR. JENNINGS: Could you repeat that
23 again, Rick, please. I'm turning up the phone.

24

25 MR. ROWLAND: Yes, I've been on the line
26 since the meeting has reconvened and I have a couple
27 comments.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Go ahead and
30 make them.

31

32 MR. ROWLAND: Okay. Just to let you
33 know, as Peter Devine mentioned, we're asking for a
34 letter of support not for editing of the current
35 proposal. If the Regional Advisory Council finds that
36 they would like to create a proposal, then they should.
37 Also I've got to let you know that this proposal here was
38 created by a meeting of the village reps in the Kodiak
39 area and this proposal has not yet been submitted to the
40 Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council. I guess the
41 request was a letter of support for this proposal from
42 the Regional Advisory Council if possible and then,
43 again, if you guys are interested in putting in your own
44 proposal, then I don't know how that would work with the
45 Regional Advisory Council making a proposal to the Alaska
46 Migratory Bird Co-management Council. We, as a group,
47 will be submitting this as it is written. That's it.

48

49

50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom Schwantes.

1 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman and Rick.
2 Rick, I understand what you're saying there, but as a
3 Council.....

4
5 MR. ROWLAND: Who is this?
6

7 MR. SCHWANTES: This is Tom Schwantes.
8 As a Council, we've discussed this a little bit and the
9 thought that comes to my mind is that if we can get
10 online and get in agreement, maybe we need to discuss
11 this some more with your group, but I think if we could
12 -- my feeling is if we can send in one proposal that will
13 make everybody happy, we'd probably be a lot better off
14 doing that.

15
16 MR. ROWLAND: I completely understand
17 what you're saying and I really appreciate it and it will
18 eventually get figured out, but this is the proposal that
19 was put together by the village reps in the spring
20 meeting and I can't just sit here and say this is how
21 we're going to change it. If there's a time where the
22 Regional Advisory Council plans to come and communicate
23 to the whole Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council,
24 I'm sure that that could be set up.

25
26 I appreciate and understand the two birds
27 for 60 and older to begin a start for this, but in the
28 thinking of putting this together we had discussions
29 about that kind of thing and we didn't want to
30 discriminate against some hunters, so we wanted to make
31 sure that we were creating something for all of the
32 hunters. So that would be my reason for not saying, yeah,
33 we can make the change. I'm presenting this as those
34 individuals have decided on in a group.

35
36 Plus the responsibility of the migratory
37 birds lays with the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management
38 Council as a note. If the Regional Advisory Council
39 wishes to make a proposal, I'm sure that you would figure
40 that out somehow legally.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Rick.
43

44 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair, Rick. On this, I
45 think we were just adding to it. We weren't really
46 changing the proposal. There's really nothing we'd
47 change in here outside the areas. We can't really, in my
48 mind, represent the North Slope or Interior Alaska. We're
49 representing the Southwest Region. So, by taking those
50 out of there, I think what we can do -- I know you're

1 asking for a yes or no on this, a consensus on this, but
2 I think by just adding the two -- not necessarily
3 amending, but just adding a couple of different things to
4 it would never really change the format of your proposal.
5

6 If you're persistent on saying absolutely
7 no changes to this, then in my mind I won't support it
8 without the changes. You're suggesting that we go ahead
9 and do our own proposal, which, I guess, if that's the
10 case, that's what we have to do. In my mind, we're
11 representing Southwest Region and not the rest of the
12 areas. That would be my take on it.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Vincent.

19

20 MR. TUTIAKOFF: This is Vince again. I
21 kind of agree with Rick. We're trying to add on to this.
22 Keep the wording as it is originally put in there, but
23 Rick might be right. We would support the North Slope,
24 Interior Alaska and Bering Sea areas if they did submit
25 this proposal. I guess we would support them because
26 they need it as much as we do, but we're not asking for
27 any major changes.

28

29 The dates are a little bit -- September
30 through April 15th. Is that six months? I guess we can
31 live with that because it does include the hunting times
32 in the Aleutians and the Peninsula, but I would add two
33 birds for 60 and older. Of course, then you'd have to
34 get into -- individual tribes then would be the managers
35 for the community. They would have the ability to issue
36 proxy hunting for those that can get out and hunt on
37 their own.

38

39 Okay. I guess I'll leave it at that for
40 now.

41

42 MR. KOSO: Just one more thing, Rick, on
43 that too. The reason we selected the 60 and older was
44 the idea that if we keep waiting, half of these people
45 are going to be dead and gone, you know. We'd like to at
46 least let them have a taste of what they were
47 traditionally raised up with. So our whole thought of
48 this 60 and older was to get some of the elders to be
49 able to taste that beach goose that they grew up with and
50 let them have a chance at that. You know, us younger

1 people, we're going to be around for a while, so when the
2 geese come back, if they ever do, then we'll be able to
3 have our hunt. In the meantime, we should take care of
4 our elders and let them at least try some of their
5 traditional meat that they grewed up with.

6

7 MR. ROWLAND: This is Rick from Sun'aq
8 Tribal Kodiak. I completely understand all of you guys's
9 passionate concerns and amounts and dates completely and
10 I'll mention that when I make this proposal. This is
11 important not only for the Kodiak/Aleutians but all the
12 people along that whole flyway.

13

14 MR. HOLMES: Are you saying our Council
15 can't make a proposal, Rick?

16

17 MR. ROWLAND: I didn't say that. I said
18 that this proposal that we made is the way that they
19 decided on it and I'll mention it. I'm also saying that
20 you guys, depending on your legal requirements, could or
21 could not make a proposal. I understand that this is
22 only the Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory Council and
23 it could be so stated that you support it for your region
24 if a letter of support is granted. But that's your
25 decision and I just wanted to put my comments in there
26 about what it is that we're proposing.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom Schwantes.

29

30 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman. I think
31 one of the other reasons that we discussed for dropping
32 the numbers taken rather than from four per household to
33 two for individuals over 60 would be again we're seeing
34 in the surveys the number of Emperor Geese dropping and
35 I think there would be a much better chance for something
36 to get through -- a proposal to get through if we limited
37 the numbers of birds that we'll be looking at taking. So
38 that would be one of my reasons for supporting a lower
39 number and limiting it to the elders and certainly by way
40 of proxy. If they don't want to hunt by way of proxy,
41 they could harvest those birds or the birds could be
42 harvested for them, but we would be reducing the total
43 numbers. Rather than four per household we'd be looking
44 at two for 60 and over. That would be one of my reasons
45 for wanting a change there too.

46

47 MR. ROWLAND: I completely understand
48 that, sir. In all actuality, those changes are sensible
49 changes. In the event we have a discussion about it at
50 the Alaska Migratory Bird level, I'm sure we'll have that

1 communication about two birds for individuals over 60 who
2 are elders and find a way to make this hunt available to
3 Alaska's communities and legalizing it. So this progress
4 is a step forward and part of it would be working
5 something out.

6

7

MR. TUTIAKOFF: Mr. Chair.

8

9

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Vincent.

10

11

MR. TUTIAKOFF: Vince again. I don't
12 have a problem with the proposal. I think when we do
13 send a letter of support is with these concerns that we
14 ask the makers of this regulation or the proposal to
15 consider our request to add these items into their
16 proposal and we'll see where it goes from there. If
17 nothing happens, we have -- we can go -- if this goes on
18 through and doesn't have our concerns, then we have every
19 right as a RAC to submit a new proposal and could include
20 our interests.

21

22

But we'd like to make one proposal
23 because this is a big process and when you start getting
24 involved in taking birds on the extinction list for years
25 and now they're up to a good count, they could be
26 unwilling to consider another proposal, which could be
27 ours down the road. I just want to make it clear that
28 the only way I'd really support a letter -- getting a
29 letter of support for them for this particular proposal
30 would be that we add our concerns in there and ask that
31 the villages of Kodiak Island tribes consider doing these
32 small changes. The dates are no concern to me. They can
33 keep them as they are. I think the big issue is the two
34 birds for 60 and older and includes the Aleutian Islands
35 and I'm fine with it. I'd be willing to move if that's
36 what we have to do to get this thing going.

37

38

MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair. Rick, I think I
39 will follow suit with Vince on that. You know, if you
40 want to keep the North Slope and them in there because
41 you guys are putting the thing in, I wouldn't have a
42 problem with that either because we're just supporting
43 your proposal with our addition to 60 and older two
44 birds, then adding the Aleutian Islands, Peninsula and
45 Aleutian Islands to the problem and issues I'm trying to
46 address in that area so that we're included in that one
47 spot, which is excluded right now. So, with that, it
48 would just be 60 and older two per person and adding the
49 Peninsula and Aleutian Islands to the problem area. The
50 rest of it I could support. As Vince said, the rest of

1 it, if you would take it to your people and see if they
2 would approve what we're asking to be added on.

3

4 MR. ROWLAND: Excellent. In all
5 actuality, we have a meeting this Friday with Alaska
6 Migratory Bird and I'll bring that up with them. I'm
7 sure that they'll understand and appreciate the
8 recommendations. Quite possibly I can't speak for them,
9 but in a positive way.

10

11 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Mr. Chair. Maybe, Rick,
12 you could get that information to our coordinator, Tom
13 Jennings, whenever your meeting is over sometime after
14 Friday or Monday next week so that they could relay it on
15 to us.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MR. ROWLAND: Okay.

20

21 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Tom.

24

25 MR. SCHWANTES: I'd like to hear from
26 Patty. We discussed this a little bit earlier this
27 morning. What are your recommendations? Where do we go
28 from here?

29

30 MS. BROWN-SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Mr.
31 Schwantes. This is Patty Brown-Schwalenberg. When we
32 talked earlier, I wasn't aware that Kodiak had actually
33 developed a proposal and I think that the Regional
34 Advisory Council is certainly free to put in their own
35 proposal. The avenue that you've chosen is to write a
36 letter and put in what you would rather see and with the
37 other restrictions with the 60 and over and the two per
38 household, I think that's a wise path to take because it
39 would give the AMBCC the view of the range of
40 opportunities that are -- willingness that people are
41 wanting to do to make something happen.

42

43 So what I think will probably happen it
44 will come out in a discussion at AMBCC and it will go to
45 a vote, but if it gets voted down because of the
46 population objective, I think that the door is still open
47 to try to make it -- to try to modify it so that we can
48 do something and that's kind of the way the AMBCC has
49 been moving in the past eight months or so. Our new
50 motto is try to get to yes rather than no to this one,

1 move on to the next agenda item. So we really are trying
2 to look out for the best interests of the subsistence
3 hunters. I think you're doing the right thing.

4

5 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Tom.

8

9 MR. SCHWANTES: I think with that
10 information, then I would support Vince's idea and
11 Rick's. I would go along with that of writing a letter
12 in support of this, but laying out specifically what our
13 ideas are so that if they take a look at this and say,
14 no, that's going to be way too many birds, we've got
15 another number in there that's probably going to be
16 somewhat lower that says, hey, we're willing to work
17 here. We just want to get -- we want to get this open so
18 that the elders can get back to harvesting these birds
19 they've harvested for years and now haven't been able to.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Tom. My
24 main concern would be submitting a proposal that involved
25 other regions other than Kodiak/Aleutians. We have a
26 history of not making proposals for other regions. If we
27 submit a proposal, it's for Kodiak/Aleutians and it goes
28 out to other regions to see if they support it or not.
29 We have never written a proposal that would involve the
30 subsistence harvest of other regions other than
31 Kodiak/Aleutians.

32

33 Peter.

34

35 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Peter
36 Devine here. In the past we've submitted -- I mean each
37 region wants to do this, but when you get to the Council
38 level and you have 13 regions and you have six proposals
39 dealing with the same thing, just for us to get denied
40 year after year, it's more beneficial for us to support
41 one proposal and try to get a statewide. This isn't just
42 something that happened overnight. We've been working on
43 this for quite a few years trying to get this to happen.
44 Every time numbers get up there, then they're down. The
45 on-the-ground level of the people who actually see these
46 birds differs with the statistics that were shown.
47 That's our reason for supporting one region with this
48 proposal.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We can't make that

1 modification. Instead of doing it specifically for
2 Kodiak/Aleutians, we can just call it a statewide
3 proposal and that would involve other regions that have
4 Emperor Geese in there.

5

6 MS. TRUMBLE: Hi, this is Della.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hi, Della.

9

10 MS. TRUMBLE: I'm sorry I'm a little
11 late. I had to run to a plotting commission meeting.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We're just
14 continuing on with the Emperor Geese proposal. Tom, you
15 had something.

16

17 MR. SCHWANTES: In our letter of support
18 to this, couldn't we lay that out that we're concerned
19 about making proposals for other regions?

20

21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We can.

22

23 MR. SCHWANTES: I guess one of the
24 questions I would have for Peter, you said all these
25 areas are working on this. Are all these areas
26 submitting proposals or are all those areas behind this
27 proposal. I guess that's my question.

28

29 MR. DEVINE: Well, in the past, we've all
30 submitted proposals just to have them all shot down and
31 not just one -- I mean in one blanket effort, you know,
32 just straight across the board, no, we cannot accept
33 that. So we've just got one region concentrating on
34 trying to get this proposal across and we are in full
35 support of it because we want the same thing. Numbers
36 are up. We just want to hunt legally is all.

37

38 MR. SCHWANTES: I guess where I'm coming
39 from, I'm totally in support of this, but I think maybe
40 before it goes all the way to the Feds that we should get
41 all of the regions to support the same proposal. I mean
42 if all the regions that are involved in this, in the
43 desire to harvest Emperor Geese, if we could all be on
44 the same sheet of music. I mean I realize we can't tell
45 other regions what to do, but if we're going to support
46 this thing and the other regions are behind it, if all
47 those regions could be supporting the same proposal, I
48 think it would have a lot better chance. That would be
49 by guess.

50

1 MR. DEVINE: That's what we're leaning
2 towards. We all support this. We just don't have our
3 letters of support in front of us, but we all want a
4 goose hunt. If it's not for me, like Vince said, for the
5 elders.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Rick.

8
9 MR. KOSO: Yeah, no, I would be in
10 support of a letter. I don't think it's going to get in
11 trouble for us to draft up a letter of support. It's not
12 a proposal. It's just a letter of support of this deal.
13 In the letter, we're just going to ask that 60 and over
14 to be able to get a couple birds.

15
16 You know, as far as the geographic areas
17 that are laid out on this, it includes all the areas in
18 this letter. So your question is already laid out in the
19 proposal. With that, I would be more than willing to
20 submit a letter of support for what we agreed upon here.
21 I don't think it's going to be out of line because it's
22 not a proposal, it's just a letter of support. I think
23 we could do that without hurting anything because it's
24 not pointing anybody out specifically. Each area will
25 still have their chance to act.

26
27 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Vincent.

30
31 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Vince again. I agree
32 with Rick, I agree with Tom. We'll be sending a letter
33 of support, as I said earlier, and other regions you'll
34 be getting, I'm sure, some kind of support letter from
35 them because they want to, like you say, to have the hunt
36 also, a subsistence hunt. If it doesn't work out that we
37 don't have the support for the two birds per elder issue,
38 then we have until November 1st to get a proposal in to
39 you, so we still have time to get our own proposal in.
40 It just may mean working with you and Tom to get it in
41 writing and submitting it, which is not a big thing
42 because we already know what we want and kind of follow
43 the same wording that they have except change it a little
44 bit.

45
46 I think we ought to move on it and say
47 we're sending a letter of support with these conditions,
48 we'd like to see improved in the proposal and move on.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Tom

1 Schwantes.

2

3 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I agree with that.
4 I think we need to do that. If they can get letters of
5 support from the other regions, it will probably go a
6 long way to support that proposal, so I think we should
7 do it.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I'll work with Tom
10 and we'll get a letter drafted up. Does this require an
11 action to produce that letter? Make a motion.

12

13 MR. TUTIAKOFF: I move to get a letter of
14 support for the Emperor Geese proposal from the Kodiak
15 region with our request that they include two per person
16 60 years and older for elders use and that we'll continue
17 to monitor it. If they do not include that, then I'll
18 ask for a proposal to be put together by the Council
19 representative and submitted to the AMBCC.

20

21 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chair. I second that
22 motion.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and seconded.
25 Any discussion.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Della, were you able
30 to hear everything? Do you have any discussion on this
31 motion?

32

33 MS. TRUMBLE: No. That sounds good.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. How about
36 you, Pat?

37

38 MR. HOLMES: Sounds fine to me.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Sam, are you still
41 in here?

42

43 MR. ROHRER: Roger. I'm here. Sounds
44 good to me.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Moved and
47 seconded. No further discussion. Any objection to the
48 motion.

49

50 (No objection)

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing none, then
2 the motion carries. That brings us to the end of the
3 migratory bird discussion. Thank you, Rick, for coming
4 online. You're welcome to stay on if you want. Rick
5 Rowland, are you still here?
6
7 MR. ROWLAND: Yes, I am still here. I'd
8 like to say thank you very much. It's greatly
9 appreciated and I'll be signing off.
10
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. We'll see you
12 soon.
13
14 MR. ROWLAND: Okay. Take care. Bye.
15
16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom Schwantes.
17
18 MR. SCHWANTES: I'd just like to thank
19 Doug and Peter and Patty for their support here today on
20 that.
21
22 Thank you.
23
24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. We're at an
25 agenda item that we wanted to move to the end of the day
26 because we haven't heard all our reports yet. After we
27 hear the reports we're going to formulate our annual
28 report to FSB. At this time, I guess I'd entertain a
29 motion to move that agenda item down to the end of the
30 day.
31
32 MR. TUTIAKOFF: So moved. Item 10 .
33
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Item 10(e). Annual
35 report topics.
36
37 MR. KOSO: I'll second that.
38
39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and seconded.
40 Any discussion.
41
42 (No comments)
43
44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing none. Is
45 there any objection?
46
47 (No objection)
48
49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
50 objections, then the motion carries. Next on the agenda

1 would be a charter review. Mr. Jennings, do you want to
2 talk us through that.

3

4 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
5 Every two years Councils are asked to review their
6 charter and consider any changes that would be necessary.
7 There are limitations to what can be changed. I know you
8 did this two years ago. I do not know what changes were
9 accepted. I don't think many changes were accepted at
10 that time across most of the regions. These things have
11 been operating for a number of years and they generally
12 seem to work. I do know that there were some major
13 revisions the last time primarily because of the
14 administration that was in place. They did a whole lot
15 of language changes based on lawyerese recommendations.
16 Anything of substance in there, that's what you need to
17 consider, I guess. We're giving you the opportunity. We
18 don't have to have a definitive answer, I don't think,
19 right now, but this is something that's considered during
20 this year.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MR. TUTIAKOFF: So are you asking us to
25 -- a motion to approve the charter as is then or just
26 reviewing it and move on?

27

28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, review it and
29 move on. If you don't want to make any changes,
30 then.....

31

32 MR. TUTIAKOFF: I don't have any changes
33 and I think we just move on.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Then a motion would
36 be in order to accept that charter as presented.

37

38 MR. KOSO: I'll make that motion to
39 accept the charter as presented.

40

41 MR. SCHWANTES: I'll second it.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and seconded.
44 Discussion.

45

46 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Is there any way you can
47 raise 140,000 to 240,000?

48

49 MR. KOSO: I thought of that, Vince.
50 Told us we couldn't.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
2 discussions.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing none. Is
7 there any objection.

8
9 (No objection)

10
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Seeing no
12 objections, then the motion carries. Item G, regulatory
13 cycle review and recommendations. OSM.

14
15 MR. FRIED: Good afternoon. My name is
16 Steve Fried. I work with the Office of Subsistence
17 Management and I will take you through a brief summary of
18 the regulatory cycle review and recommendations that you
19 can find on Page 56 of your meeting booklets.

20
21 Essentially this deals with scheduling
22 the review and passage of regulatory proposals. I know
23 even this morning there was at least one Council member
24 that was talking about moving meetings outside the
25 current window and other issues like that. For some
26 background, there have already been several changes. The
27 fall meeting window has been expanded in the past. The
28 effective date for subsistence fishing regulations was
29 moved from 1 March to 1 April. The Federal Subsistence
30 Board meeting that addressed fisheries regulatory
31 proposals was moved from early December meeting to a mid
32 January meeting to try to account for different things,
33 the Council's schedule and fishing, when fishing ended
34 and started, and other issues.

35
36 More recently, the Staff reviewed the
37 current regulatory cycle and there's some tables you can
38 look at on Pages 58 and 59. They developed some
39 recommendations to make some further changes. Essentially
40 there were four recommendations. One is to hold the
41 Board s meeting to review proposed changes to the
42 wildlife regulations in early April. Essentially this is
43 being done in mid January right now and it's proposed to
44 move this to early April. This is because the wildlife
45 regulations take effect July 1, so it seems feasible to
46 be able to do that and meet some of the -- do away with
47 some of the problems of having meetings in the middle of
48 January.

49
50 Also there was a recommendation to extend

1 the Regional Council meeting window. Right now it only
2 extends to the end of October. It was suggested to
3 extend it into at least early November and nobody saw any
4 impact of being able to do that.

5
6 As far as fisheries regulations go, the
7 recommendation was to hold the Board meeting to review
8 proposed changes to regulations no later than early
9 January. So that kind of moves it back a little bit from
10 mid January to early January. The problem with this is
11 that fisheries regulations unlike wildlife regulations
12 take effect 1 April instead of 1 July, so you need some
13 time to finalize the regulations and get them published
14 and they have to go down to Washington, D.C. I don't
15 know how many people sign them. It's called surnaming,
16 but it's a pretty involved process. Right now it's
17 really difficult given that 1 April date to really move
18 -- you know, do much with the Board meeting that adopts
19 regulatory changes for fisheries.

20
21 Essentially, 4 says maintain the current
22 effective date for the subsistence fisheries regulations,
23 but that could be changed. It could be changed to July
24 1, just like they are for the wildlife regulations.
25 Since these dates of effective regulations are actually
26 in regulation, we need to go through the whole regulatory
27 process just like we're going through now with the crab
28 proposal and things like that. The same thing. It would
29 need to be a proposal to change the effective date of the
30 fisheries regulations from 1 April to 1 July. Evidently
31 nobody did it this cycle. We only take these up every
32 two years, although I suppose you could take things up
33 out of cycle. The only way to change the date of the
34 Board meeting from January to a later date would be to
35 get a regulation in place that actually puts the
36 effective date of fishery regulations and moves those to
37 July 1 instead of April 1.

38
39 So that sort of summarizes where we are
40 with the regulatory cycle. I don't know if anybody has
41 questions or comments.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Questions.

44
45 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman. So I guess
46 what I'm hearing is it might be advantageous to us to
47 submit a proposal to move the effective date of the
48 fisheries regulations from April 1 to July 1?

49
50 MR. FRIED: I think if this Council and

1 other Councils are actually interested in not having a
2 Federal Subsistence Board meeting in sometime in January,
3 then we can do that for game regulations, in the years we
4 look at game regulations, but we can't do that without
5 somebody submitting a proposal to change the effective
6 date of fisheries regulations.

7

8 MR. SCHWANTES: Through submitting a
9 proposal we could move that back.

10

11 MR. FRIED: Exactly, yeah. That's my
12 understanding of where this stands now.

13

14 MR. SCHWANTES: Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If we change the
17 meeting dates, we have to change the proposal -- we have
18 to change everything that -- like if we had a meeting in
19 January and we got proposal that go in, if we change our
20 meeting to April, the proposals we produce in April have
21 to wait until next January to go in or do we need to
22 change the proposal dates too?

23

24 MR. FRIED: I think once you have an
25 effective date when a the proposal actually goes into
26 regulation, then people have to switch to the new
27 proposal. Once that's done, I think the whole schedule
28 can be shifted around. Right now, because it's April 1,
29 we can't schedule a Board meeting later than early
30 January because we don't have time to get the regulations
31 in place by April 1. Whereas if they were like wildlife
32 regulations, July 1, then we can shift it out of that
33 January window, the Board meeting, and do it in -- I
34 think it was -- I think they were talking about an April
35 meeting date instead, so that would mean the hunting
36 season was over, the real cold weather and the winter
37 would be over so people wouldn't have to worry about
38 traveling and things like that.

39

40 It sounds like they're ready to do that
41 with game. They'd do it with fisheries, but we'd need to
42 move that effective date. I suppose OSM could do a
43 housekeeping proposal or something to try to do that, but
44 I don't know if we've ever done that before. Somebody
45 would have to submit a proposal to do that, just the
46 effective date. The schedule itself would follow as to
47 when the Councils would meet, when the Board would meet
48 and all the rest.

49

50 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Tom.
2
3 MR. SCHWANTES: I would suggest we do
4 that, submit a proposal to make that change.
5
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom Jennings.
7
8 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. One
9 of the reasons this topic was brought up is at the last
10 January Board meeting, you were there, Mitch, some of
11 your other Chairs from the Interior regions noted that it
12 was a hardship for them at times to attend in the middle
13 of sub-sub-sub-zero weather. Leaving their homes when
14 they're trying to keep water systems flowing and houses
15 heated and things like that. That's where some of that
16 discussion came up to where they asked to look at
17 considering moving the fisheries regulatory meetings of
18 the Board to spring instead of middle of winter.
19
20 Thank you.
21
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Vincent.
23
24 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Mr. Chair. I'm looking
25 at the recommendations and you're asking us to adopt the
26 recommendations 1 through 4?
27
28 MR. FRIED: Actually, this is just sort
29 of information, so I don't think it's really an action
30 item for the Council. It's just sort of informing the
31 Council where the process is right now. I'm assuming --
32 you can correct me if I'm wrong, Tom, but it sounds like
33 if you look at Table 3, I think they're going to -- are
34 they going to make those changes now for the next
35 wildlife cycle and looking for somebody to submit a
36 proposal whether it's us or somebody else the next time
37 for fisheries?
38
39 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair. Steve, I'm not
40 sure if they have to submit a proposal just to change the
41 meeting date of the Board. That's all that entails for
42 wildlife. The regulatory year is going to stay the same,
43 so that's not an issue. They can set -- the Board can
44 set their meeting dates. That's up to them.
45
46 MR. FRIED: I was assuming though that
47 that was going to be done for wildlife and that they were
48 going to probably shift the meeting date for the Board
49 for fisheries into early January, but they can't move
50 that fisheries date any more until we get a regulatory

1 proposal passed to do the effective date. That's my
2 understanding of it. It's just that this is the
3 fisheries cycle. You don't get another cycle for another
4 couple years, but I suppose the Board can take things out
5 of cycle if they think it's important enough. I just
6 don't know where that particular issue is.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rick.

9

10 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair. I'd suggest we
11 just keep it status quo for now until we can maybe get
12 some more information or whatever on it. It doesn't seem
13 like it's affecting us in any way. It sounds like more
14 of a cold problem up in Interior Alaska. In our region,
15 I don't think we have that problem. I think we could
16 travel pretty much any time.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Are you suggesting
19 no action?

20

21 MR. KOSO: That's right, no action.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: That doesn't bother
24 me. If it changes to accommodate northern Interior
25 groups -- I mean we're Kodiak, Pacific Islanders. If
26 they change it to a later date, I wouldn't have a problem
27 with that.

28

29 MR. TUTIAKOFF: I'll second Rick's
30 motion. No action.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: You guys online, are
33 you guys capturing all this?

34

35 MS. TRUMBLE: Yes, I am.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The motion was to
38 take no action for changing the meeting dates because
39 we're not affected by severe cold weather like northern
40 Interior communities are. It was moved and seconded. Is
41 there any discussion.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
46 discussion, is there any objections.

47

48 (No objection)

49

50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Seeing none, the

1 motion carries. Is there something else on here, Steve?

2

3 MR. FRIED: No, the next thing I'd be
4 speaking about would be under agency reports, whenever
5 you want to start taking those up.

6

7 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Two more items, H and I.
8 I being brown bear, H being the Olga Bay proposal,
9 aquaculture.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The next would be H.
12 Oh, go ahead, Tom Jennings.

13

14 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
15 found my notes when I had the discussion with you on the
16 phone regarding this agenda item, so I'll just read it.
17 It might clarify some things. Kodiak setnetters request
18 for letter of support to Kodiak Aquaculture Association
19 on proposed back-stock project in Upper Station located
20 in Olga Bay. They had sent a letter to the Akhiok Tribal
21 Council. That's the agenda item.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Tom.
26 What the Kodiak Aquaculture Association is proposing to
27 do is to take the salmon eggs from Upper Station, take
28 them to a hatchery and let them hatch. After they hatch
29 they take them back to the lake or the river and then
30 release them. The reason they want to do that is right
31 now what's happening is when the fish hatch you get
32 probably a 1 percent survival rate. If they take them to
33 the hatchery and let them hatch there, they get a 10
34 percent survival rate. So they're not actually doing
35 anything except ensuring a greater survival rate of the
36 sockeye that come out of Upper Station. That's it.
37 They're asking for a letter of support since it involves
38 the subsistence harvest in that area.

39

40 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair. I'd like to go
41 ahead and agree on a support letter to them. I know when
42 we talked I think it was Fred earlier about financing on
43 that. He said they don't finance that type of stuff. I
44 guess that's their problem, but I have no problem with
45 supporting their goals to try to get more fish into Olga
46 Bay, so I'll support that support letter.

47

48 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman. I would
49 support that as well.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I think a motion to
2 that effect so that we can produce a letter.
3
4 MR. KOSO: I'll make a motion that we
5 sent a support letter to them.
6
7 MR. HOLMES: Second.
8
9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and seconded.
10 Discussion.
11
12 (No comments)
13
14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
15 discussion. Is there any objection.
16
17 (No objection)
18
19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing none, the
20 motion carries. That takes care of that one. Item I,
21 brown bear. Peter.
22
23 MR. DEVINE: This request is from a brown
24 bear hunt that we've got here on the island. I guess it
25 came out of this management body to allow us to have a
26 hunt, but here's the map location and I would just
27 request that we get the whole island to hunt on instead
28 of just the residential section.
29
30 This hunt was enacted without any
31 involvement from the Native corporation. I was kind of
32 upset about it, but we do get occasional bears, so we
33 would like to see the whole island opened up.
34
35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Your Native
36 corporation. I would prefer some interest come from your
37 tribal council.
38
39 MR. DEVINE: Tribal council does not own
40 the land. The Native corporation does.
41
42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Tom, do you
43 have something.
44
45 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
46 clarification, Peter, I've got a question for you.
47
48 MR. DEVINE: Yes, go ahead.
49
50 MR. JENNINGS: I'm not clear that we have

1 that hunt and that we established that hunt. Between the
2 Federal and the State regulations, I'm looking at the
3 State regs and I think on your map that says RB-525.

4

5 MR. DEVINE: Yes, that is correct.

6

7 MR. JENNINGS: In the State regs there is
8 a registration hunt that's identified in here. I haven't
9 been able to look into this much. Just having seen this
10 today. I would like to look in our regs to see -- Mr.
11 Chair, have we taken action on this before, do you
12 recall?

13

14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No, I don't recall.

15

16 MR. JENNINGS: So I'll double check our
17 Federal regulations versus the State regulations. That
18 map is familiar to me and it looks like the type that the
19 State publishes. That's obviously a valid hunt, but we
20 may not be able to change the regulations or this body
21 may not have set those regulations and wouldn't be able
22 to change them either. If you could give us a couple
23 minutes here, if I could look at these regs, compare the
24 two.

25

26 MR. DEVINE: Yes. The guy who submitted
27 this is Ron Butler. That's the information I got. We
28 would just like to see the rest of the island open up
29 because right now it's in the residential area. I don't
30 know if they already determined these were going to be
31 garbage bears and not gone to the river. We just want
32 the whole island.

33

34 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pippa.

37

38 MS. KENNER: I have a question for the
39 Council member. What area are you talking about for the
40 brown bear hunt? I missed that.

41

42 MR. DEVINE: That would be RB-525 brown
43 bear Sand Point station permit hunt on Popof Island.

44

45 MS. KENNER: The Federal regulations for
46 the brown bear hunt on Kodiak Island are pretty
47 straightforward. It's a hunt that occurs within the
48 boundaries of the Refuge and there are permits that are
49 allocated each community. The Federal regulations are a
50 combination of draw hunts and registration hunts. For

1 Federal purposes, we don't create those hunt units, those
2 hunt areas. Those are done by the State. It doesn't
3 mean we can't comment on it, but just to let you know.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Tom.

6

7 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair. I believe this
8 is under State regulations. I can't find anything under
9 our Federal regulations. Correct me if you will, Peter.
10 What unit are we in?

11

12 MR. DEVINE: 9D.

13

14 MR. JENNINGS: We do have a Federal
15 permit, but that's in 9B. Units 9A and 9B under the
16 Federal regulations, there's no Federal open season
17 according to our regulations. The State regulations have
18 -- my best understanding is the map that you're showing
19 is the hunt that's managed under the State regs. That
20 would have to be changed through the State regulations
21 Board of Game process.

22

23 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Tom. This is
24 Pippa again. I'm terribly sorry. I thought we were
25 talking about Kodiak Island Unit 8.

26

27 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Vincent.

30

31 MR. TUTIAKOFF: I agree with Tom. There
32 is no hunt for bear in 9D under Federal regulation. That
33 name sounds familiar to me as a State Department of Fish
34 and Game guy. You need to talk to maybe the corporation
35 and the Fish and Game to see how they came up with that
36 boundary. It probably happened in early years of the
37 corporation. I don't know.

38

39 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: City limits.

40

41 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Oh, it's city limits.
42 That's what that is.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Tom.

45

46 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
47 Just for clarification, Steve reminded me that
48 corporation land is not considered Federal public lands,
49 so, therefore, we would not have -- our regulations
50 wouldn't apply to those lands.

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. It
4 sounds like you have to work with your corporation and
5 the State to open that up for a whole island.
6
7 MR. DEVINE: Thank you.
8
9 MR. SCHWANTES: That's a very simple
10 process to submit a proposal to the Board of Game.
11 Probably what I'd recommend you do is get a hold of the
12 biologist up there in King Salmon. They're probably the
13 ones that work with that the most. I'd get a hold of the
14 game biologist up in King Salmon, get a proposal
15 submitted.
16
17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thanks for that,
18 Tom. Is that good for you, Peter?
19
20 MR. DEVINE: Yes.
21
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: All right. Agency
23 reports. OSM.
24
25 MR. HOLMES: That would be Megan Riley up
26 there. This is Pat. Sorry for butting in. Once that
27 proposal is in the mail there would be nothing to keep
28 our Council for endorsing that, Pete.
29
30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: You're on, Steve.
31
32 MR. FRIED: Yeah, I'm back again. Steve
33 Fried from Office of Subsistence Management. I'll be
34 doing the agency report from OSM. There's five items
35 under there. They're all fairly brief and mostly self-
36 explanatory.
37
38 The first one is a staffing update and I
39 don't know if I really need to go through and tell you
40 what new staff we have. One position that's been filled
41 finally after -- I think it's been a few years, is our
42 Native liaison for the Office of Subsistence Management
43 and Jack Lorrigan from U.S. Forest Service Southeast is
44 our new Native liaison. We're certainly happy to have
45 somebody back. The last one was Carl Jack and he retired
46 several years ago and that position has been vacant ever
47 since. So that's a pretty critical one.
48
49 We also have a new Deputy Assistant
50 Regional Director Kathy O'Reilly-Doyle. She works with

1 Pete Probasco, who is the Assistant Regional Director of
2 OSM. Another important one. We do have several knew
3 Council coordinators. We've got a new State subsistence
4 liaison, who you probably recognize, George Pappas. He
5 used to work for the State in a sort of similar capacity.
6 Now he's working on the other side of the aisle for us
7 now. Tom Evans, the new wildlife biologist. He's been
8 on the phone, so you've got to talk to him a little bit.
9 There's several other people and there's a list there.
10 Hopefully over the next few months or next year you'll
11 get to meet some of these people.

12

13 That's about all I want to say for that
14 one unless anybody has questions or has comments on it.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MR. FRIED: I'll move along to the budget
19 update, which is also very short. As you all know, our
20 program has had a declining budget since 2001. As far as
21 we know right now, in 2013 our travel budget may be
22 reduced further. They were talking about reducing it 30
23 percent from what we spent in 2010. Council did have a
24 discussion about meeting in different communities and
25 things like that. This just makes it tougher and tougher
26 for us to do that. Unless things change, I don't know.
27 I'm sure we'll be having discussions with the Council on
28 how to deal with this. Even this past year or so when
29 we've actually had some vacancy factor money because
30 we've had a lot of vacant positions. We weren't able to
31 spend any of that money on travel because we're under a
32 separate travel restriction. I think it was like
33 20 percent of what we spent in 2010. We weren't able to
34 go over that.

35

36 I know Pete Probasco did go to the
37 Regional Director to try to get an exception for Council
38 travel and he really wasn't very successful. I think in
39 the end they provided maybe a little bit more money, but
40 not very much. So that's been a hard target for travel,
41 so it's been pretty rough. I don't know if you want to
42 discuss this any further, but that's about all I can say
43 about it now. It's pretty uncertain at this point.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MR. FRIED: I can move on to the next
48 topic. Was Council membership application/nomination
49 update. We sent out over 1,500 Regional Advisory Council
50 applications in direct mailings to various individuals in

1 villages, munis, tribal organizations, trying to make
2 sure that a lot of people knew that we had some Council
3 vacancies. The application period closed February 18,
4 2012. We received 67 applications and nominations.

5
6 Even though we received 67, we actually
7 received very low numbers for the northern regions, which
8 are the Seward Pen, Western Interior, Eastern Interior,
9 Northwest Arctic, North Slope. Actually in two instances
10 there are only enough applicants to submit names to fill
11 the vacancies. I mean there weren't any additional names
12 over and above that. In another instance one of these
13 Councils still has a vacant seat because there weren't
14 enough people that submitted nominations.

15
16 The Regional Nomination Panels met in
17 April and May to evaluate all these applications and rank
18 the applicants. In June, the Interagency Staff Committee
19 met to consider the Panel's reports and recommendations
20 to the Federal Subsistence Board. The Federal
21 Subsistence Board held an executive session in mid July
22 2012 and voted on the applicants and it forwarded the
23 names to the Secretary of Interior and the Secretary of
24 Agriculture to appoint these people. The next step is
25 going to be preparing a package for what they call
26 vetting and consideration. Hopefully we'll have
27 appointment letters from the Secretaries by early
28 December of this year. Until the letters are issued we
29 don't really know who is going to be appointed, so it's
30 kind of a waiting game until December.

31
32 I can move on to the next topic unless
33 anybody has questions for discussion. Tom has something.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Tom.

36
37 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 Yeah, I just had a comment in regards to your Council for
39 this last cycle. I might have mentioned it before, but
40 you had seven applicants for three vacancies. If the
41 Board did what they did the previous year, they moved
42 forward the recommendations for three seats plus an
43 alternate. I know Vince had mentioned the need for
44 alternates if we lose a member for whatever reason. So
45 the Board has recognized that the last two years and
46 that's their intent.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Tom.

1 MR. FRIED: The next informational item
2 is the rural determination process and the method review.
3 The Federal Subsistence Board in their January 2012
4 meeting passed a motion directing Staff to initiate a
5 review of the rural determination process and rural
6 determination findings through publication of a proposed
7 rule. So that's a regulation.

8
9 What the Board wants to do is to conduct
10 a global review of rural determination processes, and the
11 methods and findings used beginning with public input.
12 So it's basically what the Board is calling bottom up
13 process to include public comment, tribal consultations
14 and Regional Advisory Council recommendations in the
15 process. OSM, in conjunction with the Interagency Staff
16 Committee, met to develop an outline of this global
17 review, and also developed a timeline for the review.

18
19 The first step would be a public notice
20 to be published in the Federal Register asking for public
21 input on the process. This is going to be published in
22 the Federal Register in January 2013. In the winter of
23 2013 the Regional Advisory Council meetings will provide
24 this forum for the public input to comment on this rural
25 process.

26
27 The topics that are probably going to be
28 included in here are the definitions of what rural is,
29 the population thresholds, you know, what population
30 threshold should be considered for being considered a
31 rural population, what are rural characteristics, how
32 should communities be aggregated, put together or
33 separated, when they're considered for rural
34 determinations and what information sources should be
35 used when the Board is making those determinations.

36
37 There might be other things that come up
38 also, but these were the five topics that came to mind
39 most readily. Hopefully the final product will be
40 developing a rural determination process to make final
41 determinations on rural status. I know this has caused
42 a lot of angst in some cases and hopefully this will make
43 the process better, clearer and prove it.

44
45 I don't know if there's any comments,
46 questions or discussion on that one.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Whenever they have
49 discussions on rural determination, it seems like a rural
50 definition is always there. Does that mean that whenever

1 they change something they change the rural definition?
2 Why is rural definition always on there?

3
4 MR. FRIED: Well, it's really important.
5 I think they do it every 10 years according to the U.S.
6 census results. The rural is because in ANILCA it's the
7 rural residents that get Federal subsistence priority.
8 So if your community is determined to be rural, then
9 you're entitled to a Federal subsistence priority. If
10 it's not, then you're not included in that program. Some
11 places say like Ketchikan, Saxman, that's been kind of a
12 bone of contention for a while as to whether or not
13 Saxman was aggregated with Ketchikan or should it be
14 separate and was it rural or nonrural, but there's other
15 areas in the state -- and as populations grow, it could
16 be that some populations under the current process might
17 not be considered rural anymore. There's several
18 criteria that the Board uses. They don't necessarily go
19 -- you know, it's not really a black and white thing.
20 The State process is a bit different because they've got
21 to check off a bunch of things to be considered a
22 subsistence user, but it's not -- oh, that's customary
23 and traditional. I'm getting.....

24
25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I gotcha.

26
27 MR. FRIED: Forget about that. But the
28 rural determination is really important for Federal
29 regulations, whether or not your community is rural. I
30 think they're hoping to improve it and make it clearer.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Please
33 continue.

34
35 MR. FRIED: One more. Briefing on
36 consultation policies. Basically in May 2012 the Federal
37 Subsistence Board adopted a Government-to-Government
38 Tribal Consultation Policy. At that point, they actually
39 postponed adopting the supplemental ANCSA corporation
40 consultation policy pending the Department of Interior
41 finalizing its own policy on consultation with ANCSA
42 corporations. The Board set up a Consultation Workgroup
43 and they wanted the workgroup to develop implementation
44 guidelines, which will define how the five Federal
45 agencies and OSM would implement a Tribal Consultation
46 Policy and supplemental ANCSA corporation consultation
47 policy once it was adopted. You know, how do we do this,
48 how do we consult with the tribes, how do we consult with
49 ANCSA corporations, how do we do that effectively.

50

1 The goal is to have final implementation
2 guideline that the Board could look at and hopefully
3 adopt sometime in 2013. They have some interim
4 implementation guidelines that are used by the Board
5 until the final guidelines are adopted. The workgroup is
6 also trying to ensure that the policies are being
7 implemented and identify where the policies could be
8 improved.

9
10 Recently the Board sent a letter to
11 tribes and ANCSA corporations looking for nominations to
12 the workgroup in order to broaden the membership in that
13 workgroup. Right now it was seven Federal and seven
14 tribal representatives. They're hoping to get a few more
15 representatives at least from the tribes. The tribes and
16 ANCSA corporations were notified that opportunities to
17 provide input on the proposed changes to subsistence
18 regulations will be available at the these Council
19 meetings and time will be made available for consultation
20 with the Board during their meeting in January.

21
22 Last week, I believe it was Tuesday,
23 Wednesday, OSM also set aside some time for call-ins for
24 tribes and ANCSA corporations so they can call in and ask
25 questions or provide comments on the fisheries regulatory
26 proposals. So they're working towards a final policy
27 with that.

28
29 Also in your books there is the
30 consultation policy as it exists right now starting on
31 Page 63 and going through -- it's quite long. There's
32 some letters in there between the ones they sent out to
33 tribes and ANCSA corporations and some other information.
34 It's there so you can read that. I'm not going to try
35 and summarize any of that, but I just wanted to let you
36 know where we are in the process right now.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair. This is Della.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Della.

43
44 MS. TRUMBLE: I'm just -- kind of an
45 update on that. I think Crystal Leonetti, who is the co-
46 chair with myself, we talked the other day and I think
47 there's -- trying to get the workgroup together I think
48 either mid October or early December is the next step and
49 then the appointments have already been notified. I
50 think there's four new to the workgroup.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I didn't get all
2 that, Della.
3
4 MS. TRUMBLE: Basically the intention is
5 to get the workgroup together either in mid October or
6 early December and there have been five new names
7 appointed to the workgroup at this time.
8
9 MR. HOLMES: This is Pat. Della, which
10 workgroup are you speaking of?
11
12 MS. TRUMBLE: The Government-to-Government
13 Consultation Workgroup with tribes and corporations.
14
15 MR. HOLMES: Thank you.
16
17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Steve.
18 Tom.
19
20 MR. JENNINGS: We had Bill Pyle from the
21 Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge on earlier. Bill, are
22 you available? Kodiak staff wildlife biologist.
23
24 MR. SUNDSETH: Hello. This is Kent
25 Sundseth with Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. I'm here
26 with supervisory biologist, Bill Pyle and our ungulate
27 biologist McCrea Cobb and we're ready to report. Can you
28 hear us okay.
29
30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: You're on. Go
31 ahead.
32
33 MR. PYLE: Okay. So you can hear us okay
34 then?
35
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes.
37
38 MR. PYLE: Okay. Great. Our report is
39 included in your materials starting on Page 79, but we'll
40 just go ahead and go through some of this. I'm going to
41 start and do the fisheries report and McCrea Cobb will
42 pick up after me. I guess we'll just start right from
43 the top there. The western area of Kodiak Archipelago,
44 that's really all about the Karluk River. The Karluk
45 River lake drainage had an improved run of both chinook
46 salmon and sockeye salmon this year. The sockeye salmon
47 are important to subsistence. That's the best run we've
48 seen in that system in the last five years.
49
50 The early run of sockeye met the

1 escapement range. The range is from 110 to 250,000.
2 This year it came in at 186,000-plus. The final tally
3 for that when you include the late run fish came up to
4 432,690 fish, which again was the best run we've seen in
5 the last five years. So it was good to see some
6 improvement there. Our reports from villagers in the
7 Karluk area are that they were able to meet their
8 subsistence needs without an issue, so good to see that
9 turn around a little bit.

10

11 In the northern area of the Archipelago
12 where we have some Federal waters, the Afognak and Litnik
13 area again had a strong run. Strong enough that there
14 was an emergency order issued by both State and Federal
15 managers, which opened up some usually closed waters
16 right up to the stream terminus to allow for a greater
17 catch. That weir was pulled on August 25th and the final
18 count was over 41,000, so that again was a good strong
19 showing of fish in that system.

20

21 The Buskin River, which is very popular
22 near the city of Kodiak here with local folks had a good
23 solid run again this year and it came in just a little
24 bit above the maximum escapement goal of 8,000 fish. It
25 came in at 8,564. Again, the catches were kind of hit
26 and miss. They came in in pulses, but both did have some
27 luck there with that system meeting their subsistence
28 needs.

29

30 Turning back to the Karluk River again,
31 there was a pilot project that was completed on the
32 Karluk River. The Refuge helped with the Koniag
33 Corporation and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to
34 see if they could put some transmitters in chinook salmon
35 to learn a little more about their spawning habits and
36 habitats in the Karluk River. You might know there's
37 been some concern about that stock. The runs have been
38 reduced in recent years. Starting to see them come back
39 a little bit, coming in close to the minimum escapement
40 goal, so that's good to see, but we want to learn a
41 little bit more about them.

42

43 They just put out five transmitters and
44 had some really good luck. The transmitters held, the
45 fish held the transmitters and we found those fish tended
46 to spawn in the lower section of the river. They were
47 hoping this could be sort of a lead in for a larger
48 project next year. There's been talk about trying to go
49 after some funding. There's a little bit of question
50 about the future of the weir on the Karluk River and

1 until that part gets straightened out it's a little bit
2 difficult to plan for, but I'm certainly hopeful that we
3 can continue some work there.

4
5 Are there any questions on the fisheries
6 section?

7
8 MR. HOLMES: I was wondering, these
9 reports on the salmon, are those Fish and Wildlife
10 managed streams or who does that?

11
12 MR. PYLE: We try to report on areas
13 where there are Federal waters, so there are Federal
14 waters around Afognak Island where we talked about
15 Litnik. Federal waters around the mouth of the Buskin
16 and there are Federal waters around the mouth of the
17 Karluk River.

18
19 MR. HOLMES: My question was who runs the
20 weirs?

21
22 MR. PYLE: The Alaska Department of Fish
23 and Game runs the weirs.

24
25 MR. HOLMES: Thank you.

26
27 MR. PYLE: Okay. No other questions?

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 MR. PYLE: All right. None heard. We'll
32 let McCrea Cobb take over with the rest of the report.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Bill, this is Mitch.
35 Are you guys doing any work in Olga Bay area?

36
37 MR. PYLE: Was the question do we do work
38 in the Olga Bay area?

39
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes.

41
42 MR. PYLE: We don't currently have any
43 fisheries work occurring in the Olga Bay area. Of
44 course, the State does maintain some weirs on the dog
45 salmon system and along Upper and Lower Station, but
46 that's work that's conducted by the State rather than the
47 Refuge.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

50

1 MR. COBB: Continuing along with the
2 Kodiak Refuge report. This is McCrea Cobb. I'm just
3 going to -- our report is pretty detailed, so I'll be
4 doing a summary of each section and it's arranged by
5 species. It's been a busy summer for the wildlife
6 biologists on Kodiak Refuge in terms of brown bear
7 monitoring and research. We had planned on a population
8 assessment or an intensive aerial survey to assess the
9 trends and population size and composition in the Karluk
10 area, but unfortunately unsuitable weather again
11 prevented us from doing so. We have plans to try to
12 survey again this coming year.

13
14 Research on bears also continues. We
15 have a new study that's a collaborative effort between
16 the Kodiak Refuge, the University of Montana, ADF&G and
17 Idaho to increase our understanding of how bears move and
18 use their habitat, how cub survival is influenced by
19 environmental conditions and the availability of
20 important food sources, primarily salmon.

21
22 This year we collared 18 adult female
23 bears in the Kodiak study area, Karluk drainage. We'll
24 be using those collars to monitor the bears. We also
25 assess bear resources and habitats at their locations and
26 assess sockeye salmon abundances and nutrient content in
27 lake tributary streams adjacent to Karluk. The work done
28 over the past few years was led by Matt Sorum. He's a
29 graduate student at University of Idaho and he's
30 completing his analysis of data that he collected and
31 that should be available in the form of a thesis as soon
32 as he's done.

33
34 The new study that started up this past
35 summer is a graduate study as well is being run by Will
36 Deacy, a graduate student at the University of Montana
37 and he's focusing on bears and their interaction with
38 salmon on the tributaries and shoal-spawning areas within
39 the Kodiak study area.

40
41 Any questions on bear monitoring and
42 research?

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 MR. COBB: Okay, hearing none. Sitka
47 black-tailed deer monitoring and research. We've been
48 working with ADF&G to estimate winter mortality this past
49 year. The Refuge initiated however a new approach where
50 we conducted the first aerial survey of deer in non-

1 forested habitats to assess their abundance in those
2 areas. It's a new method for Kodiak, which involves
3 statistically correcting the number of deer that are
4 missed during the survey so that the result is an actual
5 estimate of deer abundance in those areas. The survey
6 was conducted in May in the Aliulik Peninsula and it was
7 a success. We will be adopting the methods that we used
8 in that survey effort to expand in the more larger area
9 of non-forested habitats in southern Kodiak Island. The
10 goal is to provide wildlife managers with an index of
11 annual changes in deer abundance, which would be used to
12 improve sustainable harvest management.

13

14 Moving along. ADF&G biologists annually
15 survey Roosevelt elk. This has not happened as of yet
16 this year, but last year's estimate was 700 elk in terms
17 of on Refuge land. The population was estimated to be
18 approximately 35 to 60 elk.

19

20 The feral reindeer population still
21 appears to be stable at approximately 350 reindeer. Alan
22 Jones, with the Department of Public Safety state trooper
23 who counted approximately 300 reindeer in July. So from
24 that result it appears that the population is still
25 stable at around just over 300 animals.

26

27 Every August ADF&G and Refuge biologists
28 collaborate to estimate the number of mountain goats on
29 Kodiak. This year we did not do a full island-wide
30 count; however, if you look at Page 84, Figure 5, the
31 results from these surveys clearly indicate that we have
32 a rapidly growing population particularly on the south
33 end of Kodiak Island. Given this situation, the Refuge
34 management goal for mountain goats is to maintain a
35 population that satisfies hunter needs and does not
36 impact native flora and fauna.

37

38 We've collaborated with ADF&G biologists
39 to develop a research and monitoring plan to meet this
40 objective. Over the last two summers have conducted
41 field studies that have addressed a portion of this
42 research goal where we've assessed the diet and feeding
43 type selection of mountain goats in three different areas
44 on the island. This year we've also added a new element
45 where we collected forage resources and we'll be using
46 that to set the nutrient content, nutrient availability
47 for mountain goats and whether that varies based on
48 mountain goat density and their habitats.

49

50 If you're interested in more of these

1 results, there's a website link on Page 85 that goes to
2 our study report from the 2011 summer study.

3
4 Continuing along. We still have plans
5 and hopes to get a sea otter aerial survey in for Kodiak.
6 Currently biologists associated with Marine Mammals
7 Management are reviewing the sea otter survey methods for
8 Alaska. Once that process is completed then they will be
9 passing on their recommended revisions and we'll be
10 implementing those as soon as possible.

11
12 This past summer we had a busy summer
13 with bird surveys. Our bird biologist led a nearshore
14 marine bird and mammal survey in June and a second survey
15 repeated in July, finishing September 6th. From this
16 survey, this past summer they covered Spruce Island and
17 Anton Larsen Bay, Kizhuyak Bay, Afognak Island, Shuyak
18 Island and Raspberry Island. Surveying nearshore coastal
19 transects, the late summer survey counted almost 40,000
20 individuals of approximately 60 or more species.
21 Seventy-eight
22 percent of the birds observed were composed of five taxa,
23 kittiwakes, gulls, puffins and murrelets were common.

24
25 MR. HOLMES: This is Pat. I've got a
26 question on birds.

27
28 MR. COBB: Sure. Go ahead, Pat.

29
30 MR. HOLMES: The last several years we've
31 commented at every one of our meetings about the folks
32 over in Uyak Bay. There seems to be a conflict there
33 that one of our former members pointed out to us and a
34 lot of the elders on harvest of sea ducks and duck soup.
35 I know that several of the people that do guide and
36 outfit are very restrictive and others are reported to be
37 quite liberal. We've inquired with your shop. This is
38 probably at least the fifth time I've asked. Are you
39 folks going to implement some type of a log book program
40 with the folks that guide for hunting sea ducks so that
41 we know what's being removed and whether there really is
42 a problem because they can get -- you know, need to be
43 subsistence surveys in the individual households to get
44 their perspective, but you also need to know what's being
45 removed by the other user groups, so that's very
46 important and I wondered if you folks have implemented
47 that this year. And if not, why not?

48
49 MR. SUNDSETH: Pat, to answer your
50 question, we looked into implementing that. We've heard

1 your comments and we're planning on acting on them. Our
2 law enforcement has moved on to a new area. We have a
3 new law enforcement ranger that's come in this summer and
4 will be again picking up that effort.

5
6 In terms of surveys, we will be surveying
7 the Uyak area doing the nearshore surveys and banding
8 this coming summer to get a better idea of what's going
9 on there as well.

10
11 I might add just real quick, Pat. The
12 Refuge doesn't set the seasons for waterfowl species on
13 marine waters. That's the State that does that. These
14 guides that you're talking about, they don't operate on
15 the Refuge since they're on marine waters. We're talking
16 about sea ducks here. We don't permit those folks.

17
18 MR. HOLMES: Okay. So then if it ends up
19 that you don't do a survey, I mean all you've got to do
20 is mail it. Then I guess we need to go to the State duck
21 management folks and tell them that's our concern. I
22 wish somebody had pointed that out five or six years ago
23 when the problem came up.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 Bullshit.

28
29 MR. COBB: The next one is community
30 outreach. We've been very active in a number of
31 different community outreach programs through the Refuge.
32 This past summer we had an open house at Old Harbor and
33 Ahkiok in May where our boat, the Ursa Major II, visited.
34 Forty-six people from Old Harbor had a chance to have a
35 closer look at the research and monitoring projects that
36 we're involved in, furs and bird mounts and tour the
37 vessel.

38
39 Also we visited all six Kodiak villages
40 during the first stage of a multi-year project to promote
41 the knowledge of brown bears through use of brown bear
42 kits. The goals are to facilitate understanding of
43 bears, legends of bears and roles of science research.
44 Through role-playing, we cultivated knowledge of how to
45 respond to bear encounters and minimize potential for
46 conflict. We're planning to revisit the villages during
47 the second phase of the project this coming year and
48 expand some of our goals.

49
50 The Refuge's newsletter will be available

1 this fall. Contact Tonya Lee for more information about
2 that.

3

4 Finally we have a series of continued --
5 called the brown bag lunches at Kodiak Visitor's Center.
6 Just about every Thursday from noon to 1:00 o'clock and
7 generally cover for the most part are covering projects
8 at the Kodiak Refuge and involving other local
9 organizations. If you're in the Kodiak town, we welcome
10 everyone to attend those. That concludes our report.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Bill. I
13 do have one question about the deer population in south
14 Kodiak. Is it a healthy population? I heard people
15 talking about this hard winter we had. Somebody said we
16 had an 80 percent die-off. Is there anything to that?

17

18 MR. COBB: This survey that we did in May
19 was the first attempt at this survey, so at this point we
20 don't have any trend data. We don't know whether from
21 that the population is increasing or decreasing, so I
22 can't speak to the percentage of die-off based on these
23 results. That's why we've initiated this effort so that
24 we can get a better idea about how the population is
25 changing annually.

26

27 MR. HOLMES: A question. Pat.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pat.

30

31 MR. HOLMES: You said that you can't give
32 us any trends. What's happened to the annual mortality
33 surveys there at Chief Cove and other spots around the
34 island? My observations in the north end is that I was
35 seeing dead deer on the beach from starvation in
36 November. The femurs, when you break them, were just
37 jello inside. When I went up to my normal hunting place
38 on Afognak, I didn't even see any deer. The year before
39 I saw two and I got one. You know, there's some big
40 changes. Aliulik is a really great place to do a study,
41 but from my gabbing with mostly other old geezers around
42 the island, that's about the one place left where there's
43 any deer. So there's been some really big die-offs from
44 what I've heard from some of the old-timers around.

45

46 MR. COBB: The State is continuing with
47 the deer mortality survey. They surveyed one area this
48 year. They can speak to you about those results. As far
49 as I know, they also identified a higher than average
50 mortality this year in terms of the percentage of the

1 population that's actually died based on this winter. I
2 don't know that those data are able to specifically state
3 that. However, with our method that we're working on
4 we'll be counting both deer and (indiscernible) every
5 spring and developing a correction for sightability, so
6 it's a much more quantitative way of being able to get at
7 this question and I think it will address all these
8 questions you have. That's why we're taking the time and
9 effort to do this.

10

11 MR. HOLMES: I understand it's being much
12 more quantitative, but you still didn't answer my
13 question. Do you folks do your mortality studies out at
14 Chief Cove like you've done for the last 35 years or so?

15

16 MR. COBB: No, we're no longer doing
17 that. The State is involved in that study though still.

18

19 MR. SUNDSETH: That's always been a
20 cooperative study with the State. That hasn't been sole
21 Refuge.

22

23 MR. HOLMES: So the State is out doing
24 the areas that you folks used to do then or are they just
25 doing fewer areas for the mortality study? I know it's
26 not quantitative, but it does give a relative guide
27 because -- well, it's nice to be able to be quantitative.
28 I don't see how you could ever take your studies on the
29 south end and apply it to the north end of the Refuge or
30 Afognak. The areas that have the biggest die-offs are
31 the areas with the most severe weather and also a
32 completely different type of habitat. So I can see you'd
33 be doing a great job down there, but folks like Mitch
34 were wondering what happened to the rest of the island
35 because most of the guides and outfitters that are
36 working commercially pack up and move down to the place
37 where folks down in Akhiok get their subsistence. So
38 there's some direct spin-off and then folks up in town
39 that have an old wood skiff, they're little skiffs for
40 folks like me, unless you get out and get really darn
41 lucky after a big snowstorm, you're just kind of out of
42 luck and that's life.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MR. SHELIKOFF: I have a question.
47 Antone from Akutan. I'm kind of curious about were these
48 mountain goats on Kodiak were they introduced or are they
49 native? Maybe I got one or two more questions. What are
50 they used for? I think that was it. Were they

1 introduced and what are they used for.

2

3 MR. COBB: If I heard you correctly, the
4 question was are the mountain goats introduced to Kodiak
5 and I didn't catch the second part of the question. But
6 the mountain goats are not native to Kodiak. They were
7 introduced in 1952 and 1953. Does that answer your
8 question?

9

10 MR. SHELIKOFF: The second question was
11 what are they harvested for? What's the subsistence use?

12

13 MR. COBB: Right now they're not
14 harvested under Federal subsistence regulations, but they
15 are harvested for meat and for their hide.

16

17 MR. SHELIKOFF: Thank you.

18

19 MR. HOLMES: Antone, this is Pat. Mr.
20 Chairman, may I speak?

21

22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Pat, go ahead.

23

24 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Antone, over the last
25 many years the folks in town in the advisory committee
26 with Fish and Game have reached out to the members of our
27 Council and we've worked out various solutions to
28 resource harvest. So we worked out situations to provide
29 for subsistence for the villages with a delayed
30 registration program where a hunter that wants to fish --
31 not fish, hunt in a season that would be a little more
32 productive for being able to get goats and get meat or
33 subsistence for their family. They register and then
34 wait a week to be able to come back and harvest. So we
35 set up several creative ways to provide for subsistence
36 for the village. Probably Mitch could talk to you
37 further about that sometime after the meeting or
38 something, but we've been able to work things out so that
39 we can have that and then we've also put in a proposal to
40 increase the bag limit for local residents which will
41 also provide more meat for local folks.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thanks, Pat. Any
46 other questions for Bill. Do you have anything more to
47 add, Bill?

48

49 MR. PYLE: No, that completes the Kodiak
50 report.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you for
2 that. Next on the agenda is the Izembek. Do we have
3 somebody from Izembek online.

4
5 MR. JENNINGS: Leticia was. She may have
6 addressed several of your questions. Leticia. Is anyone
7 from Izembek on line any longer?

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair. I think she
12 did cover several of your questions and addressed the 90
13 caribou and survey issues, so hopefully that suffices for
14 today.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: She probably feels
19 she covered her report. Okay. We'll just move on.
20 ADF&G. Fish and Game progress report on the stock
21 assessment and restoration of Afognak Lake sockeye
22 salmon.

23
24 MR. THOMPSON: Hi, this is Steve Thompson
25 with Fish and Game.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: You're on. Go
28 ahead.

29
30 MR. THOMPSON: Okay. There's a report in
31 your packet, so I'll just cover this brief and then
32 answer any question you might have. This is the third
33 year of the four years we're going to be doing this. It
34 has four components basically to it. The first would be
35 assessing the sockeye smolt emigration. This year the
36 sockeye smolt emigration estimate came out to be 127,862,
37 which is the lowest one we've had from 2003 to 2012. The
38 age component seems good. The weight, length and
39 condition factor of them also seemed good.

40
41 The next component we have is we were
42 doing juvenile studies in the lake and we're doing diet
43 and bioenergetics. That data hasn't been assessed yet.
44 It looks like they're pretty healthy. We had really good
45 luck catching them in there this year, so it potentially
46 looks like we probably have some hold-over in the lake.
47 I'll be able to give you more of that at the reports
48 later.

49
50 The zooplankton data would be the same as

1 it's not fully assessed yet, but we've done five samples
2 throughout the season and the zooplankton level seems to
3 be holding steady at that low level.

4
5 The fourth component would be the adult
6 escapement. As was touched on by the Feds earlier, we
7 had a pretty good escapement this year with 41,453
8 sockeye. The preliminary age count for them is basically
9 about average. It's 60 percent of 1/3's. Was there any
10 questions?

11
12 MR. HOLMES: Can you project if based on
13 the age composition and the condition factor of the smolt
14 some kind of forecast here for a couple years down the
15 line, good, worse?

16
17 MR. THOMPSON: I think it's going to dip.
18 I don't know exactly. I haven't done that yet because
19 they're not completed with the aging of the smolt either.
20 You've got to go through their scrubber, through all
21 that, so I know there's a few errors in it. But just
22 taking those numbers and what's going to return, it's
23 probably going to -- assuming that we don't get much
24 hold-over and out-migrating next year 2's, it would be
25 pretty low.

26
27 MR. HOLMES: Thank you, Steve.

28
29 MR. THOMPSON: You're quite welcome.

30
31 MS. MELENDEZ: Excuse me. This is
32 Leticia from Izembek. I'm sorry, I had my phone on mute
33 and multitasking. I missed the call of order here.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We jumped over your
36 report and we're doing Afognak and Buskin and we'll come
37 back to you, okay?

38
39 MS. MELENDEZ: That sounds great. Thank
40 you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. ADF&G
43 Kodiak, will you continue or are you done?

44
45 MR. THOMPSON: This is Steve Thompson
46 again. That's all I have. Don Tracy was here earlier,
47 but he hasn't come back. I'll just wait and see if he's
48 on another phone.

49
50 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. One short

1 question for Steve.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pat.

4

5 MR. HOLMES: Steve, I was wondering if
6 maybe for our March meeting if you could take a few
7 minutes to give us a little update on how things will be
8 looking for the upcoming returns at Litnik. That would
9 be very helpful to subsistence fishermen particularly
10 from Afognak and Port Lyons and folks with bigger skiffs
11 from town, so look forward to hearing from you then.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MR. THOMPSON: Okay. This is Steve
16 Thompson. Yeah, that won't be a problem. All the data
17 will be in by then and I'll have plenty of time to
18 analyze it for then.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any questions of
21 Steve?

22

23 MR. THOMPSON: Did you guys hear me? I
24 said, yes, I will get that to you guys. No problem. Is
25 there anything else?

26

27 MR. JENNINGS: Steve, a question. You
28 said you might get Don Tracy or is Tyler Palm available
29 for the Buskin River report? Advise us on that, please.

30

31 MR. THOMPSON: As far as I know, they are
32 still out. Don was in here this morning. Told me he was
33 going to come back by 1:30. They are out stocking out in
34 the systems, out in some of the road systems. Obviously,
35 I guess he didn't make it back. But he did tell me that
36 if he didn't come back just say things are status quo.
37 Buskin did pretty good.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If they come back,
40 then we'll come back to them. For now, we'll just get
41 back to Izembek. Thank you, Steve. Izembek, you have
42 the floor.

43

44 MS. MELENDEZ: Yes, I'm here.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. You have the
47 floor. Go ahead.

48

49 MS. MELENDEZ: Thank you. So some of the
50 things that Izembek has been involved in would include

1 the summer's projects. Bringing you all up to date with
2 what we've got going on is the objective of this portion,
3 is that correct?

4
5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, that is
6 correct.

7
8 MS. MELENDEZ: Okay, great. So this past
9 summer we had some students that were here, one of which
10 is a graduate of Notre Dame where she is a Ph.D. student
11 actually of Notre Dame and she was here working with the
12 salmon, characterizing Izembek salmon bearing streams in
13 order to ensure that the sustainable management plan
14 continues with reference to spawning and how the salmon
15 are affecting the streams and ponds here at Izembek. She
16 had a student working with her by the name of Jennifer
17 Gregory and Jennifer Gregory is from Anchorage and she
18 has a bachelor's degree in biological science at UAA.
19 She's also collecting eel grass samples and estimating
20 the densities and growth rate of eel grass in the Izembek
21 Lagoon. Of course, you all know the importance of the
22 eel grass in the Izembek Lagoon when referring to or in
23 regards to the black brant.

24
25 We also had a student by the name of
26 Deedum (ph), who is from Turkey and she is a Penn State
27 student. She has been closely working with the Fish and
28 Wildlife Service to develop an inventory and monitoring
29 program for the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge and
30 applying this program together with observational
31 fieldwork to investigate anticipated responses of focal
32 taxa to climate change especially in the avian
33 communities and her field studies concentrate on the
34 effects of climate change on the phrenology of Alaskan
35 wetlands and avian communities. These studies are
36 largely focused on the changes in hydrology which may
37 affect hydro period timing and duration of invertebrate
38 prey availability and many potential causes, a mishmash
39 between prey and availabilities and rival of migratory
40 birds for breeding.

41
42 So she's currently in her second year of
43 conducting fieldwork to understand how these interactions
44 occur in ponds, which are abundant here in Alaska and the
45 Alaska system and good model systems to use her findings
46 to explain these kind of dynamic wetland types. She had
47 two students that came with her. Another one was Chris
48 Starr, who was also from Penn State and Donika, who
49 worked with her and also performed some public outreach.
50

1 Jeff Randall, another student from
2 Anchorage, is currently working with monitoring the
3 effects of the wind turbines or the strikes that could
4 occur by monitoring scavenging. We are in the process of
5 erecting a wind turbine. That should be going up
6 sometime next month. Upon that successful turbine we're
7 going to have two other wind turbines, which will be
8 erected, which will consolidate or help support the green
9 energy and help with the use of fuels and gases. This is
10 going to support that system for the Refuge houses that
11 are here on the compound.

12
13 Of course the caribou hunt is another big
14 hunt that's going on. It's the first hunt for 2012 and
15 we're going to be going into the second split of that.
16 Like I say, we only had two bucks that were harvested
17 from Cold Bay. I haven't heard from anybody else
18 harvesting anything. We are in the throws of hiring a
19 refuge manager and hope to have them in the first of the
20 calendar year. We have a new biologist by the name of
21 Stacey Lowe, who came from Dillingham. She's been in the
22 Service and now is a part-time employee with U.S. Fish
23 and Wildlife, so we're glad she's aboard.

24
25 We are going to be looking at hiring a
26 maintenance lead manager or maintenance mechanic here in
27 the near future. Let's see. We, for the first time, are
28 going to do brown bear surveys, so we're actually trying
29 to put together, re-evaluate our biological program. We
30 have a pilot program that's being initiated by the
31 regional office, the surrogate species program. So after
32 we've determined our surrogate species and re-evaluated
33 our direction, we'll be able to plan our biological
34 programs appropriately. So we're looking forward to
35 getting that organized and getting a bear survey done in
36 the interim, which will happen the first -- hopefully, if
37 everything goes well, the first week of October.

38
39 We also are going to be working with Game
40 and Fish and I believe they're going to do a caribou
41 count, composition count the first week of October. We
42 still need to iron out the logistics of that.

43
44 I believe that about ties up what we've
45 got going on here. Does anybody have any questions?
46

47 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chairman. I've got a
48 question, Leticia. This is Rick. Did you hear me?
49

50 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair. This is Della.

1 Hello?

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hello. Let's take
4 Della's question and then we'll get to Rick.

5

6 MS. TRUMBLE: Leticia, can you -- you
7 mentioned doing the bear surveys. When was the last bear
8 survey completed?

9

10 MS. MELENDEZ: That's an excellent
11 question, Della. I couldn't tell you exactly the year in
12 which that was done, but I want to say the last one was
13 done at least two years ago.

14

15 MS. TRUMBLE: Okay. The reason I'm
16 asking is because of my issues or my involvement, let's
17 put it that way, involvement with the EIS process with
18 the road between King Cove and Cold Bay. For some reason
19 they -- and I'm going to have to go back and look, but I
20 was under the impression there was some discussion of
21 that count being down. I'd be very curious to see that
22 count as soon as you're able to share it because
23 everybody that I've talked to disagree that that
24 population went down. In fact, I've probably never seen
25 more bears than I ever have in my life as this summer.
26 Like I say, I'd be happy to see that. And then, of
27 course, the caribou surveys as soon as they're completed.

28

29 MS. MELENDEZ: Absolutely, Della. I
30 appreciate your patience. Like I mentioned before, I
31 know that there's been some areas with my involvement
32 with you where I've actually dropped the ball and I
33 apologize for that, but I do really want to work with you
34 and some numbers that we can get to you and we do get
35 them and our progress with these surveys. I'd be more
36 than happy to discuss those with anyone who's involved.
37 We like to be as transparent as possible.

38

39 MS. TRUMBLE: I guess the other question
40 I have because this is something I had in discussions
41 with Nancy for a number of years or a couple of years,
42 but in hiring that position, when will that position be
43 posted for having someone to be able to work with various
44 communities?

45

46 MS. MELENDEZ: Another good question,
47 Della. I did speak with Mike Boylen and the position
48 you're referencing is the RIT position. Basically what
49 that entails is hiring someone in the local community or
50 village that can be used as liaison between U.S. Fish and

1 Wildlife and the communities, villages for outreach.
2 Mike is very aware and on board with it and so am I and
3 we're excited.

4
5 The only stipulation at this point is
6 that we're waiting for the new year to come and to see
7 what kind of money we have in the budget. Apparently
8 we're going to take some pretty good hits budget-wise.
9 We may not even be able to fill one of the positions we
10 had here based upon that, but we are looking at hopefully
11 getting the RIT in position and start looking at reaching
12 out to the communities. Sometime in March maybe we'll
13 have a better idea of what our budget looks like.

14
15 MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you.

16
17 MS. MELENDEZ: You're welcome. That's
18 all I have, Mr. Chair, right now.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Rick Koso.

21
22 MR. KOSO: Leticia, this is Rick here.
23 I've just got one quick question for you. Have you
24 looked into doing any count on the Adak Island with the
25 State or yourself?

26
27 MS. MELENDEZ: Hey Rick. I actually have
28 not looked into that extensively, but I think that's a
29 great idea. I'm all ears with any other suggestions.
30 I'm taking notes and want to make sure that we can
31 fulfill a lot of you all's questions and be better
32 prepared for the next RAC meeting and future RAC meetings
33 and see what we can do to accomplish that. But that's a
34 great idea and I'll certainly look into that.

35
36 MR. KOSO: Okay, thanks, Leticia. That
37 would be great.

38
39 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. This is Pat.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pat.

42
43 MR. HOLMES: I have a suggestion for you,
44 Leticia, when you go to do your hiring and I found that
45 it helped me when I was working with the State is maybe
46 put in your job description for that community liaison
47 person that they have a background in Unangan culture and
48 so that will get you somebody that's closer to home and
49 Alaska Native and really know who's who to contact to get
50 things done.

1 I would use a case in point of Tonya
2 Brockman Lee in Kodiak who's done outreach there at the
3 Refuge for a long time and she has Alutiiq background and
4 many generations in Kodiak. I know all of the tribal
5 CEO's that I know just looked at her when they get buried
6 in consultation material as to what's really important
7 and she'll call and let them know. She's just, as far as
8 folks up in Kodiak go, considered solid gold. Quite
9 often if you finagle your job description to get you
10 somebody that's more local than Georgia, you can get a
11 lot more things done. Good luck to you.

12
13 MS. MELENDEZ: Thank you, Pat. I
14 appreciate that. Like I said, if there's any other
15 suggestions from folks, please submit those to me. I'm
16 open to any additional suggestions. Pat, if I may ask,
17 what's Tonya's last name?

18
19 MR. HOLMES: It's Tonya Lee, but she's
20 Brockman/Madsen, old Kodiak family, but she goes by Tonya
21 Lee. She's a real pistol.

22
23 MS. MELENDEZ: Thank you for the
24 recommendation. Anybody else have any questions.

25
26 MR. HOLMES: Hang in there.

27
28 MS. MELENDEZ: Oh, I am, with both hands,
29 white knuckles.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: One more from here.
32 Tom, go ahead.

33
34 MR. JENNINGS: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Leticia,
35 I just wanted to make a remark. I do know that the Fish
36 and Wildlife Service, the Yukon Delta Refuge and Togiak
37 Refuge have used RITs very successfully and they've been
38 a really great bridge, so I'd encourage you to keep
39 working with Mike to get that approval. That would be a
40 good key position for you.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MS. MELENDEZ: I certainly agree with
45 that and Mike is really pushing for it. It's something
46 that he's envisioned in his years in the regional office,
47 so I have a feeling that this is going to come into play
48 for a position here at Izembek. Yeah, I'd have to agree
49 with you there.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other questions.
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Leticia.
6
7 MS. MELENDEZ: Thank you everyone for
8 your time.
9
10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: ADF&G Kodiak. Has
11 Steve Fried come back. Oh, I'm sorry. Not Steve Fried.
12 He was talking about Don Tracy, right? Kodiak, are you
13 still online?
14
15 (No comments)
16
17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I guess we're done
18 with that. Okay. That takes care of agency reports. Do
19 I hear a motion to accept those agency reports.
20
21 MR. TUTIAKOFF: I'll move.
22
23 MR. SCHWANTES: Second.
24
25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and seconded.
26 Discussion.
27
28 MS. PETERSON: Hello, Mr. Chair. This is
29 Chris Peterson at King Salmon for Alaska Fish and Game.
30
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, go ahead.
32
33 MS. PETERSON: I must have missed when
34 you called on us for our report, but if you have a moment
35 I can go ahead and go through that with you.
36
37 Okay. In 2011, the total number of brown
38 bears sealed for Game Management Unit 9 was 640 total
39 sealed. This includes the RB-525 hunt, which is the near
40 village hunt. It also includes a couple of subsistence
41 hunts or takes and 15 DLP, defense of life or property,
42 four natural mortality. I'm not sure from the records
43 exactly what those are, but they could be vehicle impacts
44 or other natural deaths, one research and one illegal and
45 two agency kills.
46
47 The State bear hunting opportunity in
48 Game Management Unit 9 there were 625 bears harvested
49 during the regulatory year 2001-12. Now those 625 are
50 obviously part of the 640 total sealed, but it includes

1 all of the State bear general season hunt. In Game
2 Management Unit 9D, there were 141 bears sealed, brown
3 bears, during the 2011-12 year and 133 of these were
4 hunter harvested. This included one Federal hunt take,
5 52 RB-368, 66 RB-370 and 5 near village RB-525. Let's
6 see, 32 of these were females, which made up 24 percent,
7 100 were males, 76 percent and the average age of males
8 in 2011 take the numbers are not entirely submitted yet
9 on that, so I had very few numbers to use in my figuring
10 here. Since 2000 the average age was about 25 and in
11 2011 there were only 28 aged bears for this report and
12 the average age was six. So I think there's quite a bit
13 of data that still needs to come in before we can give a
14 good estimate on the average age. The average male skull
15 size in 2011 was 25.2 inches and it has averaged 25
16 inches since 2000.

17
18 In Game Management Unit 10, which is
19 Unimak Island, there were 11 bears harvested. Four of
20 those were in the DB-375 hunt, three were in the DB-376,
21 two were RB-375 and two were the near village hunt RB-
22 525. They were comprised of nine males and two females.
23 Six of them were taken in the fall and five were in the
24 spring.

25
26 The last survey -- I am new here at Fish
27 and Game, but the last survey that I was able to find in
28 the records here was in 2002 for brown bears on the
29 Peninsula down in '90 and it came up with 1,462 brown
30 bears for 169 per square kilometer as well as 293 brown
31 bears in Unit 10, which comes out at 102 per 1,000
32 kilometer square.

33
34 For caribou, the SAP Herd, the Southern
35 Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd is increasing. I heard
36 earlier on Izembek's report and I could not find my
37 records in time to insert this information at that time,
38 but I thought it might be of interest to you since you
39 were asking the questions earlier. This winter down at
40 Izembek a winter count was conducted. I believe it was
41 done in February. There were 1,061 caribou counted on
42 the Southern Peninsula Herd. The pregnancy check this
43 spring for the Southern Peninsula Herd was 93 percent
44 pregnancy rate. The fall 2011 composition count was 20
45 calves per hundred cows and 40 bulls per 100 cows. As
46 you've heard from Izembek, there was a limited
47 subsistence caribou hunt in August.

48
49 Down in Game Management Unit 10 on Unimak
50 Island, the caribou herd is declining. There was a

1 winter caribou count done in February of 2012 and we
2 counted 94 caribou with the circumstances under which the
3 count was conducted we estimated there would be somewhere
4 around 200 caribou on the island and Fish and Game
5 estimates somewhere between 200 and 224.

6
7 In the fall of 2011, composition counts
8 for Unimak Island caribou was 7 calves per 100 cows and
9 6 bulls per 100 cows. The spring 2012 pregnancy check
10 conducted by Alaska Fish and Game was a random sample of
11 164 cows and came up with a 70 percent pregnancy rate.

12
13 Next on the roster is moose in Unit 9.
14 There were 107 moose reported taken in 2011, 68 of which
15 were harvested by resident hunters, which makes up a 64
16 percent of the overall harvest. One was reported taken
17 in 9D and it was taken by a resident hunter. There's
18 only an average of two hunters annually in Unit 9D.

19
20 For wolves in 2011-12 there were 14
21 wolves sealed from Unit 9D. I believe -- I don't have
22 the table right here in front of me, but, let's see, most
23 of those were shot. I believe 12 of them were shot and
24 two might have been trapped.

25
26 For furbearers in 2011, in Game
27 Management Unit 9, there were 100 beavers harvested, 64
28 lynx, 79 otter, 28 wolverine and 2 marten. If you narrow
29 that down to just Game Management Unit 9D, there were no
30 beaver taken, no lynx, no otter, two wolverine and 0
31 marten. Some of these numbers -- as data continues to
32 come in, some of these numbers may be updated and we
33 would include that in a future report.

34
35 That completes our report at this point
36 unless somebody has some questions.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 MR. SCHWANTES: I have one question. I
41 think you said in 9D the cow/calf ratio was 20 calves per
42 100 cows.

43
44 MS. PETERSON: Yes, I believe that's
45 right.

46
47 MR. SCHWANTES: Isn't that down from
48 previous years when they did the predator control?

49
50 MS. PETERSON: Yes. Predator control has

1 not -- no more shooting of wolves has taken place for a
2 couple of years, so it was expected that the calf/cow
3 ratio would decrease to some point. It still is high
4 enough to add to the herd and increase or improve the
5 situation down there. If it continues to drop, then Fish
6 and Game would reconsider what the future actions would
7 be down there, but at this time 20 calves per 100 cows is
8 within the management guidelines for that herd.

9

10 MR. SCHWANTES: Can you give me an idea
11 of how much of a drop it was? It seems to me like it's
12 a real significant drop.

13

14 MS. PETERSON: Excuse me. I'm not
15 hearing you really totally well here, but I believe you
16 asked how much drop there was between years in that
17 calf/cow ratio, is that correct?

18

19 MR. SCHWANTES: Yes, that's correct.

20

21 MS. PETERSON: Okay. Let's see, the
22 tables are not directly in front of me, but if memory
23 serves correctly, I believe it dropped from 40 calves per
24 100 cows to around 30-some calves per 100 cows and then
25 this past season to 20. So it is an expected drop.
26 Whenever wolves are removed from an area and then that
27 program ceases to continue action, then you are going to
28 get an increase in wolves again, which would tend to
29 decrease the calf/cow ratio. If, however, the increase
30 that did take place for those few years increases the
31 total number of caribou to a certain level, then the
32 caribou herd can withstand the loss that occurs to wolf
33 predation and that is the intent of this program. So
34 we'll continue to watch the numbers and keep that in mind
35 as we make future plans for that herd.

36

37 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair. This is Della.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Della, go
40 ahead.

41

42 MS. TRUMBLE: Chris, just in regard to
43 wolves, those numbers are high. We've seen a lot of
44 wolves in King Cove this past winter and based on how
45 cold it was and their food source, I think the winter was
46 pretty harsh. I think that's part of why we saw as many
47 as we did inside of King Cove within the city boundaries.
48 When you look at the landfill area and you watch four
49 wolves chasing a bear, you know we've got a problem with
50 wolves. When they're by the homes at 8:00 in the morning

1 or by the clinic, and this is the same situation that
2 continues still in False Pass, it really gives me a lot
3 of heartburn that more effort, I think, isn't being made
4 with this predator control.

5
6 MS. PETERSON: Thank you for that
7 comment, Della. I would just follow that up with part of
8 the reason for the way the regulations are set up in Unit
9 9 is so that people can basically take care of situations
10 like this for themselves. I believe the harvest limit
11 for wolves is 10 per day in most of Unit 9 and that
12 extends a good lengthy season as well, so it's intended
13 to enable people to take care of situations that they
14 need to.

15
16 We do still -- and as you said this past
17 winter I do think a lot of people saw more wolves and the
18 weather certainly contributed to that as the snow got
19 pretty deep and the caribou concentrated in certain
20 places and other game species as well. Certainly it's a
21 town that would have more -- possibly would have food
22 available that would key in on. I don't know that those
23 observations would enable us to say that the wolf
24 population has climbed drastically, but just that due to
25 the weather situation they were certainly more visible.

26
27 As I said, Fish and Game will continue to
28 monitor the numbers of wolves as they affect the herd
29 down there and take that into consideration as they make
30 their management decisions.

31
32 MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you.

33
34 MS. PETERSON: Thank you very much.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other questions.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you for that
41 report. Appreciate it.

42
43 MS. PETERSON: Thank you very much, Mr.
44 Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: With that we can
47 finish our motion. We were in the discussion mode for
48 accepting the agency reports. We just paused the action
49 until we heard the rest of the reports. If there's no
50 further discussion and I hear no objections.

1 (No objections)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Motion carries. We
4 are at Item H, what is Native organizations?

5

6 MR. SCHWANTES: Tribal entities,
7 corporations.

8

9 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair. Yeah, it's an
10 opportunity for any other Native representatives or
11 tribal representatives to share with you. I don't think
12 we have any available.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Peter.

15

16 MR. DEVINE: I'll make a closing argument
17 -- actually statement. I'd like to thank Council for
18 coming out here. I think it's very important that these
19 groups get out into the regions and hear what the people
20 have to say. Just let Pat know, whoever Pat is on
21 teleconference, that we actually had six people show up
22 here today besides Council. It just wasn't reflected,
23 you know, as they came in. I think it's very important,
24 you know, to get out to the regions and I would encourage
25 the Council to keep doing so.

26

27 I know on the AMBCC level that when we
28 get out to the regions we get to see firsthand what the
29 people are dealing with and understand where they're
30 coming from when they're asking for things. Not only
31 that, we share traditional foods, so it's good to get out
32 there and see what other people are using versus what
33 we're using as far as that resource. So I would
34 encourage the Council to keep going to the regions
35 whenever possible. I know the money is getting tight.
36 On the AMBCC level, it's also getting tight and we're not
37 getting out to the regions as much as we would like to,
38 but once everybody gets fully staffed hopefully we'll get
39 back on track and be able to get out more.

40

41 I'd like to thank you all for coming and
42 hopefully we'll see you again in the next 20 years.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Peter.
45 Before we set our next meeting date, now would be a good
46 time to do our annual report, topics for the annual
47 report. We've heard all the reports and we got
48 everything we need to formulate ideas for annual report
49 to the Federal Subsistence Board in January. Is there
50 any input from the Council.

1 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman. One topic
2 -- and I'm not sure how this all fits in, but an issue
3 that's arisen in the Kodiak area this past year is an
4 issue involving Pacific codfish as a subsistence fish.
5 What we've run into there this year is there's absolutely
6 no limit. You can go out with a sport rod and catch all
7 the fish you want. No limit. What we've run into is
8 those individuals who are fishing with the shark cark,
9 the National Marine Fisheries halibut subsistence lines,
10 if they retain Pacific cod, they're considered an illegal
11 species both under the Federal regulations and under the
12 State regulations. That absolutely makes no sense. So
13 far I'm not aware of anybody having been cited for it,
14 but I am aware of a number of people having been warned
15 that's an illegal species.

16
17 I have talked to both National Marine
18 Fisheries people and State people and they both concur
19 that if you're using a longline that P cod is not a legal
20 subsistence fish. So that might be something we want to
21 address and see if we can't get the agencies to work
22 together to make that -- I mean it doesn't make sense for
23 an individual who's going out there and setting a legal
24 subsistence halibut skate and he brings up 15 codfish
25 that he can't retain them. If he went out there with a
26 rod, he could keep every one of them plus 100 more. It
27 doesn't make sense.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Our rod, meaning
30 halibut rod?

31
32 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah. I mean any kind of
33 a fishing pole. You can go out and catch all you want.
34 There's no limit.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: For a hand jig for
37 halibut and you caught a cod, that would be illegal?

38
39 MR. SCHWANTES: Well, no. If you're hand
40 jigging, it's okay, but if you're setting a subsistence
41 longline, then if you catch one, it becomes illegal.

42
43 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. Pat.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pat.

46
47 MR. HOLMES: yeah I was wondering, Tom.
48 I might suggest -- I don't know who is the local tribal
49 connection to the Halibut Commission anymore. It used to
50 be Iver. But I was thinking that we should maybe take an

1 approach in that direction and then maybe even as our
2 Council to correspond, write a letter to the Halibut
3 Commission and just -- I believe we did something like
4 that several years when Chiniak was considered not to be
5 a subsistence community and the town of Kodiak was. It
6 took them a couple years, but they got it straightened
7 out. I think it might be a good idea to bring it to
8 their attention and that our Subsistence Council, even
9 though that's not specifically our turn, said it was
10 identified as a potential subsistence problem and that we
11 would greatly appreciate their assistance in solving it.
12 You've got a lot of regulation things, so maybe you could
13 kind of whip up a little letter of resolution or
14 something to flowing through Mitch to the Halibut
15 Commission.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thanks for that,
18 Pat. We can incorporate that into our annual report or
19 do we need to work on it a little more and submit a
20 proposal somewhere. Tom.

21

22 MR. JENNINGS: What my experience has
23 been, this is your annual report to the Federal
24 Subsistence Board. Typically -- well, oftentimes the
25 response you may get back from them is when an issue is
26 out of their normal jurisdiction they'll state that and
27 direct you to who the appropriate entity is if you have
28 -- if there's an issue like that.

29

30 What Pat was suggesting is maybe approach
31 with a letter to the appropriate regulatory body for one
32 identifying this issue as it affects subsistence users
33 and that might be a better approach. You could still
34 flag this possibly to the Federal Subsistence Board, but
35 you're not going to get a lot of return on that effort in
36 my experience.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Maybe we could write
39 a letter to the Halibut Commission and see if they could
40 address it.

41

42 MR. JENNINGS: Yeah, you could make a
43 recommendation or identify an issue that you see as
44 something that doesn't make sense, regulations-wise, and
45 send it to them. That could be done. In regards to the
46 annual report, this is something we can come up with
47 draft ideas and you can still do that. We'll deal with
48 this in the winter meeting, you know, finalize this. It
49 will be a draft approach here. If you do not have
50 something of substance right now, I mean we can still

1 develop that.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We can develop it
4 all the way up January.

5

6 MR. KOSO: The next meeting is the 24th
7 of January in Vancouver this year.

8

9 MR. HOLMES: One thing I'm concerned
10 about -- excuse me, Mr. Chair, this is Pat.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pat.

13

14 MR. HOLMES: One thing that I'm concerned
15 is that deer mortality, particular on the north side of
16 the island an parts of the west side. I'm wondering if
17 maybe our Council should identify that as a probable
18 subsistence difficulty and maybe we should suggest that
19 we talk with the -- do one of our study group things with
20 the Fish and Game Advisory Committee and maybe consider
21 reducing bag limits or something like that because I know
22 some places there's a bunch of deer, but if you cant get
23 to them you're out of luck. So if you have high harvest
24 in those few places left with a lot of deer, then it will
25 take a lot longer for them to repopulate in other areas.
26 It's just a thought I think might deserve some discussion
27 in our Council as to considering that.

28

29 And the other item would be to -- and I
30 don't know how to approach it, would be to suggest maybe
31 Vince with his connections with the tribal council at
32 Unalaska might be to -- some way to assist them and
33 looking for proposals or work with the Department on some
34 forecasting research for McLees Lake. I think that's
35 something that would be important out there. What do you
36 think, Vince?

37

38 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, I agree with you.
39 Last year we had a major drop in our red salmon count
40 from the previous two years. I think we got like -- the
41 final count was something like 8,000 compared to last
42 year of 28,000. So we don't know what happened there.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom Schwantes,
45 you've got the floor.

46

47 MR. SCHWANTES: Getting back to the deer
48 situation, just for your information I have talked to the
49 biologist there in Kodiak several times this summer and
50 from what they're telling me the deer population really

1 isn't that way. There are some spot areas where they got
2 hit pretty hard, but there's a lot of other areas where
3 there's lots of deer yet.

4
5 MR. HOLMES: Maybe we could have Larry
6 VanDale at our spring meeting to give us an update.

7
8 MR. KOSO: I've just gone one thing to
9 say. I think it looks like we're getting to the point
10 where we're going to run out of funds here if we keep
11 going downhill like we are. Maybe there's something we
12 could put in there to kind of see if somebody can push
13 for some more funding for this here RAC here. I don't
14 know who would do that or if this is even appropriate to
15 put it in this annual report. That might be something.
16 We're going to get to the point where we're going to be
17 insufficient to doing our job, you know, to where we
18 don't have enough money to travel and represent the
19 people we're going to do. I think it's critical that we
20 need to get more funding for this deal and I don't know
21 if that's the appropriate place to put it on, but it
22 certainly could be a start.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom.

25
26 MR. HOLMES: I think we should do it
27 again, you know. Go for it.

28
29 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair. I think
30 there's a value in that approach. If you keep -- the
31 Federal Subsistence Board continues to hear the same
32 message, it should strike them as something that's
33 important and it is. I mean you have to operational
34 funding if you want to do this program right. I'd put it
35 in there again.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, it is
38 important. It's going to go down another 30 percent.
39 That puts us in Anchorage every time we want to have a
40 meeting.

41
42 MR. KOSO: It makes us inactive.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: It makes us
45 ineffective.

46
47 MR. KOSO: Our representation is gone.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other ideas for
50 an annual report. If there are none, then we can move on

1 to our calendar.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: This is Pat.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pat.

6

7 MR. HOLMES: Hey, Mitch, I was wondering
8 could you inquire again with the Refuge or Tom, Kodiak
9 Refuge, because that was the first time I heard that, you
10 know, the reporting on the duck harvest was on the State
11 turf because they set the seasons and it would be good to
12 know if that's the case if we need to go through the
13 State migratory bird guide to get log books or harvest
14 information there or whether or not that's something that
15 could or should be done with the Refuge. It's just
16 something that I think is of vital importance to know
17 what's being removed. If that's not going to be the
18 case, then we should put that in as one of our concerns
19 to the Federal Board and state that we're going to send
20 a letter to the State side to solve the problem.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Anything
23 else.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Next meeting.

28

29 MR. TUTIAKOFF: I move our next meeting
30 to be scheduled for March 26th and 27th.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Move it to March?

33

34 MR. KOSO: Tom, what was your concern
35 there? You wanted to move the meeting back a week.

36

37 MR. SCHWANTES: The 26th and 27th works
38 perfect for me.

39

40 MR. KOSO: Okay. That's fine with me.

41

42 MR. SCHWANTES: Motion.

43

44 MR. KOSO: I'll second the motion.

45

46 MR. JENNINGS: Discussion. Mr. Chair.
47 It's outside of the window that they published. Again,
48 that's flexible to some extent and I'll bring that up to
49 management. I'm not aware of any dates that are so
50 strict on some other meetings on the other side of the

1 window that we might not be able to do that, so that will
2 be good. I'll push that forward.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MR. HOLMES: I wonder if we could put an
7 addendum on there that if we do that, that we could save
8 money and be able to go to Old Harbor maybe the Refuge
9 could fire up their boat and haul the Federal Staff down
10 to Old Harbor and the committee folks we can fly down
11 because we've all made that trip many times by boat.
12 That way they could appreciate what it's like to live in
13 Old Harbor. Just a tongue-in-cheek comment.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Vincent.

16

17 MR. TUTIAKOFF: They'll probably all
18 teleconference in if that happened.

19

20 MR. HOLMES: Well, it would still save
21 money, wouldn't it?

22

23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom Schwantes, did
24 you have something?

25

26 MR. SCHWANTES: No, Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: You said you've got
29 to talk to the Staff or talk to the office because it's
30 outside the window?

31

32 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Mr. Chair. These
33 dates were set, but I'll just let them know that you guys
34 would like to change your dates and see if they can
35 accommodate that. I'm not aware of any constraints on
36 the other side of that window.

37

38 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes.

41

42 MR. TUTIAKOFF: If the dates are not
43 workable because of legal issues or whatever, then we can
44 go back to the other dates, I guess, but I'd prefer to
45 stay -- try and get those new dates I mentioned because
46 some members will not be available on those particular
47 dates that were in the schedule.

48

49 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair. That is a
50 point of concern because our last meeting Pete left a

1 little bit before the discussion on the meeting dates and
2 we did shift this meeting and consequently that slipped
3 my mind to notify him that that date had changed and he
4 ended up making some other plans. So I apologized for
5 that myself. So once we get them nailed down we need to
6 make everyone aware and have it published. I know Pat is
7 online. Sam, are you online any longer?

8

9 MR. ROHRER: Yes, I'm still here.

10

11 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you. So the point
12 is it was suggested to move the meeting date from March
13 19 and 20 to March 26 and 27. Do you gentlemen have any
14 constraints with those dates?

15

16 MR. HOLMES: Not that I know of.

17

18 MR. ROHRER: I have no problem moving
19 them forward. I can't move them back any, but moving
20 forward is just fine.

21

22 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you.

23

24 MR. HOLMES: Either direction will work
25 for me.

26

27 MR. JENNINGS: How about you, Della?

28

29 MS. TRUMBLE: I think that's fine at this
30 time. I don't see any problems with it.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any discussion.
33 Tom.

34

35 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair. The only thing
36 I would need to do is call and talk with Pete and
37 determine his schedule as well.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I'm sorry?

40

41 MR. JENNINGS: I need to speak with Pete
42 Squartsoff too.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

45

46 MR. JENNINGS: But at any one point in
47 time for these meetings, you know, it's hard to get every
48 individual lined out properly.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: As it is now, Pete

1 is the only one that is not informed of this change. Any
2 further discussion.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no further
7 discussion, are there any objections.

8

9 (No objection)

10

11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing none, the
12 motion carries. Our next meeting is March 26 and 27th
13 pending. Okay. The fall meeting -- the winter meeting.

14

15 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. Pat.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

18

19 MR. HOLMES: I'd like to suggest that we
20 do it later in September because I think it was really
21 good to have Sam online and when we do it earlier that
22 usually conflicts with your hunts, doesn't it, Sam?

23

24 MR. ROHRER: Yeah, oftentimes it does.
25 It conflicts with my fishing trips.

26

27 MR. KOSO: September 25th and 26th.

28

29 MR. TUTIAKOFF: 25, 26, Wednesday,
30 Thursday.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: 25 and 26 September.
33 Tom.

34

35 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair. One of the
36 things I looked at on the calendar I was trying to
37 project the ferry schedule because it's kind of nice to
38 be able to accommodate Antone if at all possible and that
39 ferry runs every two weeks. So either that week
40 September 10th or September 24th, in there, would work.
41 I know the ferry leaves Akutan on Saturday.

42

43 MR. SHELIKOFF: That's where we're going
44 to have the meeting, right?

45

46 MR. JENNINGS: Is that where you're going
47 to have it?

48

49 MR. SHELIKOFF: Akutan.

50

1 MR. KOSO: I'd like to have it on the
2 24th, 25th because flights out of Adak don't fly except
3 Sundays and Thursdays. So if I go Wednesday, Thursday,
4 I'm going to have to be a whole week of lay around. So
5 if you could coordinate a little bit to where I've got
6 between Sunday and Thursday, then it's not such a long
7 haul.

8
9 MR. TUTIAKOFF: How about the 24th and
10 25th?

11
12 MR. KOSO: Yeah, that would work out
13 fine. That will be Tuesday and Wednesday and then the
14 flight on Thursday I'll be able to get back on that day
15 rather than waiting clean till Sunday. But I'm flexible.
16 I can be flexible if other people can't make it. But
17 that's just a concern, you know, cost-wise and whatnot.

18
19 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair. Antone, do you
20 think that's when the ferry is running or am I off on
21 that?

22
23 MR. SHELIKOFF: I haven't had a chance to
24 look at that ferry schedule for next year yet.

25
26 MR. JENNINGS: They didn't have it
27 published online, but just looking at the way they run it
28 and the dates are comparable to what we have.

29
30 MR. KOSO: They change every year. It's
31 never the same. Almost every year it's a little
32 different.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: What about airlines?

35
36 MR. TUTIAKOFF: They've got a new airport
37 in Akutan. You should be able to make it in and out of
38 there anytime now.

39
40 MR. SHELIKOFF: Just getting over to the
41 airport. Might have to swim the channel.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Are we still set for
44 24 and 25?

45
46 MR. KOSO: I'm good with that.

47
48 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, that's fine.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Great.

1 MR. HOLMES: What's the location of that
2 one?
3
4 MR. KOSO: I think when we have our
5 meeting in January we could have it better where it's
6 going to be.
7
8 MR. JENNINGS: So do you not want to pick
9 a location at this point?
10
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The location for a
12 September meeting.
13
14 MR. KOSO: How about we hold off on
15 location until the next meeting or Cold Bay.
16
17 MR. JENNINGS: I'd suggest putting Cold
18 Bay down for now.
19
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Why don't we just
21 keep saying King Cove until we get there.
22
23 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, let's do King Cove
24 with Cold Bay as a backup. It will get cancelled, but at
25 least we can try. Actually, I wonder if we get the same
26 kind of folks having a teleconference if we wouldn't have
27 enough price savings. I don't recall when the Federal
28 fiscal year is, but by Sam and I not coming and Della,
29 you know, make a difference of whether or not you could
30 go to King Cove. That's a really great little community.
31
32 MS. TRUMBLE: I hope you have better luck
33 getting in here. I can't seem to get out of here.
34
35 MR. KOSO: They'll have a road by then,
36 Della.
37
38 MS. TRUMBLE: I hope so.
39
40 MR. KOSO: We're pulling for you.
41
42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: All right, you guys
43 are using up your closing comment time.
44
45 MS. TRUMBLE: We've got a whole other
46 day, Mitch.
47
48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Another day?
49
50 MR. KOSO: We've got 45-50 knots

1 tomorrow, Della. Sand Point.

2

3 MS. TRUMBLE: I know.

4

5 MR. KOSO: So we might be a week if we
6 don't get out tonight.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: When we get to King
9 Cove, we'll drag it out for two days.

10

11 MR. HOLMES: Get Stanley Max to take you
12 down -- there's some really good limpet picking down
13 there on that breakwater that they did on the extension
14 for the airport and make yourself up a really great
15 chowder. There's some of the best halibut fish inshore
16 to Akutan out there in that channel.

17

18 MR. KOSO: In September we expect a big
19 potlatch, Della.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any board comments
22 before we adjourn.

23

24 MR. HOLMES: No. I think it was a well-
25 run meeting. If we are going to have a potluck out at
26 King Cove, I kind of like harbor seal myself better than
27 the bear by a long shot. Anyway, I'm just really proud
28 to work with all you folks and I just wish that we could
29 convey some sense of soul food or what subsistence means
30 to all of the new Federal bureaucrats. I wish they had
31 a boot camp where they'd go to Akutan or Atka or
32 Perryville or something for a week just to kind of get an
33 understanding of what it's all about before they start
34 their jobs in Anchorage, but they all try hard, so
35 hopefully we can educate them. Thanks a whole lot for
36 being such a good board to work with.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I'd like to say
39 thank you to Sand Point for having us here and letting us
40 use their office. If you'd convey a message for us,
41 Peter, I'd appreciate it.

42

43 MR. DEVINE: Done deal.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Tom.

46

47 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
48 don't want to step in front of the Council, but I do want
49 to thank Peter. I thought it was important that you guys
50 get this out on the table to the appropriate bodies and

1 having Rick online and the Staff from the AMBCC. I think
2 you guys are moving in the right direction now.

3

4 Thank you, Peter.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other comments.

7

8 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Move to adjourn.

9

10 MR. SCHWANTES: Second.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We're adjourned at

13 4:30.

14

15 MR. HOLMES: Happy hearing everybody.

16

17 (Off record)

18

19 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

