

1 KODIAK/ALEUTIANS FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME II

7
8 Best Western Kodiak Inn
9 Kodiak, Alaska
10 September 25, 2013
11 8:20 a.m.

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14
15 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

16
17 Speridon M. Simeonoff
18 Vincent M. Tutiakoff
19 Patrick B. Holmes
20 Antone A. Shelikoff (Telephonic)
21 Richard R. Koso
22 Peter M. Squartsoff
23 Melissa M. Berns
24
25 Regional Council Coordinator, Carl Johnson

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Kodiak, Alaska - 9/25/2013)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Good morning everyone.
Let's take our seats and let's call the meeting to
order.

Would you do a roll call, please, Carl,
make sure we have a quorum this morning.

MR. JOHNSON: Most certainly, Mr.
Chair. A roll call to confirm that we still have
quorum.

Antone Shelikoff.

MR. SHELIKOFF: Here.

MR. JOHNSON: Patrick Holmes.

MR. HOLMES: Here.

MR. JOHNSON: Richard Koso.

MR. KOSO: Here.

MR. JOHNSON: Sam Rohrer is excused
absence based on the Council's vote yesterday. The
same for Tom Schwantes.

Pete Squartsoff.

MR. SQUARTSOFF: Here.

MR. JOHNSON: Vincent Tutiakoff.

MR. TUTIAKOFF: Here.

MR. JOHNSON: Della Trumble also
excused absence.

Mitch Simeonoff.

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Here.

MR. JOHNSON: And Melissa Berns.

1 MS. BERNES: Here.
2
3 MR. JOHNSON: Seven present of the
4 Council. You have a quorum. Mr. Chair.
5
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Carl.
7 Welcome back, everyone, for the second day of the
8 Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory Council meeting.
9
10 This morning we're going to continue on
11 with our agenda items. And we have agency reports.
12 The first agency is OSM I think. That's what I have on
13 my agenda.
14
15 Do we have something else, Carl? You
16 seemed like.....
17
18 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Continuance of the
19 rural determination.
20
21 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. This morning is the
22 Council's opportunity deliberate and discuss on the
23 rural determination process.
24
25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Yeah.
26 Thanks for that correction, Carl.
27
28 We'll discuss the rural determination
29 process before we get into agency reports. This is an
30 opportunity for the Board to make their statements and
31 give their opinions, whatever. I'll open it up to the
32 Board.
33
34 Also if there's anyone in the audience
35 that wished to make further testimony on rural
36 determination process -- I see Pam has her hand up.
37 Have you filled out a comment form?
38
39 DR. BUMSTED: Yes.
40
41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. I'll just
42 turn it over to Carl and he can call the people that
43 signed up for testimony.
44
45 MR. JOHNSON: Certainly. Thank you,
46 Mr. Chair.
47
48 First, and I realize that the Council
49 members were here last night and had an opportunity to
50 see this presentation, but what we've been doing at

1 these meetings so far this fall is following the
2 evening public hearing with the Board, doing the
3 presentation again during the day for the Regional
4 Advisory Council in the off chance that there are
5 people who are here who did not get to see this
6 presentation last night, and may still want to provide
7 input to the Council.

8

9 So with the Chair's indulgence, I'll go
10 ahead and do this presentation.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes.

13

14 MR. JOHNSON: All right. Thank you,
15 Mr. Chair. As you know, I'm Carl Johnson, but I'll
16 state it for the record, with the Office of Subsistence
17 Management, which is part of the Federal Subsistence
18 Management Program.

19

20 The Federal Subsistence Management
21 Program includes five Federal agencies: The Forest
22 Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park
23 Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of
24 Indian Affairs. That program is responsible for
25 managing subsistence on all Federal public lands in
26 Alaska.

27

28 And the information that I am providing
29 here today could also be found on the Federal
30 Subsistence Management Program website,
31 www.doi.gov/subsistence.

32

33 Now, here's kind of a quick overview of
34 what I'll be doing, explaining to the Council this
35 morning, and that is to talk about the current rural
36 determination review process and how the public can be
37 a part of that review. And in order to do that, I'm
38 going to highlight the actions that brought us here,
39 that the Board is looking for a way to improve the
40 rural and non-rural determinations; how they're made,
41 background on the Federal rural determination process,
42 you know, specifically the legal framework that guides
43 the Board in its decisions; how we currently do rural
44 determination reviews of the Federal Subsistence Board;
45 and the criteria that are used in determining which
46 areas are rural or non-rural. And again all of this
47 information can be available on the website, and I'm
48 going to provide some information later on as to how
49 people can provide public comment and seek more
50 information.

1 So why we're here. In December of 2010
2 the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture
3 directed the Federal Subsistence Board to conduct a
4 review of the process that is used in making rural and
5 non-rural determinations to see if the methods being
6 used are relevant and current. The Federal Subsistence
7 Board is seeking recommendations from all the Regional
8 Advisory Councils, input from the public, and also
9 input from tribes and ANCSA corporations through direct
10 consultation.

11
12 The Federal Subsistence Board may
13 develop recommendations for improving the rural
14 determination process based on all these different
15 points of input. And then these recommendations will
16 be forwarded to the Secretaries of the Interior and
17 Agriculture.

18
19 A little bit about the legal framework
20 that guides how rural determinations are made. Title
21 VIII of ANILCA is the legislation which provides a
22 subsistence priority for all rural Alaskan residents to
23 harvest fish and wildlife on Federal public lands.
24 Only those residents of rural communities are eligible
25 for a subsistence priority. And under Title VIII of
26 ANILCA that's both Native and non-Native residents of
27 rural areas. They will have a subsistence priority on
28 Federal public lands, which you can see in the green
29 areas of this map.

30
31 And can you see this okay? Is this too
32 bright, the light and everything? Okay.

33
34 Now, when Congress passed the Alaska
35 National Interest Lands Conservation Act, there was a
36 Senate report, Senate Report No. 96-413, which provides
37 some additional comments on Title VIII. And it
38 provided specific examples of areas that are excluded
39 from rural status. So they were immediately deemed
40 non-rural. These are Ketchikan, Juneau, Anchorage and
41 Fairbanks. But that same report also provided examples
42 of communities that are rural. So they specifically
43 named Dillingham, Bethel, Nome, Kotzebue, Barrow, and,
44 quote, other Native and non-Native villages scattered
45 throughout the state, end quote.

46
47 But in addition to statutes, the
48 Federal Subsistence Board is also bound by certain
49 Federal case decisions. In this case there is one
50 decision from the Ninth Circuit Federal Court of

1 Appeals which doesn't provide a specific definition of
2 rural, but gives further understanding of what will be
3 accepted as a definition of rural.

4
5 The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
6 determined that rural refers to a sparsely populated
7 area. That is the primary indicator of what is rural.
8 However, rural does not mean it's primarily about the
9 subsistence lifestyle or an area's use of fish and
10 wildlife resources. The court noted that Congress,
11 quote, did not limit the benefits of the statute, of
12 ANILCA, to residents of areas dominated by a
13 subsistence economy. Instead, it wrote broadly, giving
14 that rural statutory priority to all subsistence users
15 residing in rural areas, end quote.

16
17 Now, here is a look at the areas that
18 are -- the black areas are the areas that are currently
19 deemed non-rural, so you get an idea of how much of the
20 state is still considered rural under the current
21 definitions.

22
23 And here are just some population area
24 numbers based on the 2000 census. And based on the
25 feedback last night, I'm going to inquire and see if we
26 can have the 2010 census numbers, but sometimes it
27 takes a while for those numbers to be processed in a
28 way where we can have them in this format, but I will
29 inquire into that.

30
31 So currently there are five criteria
32 that the Federal Subsistence Board considers when
33 making rural determinations. The first of the criteria
34 is called grouping or aggregation of communities. The
35 Board recognizes that communities and areas of Alaska
36 are connected in many diverse ways. Regulations
37 require communities that are economically, socially,
38 and communally integrated to be considered in the
39 aggregate, or grouped together in determining
40 population for rural and non-rural status.

41
42 The grouping criteria used by the Board
43 currently includes these three points: First, do 30
44 percent or more working people commute from one
45 community to another? Second, do they share a common
46 high school attendance area? And then, third, are the
47 communities in proximity and road accessible to one
48 another?

49
50 Now, with each of these five criteria,

1 the Board is asking the public to provide some answers
2 to some questions. First, are these grouping or
3 aggregation criteria useful in determining rural and
4 non-rural status? And if they're not, the Board is
5 asking for your input on ideas on how to better
6 indicate community integration, you know, if there's a
7 better way to group or aggregate communities together,
8 different criteria than what are currently being used
9 by the Board. So that was the first criteria.

10

11 The second criteria is now once
12 communities have been aggregated or grouped together,
13 we need to look at what the population, total
14 population is for that community. The Federal
15 Subsistence Board currently uses several guidelines to
16 determine whether areas are rural, and one of those
17 guidelines sets population thresholds after the
18 aggregation. A community or area with a population
19 below 2,500 people is presumed rural. That means we're
20 going to make the assumption that it is a rural area.
21 The next category is communities between 2,500 and
22 7,000. There's not going to be any presumption one way
23 or the other. They're not going to be presumed rural
24 and they're not going to be presumed non-rural, which
25 is different from the third category, which is
26 populations of 7,000 people or more will be presumed
27 non-rural.

28

29 But again with each of these different
30 three population threshold levels there are
31 presumptions. And those presumptions can be rebutted
32 or changed by certain characteristics about those
33 areas, and we'll get into that next. But consistent
34 with the aggregation or grouping criteria, the Board
35 wants to know, if these population threshold guidelines
36 are useful for determining whether or not a specific
37 area of Alaska is rural. If they are not, they are
38 asking that you and the public provide population sizes
39 to distinguish between rural and non-rural areas, and
40 the reasons for the population size you believe more
41 accurately reflects rural and non-rural areas.

42

43 So rather than just pull a number out,
44 the Board is looking for any justification or guidance
45 as to why that number is significant in distinguishing
46 between a rural and non-rural area.

47

48 So as I mentioned, the presumptions can
49 be changed by certain rural characteristics. And these
50 are the current rural characteristics that the Board

1 examines. The Board recognized that population alone
2 is not the only indicator of rural or non-rural status.
3 Other characteristics the Board considers includes, but
4 are not limited to, the use of fish and wildlife, the
5 development and diversity of the economy, the community
6 infrastructure, transportation, and the types of
7 educational institutions that are available in the
8 community.

9

10 Again the Board seeks your guidance.
11 Are these characteristics useful for determining
12 whether a specific area of Alaska is rural, and, if
13 not, please provide some suggestions. What other
14 characteristics should the Board consider that better
15 define rural and non-rural areas?

16

17 And the final two criteria that the
18 Board considers are timelines and information sources.
19 The Board performs its review based on a 10-year census
20 cycle and uses census information for a snapshot of
21 communities. Current regulations state that population
22 data from the most recent census conducted by the U.S.
23 Census Bureau as updated by the Alaska Department of
24 Labor shall be used in the rural determination process.

25

26

27 And since we do this every 10 years
28 based on the Census Bureau, then there's also a link
29 between our timeline and our information sources.
30 We're doing it based on the census, so it's done every
31 10 years. The information collected from the census is
32 used in coming up with a population statistics for
33 determining rural status, but some of that information
34 is going to vary. It's been suggested at other
35 meetings that, you know, maybe sometimes a census isn't
36 entirely reliable if it's in communities where people
37 are out a lot. They're mobile and they're out doing
38 subsistence activities. They may not always be
39 consistently around their home when the census is
40 conducted.

41

42 And some of the information the Board
43 has used in the past to conduct rural determinations is
44 no longer even collected by the Census Bureau.

45

46 So the Board asks, should the Board
47 review rural determinations on a 10-year cycle? If so,
48 why? And if not, why not? And then secondly, do you
49 have any other additional sources of information that
50 you think the Federal Subsistence Board should consider

1 in counting population numbers.

2

3 And these are just the five criteria
4 that the Board currently uses. That doesn't mean that
5 there aren't other ways that the Board would consider
6 information in making rural determinations. Do you
7 have any additional comments on how to make the rural
8 determination process more effective.

9

10 Now, this is a lot of information to
11 throw out in a short period of time. We have a variety
12 of briefings and papers and also this presentation
13 available on the Federal Subsistence Management Program
14 website. If you just go to the home page of
15 www.doi.gov/subsistence, you'll find several links that
16 can guide you to the rural determination page. You can
17 also email us, subsistence@fws.gov, to inquire.

18

19 And you can also call our toll-free
20 number here on the screen, 800-478-1456. I will
21 volunteer myself as somebody you can call and ask
22 questions about the rural determination review process.
23 Another good person would be Jack Lorrigan, the Native
24 liaison for the Office of Subsistence Management. He's
25 been spearheading a lot of our rural determination
26 outreach and efforts.

27

28 Now, most significantly, you have
29 ideas, I am sure, on how to conduct a rural review
30 status. Now, the important thing is to get those ideas
31 to the Board, and for the public to get those ideas to
32 the Board. There are essentially four different ways
33 that people can submit their comments. One is by
34 testimony here at this Council meeting, or at the rural
35 determination hearing we had last night. That's going
36 to be going on throughout the rest of this fall meeting
37 cycle. There's a handout on the back table there, and
38 it's also in your brown folders, that sets forth the
39 schedule for the rest of the public meetings. That's
40 for both the Regional Advisory Councils and the rural
41 hearings. People can submit email comments, so again
42 subsistence@fws.gov. There's also now a link on the
43 home page for the Federal Subsistence Management
44 Program that people can click that also then takes them
45 to a place where they can submit comments. And then
46 U.S. mail is another way, or hand-delivery to the
47 Regional 7 Fish and Wildlife Service headquarters in
48 Anchorage, and there's the address on the slide. This
49 address and this whole slide presentation is also on
50 the handouts back on the table. And there's a set of

1 the notes in your meeting books.

2

3 And again I would like to thank the
4 Council for its time and also for providing the public
5 an opportunity to provide input on the rural
6 determination review. And if the Council has any
7 questions about the presentation, I'd be happy to
8 answer them at this time.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

11

12 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Carl. I've got a
13 question. Where do we stand on this as a RAC Board?
14 What's the procedure that would go through the
15 determination? I know we are sitting here. Are you
16 requesting us to maybe put in a recommendation or
17 something? That's about all in my mind that we're able
18 to do to pass this on would be to either put it into
19 motion form that we either oppose or accept or whatever
20 with what the people of Kodiak would like to do on
21 this. So as far as where we stand right now, what are
22 we looking to do here at least at this meeting, or is
23 this just informational?

24

25 MR. JOHNSON: It's definitely not just
26 informational. The Board is looking for the Council's
27 specific input. And it could be on just one of these
28 five criteria, it could be on all five of them.

29

30 You know, I took a lot of notes last
31 night during the hearing from what the public had to
32 say, and they all broke down into all five of the
33 different categories of information.

34

35 So there hasn't ben a requirement thus
36 far of the Board that the Council do a formal motion
37 and adopt specific points. You know, what we can do is
38 have the Council just have a discussion, each Council
39 member providing its input on what the Council members
40 think are important for the Board to consider in the
41 rural determination review. And then I can read back
42 into the record what I take notes on as to what are
43 kind of the highlights of what the Council has remarked
44 on, and then the Council could request that those
45 formally be presented to the Board as suggestions or
46 recommendations on the rural determination review.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Carl.

49

50 Yeah, I would think that this Council

1 would formulate a recommendation to the Federal
2 Subsistence Board based on the testimony that was
3 presented last night, and the testimony that we'll
4 probably hear today. And once we get all that
5 information, then we can work with you, because you
6 probably have the records and the testimonies and we
7 can review those testimonies and formulate our
8 recommendation based on that, because we want -- I
9 would.....

10
11 (Extraneous conversation on
12 teleconference)

13
14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Will you state
15 your name and where you're at?

16
17 (Extraneous conversation continuous)

18
19 MR. JOHNSON: Hello. Whoever's on the
20 telephone, we can hear your conversation. Would you
21 please mute your phone, unless you want to address the
22 Council. Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Well, I was saying
25 that I would like to base our recommendation based on
26 all the testimony we heard last night and today. And
27 we review those testimonies, any Board member that
28 wasn't here last night would have the opportunity to do
29 that right now after hearing more testimony today, this
30 morning.

31
32 So unless the Council has other
33 comments or questions, I guess we can continue with the
34 testimony.

35
36 Peter.

37
38 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I'd
39 like to see that testimony broken down, too, and put
40 into, you know, different sections from the testimony
41 last night. And as an advisory board we have always
42 fully supported Kodiak staying rural.

43
44 MR. JOHNSON: Well, Mr. Chair, if the
45 Council would like, I actually typed up a summary based
46 on the five categories during the hearing last night.
47 If you would like to see that, I could just put it up
48 on the screen.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: That would be

1 great.

2

3

MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair.

4

5

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pat.

6

7

MR. HOLMES: I can't see the screen for
8 diddly. It would be handy if we could -- maybe if you
9 could ask the front desk to copy that. And I would
10 suggest that the talking point bullets that the round
11 table had up here, I had hoped there was some more
12 left, but they're all gone, if we could get some copies
13 of those, because those were all different things that
14 everybody kept going over, and then that would give us,
15 you know, some paper for those that only absorb
16 information from what they can hold in their hands,
17 like me. And then young puppies like Pete can -- you
18 know, I mean, he can absorb it from any kind of media.
19 But I think those two items on paper would be helpful s
20 well as your verbalization.

21

22

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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The first one we have is Pamela

Bumsted.

1 DR. BUMSTED: Good morning. My name is
2 Pamela Busted, and I work for Sun'aq tribe of Kodiak as
3 the tribal scientist. And I'm here to present some of
4 the studies that we've done on this issue, and I'm not
5 testifying for the tribe itself. We will have written
6 comments submitted before the deadline.

7
8 And I do want to thank you for looking
9 into this. I know it's been a very difficult process
10 since 1982 I believe, and certainly since 1990 when the
11 Federal take over was. And it has been a major
12 question as to what should be done, how do we recognize
13 people are eligible to use their local resources.

14
15 A lot of the existing criteria which
16 you've seen on the screen, and which has been in the
17 record before actually has come from the State. And
18 you've heard the 2500 population figure. That's from
19 the 1910 census. And the U.S. Census still uses that
20 as a minimum, but they do not define non-rural areas by
21 that. According to the U.S. Census, using geography
22 and not subjective criteria of what do rural people do
23 is -- there are only two urbanized areas in Alaska.,
24 and that's Fairbanks and Anchorage. And they do
25 recognize, and this is something I would recommend, is
26 that you consider a geographic definition of rural.
27 This has had a lot of study. It just went out for a
28 review to the public. The Health and Human Services,
29 which does a lot of our frontier medicine, such as the
30 health clinics, the hospitals for most of the state,
31 use this criteria, as well as the Department of
32 Agriculture.

33
34 And basically it's -- if you think of
35 it, you're flying on an airplane, and you can look down
36 and you can see lots and lots of water, lots and lots
37 of snow and ice. And then if you're leaving from
38 Anchorage, you can see how the lights and other things
39 are clustered. As you go away from there, they get
40 thinner and thinner until you're back to mountains,
41 trees, snow and ice and water.

42
43 And so it's something -- it's a
44 reliable classification. It's backed up with some good
45 study. It's one that isn't subjective. And it's one
46 that would be really easy to implement, because
47 somebody else has the specialists that have been
48 looking at this for a long time. And they're in
49 tables. You can go now to Health and Human Services
50 and go to a website and type in the -- and click on a

1 button with the question of am I eligible for rural
2 grants, frontier grants. And it will name your city.
3 You can do the same from the Agriculture page or the
4 census page, is to find out am I rural.

5
6 And keep in mind that especially in the
7 west and more particularly in Alaska, rural has a lot
8 of variability. And the two most important
9 classifications beyond rural, that is the rural of the
10 rural, are things called remote and frontier. And
11 within that is a classification of island. And they
12 don't count islands as people connected by a 100-foot
13 bridge. Islands are surrounded by water, and in our
14 case they're at least 100 and -- well, we're 400 miles
15 from the main -- from the nearest urbanized area. So
16 it's well over an hour to travel no matter how you do
17 it.

18
19 So those have distinct qualities that
20 are standard and people recognize. And also the
21 frontier aspects, that you have lots and lots of space,
22 you have very few people living in a tight area. Even
23 Kodiak, the city, is remote.

24
25 I think those are going to be easier to
26 use instead of most of the criteria which are currently
27 being used.

28
29 And I wanted to give you another -- oh,
30 the other advantage of using something like remote,
31 these are the geographic -- they're land use patterns,
32 which fits in with the land management and what the
33 Feds have to deal with on the ANILCA lands.
34 Subsistence is not a priority in ANILCA. It's a
35 priority for consumption of resources. So having a
36 land use category or classification would I think fit
37 in much better and make them more comfortable using it,
38 because it's something similar to what they're familiar
39 with.

40
41 I did just trying to get my own back --
42 an understanding of the history of ANILCA, I mean, I'm
43 more used to subsistence as a user, and I spent eight
44 years in Bethel, and then worked north of the Alaska
45 Range in rural Alaska. So I'm coming from the bottom
46 up, so I needed to go back in and read all that old
47 stuff. And it was quite interesting. I went to Title
48 VIII and looked there, and the word census doesn't
49 occur. Decade is in Title VIII. Urban doesn't occur.
50 Ten doesn't occur. Non-rural isn't there.

1 Determination is not there. And neither is community
2 or communities. Individual occurs twice. Residents or
3 resident occurs 28 times.

4

5 And I think it's important to note that
6 the purpose of Title VIII in ANILCA and the Katie John
7 decision are for the Federal government to support
8 rural residents. And I think that's key. It was key
9 when the Secretaries issued this review. The entire
10 process. And earlier it was to get actual rural
11 residents and users on the Board. And now we're
12 looking at this final component.

13

14 And in all cases, the emphasis has been
15 to provide the opportunity for rural residents engaged
16 in a subsistence way of life to do so. And rural
17 residents who have personal knowledge of local
18 conditions and requirements. It's not required that
19 people actually use these resources. It is required
20 that they have access to them. And what that means is
21 if you're limiting rural residents from access to their
22 food, they should not have to eat so many calories, or
23 so many percentage, or whatever kinds of food that
24 somebody else decides. They have the right to access
25 those lands and waters. And that's what I think we're
26 dealing with. And that should be emphasized. It
27 doesn't have to do with how much food or what kind.

28

29 As far as things such as determination,
30 as I mentioned, it's not in ANILCA. It is in the regs,
31 but the regs, of course, were developed basically
32 carried over from the State in many cases. I would
33 suggest that you just strike any determination, that
34 the Board I think should review if an area or community
35 in Alaska is now urban. And review is very much
36 different from determine. And you heard last night
37 about what happened in 2006 when the issue of
38 determination had arisen. And essentially actually it
39 was the Board at that point had determined that Kodiak
40 was non-rural, and it then went out for public comment,
41 which is part of this improved process the Secretaries
42 wish to have now is that you involve the communities.
43 And today this is -- I mean, this is a result of that
44 emphasis.

45

46 I would suggest also that you have the
47 Board look at the geographic definitions of rural, much
48 more consistent, and it's fairly easy to look up that
49 data every 10 years for review using the census. And
50 again it's the U.S. Census is very concrete on how they

1 define urban or urbanized areas.

2

3 If there's been a change of more than
4 25 percent, then that could be something the Board
5 could look further into. And to give you an idea, in
6 19 -- there has been only an increase in Kodiak City
7 population of four percent since 1990 compared to the
8 state increase in population of 29 percent. So there's
9 been no change basically since 1990, which is when the
10 Federal Subsistence Board came into effect.

11

12 And I guess those are my major
13 concerns, and as I mentioned, these are things that
14 will be able to provide you, and I can do that fairly
15 quickly, of providing at least a set of considerations.

16

17 I think it's very important to keep
18 this in mind, and then also to keep in what is the
19 purpose of the Board and what is the purpose of Title
20 VIII. And it seems to me it would just make it much
21 easier than all of the -- what's in the regulation now,
22 and you could come down to almost two sentences instead
23 of the ones that we have here.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pam.

28

29 Pat, you have a question.

30

31 MR. HOLMES: Dr. Bumsted, I wonder if
32 you could give the Council some guidance. You
33 mentioned rural, frontier and island. And which of
34 those is considered to be the most rural or the removed
35 from urban areas?

36

37 DR. BUMSTED: You could say all rural
38 as the census defines -- or the census only defines
39 urbanized areas. Within that, you have rural areas.
40 However, they have recognized in the past, this is
41 U.S.D.A., has recognized in the past that there's a
42 whole spectrum of rural. And this is not to use a
43 dictionary definition, and not to use the Encyclopedia
44 Britannica which is what they used in 1990. But you
45 have a whole range of how people settle, especially in
46 the west and especially in Alaska. So within rural,
47 you have people who are remote. And these are people
48 are more than an hour from an urbanized area. And
49 islands by definition are more than an hour from an
50 urbanized area. These are people who have, you know,

1 maybe -- well, where I lived for so long, we had half a
2 person per square mile. Rural is talking about
3 hundreds or 1,000 people per square mile, but within
4 that is this very far remote area. And islands are a
5 special subset of remote.

6
7 Now, these have just been reviewed.
8 They were submitted for review, comments closed in
9 January, and I haven't seen the final rules. But they
10 do lay out some of the specifics, and if you wish I can
11 provide some of those.

12
13 There's also a review of this that has
14 come up with, you know, the fact -- they looked into
15 this using geography, because so many programs have
16 their own policies and their own definitions. And it
17 just -- what they're looking for is something that
18 would be independent of specific program biases. So
19 you don't want to have the military saying, well, you
20 know, if you don't have a PX, that makes you rural.
21 You want something that's consistent across -- that
22 most people can repeat. I mean, they can follow along
23 with the criteria, and come to the same conclusions.

24
25 MR. HOLMES: I guess what I was fishing
26 for, and I think you answered this I mean, was what
27 phrase or terminology if we were to ask the Federal
28 Board to look at the U.S.D.A. definitions, and I'm
29 assuming that if we said, you know, look at geography
30 and consider their definition of an island, that that
31 would perhaps solidify the thing the best for Kodiak
32 for, you know, what we're trying to achieve. Is that a
33 fair statement?

34
35 DR. BUMSTED: I think it would be
36 stronger if you mention having a geographic taxonomy,
37 and that it should be -- there are characteristics like
38 I mentioned, you know, should be replicable. And the
39 suggested on is frontier and remote. And that's what
40 it's called. It's called FAR. It's been used by the
41 Health and Human Services for at least 15 years, and it
42 has just completed its public review in January. So
43 it's call frontier and remote, geographic taxonomies.

44
45 MR. HOLMES: Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Any other
48 questions for Pam.

49
50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pam.

2

3 The next person we have is Brenda
4 Schwantes.

5

6 MS. SCHWANTES: Good morning. It was a
7 long night, wasn't it. I'm not going to just repeat
8 the same information that I shared last night, but I am
9 going to try and -- first of all, Carl -- I know, I cut
10 myself off there.

11

12 I liked the summation that he put
13 together. It kind of hits all those bullet points.
14 It's going to be really important in coming up with a
15 position as a RAC, as a group.

16

17 And I also would like to again
18 emphasize, as Pam did, and here's my statement to the
19 RAC, you can put it in your records, but I think it's
20 not just Kodiak. It's all of the islands in Alaska.
21 And if you do the research and look at the islands and
22 the geography of the islands and the remoteness of all
23 of those islands, there's really only one -- well,
24 right now the issue with Ketchikan and Gravina and the
25 aggregation there, and Juneau, those would be the two
26 that might be a question, if you were to approach your
27 position as a geographical consideration, because they
28 are part of an archipelago and they're islands. So
29 there might be a question, you might need to have a
30 loophole in your strategy position for the Feds to
31 redefine or have an exception to your strategy.

32

33 But it sounds -- overall the population
34 issue, I'm just going to encourage the RAC to come up
35 with a strong position, and that is to do away with the
36 population issue, or at least have two tiers of
37 qualifications for being remote. I think the RAC
38 should challenge the rural word in the court cases in
39 your position statement and ask that it be looked at,
40 because rural in the court decisions could also mean
41 remote. There's lots of interpretations for that. We
42 can interpret it our own way, because Alaska is a
43 noncontiguous state. People don't ship here. It takes
44 forever to get here. It takes a day and a half to get
45 to D.C. You heard it all last night.

46

47 I guess I'm just going to encourage the
48 RAC to take a strong position on requesting that the
49 population criteria be not a primary consideration, and
50 that the geographical component, and the rural

1 characteristics of the islands and archipelagoes could
2 be a primary consideration in determining remoteness.
3 and then after that maybe a population level for some
4 of the urbanized areas.

5
6 So it's going to be important to
7 develop a really strong approach to present to the
8 Federal Subsistence Board, and for the RAC to
9 understand the opinion and that approach and be able to
10 justify it. And hopefully with other comments that
11 some of the public -- that the public presented last
12 night, that will kind of help your in your formation of
13 your position to the Council.

14
15 And I'll just go ahead and submit this
16 as I did last night, although it's addressed to you.
17 Basically it says population should not be a major
18 factor, blah-blah-blah, and that the islands and
19 archipelago communities should be exempt, because of
20 their geographical considerations.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Brenda.
25 Questions.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Next we
30 have Iver Malutin.

31
32 MR. MALUTIN: You guys are too serious.
33 I've got to make you laugh, and I'm going to.

34
35 And we're all here for only one reason.
36 Excuse me? Got it. When you get to be 82, you'll
37 forget.

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 MR. MALUTIN: Anyway, I'm going to
42 quote what Harvey Samuelson said. And Harvey was
43 really a really renowned leader from Dillingham. And
44 when I was talking to one day, he said, Iver, and these
45 are his words, God damn it, we've been living here for
46 thousands of years, thousands of years, and we owned
47 all the land and all the resources. Today we're
48 fighting like hell to get a little piece back.

49
50 And if you think about what that lady

1 from Sun'aq said yesterday, or wherever she was from, I
2 was thinking about Harvey; that's why I wrote this
3 down. And that's why we're here. And we are really,
4 really on the right track this year, and I really
5 applaud all of you, and I'm glad you're here. It takes
6 a lot of time and effort for you guys to be here.

7
8 But before I go any further, I'm going
9 to tell you who I am, and I never it, because my mom
10 says it's not good to talk about I, but here I think
11 I'd better. This is all my research by University of
12 Alaska. My family came with Baranof in 1794 to Kodiak,
13 and I'm still here, so this is my town. And also it
14 said on the Laktonin (ph) side, Laktonin is the first
15 Kanainaq (ph) or CEO for the Russian American Company
16 off the Komandorski Islands at Kamchatka when they
17 started the Russian American Company sea otter hunting.
18 They hired 18 people, they fired them, they couldn't
19 get the sea otter. And according to Dr. Linda Breck on
20 her information that she sent me, I've got it all at
21 home in letters, the Natives put kayaks all around the
22 sea otter. And all they did was hit the water with
23 their paddle, and the sea otter would dive, they'd come
24 up. They'd keep doing that. Pretty soon the sea otter
25 couldn't dive any more, and all the Natives had to do
26 was club them. They never used one shell to harvest
27 the sea otter, according to the University of Alaska
28 Fairbanks.

29
30 So anyway that was my great grandpa,
31 Jacob Laktonin. So that's who I am.

32
33 So now, and I was on the port and
34 harbor board for 25 years for the City of Kodiak. I
35 was the chairman for 20 years. And on the Commission
36 on Aging for eight years. On the Prince William Sound
37 Council for seven years. On the advisory board to the
38 ANMC hospital, so on.

39
40 And I really, really thank every single
41 one of you for all the time that you're putting into
42 this, because it does take time. You couldn't be here
43 if you didn't do your research. And to do research
44 takes time. And all that time is just donated by you
45 guys; you're not getting paid. But you are getting
46 paid by us by thanking you, and we really appreciate
47 every single one of you here.

48
49 Okay. Now, we're talking about making
50 a place, a physical place urban or rural. Does that

1 physical place eat fish? I don't think so. I think
2 it's the people that live in every single area that
3 should be able to get their resources regardless of
4 where they live. They're the ones that are really --
5 the ones that are depending on it, and I'm not talking
6 about only Native people. I'm talking about everybody
7 that subsists, and I'm using your words, the
8 traditional way should have access to the food. And at
9 the expense of commercial fishing.

10

11 I feel sorry for the Fish and Game
12 guys. They have to make an estimate, high and low
13 range, every single year,
14 based on what they predict. And look at the Kuskokwim
15 this year. Now those guys have got to really, really
16 struggle to try to make ends meet up there. Imagine
17 taking the food away from the people, because of the
18 dollar and the commercial fisherman. That's what it's
19 all about.

20

21 But think about making an area urban or
22 rural only has to affect the people before that made
23 these laws that didn't know what they were talking
24 about. And a lot of the information that we have today
25 from our advisory board doesn't fit, and some of them
26 didn't know what they were talking about.

27

28 How many people here have been to
29 Saxman? Two. Okay. That's what I'm saying. If you
30 have to make a decision on Saxman, not being there, I
31 was there, and I think Saxman by all means all them
32 people should have their food.

33

34 But anyway, that's what's happening
35 today. And I just wish that we could somehow -- maybe
36 even have a limited entry. I don't care. Make people
37 qualify for what they're getting, because the number of
38 people are going to kill us, and they're killing us.
39 That's not my suggestion, but I just said it, because I
40 stayed awake last night thinking.

41

42 Okay. I talked about the Federal
43 grants. I talked about your acreage. The villages,
44 the towns, the cities.

45

46 You know, that's really all I have to
47 say, but I really thank every single one of you for
48 being here, because hopefully we'll be able to get our
49 way, and I just hope that they never ever take the
50 traditional foods away from any Native people any

1 place.

2

3 Oh, yes, I was on the RuralCAP Halibut
4 Board. And we could ship halibut. Halibut is Federal,
5 and we could ship halibut any place in Alaska to the
6 people wherever they were. And we can't do that with
7 migratory birds. And that's wrong. I think that we
8 should be able to ship anything that are traditional
9 foods was or is or are, and be able to get it to every
10 single person no matter where they are in Alaska. They
11 might be in the hospital, or whoever. There's all
12 kinds of needs and they just can't get it. So just a
13 suggestion.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Iver.
18 We have Brenda Schwantes again?

19

20 MS. SCHWANTES: No.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No. Well,
23 somebody's playing with the -- and we have Iver Malutin
24 again.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 MR. MALUTIN: No, not me. I'm done.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: You're done.

31

32 MR. MALUTIN: Did I fill two of them
33 out?

34

35 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Yeah.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

38

39 MR. MALUTIN: One this morning.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: That's all right.
42 We've got Melissa Borton next then.

43

44 MR. MALUTIN: Thank you.

45

46 MS. BORTON: I promise I won't go
47 twice.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

1 MS. BORTON: Good morning, everybody.
2 My name is Melissa Borton. I'm the tribal
3 administrator for the Native Village of Afognak, and I
4 am here representing my tribe.

5
6 I appreciate the opportunity to address
7 you guys, and I think that your comments and
8 recommendations that you'll be making to the Federal
9 Subsistence Board are highly weighted, and we certainly
10 appreciate the opportunity to tell you how we feel.

11
12 For those of you that were here last
13 night, I think you heard overwhelmingly how important
14 subsistence is to Kodiak.

15
16 I'm a lifelong resident. My husband
17 was born and raised here. We're both Natives, and we
18 raise our children our traditional way of lifestyle,
19 and we subsist. We heavily subsist. It's important to
20 us.

21
22 The issues that I have with the current
23 criteria that the Federal Subsistence Board uses is no
24 different than what you heard from Brenda and Pam. I
25 think the population threshold is way too low. I don't
26 have a good suggestion, because I don't think Kodiak
27 should be weighted simply because of population. Our
28 geographic remoteness should be the primary factor.
29 It's expensive to live here, but that certainly doesn't
30 keep us away. I'm not going to move to the mainland
31 just because it's expensive to live here. I live here
32 because I love Kodiak. I love the community. The
33 sharing that we do amongst ourselves is extremely
34 important to me and to my family and to my friends, and
35 my extended family. My husband and I have both sets of
36 grandparents that live here, and they can't go out and
37 fish for themselves, so we provide for them. And it's
38 important to us.

39
40 I also think that if the Federal
41 Subsistence Board is looking for criteria to determine
42 rural versus non-rural, I would suggest looking at the
43 12 State criteria. What I like about the -- I can't
44 say they're all perfect, but what I like about the 12
45 criteria is it doesn't look only at demographics. It
46 does look at actual characteristics. It looks at the
47 extend and use of sharing. It looks at the diversity
48 of the resources, so it gives you a bigger picture I
49 guess of how to determine a community.

50

1 And then again with the timelines, I
2 don't think 10 years is adequate. I think 10 years is
3 too short of a timeframe to put a community through
4 turmoil. I think once rural, you're rural unless
5 there's a significant change that tells you otherwise.

6
7 So I appreciate the opportunity, and I
8 know you'll be hearing much of the same from the people
9 following me.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you,
14 Melissa.

15
16 Does anyone have questions.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No. Okay. Then
21 last, but not least, we have Nancy Nelson.

22
23 MS. NELSON: Good morning. I'm Nancy
24 Nelson. I sit on the Port Lions Tribal Council;
25 however, I'm here on behalf of myself. And I also work
26 for the Native Village of Afognak.

27
28 I listened to all the testimony last
29 night, and I agree with everything.

30
31 I am originally from Afognak and Port
32 Lions; however, I live in Kodiak because of the
33 economy. And many of my people from Port Lions have
34 moved away just for that reason. There is just -- you
35 need to work. But I own a home in Port Lions. I go
36 back. Many of my family does. My friends, they all
37 return to that village and they do their subsistence.
38 And if this was -- if this was to change, we would not
39 be allowed to do that without breaking the law.

40
41 And I listened and I agree with all the
42 testimony of what everyone says. But that part was
43 missing, of all the people that had to leave these
44 rural communities for economic reasons, and if they
45 can't return, and if they do return, they can't subsist
46 in their own village, I think that would be pretty
47 devastating to us all that had to leave. So I would
48 like for you to think of that when you make your
49 decision.

50

1 And I also spends weeks outside of
2 Afognak, and we teach our youth our traditional way of
3 life and we subsist. We teach them just to take what
4 they need and not to over-harvest anything. And would
5 we not be allowed to do that?

6
7 And those are my concerns. Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Nancy.
10
11 Peter.

12
13 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. Mr. Chair.
14 Nancy's part about going back to Port Lions to harvest
15 subsistence, Port Lions is under State regulations, and
16 I think what she's referring to. This is the Federal.

17
18 But anyway I agree with all the
19 testimony so far, but that's why I wanted to ask so
20 people can be explained what the differences between
21 State and Federal and where State and Federal waters
22 are. She might not be able to go to Litnik, but she
23 still can go to Port Lions, because Port Lions is under
24 State.

25
26 MS. NELSON: I'd like to ask you a
27 question then.

28
29 REPORTER: You'll have to come up to
30 the microphone, please.

31
32 MS. NELSON: Okay. But we all know
33 when one changes or something, the other one follows.
34 We have seen a pattern of that. You know, we still
35 could stand that risk of not being able to do that.
36 And that is a concern. When one thing starts changing,
37 it seems like there's a pattern amongst the government
38 that keeps on changing and making it harder for us to
39 be able to live our traditional way of life.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you for
42 that.

43
44 That completes the testimony papers I
45 have here, if there's anyone else that would like to
46 make testimony that haven't filled out a paper, and you
47 have a burning desire to testify on behalf of Kodiak,
48 then now is your chance.

49
50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If not, then thank
2 you very much for your testimony.

3
4 Carl.

5
6 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. This might be
7 a good time to inquire if there is anybody on the
8 phoneline that wanted to offer testimony on this.

9
10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Good idea. Out of
13 sight, out of mind. If I don't see them, I don't call
14 them.

15
16 Antone, do you have any questions,
17 comments on this rural determination process.

18
19 MR. SHELIKOFF: No. No.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Is there
22 anyone else on the phone that would like to make
23 testimony or have questions or comments.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. So if there
28 are no further testimonies, then the Council will
29 gather up all those testimonies, go over them, and
30 formulate hopefully a very strong recommendation to the
31 Federal Subsistence Board.

32
33 Vince, did you have a question?

34
35 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Yeah. No, I don't have
36 a question, but as a Council I think we're being asked
37 to, you know, digest all the information we had last
38 night and what we have been presented today. And as
39 Council representative for Kodiak/Aleutians, there's a
40 lot of information, and I've been counting people and I
41 kind of lost track of how many were actually here last
42 night. About 80. And we had like 35 maybe testimony.

43
44 MR. JOHNSON: We had 15 people testify
45 last night.

46
47 MR. TUTIAKOFF: And this morning.

48
49 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, this morning
50 another five.

1 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Okay. So we had 20 out
2 of maybe 80 testified last night. And I kind of made a
3 list, and using your paper that you put together for
4 us, summary, I went real quickly through them. On the
5 aggregation issue, we had five. And when I say five
6 and by numbers, I mean it was mentioned by an
7 individual or that many times. And under population
8 threshold, the arbitrary had 14. Too low for Kodiak,
9 14. Too much emphasis on population had 19, or right
10 up to every one, about everybody that spoke. Do away
11 with the population cap, or get a higher number I guess
12 was what was requested, was two. Should not be a
13 primary factor had seven. Population of 25,000 derived
14 from archaeology was two. The rural characteristics,
15 geographic remoteness, I had 12. Kodiak's an island,
16 and that will never change issue, 12. Islands again,
17 10. Islands and different and remote, under a
18 different context, was 10. The bombing by -- or they
19 tried to bomb us, twice.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 MR. TUTIAKOFF: How weather impacts the
24 transportation to the community was five. Higher
25 percentage of sharing, more rural, seven. Proximity to
26 the resource, three. Subsistence hub, need to be in
27 their own category, was two. Most emphasis should be
28 placed on rural characteristics had seven. The high
29 cost of living was 10. Median income to a community
30 was five. Inability to commute to other areas was
31 seven. Look at the 12 factors was four. Outside the
32 progress that ends infrastructure, facilities, and all
33 those related to the population, the military, so
34 forth, three. The reason why people live here had 12.
35 How supplies are delivered to the community had five.
36 And then education, four. In other words,
37 infrastructure. Clinics, I had eight.

38

39 The one thing that really -- that I
40 thought was missing in categorizing and part of the
41 issue that we should be talking about is I had
42 discussion, I was on a teleconference, I don't know, a
43 couple weeks ago with other villages, and discussing
44 this issue with ANCSA corps and village corporations.
45 One of the issues that came up that was interesting was
46 utilize the population data of a tribal entity. I'm
47 here primarily for the reason that the tribe appointed
48 -- I had to go through the tribe to get here. When I
49 did my application, I had to apply through the tribe,
50 not through ANCSA corporation, or Department of Fish

1 and Game, or any other entity. I was asked by the
2 tribe to sit here. And amongst five or six others in
3 my community, I was selected by the Secretary of
4 Interior.

5
6 So it's kind of interesting that none
7 of the discussions, although there's representatives
8 from the tribes here in Kodiak, I think that utilizing
9 the tribal numbers as part of an aggregate of the
10 population. We're a small -- we're probably -- if
11 anybody does the research of it, utilizing the
12 population, the tribes as an entity within any one
13 community or region, would be a very small percentage.
14 And I'd ask, you know, that the tribal governments'
15 data, information on population be inserted here in
16 this process.

17
18 Another issue that I found to be
19 interesting was categorizing all islands as rural.

20
21 I don't support the issue that we have
22 an every 10-year review. I think that should be thrown
23 out, and I think it was put in there by a bureaucrat
24 who doesn't understand the process of just living in
25 Alaska, and have probably never been here, although he
26 looked at what's happening in the Lower 48, and says,
27 well, we'll just do it every 10 years and give me a job
28 to do so I can retire. That needs to go away. It's
29 too hard on a community. And I wasn't here on this
30 Council when we did the first review for Kodiak. It
31 was a period of time where I had to get off, because I
32 was living in Anchorage, and I couldn't be on this
33 Council because we I was taking a job in Anchorage, so
34 I had to get off at that time. But I think that that
35 should be thrown out. I don't support it.

36
37 The other issue is on the population
38 numbers. They're arbitrary in my opinion. They're
39 just taken out of some book that some bureaucrat was
40 reading and said, oh, use these numbers, and we'll
41 throw it to Alaska and let them deal with it.

42
43 I have a hard time dealing with when
44 they do a population, they count transient workers,
45 which is a big population base that comes through every
46 community that's a fishing port, and Kodiak is one of
47 them, Unalaska is another one. I have a hard time
48 dealing with how they distribute funds based on
49 population. They don't use the local numbers that
50 everybody else uses. And I have a hard time dealing

1 with that.

2

3 So I hope that, you know, we come up
4 with a good recommendation and incorporate some of
5 these ideas that we can get to the full Board there.

6

7 That's all I have right now. Mr.
8 Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you,
11 Vincent.

12

13 Any other Council members have
14 comments. Pat.

15

16 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I guess I'm
17 getting so old I can't remember. I kind of feel like
18 one time I was out at King Cove and working 18 hours a
19 day, and stopped down and talked to Rick's dad, and he
20 said, you look tired. And he said, do you want a beer?
21 And I thought, well, sure. And so somebody throws me
22 up a whole six-pack, and that was a beer out there, and
23 my brain is just as buzzed today, and I don't know that
24 I can remember everything I said last night, so I hope
25 you do.

26

27 But I was thinking on things to add to
28 what I had last night, and I gave the guys my talking
29 points, so I don't even have those. But some
30 additional items to add to what I was commenting on
31 last night, and on the bullets from the Rural Round
32 Table. We could probably grab those and plug them into
33 our letter, because it kind of hits a lot of -- most
34 all the points that the community raised.

35

36 But on using Native info, and I thought
37 that Vincent's was really good, because when the Rural
38 Round Table was working on this last time, Freya Holmes
39 went to Canada (ph), and she's a little lost Norwegian
40 tribe here. Anyway, she went to count, and the numbers
41 that she came up there for folks that were being
42 treated at Kodiak Area Natives Medical Clinic I think
43 was at least 5 or 10 percent. Do you remember,
44 Melissa? It was significantly higher than what the
45 census had, because the census is, you know, random
46 sample, and depending on where they're sampling, it
47 changes and skews the information. And I think going
48 to, you know, the Native community is one way how to
49 determine that proportion of the community. And, you
50 know, those are the folks I learned from 50 years ago,

1 and still learn things from.

2

3 And then I think on the 10-year
4 question, that's a really arbitrary, bureaucratic time,
5 and, of course, bureaucrats are still going to want to
6 know, well, when should we look? And my feeling is,
7 well, let's just grab a statistical phrase,
8 significant. And to me, a significant change in the
9 population would be an increase of 25 percent, whenever
10 that occurs. And it just isn't going to happen here.
11 If we get a cutter, there might be 300 people more.
12 But if we get the rats, we might lose 1,000. So, you
13 know, is that -- you know, I think that might be a way
14 to define significant is at least 25 percent, and just
15 forget the 10-year renewal.

16

17 And I still would concur with most of
18 the folks that testified that once rural, remains
19 rural, but the bureaucrats are going to come back and
20 say, well, what if. And so I think that would be a
21 bone to throw to them.

22

23 And I think, getting at Vince's comment
24 on looking for transients, the community was very
25 sensitive -- I mean, a lot of folks last time said,
26 well, throw the Coast Guard out, they don't count.
27 But, you know, there's a lot of folks like Jimmy Ang, I
28 know a dozen warrant officers, folks that re-upped many
29 times, lived in town. When they retired, they came
30 back and stayed here, and they're just as much of our
31 culture as anyone.

32

33 But I think the way to go at that --
34 and then the transient fishermen. And since IFQs and
35 stuff, we've got folks that are here just enough to do
36 their Qs, maybe fish a few reds, and they're gone. So
37 how do you adjust for that if they happen to be here in
38 April when the census comes.

39

40 And I think one place to look at, and I
41 would suggest to the Federal Board that they maybe look
42 further for something else, is to access the Permanent
43 Fund database, and at least that tells you who's been
44 here a year. There might be people that, you know, do
45 change and come and go, but that's a lot more refined
46 than the Federal census, because that's I think kind of
47 arbitrary. And looking at the numbers from the last
48 census, I still don't know -- to me it looks like
49 there's probably 3,000 more people reported here on the
50 road system than exist, and I don't know where they

1 are, how they came up with it, if they just called the
2 base and said, well, how many employees do you have,
3 how many people are stationed here, and that became two
4 or 3,000, whatever it was, but yet we all know at that
5 time, before they built up the housing at the base, you
6 know, there were probably 25 percent or 40 percent of
7 the families lived in town.

8

9 And so, you know, there's potential for
10 a lot of double counting, and I really think that they
11 need to look very seriously at who really has a
12 potential to be a subsistence users. And you can't
13 really use the subsistence harvest data from Fish and
14 Game, because folks from other parts of the State come
15 down here to do the State subsistence.

16

17 And then, you know, as Melissa said,
18 you know, they fish for her family's grandparents, and
19 a lot of folks do that. When I'm fishing have a good
20 year, you know, I'm fishing for old timers all up and
21 down Mission Road.

22

23 And so that's a sticky number, but at
24 least going for a PFD number would be a little better
25 coming up with numbers. But overall I think the number
26 question is really irrelevant and compared to the
27 lifestyle, really concur with Melissa's comments, and
28 the Round Table of looking at the State criteria.
29 Don't have to adopt them all, but at least get
30 something more that defines the community and the
31 community's culture. And I know the regs say rural,
32 but, you know, there's something else in the definition
33 of rural, and that's our culture, and I think that
34 should be weighed a lot more than hard what appear to
35 be strong facts for bureaucrats to make decisions when
36 they've never participated in our lifestyle. And I
37 find that so objectionable for them to define us. And
38 so this is our opportunity to say, this is what we are.

39

40 And I certainly hope that the Federal
41 Board when they review our comments at our Council and
42 review last nights hearing, that they listen to the
43 people of Kodiak, because living on an island is
44 different than living anywhere else.

45

46 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.
49 Any other Board member comments. Peter.

50

1 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I'd
2 just like to thank Pamela and Melissa and Brenda for
3 their comments. I think those are going to be very,
4 very useful for us to making our determination. And
5 then Iver and Nancy.

6
7 I grew up living a subsistence
8 lifestyle myself, the same as anybody else in a remote
9 area, and I have always shared the subsistence
10 resource. And we did not make all these rules and
11 regulations. All it seems like all we're doing is
12 always fighting them, which to me is totally wrong. By
13 us living off where we live, we chose to live there.
14 And the State -- I guess it would be easier if the
15 whole island was either State or Federal, where we
16 wouldn't have to be saying who gets this and who gets
17 that from what area. But that's the regs they made,
18 and that's what -- the Federal government stepped in
19 and took over, and now we have a lot of controversy
20 between State and Federal. I think -- I was telling
21 Rick and Vince this morning, you know, it's turning our
22 own people against our own people just because of where
23 we live, and I don't think that's right.

24
25 I think we should be working together
26 to fight like Johnny Parker brought up last night about
27 who's hurting our resources for our people. I think
28 that's what we really need to do. Instead of saying
29 who does this and who does that from where or whatever,
30 we should be getting to the real problem of why our
31 resources are diminishing.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Peter.

34
35 Any other questions, comments from the
36 Board.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Antone, on the
41 phone, do you have any questions, comments.

42
43 MR. SHELKOFF: No.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Maybe I
46 think before we go any further we can take a five-
47 minute break.

48
49 (Off record)

50

1 (On record)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Let's call
4 the meeting back to order.

5

6 MR. HOLMES: These are two different
7 versions of our talking points, this and that.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Welcome
10 back.

11

12 After hearing all that testimony and
13 hearing the Council's comments, in order to formulate
14 an opinion and have a presentation for the Federal
15 Subsistence Board in January, this Council would take
16 action to have I guess Carl work with our secretary and
17 draft up the Board's recommendations.

18

19 And if the Council has more comments
20 they'd like to make I guess now would be the time.

21

22 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

25

26 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. Pat Holmes.

27

28 I had a couple comments from the
29 audience that I thought were quite relevant. And I had
30 pitched the idea of 25 percent to appeal to the
31 bureaucrats, and the logic that was presented to me,
32 and I think it's quite sound, and it spins off a lot of
33 the comments from last night, is if you're going to a
34 review, it should probably be implemented by the people
35 in the community, because then they know when there's a
36 big change. And, you know, if we were to end up
37 getting an air force base, a navy base here, then we
38 would probably want some help and have a big look at
39 things. So I think that would be really maybe an
40 important point for us to do.

41

42 And my colleague, Mr. Squartsoff, made
43 a suggestion that perhaps we would ask the three ladies
44 from the tribal groups that testified today if they
45 would want to help or maybe even do a rough draft for
46 Carl and I to play with. Is that what you were
47 suggesting? Would that work out, Mr. Chairman? I
48 don't know. Either that or we could grab their talking
49 points if that would be acceptable with the public.
50 It's two options.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pete.

2

3 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I
4 was just talking with Melissa about it a little bit
5 ago, and she said she would be willing to help draft,
6 you know, the wording on how it should be worded to --
7 in supporting their testimony.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. I'd say
10 that the person to work with would be Carl, because
11 he's going to take all our comments and the testimonies
12 and draft up our statement.

13

14 Go ahead, Carl.

15

16 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. Mr. Chair. I'm not
17 quite sure how that would fit in to the current policy
18 governing Council correspondence, to take a draft from
19 the public and then adopt it as the Council's own
20 correspondence.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah.

23

24 MR. JOHNSON: I think that the safer,
25 more prudent way to go would be to just do what's been
26 discussed. Take the round table talking points, take
27 what's been discussed in the public testimony last
28 night and today, and incorporating the written comments
29 into a cohesive summary of this community's and this
30 region's concerns about how the rural determination
31 review is conducted.

32

33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. When you
36 get this draft down, we'll receive copies before the
37 January meeting. The Board will -- how are we going to
38 -- what I'm getting at is, how are we going to approve
39 this before I take it -- we get it to the January Board
40 meeting? When I get up there in January, is it going
41 to be a draft or is the Board going to take action in
42 advance of that draft.

43

44 MR. JOHNSON: Actually, Mr. Chair, the
45 next Federal Subsistence Board meeting that would
46 discuss this issue is in April. So there's plenty of
47 time to finalize.

48

49 Could we have whoever's on the phone
50 please mute your phone. We're getting some background

1 noise here. Thank you. Yes, that would be you typing
2 on the keyboard. Hello.

3
4 But all the Council has to do is
5 authorize a letter now. The Council can review it, you
6 know, via email and see if there's any additions, and
7 then the final approval of the letter for signature
8 could then, you know, be done by the Chair, and then it
9 could be sent out, you know, as part of the formal
10 comment from the Council well in advance of the Board's
11 April meeting. I would just think we wouldn't want to
12 wait to finalize it until the winter meeting, because
13 that may a bit too late as far as the process of
14 getting all the comments organized for the Board's
15 April meeting.

16
17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you.
20 Carl.

21
22 Pat, you have something.

23
24 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I think
25 with Carl's comments there I think maybe the best bet
26 would be for him and I to bounce it around and then
27 send it to the Council. I think that it's probably a
28 good idea to get it out well in advance of the next
29 discussion at the Federal Board, because talking to
30 some of the tribal folks here in town, they're hoping
31 to make sure that, you know, they get one or two folks
32 to show up at that meeting just so that they can help
33 shepherd the community's comments, and, you know,
34 reinforce anything that you would have to say. And
35 just because of the last go around where some things
36 got lost, and it wasn't anybody's fault on our Council,
37 so let's go for it and have I guess -- should I make a
38 motion that -- no, I'd better not, because I'll be
39 drafting it.

40
41 MR. KOSO: We just need a consensus, or
42 do we need a motion?

43
44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No.

45
46 MR. KOSO: I think just a consensus is
47 all we need.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: What will happen
50 is that a draft will come out from Carl, and it will go

1 to the Council. And then if the Council agrees that
2 it's all good -- we'll work through the email, and if
3 it's all good, then I'll have him submit my signature
4 on it, and then it will get to the -- Yes, Carl.

5
6 MR. JOHNSON: And, Mr. Chair, I'll
7 encourage the Council members to respond via email
8 promptly when they see that draft correspondence come
9 through. I know sometimes it can be a little
10 challenging to get to check your email frequently, but
11 this will be kind of crucial, because while there's a
12 public deadline of November 1st, and the rest of the
13 process is moving ahead and organizing all those
14 comments and getting them sorted and catalogued and all
15 that. So we'll want to be included in that. So the
16 goal should be for this letter to be reviewed,
17 finalized and approved and signed by that November 1st
18 deadline.

19
20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Carl.

23
24 Are we good with that?

25
26 MR. TUTIAKOFF: So direct.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Vincent.

29
30 MR. TUTIAKOFF: So direct. Let's move
31 on.

32
33 MR. HOLMES: Amen.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. With that
36 then, we have our marching orders.

37
38 Is there anyone else that would like to
39 make any comments on the rural determination process.
40 If there are none, then we will move on with our
41 agenda.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you
46 for all the testimony, wonderful testimonies. All of
47 us that live on Kodiak Island, we know that we are a
48 rural community, even if we consider Kodiak Island as a
49 whole as the community. It is a rural area. And the
50 importance of access to our resources, it's just so

1 important that the people have this access.

2

3 And when the people gather in a place
4 for economics, like in Kodiak, people are moving from
5 the village to Kodiak because out in the villages there
6 are -- if the population expands, there are not enough
7 jobs to sustain that population, so they come to an
8 area where there are more jobs, more opportunities, but
9 inadvertently increase the population of this area. And
10 we as a people, you know, need to help decide whether
11 we remain rural, and that the important thing is people
12 moving here should not cause Kodiak to be a non-rural
13 area, because people move here for economic -- you
14 know, to make our life better.

15

16 But in the meantime, at the same time
17 we've got to keep the way of life that we live. You
18 know, you can't separate them, because it's here. We
19 live, we're moving forward. Our children are growing
20 up, and some of them have the privilege of learning the
21 way of life out in the village. Unfortunately there
22 are some that don't get that education, but they do get
23 the foods, the resources and the foods that we live on.

24

25 And we provide for our families in a
26 way that's been practiced for centuries, thousands of
27 years. That should not be taken away because we've
28 grown too big in population, we have more access to
29 resources that are economically based. And keeping
30 Kodiak rural is one of the most important things that
31 we have to work with today.

32

33 And I'm sure Kodiak will be at the
34 hearings. I'm also sure that the Board will take
35 testimony at the hearing. I'm confident that this
36 Council will make a recommendation that will help
37 Kodiak remain a rural area.

38

39 Iver, you have a question.

40

41 MR. MALUTIN: I just had one thing.
42 I've got to leave right now, and I appreciate you guys
43 coming here. But I would like to see this Board take
44 action pro or con on your feelings towards urban and
45 rural before you leave here.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you for your
50 testimony, Iver. It was nice having you here.

1 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I was
2 wondering if we -- we've got the letter going, but I
3 was wondering maybe perhaps -- let me try a blanket
4 motion that the Kodiak/Aleutians Advisory Council
5 strongly endorses the position of the Kodiak extended
6 community at their hearing last night. I think that
7 would tidy it up. I mean, at least having a position
8 that we're supporting the comments from the community.
9 And then we'll follow that with a letter, and then the
10 letter has the details, but we're addressing the
11 comment that we're addressing overall what was
12 delivered to us last night and our talks today were
13 valid. I think that's what Iver was looking for was,
14 you know, something like that.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah. I would
17 think a motion in order to -- a motion to accept all
18 the testimonies given by residents of Kodiak and
19 Council.

20
21 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Mr. Chair. I would
22 like to withdraw my last motion and have a motion that
23 we accept the comment of the Kodiak community and
24 endorse it.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I'm looking for a
27 second.

28
29 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Second.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and
32 seconded. Discussion.

33
34 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. I just had
35 one, that I won't accept the one gentleman that said it
36 was cheaper to live in Kodiak, or everything was cheap
37 in Kodiak.

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Any further
42 discussion. Vince.

43
44 MR. TUTIAKOFF: It will be
45 incorporating all of the comments from the Council and
46 the presentation this morning in that review letter to
47 the full Board.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes.

50

1 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Thanks.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Antone, do you
4 have any discussion on the motion.
5
6 MR. SHELKOFF: I wasn't there to hear
7 all the testimony, but I do support the letter. Okay.
8
9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
10 discussions.
11
12 (No comments)
13
14 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Call for the question.
15
16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: There's no further
17 discussion. Is there any objection.
18
19 (No comments)
20
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
22 objections, then the motion carries.
23
24 And I guess with that we'll move on
25 with our agenda. I guess we'll get into the agency
26 reports. I think it was the OSM was on the top of the
27 list. Yes, go ahead.
28
29 MR. KRON: Yeah. Mr. Chair. This is
30 Tom Kron from OSM.
31
32 The agency reports for OSM are on Page
33 98, 99, and 100. And I'll start with the staffing
34 update.
35
36 Gene Peltola has been selected for the
37 Assistant Regional Director job at OSM. And he started
38 there this past month.
39
40 We've also had a number of other
41 staffing changes that are listed here on Page 98 and
42 99.
43
44 And if it's okay, then I'll move on
45 quickly to budget updates. The Office of Subsistence
46 Management along with a lot of other Federal agencies,
47 based on what you're seeing in the news, we're being
48 hit by sequestration, budget reductions. The budget
49 picture for 2014 is not entirely clear, but we
50 anticipate further reductions. OSM will continue to

1 provide the Regional Advisory Councils with budget
2 briefings to help them develop a better understanding
3 of the proposed budget cuts and how they may affect the
4 Federal Subsistence Management Program.

5
6 Travel outside of normal Council
7 meetings will continue to be limited.

8
9 And again there's a graph on Page 98
10 that provides some information on status.

11
12 And then I'll move on to tribal
13 consultation. Again there's a brief summary written on
14 Page 99.

15
16 Tribal consultation implementation
17 guidelines are in their final draft form. And the
18 Federal Subsistence Board is going to be reviewing
19 those.

20
21 The tribal consultation work group
22 consists of a varied group of Federal Staff, tribal
23 members, and members of the Alaska Native Claims
24 Settlement Act corporations. Once the implementation
25 of guidelines has been accepted by the Board, the work
26 group will focus its attention on crafting ANCSA
27 consultation policies and implementation guidelines.

28
29 Consultation phone calls were initiated
30 on September 11th and 16th. So it's an ongoing process
31 and we're seeing more interest and involvement. It's a
32 very good thing.

33
34 Next, moving on to regulatory cycle
35 update on Page 100, at the fall 2012 Regional Advisory
36 Council meetings, a year ago, the Board asked all 10
37 Councils for input on the regulatory cycle schedule.
38 Eight of the ten Councils recommended that the Board
39 meeting to make determinations on wildlife proposals
40 occur in the spring rather than in January. In
41 response, the Board scheduled their next meeting to
42 make determinations on wildlife proposals for April
43 15th through the 17th, 2014. With future wildlife
44 Board meetings occurring in the spring, the fall
45 Council meeting window for wildlife proposals will be
46 extended through early November.

47
48 The Board has not yet made a decision
49 concerning dates for their meeting in 2015 to address
50 the next round of fisheries proposals.

1 Next I'll provide some comments on the
2 MOU. And I'm not sure if Drew or Jennifer are on from
3 Fish and Game, but I'll start, and then see if they
4 have additional comments.

5
6 The Federal Subsistence Board work
7 session to discuss this occurred in June 2013, this
8 past June. The State of Alaska is not prepared to sign
9 the draft MOU that the Regional Advisory Councils
10 reviewed at its last meeting. The State of Alaska is
11 now working to simplify a draft which they expect to be
12 ready for review soon.

13
14 And again I'll ask if Drew or Jennifer
15 are on line and they would like to provide any
16 additional comments.

17
18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19
20 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, Tom. This is Drew
21 Crawford in Anchorage.

22
23 I have no additional information for
24 you regarding the MOU. And Jennifer is at the
25 Southeast Alaska RAC meeting in Ketchikan today. Over.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you.
28 Anybody have questions.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. U.S. Fish
33 and Wildlife. Izembek.

34
35 MS. LOWE: Hi. This is Stacey Lowe,
36 the wildlife biologist at Izembek Refuge.

37
38 Mr. Chair. A copy of our report has
39 been included, but I'll briefly cover all the important
40 aspects of it.

41
42 Also I'd like to take a minute and
43 introduce our new Refuge manager, Doug Damberg who's on
44 the line with us as well.

45
46 MR. DAMBERG: Hi, everybody. I just
47 wanted to say hello. I'm new to Izembek National
48 Wildlife Refuge as of this June. And I've worked with
49 the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Wildlife
50 Refuge System for over 20 years. And I'm excited to be

1 at Izembek. Please don't hesitate to ever call if you
2 have questions or I can help you out directly.

3

4 I'll turn it back to Stacey.

5

6 MS. LOWE: Okay. This past winter we
7 were unable to ever complete a full winter count for
8 the Southern Alaska Peninsula Herd here on Unit 9D. We
9 will be attempting this survey this upcoming winter as
10 soon as the conditions allow for it.

11

12 The total reported harvest from the
13 2012 and '13 Federal subsistence hunt was 9 bulls out
14 of 20 permits issued. This year both the State and
15 Federal subsistence hunts are open with a total harvest
16 goal of 40 caribou. We issued 20 Federal subsistence
17 hunt permits. As of today, none of the Federal hunt
18 caribou have been reported as harvested yet.

19

20 About the third week of October, this
21 upcoming October, Fish and Game will be conducting the
22 fall caribou composition counts on Unit 9D and on
23 Unimak island, Unit 10.

24

25 Last week we completed the annual brown
26 bear stream survey which we conduct to estimate the
27 population size and productivity indexes. Our surveys
28 resulted in 58 bears counted in the Joshua/Green
29 watershed here in Unit 9D, and this also included the
30 Frosty Creek area and the vicinity of Cold Bay. On
31 Unimak Island we counted a total of 91 bears.

32

33 Jumping over to the birds. In the
34 midwinter peak count for black brant that over-wintered
35 in the Cold Bay area was down slightly from last year
36 with the count being 41,821 brant.

37

38 Unfortunately we were unable to conduct
39 the spring bird survey due to some mechanical issues
40 that grounded the aircraft utilized by the migratory
41 bird folks for that survey. But we're looking forward
42 to continuing that again this upcoming spring.

43

44 We are currently in the process of
45 conducting the fall productivity counts for both emperor
46 geese and black brant here at Izembek.

47

48 We're also continuing this fall the
49 surveillance for avian influenza, collecting samples
50 from hunter-harvested birds. To date no H5N1 has been

1 identified in any of the samples that we have
2 collected.

3
4 This summer we had several research
5 projects that wrapped up and finished their data
6 collection, including the habitat nutritional ecology
7 of Unimak Island for caribou. We had a Penn State
8 project that was assessing the inventory and monitoring
9 needs for Izembek Refuge. And also the final year of
10 data collection occurred for a Notre Dame University
11 study which is examining the stream characteristics of
12 salmon lakes and streams on Izembek Refuge. So we hope
13 by early next -- or mid next year we should have
14 reports from all of those studies summarizing the
15 results.

16
17 During this year we sealed three brown
18 bears from Unimak Island. One DLP bear we sealed from
19 Cold Bay. And the fall hunt here starts on October
20 1st.

21
22 This year so far three gray wolves have
23 been sealed and 11 walrus.

24
25 Mr. Chair, that concludes our report.

26
27 CONFERENCE OPERATOR: The conference is
28 now in silent mode. The conference is now in silent
29 mode. The conference is now in silent mode. The
30 conference is now in talk mode.

31
32 MS. LOWE: Hi. This is Stacey. Did
33 you guys -- were you able to hear the rest of the
34 report there?

35
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Not very well.

37
38 MR. TUTIAKOFF: We heard the 11 count
39 of walruses.

40
41 MS. LOWE: It seems that the conference
42 call cut off for a moment there. I'm not sure where it
43 cut off exactly.

44
45 MR. TUTIAKOFF: You just said something
46 about 11 walruses and then it went haywire.

47
48 MS. LOWE: Okay. Yeah. The final
49 thing we were reporting is 11 walrus tusks were sealed
50 this year. And that completes our report.

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Did I
4 hear you correctly, did you say you counted 91 bear on
5 Unimak Island?
6
7 MS. LOWE: Yes, that's correct.
8
9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you.
10
11 Anyone have questions for Izembek
12 report. Rick.
13
14 MR. KOSO: Yeah. Hey, Natasha, this is
15 Rick here.
16
17 On the Unimak there, are you guys still
18 not looking at maybe a predator control type of thing
19 there as far as the wolf population goes? I know they
20 killed quite a few wolves in 9D this year, but
21 doesn't seem to be getting any better. What's your
22 take on that?
23
24 MR. DAMBERG: Hi. This is Doug
25 Damberg. I'm the Refuge manager. I'll take the
26 question.
27
28 I am new here to the Refuge as I said
29 and still learning about a lot of the different
30 programs and things that have been going on, and that
31 includes the wolf issue on Unimak and other places. So
32 we're continuing to review and study that. We don't
33 have an agency change at this point. It is, however,
34 as you probably know, it is open for private folks to
35 continue hunting and trapping as well as much of the
36 rest of the Refuge. So that opportunity continues to
37 exist. But we don't have a change in status at this
38 point from the agency level.
39
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
41 questions. Pat.
42
43 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Dusty, you know we
44 had a hearing, our Council, a few years ago that was
45 used to feed the EA discussing the Unimak wolves and
46 caribou. And it was billed out on the media and the
47 internet as being a hearing from the agency. But when
48 we published it ourselves, you know, our impression was
49 that was a hearing for our Council to get input from
50 folks. And the fellow that did the EA at that meeting,

1 I asked him if he was going to go to the villages,
2 because you're only 20 minutes from Cold Bay,
3 particularly to go to False Pass where the really
4 concern was, and we had to our Council some very
5 passionate comment. And his response to me was, no, he
6 wasn't scheduled for that, because he had to go back to
7 Anchorage and spend two days, one each, talking to the
8 environmentalists and the other to sporthunters and
9 fishermen.

10

11 And so at the following meeting, this
12 is just a little history for you, our Council was not
13 pleased by that, because we thought that if in fact the
14 Fish and Wildlife Service was looking for input from
15 the public, and that they were there, that they should
16 have gone out to at least False Pass and/or Nelson
17 Lagoon and pop over to King Cove and chat with people
18 and see what they thought. And I think it was a case
19 where the bureaucracy was more concerned about, quote,
20 national votes than from the people of Alaska. But
21 that's my personal opinion.

22

23 I have a question on why Izembek does
24 their counts in the winter. And I believe we had a
25 report one time, and mostly all the other refuges do
26 their counts in the spring when the herds are
27 aggregated. In the wintertime they're going to be
28 spread out, hiding in little valleys or wherever they
29 can to get out if the weather's bad. And I just really
30 would suggest you folks review doing it in the spring
31 when you've got a better chance of counting the
32 critters in a smaller space, because they're going to
33 be getting together to calve and breed. And I know my
34 opinions of having worked on the Peninsula a lot in the
35 70s and 80s, that they're a whole lot easier to find
36 than they are trying to locate them where you've got
37 mixed snow and tundra, or just tundra.

38

39 Things have changed from when that was
40 implemented. And when they started that program, it
41 was basically pretty much ice and snow the whole time
42 mid-winter, and clear weather. But with global warming
43 or whatever you want to call it, you've got a lot more
44 easterlies out there, and I think when you've got your
45 surveys scheduled, it's pretty nebulous, and every year
46 we get reports of, gee, we didn't get our winter
47 survey. Gee, we didn't get our winter survey. So that
48 to me as a biologist is telling me maybe you should
49 have a different index time to take care of that.

50

1 And I appreciate you being a new guy
2 out there. I hope you're having fun and get to hike
3 around. And drive out the old military road up there
4 on the Peninsula over to -- it goes almost over to
5 Moffit Lagoon. You just kind of go past that berm that
6 they dumped on the end of the road, and take a hike up
7 there. That's beautiful country, and it's a nice place
8 to look at.

9
10 And thank you for your Staff's
11 continued support and attempt to trying to find truth
12 out there.

13
14 MS. LOWE: Hi. This is Stacey, the
15 wildlife biologist again.

16
17 I just wanted to comment that we do
18 attempt both a early winter and an early spring survey
19 in the event that one or the other is not able to be
20 completed. Oftentimes in the spring survey there's
21 scattered snow, even though the caribou are easier to
22 spot when there's no snow because of their coloring.
23 Sometimes we just don't have the weather window. So we
24 do attempt surveys in both windows, in January and
25 April in the event that one or the other is not able to
26 be completed.

27
28 I hope that addresses your question.
29 Thank you.

30
31 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, that's swell. I'm
32 glad that you do that.

33
34 I'd like to remind Dusty that our
35 Council did have a resolution a few years back and got
36 a commitment from the Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge
37 honcho at the time that because of the severely
38 depressed populations of caribou out there and that
39 affect on subsistence, that he gave us his word that he
40 would make it a priority to have additional planes in
41 case there was a breakdown, and to have additional
42 pilots. So, Dusty, you might want to remind them of
43 that if you get in a bind, because they said -- he said
44 that he'd provide that. And I can't remember with my
45 geezer brain who it was, but we did get that firm
46 commitment on our transcripts.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50 MR. DAMBERG: Hi. And this is Doug.

1 Just so you know, my name is Doug Damberg.

2

3 And, yeah, I appreciate the
4 information, and we'll look into that and get a little
5 more background so we know what commitments were made
6 in the past. But thank you for the information.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
9 questions for Izembek. Peter.

10

11 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. Mr. Chair.
12 This is Pete Squartsoff from Port Lions.

13

14 Looking at your numbers here on Unimak,
15 the cow to calf ratio is 3 calves per 100 cows? I
16 mean, that's something that really needs to be looked
17 at seriously and I guess something to do with the
18 predator control.

19

20 MR. DAMBERG: Hi, this is Doug.

21

22 I'm Not sure I understand the question.
23 Could you repeat what information you're looking for.

24

25 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. Were you going
26 to do something about the cow to calf ratio? I mean,
27 it's really -- 3 calves per 100 cows. I mean, that's
28 way below what you want to have.

29

30 MR. DAMBERG: Yeah. Okay. Thanks for
31 your question.

32

33 I think for us it's very important to
34 conduct the surveys. We're making that a very high
35 priority this year. Of course, it's weather dependent
36 and such. But it's something we definitely to get a
37 better hand on with the most current data so that we
38 have accurate information on what those ratios are, and
39 then we can use that information to move accordingly as
40 we learn more about the situation. And we are talking
41 closely with the State as well on the issue.

42

43 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. I guess my
44 concern was that ever since 2005 all the way down here,
45 it really hasn't been an adequate cow to calf ratio.

46

47 MR. DAMBERG: Yeah. The last data we
48 have is from 2011, so I think from our end, having
49 another snapshot and update to information will be
50 really helpful.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Any further
2 questions.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you
7 for your report.

8
9 Next on the agenda is the Kodiak Fish
10 and Wildlife.

11
12 MR. SUNDSETH: Good morning, Mr.
13 Chairman. My name is Ken Sundseth. I'm acting Refuge
14 manager of Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. And we're
15 going to -- both myself and our supervisory biologist,
16 Bill Pyle, are going to provide you some information on
17 our annual report.

18
19 Our information can be found starting
20 on Page 106 in your pamphlet, so I'd encourage you to
21 follow along as we move through that information. I'm
22 going to go ahead and talk a little bit about fisheries
23 report and Bill Pyle will take over with wildlife after
24 that.

25
26 We've heard a lot about State
27 subsistence regulations and Federal subsistence
28 regulations and different boundaries and that sort of
29 thing. Pete, you've touched on that a number of times.
30 So I'd just like to clarify real quick that we report
31 on Federal waters which are applicable to Federal
32 subsistence regulations.

33
34 And there's really three areas here in
35 the Kodiak area that are Federal waters. We all know
36 about the Buskin area here just right out near town
37 that's very popular for subsistence activities, and
38 also the waters around Afognak Island. There's the
39 waters -- it varies the distance from shore depending
40 on how close you get to Raspberry Island or other
41 islands, but certainly that Litnik fishery or Afognak
42 Lake fishery is really popular with folks from Port
43 Lions and also from here in Kodiak. And then also
44 there's a band of water, a one-mile band near the
45 village of Karluk that extends on either side of the
46 Karluk River there that are also Federal waters, so
47 those are the three systems that we're reporting on
48 here real quick.

49
50 And, you know, some of those of you

1 that live here probably know this already, but starting
2 out west with the Karluk River, that's obviously a
3 really important system here on the Refuge. It's the
4 largest lake and the largest red run historically on
5 the Kodiak archipelago. And this year -- there's been
6 some low returns there, that's something folks know
7 here that live on the island, starting at around 2008.
8 So we had some real low returns. And those have
9 bounced back over the past couple years. This year in
10 particular was pretty good. It's the best year we've
11 seen 2007. And the early run of Karluk fish as you see
12 here on your paper was well within the escapement
13 goals, up towards the upper end. So that was a real
14 good return there.

15
16 And the late run, we don't have the
17 latest numbers here in this report that you have in
18 front of you, but the late run did quite well also and
19 was over 500,000 fish. So that was a real -- the total
20 run for Karluk was over 500,000 fish. So that was a
21 good strong showing there at Karluk this year. Glad to
22 see that.

23
24 In the northern area here around Buskin
25 River and the Litnik or Afognak system, we had strong
26 returns there as well. the Buskin River had close to
27 16,000 fish towards the end there for sockeye and a lot
28 of good subsistence harvest took place there. Also up
29 at Litnik they also had a strong return, over 40,000
30 fish returning there, and also very popular with folks
31 to get fish in the Litnik area as well.

32
33 So that sort of lines out the areas
34 that are available for subsistence harvest.

35
36 Regarding research, in 2012 we did a
37 pilot project in conjunction with ADF&G, had some help
38 from Koniag Corporation, to put some transmitters in
39 Chinook salmon. Those runs have been very reduced as
40 well recently. We're trying to find out a little bit
41 more about the spawning habitat for that species. Due
42 to budget limitations, we weren't able to continue that
43 study this year, so, yeah, we're just going to report
44 that we weren't able to continue that work
45 unfortunately.

46
47 And that kind of lines out the
48 fisheries resource report. If you have any questions
49 there, I'd be happy to answer them. Otherwise we'll
50 move on to wildlife.

1 MR. HOLMES: Just one point of
2 clarification. Fish and Wildlife isn't managing and
3 doing these escapement summaries on those; that's a
4 different agency?
5
6 MR. SUNDSETH: Yeah. Those numbers are
7 provided ADF&G, that's correct, Pat. And it says that
8 right at the top of the -- it's the first thing right
9 under the heading there you'll see.
10
11 MR. HOLMES: Roger that. Thank you
12 ever so much.
13
14 MR. SUNDSETH: Okay. We do provide
15 funding as we've talked about annually. You'll hear
16 from Tyler a little later, too. U.S. Fish and Wildlife
17 Service does provide funding for some of these weirs,
18 so that's an important piece. But, yeah, good
19 clarification. Thanks, Pat.
20
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Other questions.
22
23 (No comments)
24
25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I've got one.
26 Does the Fish and Wildlife Service do any research in
27 river systems in Kodiak area or Kodiak Island? One
28 system I'm particularly interested in is the Upper
29 Station River system in Olga Bay. Aside from having
30 weirs in those rivers, is there's plans for any kind of
31 research in any river system that is depleting or
32 depleted.
33
34 MR. SUNDSETH: Yeah, I know there's
35 been issues with returns in those systems, Mitch,
36 you're right. And those weirs are run by the State,
37 because those aren't Refuge lands. Those lakes and the
38 area surrounding them are -- or the land surrounding
39 them are private lands, so we don't do any research
40 currently and don't have plans to on those systems.
41
42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Any
43 other questions.
44
45 (No comments)
46
47 MR. PYLE: Moving on to wildlife.....
48
49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pete.
50

1 MR. PYLE: Oh, excuse me.

2

3 MR. SQUARTSOFF: It's on wildlife.

4

5 MR. PYLE: I will be briefly
6 summarizing some of the highlights regarding wildlife
7 management. I plan to cover brown bear, mountain goat,
8 sea otter, and Sitka black-tailed deer, and then also
9 briefly mention some education outreach activities. I
10 believe the Department has submitted a request to also
11 provide some summary information regarding some of the
12 species that I'm not planning on covering, specifically
13 Roosevelt elk.

14

15 With regard to brown bear, the refuge
16 conducts two primary population surveys. One focuses
17 on abundance; it's done in May. And another is
18 conducted on streams in southwest Kodiak Island to
19 address and monitor for trend and composition. I have
20 information at this point on the survey abundance that
21 we conducted in May of 2013. That survey was done in
22 the Karluk Lake basin. The previous survey that we did
23 in 2010 was questioned just because we don't think that
24 we had the appropriate conditions due to the winter and
25 a late emergence of bears out of dens. So we conducted
26 another survey in 2013. The results of that survey
27 indicated that the estimated abundance of independent
28 bears declined from 132 that was counted in 2003 to 68
29 in 2013. That's about a 48 percent decline.

30

31 And at this point, you know, there's
32 been quite a bit of discussion about potential factors
33 that have contributed to that decline. And it seems
34 like the general consensus is that the substantially
35 diminished run of sockeye salmon in that watershed, and
36 particularly the watershed of the lake basin itself
37 between 2008 and 2011 had a strong effect on survival
38 and recruitment of cubs most likely.

39

40 So we conducted that survey and, you
41 know, there is a little bit of concern about the
42 potential broader scope of effect. And in response
43 there's discussions about conducting another -- well,
44 next year's abundance survey in an adjacent area, so
45 more on that in the Council's March meeting.

46

47 The Refuge has also been supporting
48 brown bear research in southwest Kodiak Island over the
49 last half dozen years. One of those projects concluded
50 in April 2013 with completion of a graduate thesis.

1 This project evaluated habitat use and preference of
2 female brown bear for bedding and foraging sites, as
3 well as seasonal diet composition. And there's some
4 actual -- a snapshot of some of the results presented
5 in a couple charts in our summary.

6
7 We also continue cooperation on another
8 study initiated in 2012, again in the same area of
9 southwest Kodiak Island. The study aims to (1)
10 characterize sockeye salmon runs in 12 spawning streams
11 with time-lapse cameras; (2) assess the relationships
12 among salmon abundance and run timing and bear use of
13 salmon; and (3) to identify referred sites of stream
14 foraging bears.

15
16 As I noted in our summary of population
17 monitoring down there about that concern, and in this
18 case this particular research attempts to address some
19 of the information need related to the connection
20 between sockeye salmon use and bear use.

21
22 Moving on to Sitka black-tailed deer,
23 I'd like to talk a little bit about our population
24 monitoring. We acknowledge the critical need to
25 improve understanding of deer population status and
26 trend. In a response in 2012, we initiated a study to
27 assess the feasibility of estimating deer abundance in
28 an area of Kodiak Island where it's potentially
29 easiest, and that is the generally open country of
30 southwestern Kodiak Island. So we conducted a survey
31 of the Aliulik Peninsula in May of 2012. We reported
32 results to the Council. And this spring, back in May,
33 we continued the survey, expanded the scope. We not
34 only counted the Aliulik Peninsula, but we also looked
35 to the area to the north and west, including the area
36 from Cape Alitak up through the Ayakulik lowlands,
37 Ayakulik River lowlands.

38
39 And at this point we're still
40 processing our information, having done a lot of other
41 tasks during the field season, and so we plan on
42 getting back to the Council in March of 2014 with kind
43 of a definitive result from our surveys. And, of
44 course, you know, take it with a grain of salt. This is
45 the baseline, this is where we're at with -- you know,
46 this is just a select portion of Kodiak Island down in
47 that country, and it's kind of the initial information.
48 We're going to need, you know, consistent surveys over
49 years to really, you know, see what the trend is, but
50 at least it's going to give us, you know, some index of

1 a head count of deer.

2

3

4 And then at the same time, in
5 conjunction with the Department of Fish and Wildlife,
6 we're exploring other ways of addressing the more --
7 the brush and tree area, the majority of Kodiak Island,
8 which is, you know, from the standpoint of aerial
9 censuses is very difficult to preform. And there are
10 some other alternative techniques, some of which have
11 been applied by the Department in Southeast Alaska,
12 that may be appropriate.

12

13

14 But I just wanted to say that both the
15 Department and the Refuge fully recognize the need to
16 improve the information available to manage this
17 important subsistence resource.

17

18

19 Regarding mountain goat, there was a
20 change in the Department's sport harvest regulations
21 that was approved by the Alaska Board of Game in the
22 spring of 2013. It's a significant change. And the
23 change is focused in the area where the population of
24 mountain goats down in western Kodiak Island has shown
25 the greatest rate of increase, and you'll see a graph
26 on Page 7, or excuse me, the page of the section with
27 mountain goat, that shows the trend in overall
28 population increase in this herd. That's pretty
29 remarkable, because it shows an exponential trend. And
30 the interest that we have in changing the regulations
31 down there is related to trying to manage that
32 population so it doesn't exceed the capacity of the
33 habitat, and at the same time continues to provide
34 opportunities for both subsistence and sport hunting.

34

35

36 So an important regulation change, and
37 the actual change itself was an increase from the bag
38 limit in a particular area we call -- the Department
39 calls Unit 480, which takes in about half of the goat
40 herd, and it's mostly on Refuge lands. A change in the
41 bag limit to two goats, and then a change in the
42 season, extension of the season. It used to end late
43 October, and for the registration part early December.
44 And it extends -- the season runs now from late August
45 through late March.

45

46

47 The Department and the Refuge cooperate
48 on annual mountain goat surveys in August. The
49 Department will provide some information on preliminary
50 results from this survey.

50

1 We concluded the first phase of a
2 multi-phased research project in 2012. And this
3 particular first phase looked at the diets of mountain
4 goats on summer range as well as selection of feeding
5 sites. Where are they going, what are they eating.
6 And that's an important management tool if the concern
7 is about, you know, habitat. We need to know what they
8 eat and where do they go and what their preferred foods
9 are. And this particular study typically focused on
10 the female mountain goats and nursery bands, female
11 mountain goats, because when it comes to what happens
12 with that population when it goes up and down, it's
13 mostly related to what happens to the production, and
14 the females are responsible for that.

15
16 So a snapshot of results, the summer
17 diets were largely composed of fern rhizomes and
18 grasses in early summer, and sedges and forbs in the
19 late summer. We have a lot more specific information
20 on the actual, you know, change in diets and what the
21 composition is. Mountain goats selectively use feeding
22 sites with abundant sedge, rush, and moss on south-
23 facing slopes that were very close to escape terrain,
24 typically cliffs. And those slopes were also steep.
25 So, you know, I think people who are familiar with
26 mountain goats, that's pretty characteristic of
27 wherever the goats go, they've got to be near a place
28 where they can get away from it all. It's typically
29 that steep slopes and cliff areas.

30
31 Regarding sea otter, the Refuge and the
32 Service's division of Marine Mammals Management were
33 awarded a grant to evaluate methods of aerial survey
34 for assessment of population status and trend. The
35 goals are to produce a method that still provides a
36 good estimate of sea otter abundances, but is less
37 expensive, complex, and safer for the observer. We
38 plan to test alternative methods in Kodiak in August of
39 2014.

40
41 I believe that the last real abundance
42 survey of sea otter was done in 2006, and there's a
43 need for up update and hopefully an improvement in the
44 method so more routine monitoring can occur.

45
46 Migratory birds. The Refuge initiated
47 an archipelago-wide monitoring survey in 2011. The
48 survey focuses on marine near-shore birds that use both
49 intertidal zone and shallow inshore waters. The
50 surveys were conducted in June to assess population

1 size, and then again in August to look at the
2 productivity of a selected range of species. In 2011
3 the area around Afognak was surveyed. In 2012 it was
4 the east side. And this year it was the area in the
5 vicinity of western Kodiak Island.

6
7 Preliminary results yielded
8 observations of 25,000 individuals of 48 species of
9 aquatic migratory birds. Seventy-eight percent of the
10 observations were comprised of five species: black-
11 legged kittiwake, glaucous-winged gull, tufted puffin,
12 marbled murrelet, and pigeon guillemot.

13
14 We look forward to updating the Council
15 on what we saw in our August survey at its March
16 meeting.

17
18 We also continued a second year of a
19 sea duck banding and contaminants assessment. And this
20 work was supported by the Service's Avian Health and
21 Disease Program. And the objective is to take blood
22 samples from a subset of ducks banded -- to capture the
23 ducks, and then take a subset of blood samples, and
24 then specifically evaluate them for contaminants,
25 including PCBs and trace metals. So we conducted that
26 effort. We had two primary locations where we rounded
27 up harlequin ducks, and, if we could catch them,
28 Barrow's golden eyes, and those were out the back door
29 here in Chiniak Bay, and then over in Uganak Bay. And
30 our total capture here this year was 80 harlequin ducks
31 and 20 golden eye. And so that adds to the sample of
32 ducks that we also captured last year.

33
34 So as results are forthcoming on this
35 work, we'd be glad to share them with the Council.

36
37 Regarding outreach, we continued a
38 strong effort. That includes not only our salmon camp
39 here in town as well as village communities and
40 environmental education effort, and then also outreach.
41 One of the focuses this year, outreach to village
42 communities and stewardship camps during spring and
43 summer, was focused on connecting youth with wild
44 animals and plants. And one of the new features was
45 using a trail cam to facilitate making that connection
46 hands-on effort. The camera application is
47 complemented by other education tools and activities.

48
49 And with regard to subsistence
50 specifically, we emphasize identification of commonly

1 used species of plants, avoidance of plants whose
2 identity is unknown, and the importance of
3 understanding the seasonal cycle of plant growth to
4 successfully time and target harvest action.

5
6 That concludes my report. I'd be glad
7 to take any questions.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Council have any
10 questions. Pat.

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

13
14 Great report. And I'd like to
15 compliment you folks on your success in doing your
16 surveys. The weather we have here is just as foul as
17 out west. And I don't know if it's, you know, the
18 procedures that Tony Chavo (ph) figured out for your
19 planes years ago. You might want to hang a plaque out
20 on your hanger, you know, in his memory. But you guys
21 get things done and do a lot of incredibly good things
22 for our community.

23
24 And, let's see. Bear studies. Have
25 you looked in the Karluk area? You know, that change
26 and drop, and it was quite interesting to see that, you
27 know, you're considering or thinking that that's a
28 function of salmon populations, because that's the
29 first thing that popped into my mind, running back,
30 let's see, three, four and five years was, you know,
31 that correlation. And I think Vic Barnes was touching
32 on that when he was doing his research, so it's nice to
33 see that continue and expanding.

34
35 I wonder on your study there, do you
36 have any of those females that are collared, have any
37 kind of feeling for homing fidelity? Because do they
38 -- I know the males from my personal observation and
39 when I used to do stream surveys, you'll see groupings
40 move depending on where the grub was. But do the
41 females, if they're finding after a few years that
42 they're not getting sufficient food in the Karluk
43 drainage, do they move over to Sukoi and go for dogs,
44 and then hibernate and have their cubs there? I'm just
45 wondering if you've been able to have -- it's a tough
46 thing to do, but I was just wondering if you had any
47 feelings on that?

48
49 MR. PYLE: Thank you, Mr. Holmes. And
50 you mentioned the bear research of Rick Duvaris, and he

1 did a lot of radio collaring work from the late 80s
2 through the 90s, and so we have that body of
3 information, some of which is also focused in that same
4 area. In addition there was some GPS collar, more
5 detailed information that was collected in the
6 southwest Kodiak Island area, including the Karluk Lake
7 vicinity between 2008 and 2011.

8
9 And the combined information certainly
10 does a good job of illustrating kind of the traditional
11 use areas, seasonal use areas of brown bears, primarily
12 females, those with families as well as singles, which
13 may differ to some extent. And so you have a
14 combination of different traditions, but generally
15 speaking the females tend to be homebodies, and they
16 have, you know, a use area that they use, and that use
17 area may include a couple different lake basins and
18 different streams, or they may be focused entirely
19 within one lake basin and in a headwater region say
20 during the summer.

21
22 The challenge with changes in salmon
23 abundance, particularly a decline, is that some of
24 these traditions potentially break down. And so bears,
25 for example, that were relying, and particularly say
26 it's a female with dependent young, that may be reliant
27 on a traditional use area that includes these headwater
28 spawning streams are a very specific area, and, you
29 know, they're used to the con -- as far as they were
30 concerned for years and years, you know, they grew up
31 and were with their mom and then went back to the same
32 area and could rely on a resource that was consistently
33 available. And when it's not, then they end up having
34 to look elsewhere.

35
36 And that's what we saw in the 2008 and
37 '11 period with essentially the, you know, fairly large
38 scale abandonment of, you know -- I mean, a large
39 decline in bear use of the Karluk, because the salmon
40 weren't there. And coupled with that, you also had,
41 you know, very inconsistent and generally low
42 availability of key berry resources in that particular
43 region. And what I'm talking about is elderberry in
44 combination with salmonberry, and it's kind of like a
45 double whammy really when you're talking diminished
46 salmon and diminished berries.

47
48 And so we saw bears using areas that we
49 didn't expect them to. I mean these were bears that,
50 you know, we'd find them over in the Red Lake area and

1 we suspect that, you know, I mean, this is not
2 necessarily representative of what was their
3 traditional use area, but they didn't have any
4 alternative. And when bears, you know, with families
5 especially, have to travel -- especially young, first-
6 year cubs, have to travel those distances, I mean, it
7 puts them -- I think it's a challenging situation, you
8 know. It poses greater risk for survival.

9
10 And then think of the competition that
11 happens on those streams with bears that are already,
12 you know -- that's our traditional use area, and have
13 to compete. The new bears that come in have to come
14 with those that are already there and established.

15
16 So, you know, a combination of factors
17 gives us this picture of, you know, traditional use
18 areas of berries among different bear groups or
19 different individuals, but you put that picture
20 together collectively, and you get this understanding
21 of how often they come back to these areas. And
22 clearly, especially with Vic Barnes' data, we know
23 that, you know, having followed individuals, family
24 groups for years and years and recollaring as
25 necessary, we know that they are, you know, just like
26 people here, and, you know, we're traditional, and the
27 bears are highly traditional, going back to the same
28 places year after year, and often we speculate then
29 that's in relation to where their mother took them.
30 And so, yeah, you know, a large part of it's tradition.
31 That's one thing that makes it kind of complicated is
32 because that's an important factor that governs the
33 distribution and movement of brown bear.

34
35 MR. HOLMES: Thank you. Excellent
36 biological summary.

37
38 And I'd like to note to the council
39 that Natasha Hayden has joined us, and I know I always
40 talk too much, but I've got to do an Iver here.

41
42 And your recent discussion, all the
43 things you're talking about mother brown bears reminds
44 me so much of Natasha's mom, Tempe, and her dad, Billy.
45 And, you know, that was some of the points she was
46 making is our subsistence culture, you know, parallels
47 nature. and I remember one time going fishing, and I
48 saw them, so I went over and Tempe in her very precise
49 teacher way encouraged me to go fish in another hole,
50 because that was the Bearstoff's place.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. HOLMES: And very similar to
4 running to a mother bear on the creek while doing
5 stream surveys. There's something you don't argue.
6 Just say, yes, ma'am, lovely to see you, and move on.

7

8 I had another question, that William
9 Dacey's presentation at the information center I
10 thought was fascinating to me, and I'm really glad, you
11 know, it was all the work of the community to get the
12 information center. That was just really some
13 interesting thoughts. And I was dropping back into a
14 biologist mode when I was listening to it. And you
15 might to him that he -- you know, he's looking at them
16 all individually and then together, but he might want
17 to consider stratifying and looking at the adjacent
18 streams, you know, at O'Malley, because there's a
19 cluster there, and he's got some up at the other end of
20 the lake, and he might want to look at those
21 separately, because I think some of his offset delay
22 patterns of fish and bear feeding might be explained by
23 the basic proximity of another tributary with more
24 fish.

25

26 Anyway, some excellent work on bears.

27

28 And I'd like to close with a comment on
29 your outreach program. I think it's just fantastic,
30 and, you know, Tonya just does a splendid job, and I'd
31 like to reiterate in the past comment that I got from
32 Melissa Borton and some of the other Native corporation
33 folks with the consultation, they had so much material
34 to go through, but, you know, Tonya gives them a call
35 and say, hey, something's important on your desk.
36 Folks in town really listen to Tonya, because she's one
37 of ours and understands what touches us.

38

39 Oh, one thing I forgot is on the sea
40 otters. I don't know if they've considered it, but
41 they might want to in their strategies of doing their
42 surveys, there was a technique I learned from Boris
43 Ivanoff before he left the Department, and he was with
44 Tene Rowe in the Soviet Union before it collapsed. And
45 it's something that's becoming reasonably popular in
46 the survey industry. And that's adaptive
47 stratification. And it's a point where I think that
48 sea otter folks have been criticized a lot on their old
49 technique of flying a straight shot and then saying,
50 okay, this compares to last year. But anybody that

1 spends their time out on a setnet or a boat or
2 whatever, and yourselves, you know, when the wind's
3 blowing, that whole pod of 200 sea otters over in
4 Uganik Pass may be up at the end, or they might be at
5 the other end, north side, west side, and it all
6 depends on where you've got that line. And so adaptive
7 stratification, you have sort of a broad pass, and then
8 you take a look and you say, awe, there's some sea
9 otters there. Then you go over and then you do a more
10 intensive random sample or observations on -- you know,
11 you find the critters, and then you count them rather
12 than go straight down a bay and say, this is the
13 number. And it's a little different way of looking at
14 it, but I know fisheries folks are kind of considering
15 that sort of thing.

16
17 Oh, on your migratory birds, your
18 surveys over there, do you have any feeling, because,
19 you know, Larsen Bay, the conflicts that folks there
20 perceive between guides and outfitters and getting sea
21 and soup ducks, any kind of feeling for the harlequin
22 population? Is it up, down, in the pits, you know,
23 because there's so much potential for conflict there,
24 you know. I've been urging you for years for a logbook
25 program, and I got a response that maybe the State
26 should do it. But what do sea ducks look like? You
27 got any kind of feeling on mortality, what's being
28 removed in the sport hunt versus what's happened
29 naturally? I'm just curious.

30
31 MR. PYLE: Go ahead.

32
33 MR. SUNDSETH: I knew you would ask us
34 about Harlequin ducks.

35
36 (Laughter)

37
38 MR. SUNDSETH: Yeah, we talked with our
39 avian biologist who isn't here with us today, but we
40 did survey the west side as indicated in our material.
41 And so we have some numbers. She just got back less
42 than a month ago from that, so in March we're going to
43 give you the best information we have. she can also
44 take the information that she gathered this summer and
45 compare that to a different type of survey that was
46 conducted in the past for years by our former avian
47 biologist. So we'll have some better information for
48 you in the spring.

49
50 You know, I pressed her, because I know

1 Pat's going to ask me, what do you know about Uyak Bay
2 since you're over there. And she said, well, it seems
3 to be -- you know, I didn't see anything real
4 different. She didn't see an increase in harlequins
5 there, she didn't necessarily see the bottom dropping
6 out on them in Uyak either.

7
8 They didn't trap ducks there. As Bill
9 mentioned earlier, they trapped their ducks somewhere
10 around Chiniak, but then also over in Uganak Bay rather
11 than Uyak, so they were seeing some better numbers it
12 sounded like over in Uganak Bay as compared to Uyak,
13 but not an anecdotal change she could put her finger
14 on.

15
16 But we'll definitely have some better
17 numbers for you, some sort of quantitative information
18 in the March meeting, so looking forward to providing
19 that to you then.

20
21 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Well, swell.
22 Thanks a lot. and I just have to ask that, because
23 Alec Paramanof always wants to know. And if I ever
24 retire from this Board and we get some young blood in
25 here, which we really need, I'll pass that question on
26 to them.

27
28 (Laughter)

29
30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
31 questions for Kodiak. Pete.

32
33 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. Looking at
34 Karluk River Chinook pilot project, it doesn't show any
35 numbers at all, so I know we have a big concern on the
36 island here about the king salmon, and it's been shut
37 down for how many years now in the Karluk and the
38 Ayakulik. So I don't know what -- how come there isn't
39 any numbers on escapement?

40
41 MR. SUNDSETH: Yeah, you know, you're
42 right. We didn't provide numbers on Chinook. Often
43 with subsistence, they tend to focus on the sockeye
44 salmon, so we produced those numbers. But it's a good
45 point.

46
47 And I don't have the number on the tip
48 of my tongue for this year. It was better than what
49 we've seen in some of the previous years. I want say,
50 yeah, 1500 or something like that. And I'm sure those

1 guys from ADF&G can probably give us a good number on
2 that.

3

4 MR. POLUM: Our escapement is probably
5 about 2800 (Indiscernible - away from microphones).

6

7 MR. SUNDSETH: So it was up to 2800?

8

9 MR. POLUM: Less than the last two
10 years.

11

12 MR. SUNDSETH: Okay. So this year --
13 okay. Well, could you hear Tyler okay on that? Okay.
14 Yeah, so I'm sorry we didn't -- yeah, we didn't think
15 to provide numbers there. We just talked about the
16 pilot project.

17

18 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. Then my other
19 question was on the deer, on these Federal subsistence
20 permits issued. Were those proxy hunts?

21

22 MR. PYLE: Do you want to.....

23

24 MR. SUNDSETH: Go ahead, Bill.

25

26 MR. PYLE: That's our designated deer
27 hunt program. It's sort of a proxy one, but not --
28 yeah. So we've have that program, as you're aware of,
29 Mr. Squartsoff, for quite a few years, and it's quite
30 popular. And we continue to try and advise folks of
31 that opportunity, particularly in village communities,
32 but it's something that clearly folks in Kodiak are
33 quite aware of, and they utilize frequently.

34

35 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. Because I was
36 looking at the numbers here, you know, this 2012/2013,
37 that it's really declined from all the other years.

38

39 MR. PYLE: You're referring to the
40 harvest level?

41

42 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yes.

43

44 MR. SUNDSETH: You're talking about the
45 permits, right, the number of permits?

46

47 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Right. Right. Yeah.
48 On Page 107. and it has deer and it has a star there,
49 or two stars, which indicates incomplete report?

50

1 MR. PYLE: Right. And that's a
2 challenge if you do questionnaire, or if you're
3 following up on permits, and so, you know, that may
4 actually be a higher number now, but, you know, we do
5 our best to try and get most of the permits information
6 back from the folks that acquired a permit. Did they
7 hunt. If so, how many? And you never get 100 percent
8 it seems, but we want to get a scale that's
9 representative that we can say, well, it's likely given
10 this portion that it's representative of the whole.
11 But then again it's a pretty small number of people
12 that participate overall in that program compared to
13 the number of deer hunters that are out in the field.
14 But it is a pretty important program for those that
15 utilize it.

16
17 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. Once again,
18 it's because of my concern of concern of the low
19 population on the east side.

20
21 MR. PYLE: Sure.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

24
25 MR. HOLMES: I just wanted to mention
26 something to Pete. I think I was asked to fill a
27 different subsistence seat at the AC, at their winter
28 meeting in town, the advisory committee for Fish and
29 Game, and the question came up on, you know, whether to
30 reduce the bag limits or not. And I just want to let
31 Pete know that because of our concern on subsistence,
32 we thought that they should either reduce the number of
33 does, or reduce the number period. And so Pete and I
34 voted to have a lower number.

35
36 But I think the consensus of the group
37 was that harvest is not the major factor, but weather.
38 And our thoughts were, well, that might be in relation
39 to the total time span, but if you could back off a
40 little bit, particularly so that the does could have
41 more fawns or, you know, maybe drop the January season
42 on the Refuge or something, so that, you know, it would
43 give a greater potential. So, you know, I think that
44 discussion is still a valid one, and you might keep
45 tabs for when the Kodiak AC fires up again and, you
46 know, put your two bits worth in, and I'll try to be
47 there, too, because I share your feelings.

48
49 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. I'd just like
50 to make one other comment, because when people go out

1 on their boats and stuff and go down, you know, they're
2 spending a lot of money to go there. And if they can't
3 get any bucks during the doe season, they're going to
4 end up shooting does where they really weren't
5 targeting does. And I think that makes a big
6 difference on the Refuge.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Other questions.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I have one
13 question. With the sea otter I notice they're tagged.
14 You didn't tag very many sea otters on Kodiak. And
15 down in Alitak Bay I've seen the sea otter moving in.
16 I've seen sea otter all the way up in Alpine Cove, and
17 there's a place in Kempff Bay we call White Rock, and
18 I've seen about four there.

19

20 I did have a discussion with Tonya Lee
21 about what do I need, what do hunters need to harvest
22 sea otter. And, you know, it's basically just go out
23 and get them, make sure they're tagged.

24

25 I also noticed you've got to bring the
26 skull in to the tagger or send it in to you? Who does
27 that, the tagger or the hunter?

28

29 MR. PYLE: Thank you for your question.
30 And, yes, it is the hunter who brings in the hide and
31 the skull for sealing, and tag -- you know, in other
32 words, we'll seal both the skull and the hide. So
33 after the harvest, the hunter brings it, you know,
34 finds the nearest tagger and they can call the Refuge,
35 for example, for a list of the nearest tagger, because
36 if there's not one in Akhiok, there's one in Old
37 Harbor. Or two. And then as well as there's several
38 taggers, including the Refuge, and other individuals in
39 the Kodiak area.

40

41 And I just wanted to mention that it is
42 significant, your report of it sounds like you're
43 seeing more otters down in the vicinity of Dead Man and
44 your home base there in Akhiok, because that's kind of
45 like the big gap that, you know -- I mean for all the
46 areas that have been colonized by sea otters of the
47 last 50, 60 years, recolonize, you know, that was kind
48 of the big gap between Old Harbor and going around to,
49 you know, along the west end. And especially those bay
50 areas, because that's where a lot of the pupping

1 occurs, and it's more protected water. And that's why
2 we need another survey, to see what's changing,
3 because, you know, I mean, a lot can change when you've
4 got a big kind of starting population in an adjacent
5 area over a few years. I mean, we see that down in
6 Southeast in terms of how fast that's changing. And it
7 is of significant note if, in fact, you know, the
8 population is finally closing in on that essentially
9 final area.

10

11 And it provides a harvest opportunity
12 as you indicated. So, I mean, the harvest process is
13 -- you know, that's up to the individual. You know,
14 it's only opened to the Native community of coastal
15 areas, and then it's just a matter of going, do the
16 job, and then reporting back to the Refuge. And, of
17 course, there's restrictions on how the animals are
18 actually processed once they're harvested.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Melissa.

21

22 MS. BERNS: I am one of the taggers out
23 in Old Harbor, and I think that within the last year
24 I've tagged quite a few otters from the Old Harbor
25 area. And I know that our numbers aren't reflected in
26 any of this, but when you're looking at your data, are
27 you able to look at -- because I know in our reporting
28 we have to say where -- you know, the hunter reports
29 where they harvested the otters. Are you looking at
30 the collective data that send in to the Anchorage
31 office, at where those otters are harvested? Because
32 that might help as well with seeing the trend of the
33 otters moving further south.

34

35 Otters don't last very long around our
36 area. We get rid of them right away. It's documented.

37

38 MR. PYLE: We haven't looked at that
39 source of information other than the general harvest
40 level, but that's an excellent point, and I would hope
41 that, you know, the Marine Mammal Division is, but now
42 that you bring it up, I mean, that's just another good
43 information source for, you know, figuring out where
44 these harvest effort goes.

45

46 And then previously having looked at
47 some of that information for Old Harbor, you know,
48 often what seems to be reflected is that, you know,
49 folks would have to travel elsewhere to harvest. But
50 I'm encouraged to hear that they don't have to travel

1 as far potentially to do the job.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you.

4 Further questions. Peter.

5

6 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. I just have one
7 comment. You know, it refers back to the common sense
8 thing that Iver always talk about. We have such an
9 abundance of otters on this north end, you know, Whale
10 Pass, well, when you eat all the food in one area,
11 you're going to go somewhere else. And that's what's
12 happening I think with our otters, because when they do
13 their survey, well, the population has dropped, there's
14 something wrong, something going on. Well, they're
15 eating themselves out of home. There's just so many of
16 them up on the north end.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat, I saw you
19 raise your hand. Do you have.....

20

21 MR. HOLMES: Yes, sir. I was
22 cogitating on the Harlequins. I don't want Kent to get
23 away too quickly.

24

25 I was wondering, Meredith, and I'm
26 terribly sorry, I forgot your name, is with the State
27 Division of Subsistence, and she and Lisa Scarborough,
28 an old Kodiak friend, have been doing surveys around
29 the island. Have you folks been over to Larsen Bay
30 recently, and is there a concern about sea ducks?

31

32 MS. MARCHIONI: (Indiscernible - away
33 from microphones). Yes, Pat, we did go over to Larsen
34 Bay and we did survey's there. It was mainly on salmon
35 though. It was through and AKSSF project. However, we
36 do at the end of our surveys ask if anybody in the
37 community has any concerns. And it did come up in a
38 couple of interviews that there were -- that Harlequin
39 ducks had been around quite a bit more actually. So,
40 yeah.

41

42 But we won't have the results for those
43 surveys ready for the public for another couple months.
44 We're hoping to have them all ready for the Joint
45 Boards to show the importance of subsistence in Kodiak.

46

47 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Well, that's swell.
48 I just kind of wanted to tap you, because you're a good
49 source of information and a different way of looking at
50 things. And that's interesting that those comments

1 came up from folks on the west side. And we'll kind of
2 look forward to your report. I was wondering when it
3 is ready, if you could send it to Carl Johnson so it
4 could get circulated to our members, because, you know,
5 we're all intimately concerned of information on things
6 like that. And, you know, it doesn't matter what
7 agency it comes from. We just need to know.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MS. MARCHIONI: Absolutely. We'll do
12 that, Pat.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
17 questions for Kodiak Fish and Wildlife. I've got one
18 back here. Come up to the mic, please.

19

20 MR. EVANS: Hi. This is Tom Evans. I
21 just have a quick question. I was curious on the
22 harvest of mountain goats if you have any indication of
23 what that has been lately.

24

25 MR. PYLE: I'd be glad to defer to the
26 authority, and that is the Department personnel that
27 are here on that specific question.

28

29 MR. CRYE: This is John Crye,
30 Department of Fish and Game.

31

32 But I think we had -- what did you have
33 on the.....

34

35 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: 160.

36

37 MR. CRYE: 160 last year. And it's
38 been pretty stable harvest. It's in between 150/180
39 generally per year. With the two goat bag limit, I
40 think we only had like 25 or -- maybe 300 permits and
41 maybe 25 or 30 harvested so far in RG480, which is the
42 two goat bag limit area right now.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

45

46 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. That's some good
47 information. I was talking to Rolland Russ from the
48 Fish and Game Advisory Committee and a long time
49 subsistence advocate to brief him on our meetings, but
50 he's been flying until dark most days when he can get

1 out. But he did give me a comment that on his south
2 end charters he thought that he was bringing back about
3 twice as many goats as he did in previous years with
4 the one goat limit. So that to me is at least an
5 indication that the hard work of the joint RAC and Fish
6 and Game Committee and Staff on coming up with both Fed
7 and State Staff on coming up with that recommendation
8 for the higher harvest, broader harvest range hopefully
9 will work or at least reduce the population before the
10 habitat is damaged. And it will be interesting once we
11 get through this to see village folks and utilization
12 of that March hunt when, you know, the goats drop down
13 lower. I'm kind of hoping that we'll get some
14 additional harvest. And, you know, we had comments
15 from my grandson, Al Cratty, that's how I refer to him,
16 on, you know the mentorship that goes on in hunting in
17 Old Harbor and Larsen Bay. And so that March will give
18 a little more opportunity I think for that as well.
19 So I have good hopes that the goals might not be
20 achieved, but at least we're moving in that direction.
21 So that's really swell.

22

23 And again, you know, the old quote,
24 Kodiak model, I wish other parts of the State would do
25 that on subsistence issues, because it would certainly
26 save a lot of conflict.

27

Thank you all.

28

29
30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Any other
31 questions.

32

(No comments)

33

34
35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: None. Thank you.

36

37 Do you guys want to take an early
38 lunch? Yeah. Okay. We'll break for lunch. Be back at
39 1:00 o'clock. When we get back, it will be Park
40 Service.

41

(Off record)

42

(On record)

43

44
45
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Let's go ahead and
47 call the meeting back to order. Antone, are you on
48 line.

49

50 MR. JOHNSON: Not yet. Just Drew

1 Crawford and Dan Sharp with BLM are on.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. A question.
4 There's only four of us here. Pat and Melissa are not.
5 We've lost quorum.

6

7 MR. JOHNSON: You can continue and not
8 take any action items. You can hear reports. Once it
9 gets to the point where you have any action items,
10 we'll need to have the quorum.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. We'll
13 continue then.

14

15 Before we get into further agency
16 reports, we've got two individuals who wanted to make
17 testimony. We'd like to accommodate those. But I
18 don't see them here.

19

20 MR. TUTIAKOFF: One back there.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Vikki.

23

24 MS. KENNEDY: That's me.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Vikki Kennedy.

27

28 MS. KENNEDY: Yes.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes. If you'd
31 like to come forward and sit at the mic and make your
32 testimony.

33

34 MS. KENNEDY: Hi. My name is Vikki Jo
35 Kennedy, and I'm here to try to repeat what I said last
36 night, because Meredith said it was pretty garbled,
37 because I'm on a cell phone out in Monashka Bay, and
38 GCI here sucks just to put it honestly I mean on a cell
39 phone.

40

41 Okay. So I touched on a couple things
42 here on Kodiak Island, the second largest island in the
43 United States of America, second only to the Big Island
44 of Hawaii. And why we need to have the consideration
45 of not even thinking about changing our rural status at
46 this time. But I know you want to do something.

47

48 But one of the main things that I was
49 upset about was we were going off of a 2000 census, and
50 we just had a census in 2010, so why are we using 13-

1 year-old data? And I know how the government works.
2 It takes you three years to catch your own ass. I know
3 that. So that's why we're king of out there now trying
4 to 2000 -- I guess it would be '16 is when you're going
5 to do it again, because you just did it in '06, right?
6 And maybe '14 -- I don't know. Anyway, it's just -- it
7 seems like we're always chasing our tail, you know,
8 it's like a dog or something.

9
10 But I don't like the way that things
11 are coming down the pike. A lot of it right here on
12 this island right now is not good, and it hasn't been
13 good for about 12 years that I know of, because I got
14 in the battle 12 years ago. And, yes, I'm going there.

15
16 But on this road system, Lesnoi
17 Corporation, which is a Native corporation, and it's
18 questionable, okay. The supreme court refused to hear
19 the case, and that's what I was talking about with Bud
20 Cribley over here, through the BLM. Anyway, to make a
21 long story short, they own 350 square miles of land on
22 the Kodiak road system. You can pull it up on your
23 computer. That cuts off a lot of land right here on
24 Kodiak for the people to have access to without paying
25 \$150 minimum for a permit. Now, this corporation don't
26 even have headquarters here in Kodiak. It's very
27 questionable, and I've been told the supreme court will
28 take the case, and hopefully that will end some of
29 this.

30
31 But as for a lot of other things, out
32 there at Narrow Cape, and Bud confirmed some of this
33 this morning, and I've had it confirmed on the Hill as
34 well, and buildings around there in the Beltway. I
35 spent seven years off this island trying to fight for
36 it, and we're not going to give it up easy. Not to
37 anybody. If they want to take the rural away from us,
38 well, then take the rocket launch with it. But it was
39 a good thing until they told us the truth on Friday the
40 13th of July, 2001, that you're really a missile
41 defense site, and here come the silos. No pun
42 intended, this grandma went ballistic, and I've been on
43 their butt ever since. They're on mine, I'm on theirs.
44 It's mutual combat, trust me.

45
46 But that land out there belonged to a
47 lot of Federal entities, and it's changed hands so many
48 times, and I had Bud pulling it off the computer. BLM,
49 DNR from Alaska, Mental Health Lands, University of
50 Alaska. And he just told me here before the lunch

1 break, we don't own any of that land any more. And I
2 said, well, I'm aware of that. But BLM is the one who
3 got access lands, started opening it up for this --
4 let's just call it a project out there with this rocket
5 launch. But you do a little research, it's State, but
6 yet it's private. I mean, it's just been nothing but
7 lies. But the land.....

8

9 We're here on the rural thing. And
10 like I say, I know what the agenda is down the line,
11 and don't ask me how I know, but I know. But you're
12 not going to take the rural. Nobody's going to do
13 that, I know that, but if you want it, give us
14 something back. You know, take the rocket launch.
15 Leave us alone, let us fish and hunt.

16

17 But a lot of us don't have access to
18 anywhere else but these lands that are on our road
19 system if you don't have money for a boat and go down
20 somewhere else. But I know that's not the gist of
21 this meeting. I mean, yeah, that's what the front door
22 says, you know, whether to look at maybe down the road
23 changing that.

24

25 Our population, like I said last night,
26 if you're going to look at our population, let's split
27 it. Let's look at the City of Kodiak as one
28 population. The Kodiak Island Borough road system as
29 another population. All the villages, and I mean all
30 the villages including the Russian village, all of them
31 will count separately as numbers. Because we're big,
32 we're diverse, and we can't be counted as one peoples,
33 because the original Native peoples of this island were
34 the people of the sea. And I can say that word, but
35 it's a tongue-twister.

36

37 But, you know, number 1, and people
38 like Iver -- God, I love Iver so much. You know, he
39 would never lose his status. It could never happen.
40 He could always keep his birth place as Afognak Island.

41

42 But all I know is you're here looking
43 at something, and I think you're testing the waters, to
44 be honest, and, you guys, we appreciate you so much,
45 every one of you. And you, too, ma'am, Melissa. All
46 of you.

47

48 But I'm going back to the Hill. I'll
49 be flying out of here in October, maybe early November.
50 But, you know, just look at everything and see what

1 really is happening on this Island. We've got 350
2 square miles tied up on this road system with this
3 questionable corporation. And it is questionable. I
4 totally support the Native peoples, all of them will
5 tell you I do. But there's a lot going on. A lot.

6
7 And when Federal entities, including
8 the Department of Interior, start swapping lands and
9 nobody can keep track -- me and Carol call it where's
10 Waldo. We never know who owns the land, who's going to
11 go to court. Nobody knows. So they're hard to pin
12 down. It's like pin the tail on the donkey. Good luck
13 finding the donkey.

14
15 But just, please, take it back to D.C.
16 and tell them, count it all separate, because we're all
17 -- you know, people who live in town don't even compare
18 with the people who live in the villages. Their
19 lifestyle's different. Even out the road, Chiniak.
20 Monashka Bay. So just remember, we're different
21 peoples needing different needs, but all one people, of
22 course.

23
24 And I think that's about what I covered
25 last night, all but the poem, and Meredith told me it
26 came through loud and clear, and it came from my heart.

27
28 Anyway, that's about all I've got to
29 say. I just want you to really took a look. Follow
30 the Took a Look Tribe and you'll see, because the
31 Facality Tribe, trust me, they're hard to find.

32
33 Anyway, I appreciate it, and appreciate
34 every one of you very, very much. And thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you for
37 that.

38
39 The other person was Natasha Hayden.

40
41 MS. HAYDEN: Good afternoon. My name
42 is Natasha Hayden, and I do also appreciate the time
43 that you are giving these issues and allowing me to
44 make a few comments. I also testified last night at
45 the meeting, and so I'm not going to reiterate a bunch
46 of stuff that I have already commented on.

47
48 But one of the things that I found
49 recently that is the most important -- one of the most
50 important things to me and my family is our ability to

1 subsist here in Kodiak. I was born and raised here.
2 My father came from the Afognak Village. And I have
3 never known life without being able to subsist, to
4 provide food for my family. It's something that we've
5 always done. It's something that we teach our
6 children. Not just teach our children, our children
7 are a part of it. We share with our neighbors, we
8 share with our family. I have immediate family that
9 has been too ill to participate in subsistence
10 activities, and so I'm fortunate enough to be able to
11 provide for them and their family as well.

12
13 The rural determination process was --
14 is something that I'm not really familiar with how it
15 was defined. It seems to me there are some arbitrary
16 criteria, and there's an opportunity for us to be able
17 to participate in redefining the criteria, which is
18 amazing to me. I'm very grateful to be able to provide
19 comments.

20
21 I don't think that there should be a
22 population threshold. I think it should be based on
23 geographic location throughout the State of Alaska, and
24 accessibility. If there's areas that are not
25 accessible by road, or they're not accessible many
26 times of the year, and the communities are relying on
27 subsistence activities.

28
29 I understand that the Advisory Council
30 provides documentation and recommendations to the
31 Federal Subsistence Board. And I don't know what
32 weight that's given by the Federal Subsistence Board.
33 I would like to see the decisions based on information
34 and the testimony of those of those of us that are
35 living in the regions that might be under consideration
36 for rural definition rather than proposals that might
37 originate from somebody who is not -- excuse me, who
38 has not been or actively participating in the
39 subsistence resource, the subsistence lifestyle. I
40 think that that would add credibility to the process
41 and it be weighed heavier when making these
42 determinations. I don't think that individuals or
43 groups from urban centers or from the legislative
44 bodies should be able to make decisions without
45 extensive input from the users and residents from the
46 regions that are under consideration.

47
48 Again I would like to thank you for
49 giving me an opportunity to speak to you.
50

1 I was very pleased earlier today when
2 Pat recognized that my parents had been -- that he knew
3 them from before, and I believe that what I've been
4 given from my parents is the ability to not only
5 participate but to defend and to stand here today, or
6 sit here today, before you to express to you how
7 important this is to me and my family. And I do
8 believe that my parents would be glad and grateful that
9 the way -- seeing the way things have evolved, that we
10 are given an opportunity to help shape the process.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you.

15
16 So with that we'll continue on with our
17 agenda. I think the next on the agenda was the
18 National Park Service, NPS. Is there someone on line
19 for that.

20
21 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. I haven't
22 been contacted about any reports from the Park Service
23 or BLM, but we always put a place holder on here in
24 case there's a last minute report that comes in. But
25 so far I haven't been contacted by either of those
26 agencies.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Then we'll
29 move down to ADF&G.

30
31 MR. POLUM: Mr. Chair. Members of the
32 Council. My name is Tyler Polum. I'm with the
33 Department of Fish and Game, Sportfish Division.

34
35 Myself and the area biologist, Donn
36 Tracy, are in charged of the Buskin River weir project
37 funded by OSM, and so I'd like to just give you an
38 update on that project. And as I do, you guys have
39 heard this before mostly. And I'll just give you an
40 update through our summer this year.

41
42 And we also have several other folks
43 from ADF&G here, too, from Wildlife Division and from
44 -- Steve Thomsen that runs the Afognak weir, too, so
45 just so you know there are a couple of other ADF&G
46 folks.

47
48 So OSM has funded the Buskin weir for a
49 sockeye assessment project since 2000. Just a little
50 bit of background real quick for those of you that

1 aren't familiar. And we operate two salmon counting
2 weirs on the Buskin, one at the lake outlet and one on
3 a tributary called Lake Louise, and to get an idea of
4 the sockeye escapement into both those systems. So
5 they're both part of the Buskin drainage, but have
6 separate spawning populations.

7
8 We also sample the sockeye populations
9 in each of those drainages for age, sex and length.
10 And we also sample sockeye caught in the subsistence
11 harvest out in front of Buskin as well as conduct user
12 interviews there to determine things like residency and
13 history of use of the Buskin and other subsistence
14 areas.

15
16 We employ two technicians full time and
17 also two part-time high school interns. And we use
18 this information we gather to refine the escapement
19 goal for Buskin sockeye, as well as for Donn and I to
20 manage the sportfishery and for the Commercial
21 Fisheries Division to manage subsistence and commercial
22 fisheries in the area.

23
24 As many of you know, the Buskin
25 traditionally has the largest sockeye subsistence
26 fishery in the Kodiak/Aleutians region. It's been a
27 little smaller in the last couple year probably due to
28 the low runs we had in '08 and '09. People have been
29 traveling to different areas to catch their fish. But
30 typically the Buskin makes up about 40 to 50 percent of
31 the sockeye harvest in the Kodiak/Aleutians and about
32 50 percent of the permit holders fish the Buskin from
33 what's reported anyway through the Commercial Fisheries
34 Division here in Kodiak.

35
36 Sockeye in Kodiak are usually 75
37 percent of the subsistence salmon harvest, and in the
38 last five years has averaged about 2600 fish for
39 Buskin, compared to a sport harvest of about 1,000 in
40 the same years. And there really hasn't been much
41 commercial fishing effort in the last five years there.
42 I think the total harvest last year was one and that
43 was in September, so it wasn't even really considered a
44 Buskin fish.

45
46 So for 2013 we don't have our age and
47 sex and length information analyzed yet. We just --
48 we're actually still running the Buskin weir for
49 counting coho right now. And so we haven't had a
50 chance to analyze a lot of data yet, but we have a

1 pretty good idea of the -- we've captured, you know,
2 99.9 percent of the sockeye run so far, which is about
3 just over 16,000 fish, which is substantially higher
4 than the last four years. The recent 10-year average
5 is just shy of 14,000 fish, and that includes those low
6 years of 2008 and 2009. So the sockeye run has really
7 bounced back since then. And our escapement goal
8 currently right now is 5 to 8,000 fish, so we're about
9 double the upper end of the escapement goal.

10

11 And this year the run basically tracked
12 the historical run timing of Buskin. It was pretty
13 much an average year, if you look in the broader scope
14 of the Buskin River since the sockeye counts started in
15 1985.

16

17 We don't have numbers for subsistence
18 harvest for 2013 or for sport harvest for that matter,
19 but we will next year. But we do -- the Buskin run was
20 really good this year basically, and the subsistence
21 was opened up to the mouth on June 18th, and we
22 increased the sportfish bag limit to five about the
23 same time, so for most of the sockeye run, the
24 opportunity was there to catch a lot of fish, and I
25 think folks took advantage of that. It's a lot nicer
26 to just go to Buskin instead of traveling up to Litnik
27 or Port Lions.

28

29 And in the Lake Louise tributary the
30 last couple years we've seen that run kind of decrease
31 down to a low of about 300 last year. And this year we
32 got just over 900 fish through the weir there, which
33 was surprising. And I think it just goes to show us
34 that that run is variable, but still it hasn't been
35 completely depleted or anything. It's just a highly
36 variable run.

37

38 And we did collect about 400 scales at
39 Buskin Lake weir from sockeye, and we have about 300
40 for the subsistence fishery and about 60 from Lake
41 Louise. And like I said before, we'll analyze those
42 this winter and get that information back to you in the
43 spring.

44

45 Typically though we see mostly four and
46 five-year old fish in the Buskin. Last year it was
47 about 60 percent 5-year-old fish about 20 percent 4-
48 year-old fish, about 25 percent. And typically -- or
49 that's about average. It wasn't anything out of the
50 ordinary. It does differ from -- the ages do differ

1 from Lake Louise and from the subsistence fishery.
2 Typically we see younger fish, three and four-year-old
3 fish in Lake Louise, and they're generally smaller,
4 too. And in a subsistence fishery, since it's a
5 gillnet fishery, and they're selecting for bigger fish,
6 we usually see the older five-year-old fish as a
7 majority of the harvest, and they're usually longer,
8 too, but that's to be expected since they're out there
9 catching the bigger fish, and the smaller ones sneak
10 through the nets.

11
12 And from last year's information, we
13 saw fish that were slightly larger than the 10-year
14 averages in both the subsistence fishery and in Buskin
15 Lake, and they were average size in Lake Louise. We
16 don't do any statistical analysis on that, so it's just
17 an anecdotal, not -- there's no -- we didn't test it
18 for any significant differences, but we also have been
19 collecting genetic samples from the subsistence fishery
20 since 2005. And this year is the end of a four-year --
21 or a -- yeah, the end of a four-year section of
22 collecting genetic samples. We'll actually have our
23 genetics lab analyze those to determine what the
24 proportion of Lake Louise versus Buskin fish harvested
25 in the subsistence fishery is. So that will be
26 something that's new information. We haven't -- we've
27 collected a lot of baseline data for those different
28 runs and seen there are genetic differences in them.
29 And now we'll actually be able to apportion the harvest
30 of the subsistence fishery for those two runs.

31
32 We also interviewed 32 subsistence
33 users out on the Buskin fishing grounds, and at the
34 docks downtown. Twenty-eight of those traditionally
35 fish Buskin and six were either Pasagshak or other
36 areas, such as Litnik.

37
38 And we once again hired two local
39 interns, which we've done every year since 2001. That
40 may be wrong actually, it may be 2002, but we hired
41 those two interns from June 1st to July 31st. And one
42 was a junior and one was a senior, and they did really
43 well for us. That's been a really successful program.
44 I was an intern. I started there with Fish and Game.
45 And 15 of the 20 that we've hired so far have returned
46 to work with the Department at some point. And six --
47 I think six right now former interns are actually
48 employed with the Department. And I know a few have
49 gone to work with the Refuge and other places such as
50 Koniag. And I'm not sure exactly how many to each of

1 those, though.

2

3 But overall Buskin had a really good
4 sockeye run. It continues to creep up and up, and
5 since 2008 and 2009 there was -- everybody seemed
6 pretty happy this year. There was a lot of opportunity
7 for subsistence and sportfishing, lots of full freezers
8 from the Buskin at least. And we don't anticipate
9 anything different in the future, but obviously we're
10 going to keep monitoring this as long as we can.

11

12 We did reapply for -- this was the last
13 year of our funding cycle with OSM, and so in the
14 spring we did reapply for funding through OSM, and I
15 think it's in your -- our investigation plan is in your
16 packets there. And that was approved by the Technical
17 Review Committee, and so now I believe it goes on to
18 the Federal Subsistence Board for final approval. So
19 we'll hear about that this winter I suppose.

20

21 And also this is just kind of the
22 summary notes from the report that I wrote to the RAC
23 which is in your meeting materials as well.

24

25 And the internship like I just said
26 continues to be a success, and we would -- as Matt Van
27 Daele testified yesterday about looking to expand the
28 program, we would love -- I just want to say we would
29 love to take advantage of that program. Well,
30 obviously I don't think it would be a Fish and Game
31 program to house them or whatever needed to be done,
32 but we would definitely increase our applicant pool,
33 you know, to expand it for the island-wide if that
34 opportunity was available.

35

36 And I think that's about it for my
37 report. Do you guys have any questions for me.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Peter.

40

41 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, I have one. On
42 your surveys there, you have, you know, of the Buskin
43 and wherever else, and then you have Afognak and the
44 remainder of Afognak, Afognak/ Litnik. Why is that
45 separated from all of Afognak?

46

47 MR. POLUM: You know, honestly I've
48 been following the same format that everybody else has
49 used for that table. I think it's because we wanted to
50 show just the Litnik. Where it says, that means

1 Afognak Lake drainage, so I think they just wanted to
2 separate the Litnik harvest from the rest of Afognak,
3 since most of the other drainages it's fairly small.

4
5 MR. SQUARTSOFF: But there is a big
6 harvest from the other areas.

7
8 MR. POLUM: Yes, when you combine them
9 all, there is a fairly large harvest, but individually
10 there are so many drainages folks fish, we just report
11 it as one total.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat, did you have
14 a question.

15
16 MR. HOLMES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17
18 I guess a couple of my questions of
19 every time -- or one, what's your kind of feeling,
20 what's the outlook, I know you don't have all your data
21 and all your age composition back, did you get anything
22 like a shot of jacks that might indicate that we'll
23 have like a big run of that cohort next year? Or how
24 does the season look for the Pasagshak? Should I plan
25 to take Iver and go over there? Or, I mean, for
26 Buskin. Should I plan to go to Pasagshak next year, or
27 does it look like we'll be able to have a fairly decent
28 season here?

29
30 MR. POLUM: Mr. Holmes. You know, we
31 don't do a formal forecast for Baskin or any of the
32 road system streams, but, you know, the trend since we
33 had the real low year in '08 has just been up. I would
34 expect to see this level out at some point, and so I
35 would expect to see next year a similar return. You
36 know, so far our -- other than from 2007 to 2008 our
37 sockeye harvest goes up and down in a gradual trend it
38 seems like so I would expect to see a similar run next
39 year, especially since it was near the 10 and 20-year
40 average run.

41
42 MR. HOLMES: Another question, in that
43 big decline that we had where we had a couple years
44 where basically you couldn't catch fish, and it was --
45 I forget if it was closed or I just didn't bother any
46 more, but I've heard some people say, well, that was
47 due to over-harvesting five years prior by the
48 commercial fishery. And there isn't any commercial
49 fishery on the Buskin, is there, other than a few fish
50 during the pink season? And was that over-harvest or

1 was it over-escapement in the parent years that caused
2 that problem?

3

4 MR. POLUM: Mr. Holmes. I think --
5 yeah, Buskin typically has little to no commercial
6 fishing effort. There were a few years, I don't know
7 when, I think about 10 years ago, that there was some
8 harvest, but usually it's nobody fishes there until the
9 pink season which is, you know, they've fishing in late
10 August. And a lot of times it comes from Women's Bay
11 as well. So we assume that's an intercept fishery,
12 those fish are going somewhere else, because the Buskin
13 doesn't really have a late run. You know, Lake Louise
14 is a late July/ early August run, and most of those
15 fish are caught in late august or early September.

16

17 And as for your other question, over-
18 escapement, you know, we can't say conclusively since
19 we don't have a lot of years of smolt data and things
20 like that to compare it to, but since we had those high
21 escapements of the parent years from 2008, 2009, it
22 seems like there was an over-escapement of fish into
23 Buskin Lake, since we say extremely high, record high
24 escapements for the parent years and we saw record low
25 returns in '08 and '09, so that seems like a logical
26 conclusion rather than over-harvesting.

27

28 MR. HOLMES: Are you folks still having
29 budget problems with the State? Have you been able to
30 get all your positions filled, because you used to have
31 a smolt project, and I know our Council tried to get
32 funding for you on that, but I guess the timing was off
33 to get it into the right cycle. Is there any bright
34 lights budgetary on the horizon for a smolt project
35 again to Buskin, because that's something that could
36 tell Tom Kron it's a good time for him to come down and
37 visit his buddy at to go fishing, if it looked like,
38 you know, getting some big, fat, robust smolt going
39 out. And then the rest of the community a chance to
40 plan. I mean, that's the proof in the pudding, having
41 good molt information. And I just was wondering how
42 that looks, or is it all pretty grim and you're still
43 running short in your program?

44

45 MR. POLUM: Since we had, you know, our
46 budget cuts from the sportfish side of things, we
47 haven't really been able to rebuild some of the
48 programs we had. You know, the biggest ones for us
49 were this multiple project being funded through OSM and
50 not through Sportfish Division, but at the same time,

1 you know, we had to do away with our king salmon
2 assessment project on the Karluk and Ayakulik Rivers.

3
4 So, no, we haven't rebuilt our programs
5 since then. You know, it's currently just Donn and I
6 as the full-time staff in Sportfish, whereas we used to
7 have one other biologist. But the short of it is that,
8 no, not yet, but, you know, as the economy improves,
9 hopefully we'll be able to rebuilt some of these
10 programs.

11
12 MR. HOLMES: Well, I certainly hope so,
13 because that was really important, and I don't know if
14 any of our Council members know Cora Campbell or, you
15 know, Charlie Swanton, but, you know, it's an
16 opportunity I think for us in our community to do a
17 little lobbying for Sportfish Division so at least you
18 can have full staff to where you could be able to make
19 a shot at OSM, but God knows if they're going to have
20 any money either. But anyway I certainly encourage and
21 thank you folks for all the work that you do on sockeye
22 for folks here on our home fishery.

23
24 Thank you very much.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
27 questions. Peter.

28
29 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, I just wish Iver
30 and Johnny Reft were still here, because I think they
31 can answer it a little bit. You know, you guys always
32 talk about the over-escapement into a system. I just
33 don't understand, what, there was at one time I guess
34 seven canneries on Karluk Spit, and they didn't seem to
35 have over-escapement until they put the traps in and
36 almost eliminated the salmon. So I just have a hard
37 time understanding this over-escapement stuff.

38
39 MR. POLUM: Well, I honestly can't
40 speak to Karluk very well, because I'm not as familiar
41 with that one, at least with the sockeye run anyway,
42 and particularly back then.

43
44 But on the Buskin, you know, I can just
45 speak to our escapement goals and how those work. On
46 the Buskin we have, you know, a goal of we want to see
47 between five and 8,000 fish go back into the Buskin
48 River. And that's based on just the probability of
49 after we collect all this data year after year, that we
50 believe that if we get an escapement in between that,

1 it will produce the most fish in the offspring years
2 for harvest, you know, and to maintain the run, so say
3 we got 6500 fish right in the middle back, or 7,000.
4 Then, you know, somewhere in that range, we think that
5 that -- if those spawn in Buskin Lake, they'll produce
6 the most -- the biggest return where, you know, folks
7 can catch them in their gillnets and harvest them on
8 rod and reel in the river, too.

9
10 And so the thinking is that if we fall
11 outside that range, say we put, like in 2004, I think
12 there was about 24,000 sockeye went into Buskin Lake.
13 And once again, on the Buskin River, once they're in
14 Buskin Lake, there's virtually no harvest. Nobody
15 sportfishes in there to speak of, and there's no
16 harvest. And so the thinking is that if we put fish to
17 such a degree that they go into the lake, basically
18 they eat themselves out of house and home. And then
19 the return from that year would be very small since
20 they have eaten all the food for the fish to rear on.
21 And, you know, there could be other things happening,
22 too. They could be spawning on top of each other.
23 Lots of different factors. It's not just that. That's
24 an example. And so the thinking is that, and what our
25 policies are with the Department, is if we've used a
26 history of our data from, you know, like on the Buskin
27 it's for about 30 years of weir counts and age data
28 that we can get the best probability of what run will
29 produce the most fish.

30
31 And so that's -- when we talk about
32 over-escapement, we talk about putting so many fish
33 into a system that they eat themselves out of house and
34 home. They do something to the system to cause poor
35 survival; whereas, you know, on the other side, under-
36 escapement would be if there's too few fish to produce
37 enough to sustain themselves at a high level.

38
39 Does that make sense? It's kind of a
40 complicated issue, so I'm trying to make -- I don't
41 even fully understand it myself.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah. There's
44 someone behind you.

45
46 MS. KENNEDY: I in no way can fill in
47 for Iver Malutin. No way. But I think I know some of
48 the questions he would like to ask since he brought
49 salmon and ran.

50

1 Okay. ADF&G, we love you and
2 appreciate everything you do, but on the Buskin River
3 it's very handy, it's very close. So, you know, not
4 having the money? I mean, come on, ask the community.
5 We'll pitch in. We'll give you gas money, whatever it
6 takes.

7
8 But it's on the road system. It's
9 right over there.

10
11 Does this have anything to do with the
12 funding being cut directly with the Buskin of itself?
13 Was that specifically allocated? No, we don't have
14 enough for Buskin, but we're going to put it down here
15 at Ayakulik, we're going to put it over here at Litnik.
16 I mean, was it that specifically?

17
18 MR. POLUM: No. What Mr. Holmes was
19 referring to was in 2008 or '9 whenever the economy
20 downturn, since Sportfish Division is funded by a tax
21 on sporting goods, related fishing, and through fishing
22 license sales, and so when the economy went down, we
23 lost a lot of funding, and so we had to cut some
24 projects on the Karluk and Ayakulik due to that fact as
25 well as just, yes, some other factors. The OSM has
26 been consistent in funding the Buskin project for the
27 last 13 years or 14 years. And so that project has
28 stayed very stable. It's just our total sportfish
29 program has shrunk because of the economy. And so
30 that's what we were referring to earlier.

31
32 MS. KENNEDY: Right. Okay. Well, I
33 just want for the record, because I know Iver would
34 want this on the record, you know, they're trying to
35 expand our runway out here at our airport, and this is
36 again another Federal project. And they want to
37 actually take the whole delta basically from the
38 Buskin. They actually want to move the Buskin River,
39 mouth of it. So, I'm sorry, I'm putting two and two
40 together again, and that don't always make four, but it
41 does sometimes.

42
43 And these fish are very important
44 locally. I mean, I know I've caught a lot of fish out
45 there with Dale.

46
47 But I've just got a feeling that this
48 once again is going to come back in the hands of the
49 Federal government, because they do want to move that
50 running, Mr. Holmes knows what I'm talking about, and

1 this is going to go through. This project is going to
2 fly, trust me. But I think it's got everything to do
3 with the funding, and I didn't know any sportsmen had
4 quit coming. In fact, you couldn't tell me that. But
5 I think it's got an awful lot to do with this runway
6 wanting to be moved, because they've already gotten
7 some permits. They're kind of dangling around it, but
8 that's what this is all about. And we're going to need
9 you guys all to really come to bat for us, because if
10 they change that river, it's not going to work in the
11 first place. It's going to flood. It's going to cost
12 millions of dollars. It's another defense contractor's
13 dream. Oh, yeah, we'll keep rebuilding that every
14 three or four years when the floods come.

15
16 But, honestly, I appreciate everything
17 you do, but I think it's got everything to do with
18 that. I mean, it's right there, and too many fish on
19 top of each other? That's mother nature. She'll take
20 care of that, you know. But I think it's got
21 everything to do with the Federal government.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

26
27 MR. HOLMES: One last question. And I
28 would follow the last speaker in giving you an Iver
29 thing. If you end up having over-escapement, I mean,
30 the fish have moved through the weir, you know that
31 there's twice as many as you want in the lake, what
32 would be the potential of adding to your management
33 plan, allowing folks to gillnet in the lake? I know
34 you can't use a motor, but I think if you had 10,000
35 extra sockeye up there, there would be a lot of people
36 that would take their little rubber rafts and row out
37 and try and catch some fish. Is that a potential thing
38 or not?

39
40 MR. POLUM: At this time I don't think
41 that's even a potential since that would be something
42 that would have to be changed in regulation. Since
43 we're already providing opportunity in the saltwater
44 and the road system is closed along with, you know, the
45 waters of Afognak Island, freshwaters of Afognak
46 Island, the freshwaters of the road system are closed
47 to subsistence fishing in general, that would be
48 something that would have to be approached through the
49 Alaska Board of Fisheries. And probably since that's
50 the Coast Guard's water supply, probably through the

1 Coast Guard as well, so that would be -- I'm not sure
2 if that falls within our emergency order authority, but
3 I'm pretty sure that would have to be an allocative
4 issue. Yeah, since we're just dealing with
5 probabilities here and we don't know exactly what the
6 number we need is.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Bill.

9

10 MR. PYLE: My name is Bill Pyle. I'm
11 affiliated with Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, Fish
12 and Wildlife Service.

13

14 And I guess I just had a comment I
15 wanted to submit regarding the Buskin fishery. This
16 Council, as was mentioned just a little while ago, the
17 Federal Aviation Administration had just developed and
18 completed an environmental impact statement pertaining
19 to extension of the runway safety area there at the
20 State airport adjacent to the Buskin River. The record
21 of decision on that was just signed.

22

23 The proposed development extends one of
24 the runways that goes I believe east -- or north/south
25 to the south. But there is no extension proposed that
26 would affect the immediate Buskin River estuary area.
27 That was a major point of contention that the community
28 identified, and the FAA adjusted its response
29 accordingly.

30

31 As part of the last phase of the
32 environmental impact statement development was the
33 identification of mitigation for the development. The
34 development occurs over Federal jurisdiction waters,
35 Alaska Maritime Refuge, which is administered by Kodiak
36 National Wildlife Refuge. And apparently \$2 million
37 was identified as the mitigation package, of which,
38 thanks once again to local community involvement, some
39 of those funds were I think earmarked, a half million
40 dollars, for Buskin-related projects. And the reason I
41 mention that, if that's the case, and if there's -- I'm
42 not sure what the monitoring plan is, or what any more
43 specific intentions are for potential of funds,
44 mitigation funds in the Buskin River, but in lieu of
45 the identified interest in, for example, sockeye smolt
46 monitoring or monitoring of salmon movements, perhaps
47 the Department and whoever the awardee is on the
48 mitigation package, potentially Sun'aq Tribe, could
49 collaborate and cooperate, you know, because that's an
50 additional significant source of funding that would be

1 available potentially for a few years.

2

3 Thank you for your consideration.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Any
6 other questions.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MR. POLUM: Mr. Chair. Steve Thomsen
11 is here who is in charge of the Afognak project, and so
12 this may be the appropriate time for him just to follow
13 me if you guys have questions about that project for
14 him.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

17

18 MR. THOMSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 I'm Steve Thomsen, Department of Fish and Game. I run
20 several research projects including Afognak Lake. And
21 that one's funded through OSM. This will be the last
22 year of the funding cycle for it, too, and we're up
23 again to get it again it looks like.

24

25 And I don't have my information in your
26 packets because of the timing to turn it in, and we
27 never have the data by then. But this has the
28 preliminary data until the final report which will be
29 due in rough draft December 31st.

30

31 Essentially we do smolt. We do adult
32 escapement. We do limnology. And then we're doing
33 some juvenile lake studies in Afognak lately. The
34 results from this year, we had 305,000 smolt out-
35 migrate this year. That's just under the average since
36 '03, but reasonably close to that. It was almost 82
37 percent age ones, which is the -- well, it's
38 predominantly there. And that also shows that that
39 system's operating fairly -- you know, the smolt are
40 pretty healthy, I mean, as going out as ones. And the
41 sizes and the condition if you look on the second page,
42 you'll see 2011, '12, and '13 have pretty good
43 condition factors, meaning they're weight to their
44 lengths relationship is relatively good, so they're
45 healthy.

46

47 On the other side of that, there has
48 been predicted a large amount that should have set out,
49 a lot larger amount, more like one to 1.1 million if
50 survival was really good, so it looks like that the

1 lake survival is not very good, but due to the
2 condition and the size, that's probably happening in
3 May when it's really early, when they first come out,
4 because the limnology in there is not having a lot of
5 zooplankton.

6
7 And then also another thing I'm trying
8 to research into here is I think coho, the juvenile
9 cohos in there prey on them fairly well. And I'll have
10 a lot more about that in the report, and we'll look
11 into that some more.

12
13 Then the limnology data hasn't been
14 worked up. The juvenile data hasn't been worked up et,
15 but for adult data, the escapement was just over
16 42,000, which is near the upper end of the escapement
17 from 20 to 50. That has been doing pretty good.
18 There's actually commercial harvest now again for the
19 last few years. It was through July, it was like
20 6,000. We don't know about subsistence yet. They
21 haven't entered that yet, but I know it was pretty good
22 this year, too.

23
24 So all in all it looks like the
25 system's doing pretty good. Their survival in the lake
26 has been pretty variable. And on this back page you
27 can actually see one of the benefits starting to come
28 from being able to track what -- how many smolt go out,
29 what their age are, and then waiting for them to come
30 return and see what survivals those fish are having in
31 the ocean. And if you look, we've got age one, seven
32 years worth of data, and age twos, six. And that is
33 quite variable in there. It averages 18.3 for survival
34 from smolt to adult for those seven years, but it goes
35 from 5.9 to 40 percent. So there's still a little bit
36 to figure out here, but that just goes to show you
37 there's -- you know, we can't figure all this stuff
38 out. A lot of it's nature.

39
40 Are there any questions.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Pat.

43
44 MR. HOLMES: Steve, I think this is a
45 good example of what, you know, some bullets can tell
46 folks. And you don't really do a formal forecast, but
47 one can look back at your numbers out-migrating and
48 your condition factor, how fat they were, and look at
49 2009, and it looks like you got quite a huge out-
50 migration of age ones and a large out-migration

1 overall. so does that bode -- being your age on the
2 other table there is one/fours, which would be five-
3 year-old fish, does that kind of indicate that next
4 year Pete ought to be thinking about making a couple
5 trips up the Litnik? It looks like hopefully you'd see
6 some -- a little bigger return possibly if you're
7 looking backwards and then forwards to when those guys
8 will run, or am I off on the age class?

9

10 MR. THOMSEN: No. Yeah, well, then
11 you've got to look at different age classes, too,
12 you're right. And I do do the forecasting for Litnik
13 lately. So, yeah, you're correct, that 427,000, I'd
14 have to look at what other ages have already come in
15 there. This wouldn't say that. For instance, the one
16 above that where it says the 40 percent, the one/fours
17 haven't come into that, so that might come up just a
18 hair, but there's usually not very many one/fours.
19 But, yes, in this next column down, we'll see one the
20 one/threes come, because that's the predominate age
21 class for Afognak.

22

23 MR. HOLMES: So that would -- the
24 one/fours would -- or the one/threes would be four plus
25 one of each, they'd return in their fifth year?

26

27 MR. THOMSEN: Fifth year, yes. Right.
28 Yeah.

29

30 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. So one.....

31

32 MR. THOMSEN: Before they hatch.

33

34 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. So the odds are
35 this next year could be a good run with some large fish
36 maybe.

37

38 MR. THOMSEN: There should be a good
39 number of one/threes, yes, but on the down side, there
40 won't be -- the next largest class is one/twos, and if
41 you look at -- we had only 99,000 smolt heading out
42 there. I mean, you know, so it depends on where you're
43 looking. I mean, we're looking at some dips coming up,
44 you know, for that small one/two. But, yeah, next year
45 should still be good, but coming up around the corner,
46 it's going to probably dip.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Other questions.

49

50 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Steve, as usual

1 I'm going to bring up the Dolly Varden predation on
2 them salmon in Afognak Lake. I mean, it's -- I know
3 it's a problem, and people don't seem to want to
4 recognize that or really look at that, but them Dolly
5 Varden take a lot of salmon. And then it's been
6 happening in Afognak Lake for a long time.

7
8 MR. THOMSEN: Well, I would agree with
9 you that they take, you know, a good amount. We don't
10 have numbers on that. We haven't studied that for some
11 time. I don't think, you know, that maybe individually
12 they take that many, but when you take the size of the
13 population, it adds up. It would be the same thing as
14 what I'm talking about with the cohos, which I think is
15 probably a little more significant probably than even
16 the Dollies would be in that when you get the little
17 juvenile coho that are like age twos on the shoals of
18 the lake in May, and that lake is really shallow,
19 really shoaly, so they feed a lot on insects compared
20 to most systems which predominantly do zooplankton.
21 They kind of switch. And especially those younger
22 ones. So when those zero jack sockeye hatch out, come
23 into the shoals and start trying to feed, they're all
24 competing with sticklebacks, dollies, you know, and
25 coho for the limited food resource in that. And also
26 they're being preyed upon, you know, because they're
27 only what, 35 millimeters long or so, 30, those little
28 zero jacks, so those coho are eating them pretty good.
29 I took 18 stomachs out of the little coho this last
30 year and will do that again in May, right in there when
31 we're doing the beach seining, and 22 percent of those
32 had juvenile sockeye in them. And some of them had as
33 many as a dozen in them.

34
35 So that -- you know, we're trying to
36 look at all those things. That's part of why we need
37 this funding.

38
39 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. Good. I
40 appreciate that, because I think in the long run you're
41 going to find out, because them Dollies don't dye like
42 the salmon. They just keep growing.

43
44 MR. THOMSEN: Yeah. No, I agree. You
45 know, that is another thing we should probably look at,
46 you know. As everything else, you kind of got to do
47 piece by piece, and I'm trying to look at this other
48 one component of it, because we were in the middle of
49 doing the juvenile studies. And I also -- in order to
50 do this, also had to extend the weir date. We were

1 traditionally pulling it lately out by mid August and
2 we don't get good coho numbers. So in order to --
3 another piece to figure this out is you have to know
4 kind of how your population of coho is, and so I had to
5 extend the weir just a little bit to know how many coho
6 are actually going in.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I've got one
9 question. What is the lake rearing conditions, and how
10 do you arrive at that?

11
12 MR. THOMSEN: Well, lake rearing
13 conditions would be a pretty broad statement, you know.
14 That would be temperature, oxygen, nutrient, you know,
15 those kinds of things. And then you could also count
16 in your prey and competition. All of that stuff would
17 be really your lake rearing conditions, the environment
18 they're in. So it has a lot of components.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. I
21 understand.

22
23 Other questions. Pat.

24
25 MR. HOLMES: An Iver-ism I guess.
26 Maybe one should get a few answers there, Pete could
27 submit a proposal to the State Board of Fish for a
28 traditional Dolly Varden beach seine fishery and then
29 get the timing for where they're at and the time and go
30 up and get them and throw them in smoker.

31
32 (Laughter)

33
34 MR. SQUARTSOFF: We definitely had that
35 in the past. When Larry Malloy was heading Fish and
36 Game, he allowed us to get a permit to seine Dollies.
37 And then I guess they did some tagging at the Buskin
38 and they found out some of them Dollies came from the
39 Buskin, so they shut it down.

40
41 MR. HOLMES: You know, I think there's
42 a lot of pressure, Mr. Chairman from the Sportfish
43 Division and industry in the state, because Dollies are
44 so desirable for sportfishermen that, you know, that
45 Division always gets kind of ginchy when that happens,
46 and it's too bad that they can't have a little bit of a
47 balanced approach, because I'd much rather see them up
48 flyfishing for reds than Dollies. ^AND then that
49 (indiscernible-teleconference interference) I bet the
50 subsistence folks.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
2 questions. Peter.

3
4 MR. SQUARTSOFF: One more comment. I
5 just feel it's the same as the wolves on the caribou or
6 bears on the moose calves and all that stuff, the
7 Dollies on the salmon.

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

11
12 MS. KENNEDY: I've got one. And then I
13 swear I'm done.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Who has one?

16
17 MS. KENNEDY: Yes, it's about the
18 Federal government one more time. Okay.

19
20 We have the Northern Edge Exercise in
21 Alaska. You know, they got kicked out of Puerto Rico,
22 the A-10s, then they went to California and they got
23 kicked out of there. Then they went to Oregon and they
24 got kicked out of there. So they came north to Alaska.

25
26
27 Anyway, what they do is they have 350
28 square miles, that number again. It's between Cordova
29 -- here it comes, it's between Cordova and here, and
30 you can find it on a map. I don't do computers, but I
31 go and find stuff. Anyway all forces are in on this.
32 And, remember, I love the military. Nobody loves them
33 more than me. But they have this Northern Edge
34 exercise, it bombs away, man, and I ain't kidding you.
35 It's submarines, it's ships, it's air force, it's navy,
36 it's marines, it's coast guard. Everybody's in. And
37 it's a huge -- it's huge. They come from all over. I
38 mean, we had a part of it this year, you know, we flew
39 with the Russians, blah-blah-blah. And that's all good
40 I guess. I don't know.

41
42 It's 2:00 o'clock Wednesday. Here we
43 go.

44
45 So anyway, we didn't have it last year,
46 and we didn't have it this year, because of the
47 Northern -- because of the sequester.

48
49 It's okay. It's 2:00 o'clock
50 Wednesday. It's nothing. Trust me. If it was

1 something, we'd know.

2

3 Anyway we didn't have it this year
4 because of the sequester. We're supposed to have it
5 every other year. We were having it every year. But
6 what this has got to do, and I swear I'm trying to
7 hurry. That siren will not slow me down.

8

9 This is done in June when all of these
10 fish are schooling out here in the Gulf of Alaska. I
11 mean, this is serious stuff. This makes sense and it's
12 real. They're all schooling out there, and you
13 probably are aware of maybe some of this. Between
14 Cordova, us, straight across. Anyway, all the salmon
15 are out there schooling, trying to figure out where
16 their home rivers are. And this is -- I mean, I've
17 talked to enough people over on the mainland, and
18 enough elders to say, you know, that is dumb. But we
19 do this in June when all the fish are trying to find
20 their way home. And they're all right over there. And
21 so are the bombers and the radars, and I'm not making
22 this up. Look it up. It's all -- you can find it.

23

24 And also for the last two years, we
25 haven't had near the dead sea mammals. You know, only
26 10 percent of the sea mammals ever come to shore. Most
27 of them die offshore. They never come to land. They
28 never see -- they die right out there where they're
29 supposed to. But we had four in 2010 right here on
30 Kodiak. Right on the road system.

31

32 And I'm telling you this is making a
33 huge difference. This is affecting our fisheries. Not
34 just Kodiak's. We're talking all of Cook Inlet,
35 Chignik, because that is the crossroads for these fish.
36 Now, I don't know if anybody's done enough studies on
37 that, but I'm telling you, this is affecting these
38 fish. It's just ironic that this is the second year
39 our numbers greatly improved in Cook Inlet, on Kodiak,
40 on Chignik. We broke records on this island. We broke
41 records in Chignik. We broke records in Cook Inlet.
42 So nobody can tell me it doesn't affect them.

43

44 And as far as the sea mammals go, yeah,
45 I'm trusting the Federal government to get on that, but
46 that's going to happen, because it's the military
47 that's doing it. But we've tried to convince them to
48 at least do it late in the fall when our fish aren't
49 schooling in huge numbers trying to get home, because
50 that's where they're at. They're out there swimming

1 around going, which river do I go to. And I'm telling
2 you, this is having a huge effect.

3
4 And I appreciate everything you do,
5 Steve. More rubber boats. But, seriously, look into
6 that and just make them move it. Make them move that
7 date. We have got to get. I mean, if they want to
8 come to Alaska, they don't come in the summertime.
9 Make them come up here in the wintertime and play their
10 war games. I'm all for it, practice, practice, practice
11 until we get it right. Right. But not in the summer,
12 not when our fish are schooling to come home.

13
14 Anyway, I'm done, and thank you very
15 much.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you.

18
19 MS. KENNEDY: You're welcome.

20
21 MR. THOMSEN: Thank you, guys.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. John Crye.

24
25 MR. SVOBODA: Good afternoon. Mr.
26 Chairman. Council. I appreciate you taking the time.

27
28 My name is Nate Svoboda. I am the new
29 area wildlife biologist for Alaska Fish and Game here
30 on Kodiak. And this is my colleague, John Crye. I've
31 just been here a little short of two months, so bear
32 with me here if I don't get all this right exactly the
33 first time.

34
35 So I'd just like to provide a little
36 bit of information about what we've been doing here at
37 Alaska Fish and Game. I will try not to reiterate or
38 go over what our colleagues at the National Wildlife
39 Refuge already did.

40
41 So here I'll start out a little bit
42 talking about elk. Right now we have nine active VHF
43 collars on elk on Afognak Island. We're using these
44 collars to look at seasonal movements of elk throughout
45 the year, as well as assist us with locating these
46 animals during our herd composition surveys.

47
48 We estimate our herd composition
49 primarily via aerial surveys during August and
50 September. We just wrapped those up here about a week

1 or so ago. And this year we estimate the elk
2 population at about 750 elk on Afognak, which is an
3 increase of about 10 percent from last year where we
4 had about 685. Of those elk, we had we estimate about
5 a 22 percent calf crop this year, which is about 5
6 percent higher than the 17 percent we had in 2012. So
7 everything's looking good as far as that's concerned.
8 We had a harvest of 43 elk this year on Afognak.

9
10 A little bit about our goat surveys
11 here. I'd like to first off by saying we're very
12 pleased with the cooperation and the great working
13 relationship we have with the National Wildlife Refuge.
14 We've been working closely with the Refuge to obtain
15 goat estimate and conduct population surveys on the
16 island. We also partnered with the Refuge this summer
17 to implement a goat research project on the island. We
18 collared 15 goats this summer, 7 females and 8 males
19 with both GPS and VHF radio collars. We're
20 investigating daily and seasonal movements, including
21 over-wintering areas for goats. We're also interested
22 in looking at the activity patterns of these animals,
23 as well as the habitat and resource use, so essentially
24 as the Refuge referred to earlier, kind of looking at
25 their movements, and then what they're eating, and
26 where they're spending most of their time.

27
28 We estimate the population size again
29 using aerial surveys conducted over the summer in
30 collaboration with the National Wildlife Refuge. This
31 year we estimate about 2500 goats on the island, which
32 is a slight increase from the 200 in -- excuse me, 2390
33 that we estimated last year. And of those, we
34 estimated the kid population to be somewhere right
35 around 21 percent, which is a slight increase from the
36 18 percent that we noticed in 2012.

37
38 And I know our colleagues at the Refuge
39 spoke about the deer earlier as the brown bear. But
40 one thing I would like to mention, I'll just give you
41 some harvest numbers for bear.

42
43 2012 harvest, 2011/2012 harvest total,
44 both spring and fall was 224 bears. 146 of those were
45 males, 66 of those females, and we had 12 that were
46 unknown.

47
48 This spring, for the 2013 spring bear
49 hunt, we harvested a total of 125 bears. 76 percent of
50 those were males, 24 percent female.

1 That's pretty much all we have without
2 kind of reiterating what the Refuge folks said, so with
3 that we can answer any questions you guys might have.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Do you have
6 questions.

7
8 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Well, I'm just glad to
9 see the cow/calf ration on the elk really increasing.
10 Maybe some of the bears disappeared on Afognak, too,
11 because I think they made a big difference on the
12 cow/calf ratio in the past. But anyway that's sounding
13 better anyway, because I know I was over there again
14 last year and you really could see that the population
15 of elk was down.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

18
19 MR. HOLMES: Well, I'm really tickled,
20 you know, that you get so much help from the Service,
21 and particularly looking at the goats. And, you know,
22 if a person thinks back 20 years -- oh, yeah, 20 years
23 ago, how many goats? Half? A quarter?

24
25 MR. CRYE: There was 800.

26
27 MR. HOLMES: Yeah.

28
29 MR. CRYE: Yeah, about 800, Mr. Holmes.

30
31 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. It's been a
32 phenomenal growth. So it will be quite exciting to see
33 this next spring, once we get tallied up the fall and
34 winter harvest on them, if we've been able to reduce
35 the numbers a bit, like our whole community and our
36 Council and the AC are trying to achieve. But it
37 sounds like we're moving in a good direction, and, you
38 know, I think we're taking a nice proactive approach to
39 this, and still being able to provide access to folks
40 in the village, and so I think that this is just a
41 really great research and management program.

42
43 And surely welcome our new biologist.

44
45 MR. SVOBODA: Thank you. I appreciate
46 it. It's good to be here.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Peter.

49
50 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. Mr. Chair.

1 I did have a question on the elk. You
2 said 43 elk were harvested. Is there a breakdown
3 between the drawing and the registration?

4
5 MR. SVOBODA: Do you know that off
6 hand, John?

7
8 MR. CRYE: Mr. Squartsoff, I believe
9 the last three years we've had really low bull count,
10 so the registration, we've had a cow only registration
11 hunt. And I believe it was seven or eight cows last
12 year with the registration hunt. Currently the bull
13 ratio is fairly low right now, about 10 percent, which
14 it should be higher.

15
16 MR. SQUARTSOFF: So you're basically
17 saying if there is going to be a registration, it will
18 be just cow again?

19
20 MR. CRYE: We'll discuss it, you know,
21 We're going to see if we can find any more bulls. A
22 lot of bulls hang away from the herd, and in the few
23 surveys we did, I really didn't -- I expected to see 15
24 to 20 percent, but we're still hanging around the same
25 percent as last year.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
28 questions.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you for that
33 report, but don't move yet. I'd like to ask the
34 Council, and, Nate, you presented some paperwork
35 earlier.

36
37 MR. SVOBODA: Oh, yeah. Yeah, let me
38 grab my copy real quick, if you don't mind.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I would just ask
41 the Board if they would like to hear about that
42 information now since we.....

43
44 MR. HOLMES: Well, I think that would
45 be a good idea .

46
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF:
48(indiscernible) the meeting during Board comments.
49 But since we have them at the table.

50

1 MR. SVOBODA: Sure. Yeah. And I won't
2 take too much of your time. I apologize, I didn't know
3 if this was the proper platform to provide you guys
4 this stuff.

5
6 I'm kind of taking off my Fish and Game
7 hat here now, and I also represent the Wildlife Society
8 which is the largest professional organization for
9 wildlife professionals in the world.

10
11 A little bit of background. Prior to
12 moving to Kodiak, I worked for a Native American tribe
13 in the upper peninsula of Michigan for seven years
14 doing a variety of research projects and things. But
15 throughout that time I was also pretty involved with
16 the Wildlife Society. I serve as the chairman of a
17 working group within the Wildlife Society that's called
18 the Native People's Wildlife Management Working Group.
19 And that's one of the items that I provided you, the
20 little trifold there at the beginning. It's just a
21 little background for you.

22
23 And basically what -- after all the
24 positive responses we got yesterday regarding the
25 youth-directed activities that Fish and Game in
26 partnership with Koniag and others has implemented
27 already, I thought it might be a good opportunity, and
28 particularly since there's a lot of representatives
29 here from some of the remote villages, I thought it
30 might be a good opportunity to provide you some of this
31 information on opportunities for professional
32 development for the students and up and coming wildlife
33 professionals.

34
35 And through the group, the Native
36 People's Wildlife Management Working Group, which is,
37 like I say, a part of the greater Wildlife Society,
38 within that group we have what's called the Native
39 Student Professional Development Program. And we've
40 provided you a little bit of information. I won't sit
41 here and reiterate everything that I gave to you guys,
42 but a couple things that I'd like to point out is one
43 of these first pieces of paper here is kind of an
44 outline of the project. It started in 2006 actually
45 here in Anchorage. We recognized the need to get
46 Native students further involved in the wildlife
47 profession, and myself and a gentleman, Rick Wildleaf
48 (ph) from USDA Aphis, recognized the need back in 2006.
49 We managed to get about \$10,000 to get this program
50 kicked off. It was an incredible hit in Anchorage at

1 the Wildlife Society meeting.

2

3

4 And so we took the year 2007 off to
5 kind of rebuild, and get some input from students and
6 some other people within the Native community on how we
7 can improve, and areas that we can make the program
8 stronger. In 2008 we brought it back with the Wildlife
9 Society as a whole jumped on board and started
10 providing us funding. And it's really kind of exploded
11 ever since then.

12

13 And we've continued to run the project
14 every year except this year. A large portion of our
15 funding comes from Federal agencies, and with
16 sequestration and whatnot. this year we just -- we were
17 pretty limited on the funds. We were only able to
18 raise about 10, \$12,000 when we need about 30,000 to
19 make the program -- you know, so we can bring about 15
20 to 18 students into the program. And so this year
21 we're taking another building year off.

22

23 I stepped down as the director of the
24 program and passed it on to actually a Native student
25 who is a former recipient of the grant. And so she's
26 don't a phenomenal job.

27

28 And this will provide you a little bit
29 more background. I won't go into the whole background
30 of it, but I would also like to point out one of the
31 handouts has a list of individuals that have received
32 the grant, starting in 2006 up until 2012, which is on
33 the back. And I highlighted the Alaska students that
34 have been involved with the program. As you can see,
35 there's a significant number of Alaska students have
36 participated in the program.

37

38 And a lot of these students are from,
39 you know, Anchorage or Fairbanks, and what we would
40 like to do now that I'm here in Alaska is really expand
41 this program and try to target some of the students
42 from these smaller villages who might not be made aware
43 of these opportunities and try to provide some
44 opportunities to them that some of the students that
45 live in the bigger communities have. A lot of these
46 students just aren't aware of the opportunities that
47 they have largely because of their remote locations.

48

49 And so I guess what I'm asking is if
50 you could bring this back to your respective villages
and just let individuals know, whether it be, you know,

1 if you have education coordinators or whatever that may
2 be, just kind of make them aware of it. And my contact
3 information, I don't have my Fish and Game email on
4 there. It's a previous email that I used as a graduate
5 student, but I still get emails there, so they can --
6 anyone can contact me and I encourage them to do so.

7
8 The other thing, just kind of the last
9 three items that you can just look through at your own
10 time if you're interest. One is just the announcement
11 that we send out every year. Again, we won't have it
12 this year. The conference is actually in two weeks,
13 and we won't have it this year, but next year we will.
14 And so that's just the announcement, what students can
15 kind of look for in the future.

16
17 And the second to last item is the
18 Native Student Professional Development Program for
19 2012. And this was the program that students went
20 through in Portland. This is a week-long -- it's
21 essentially a year long, but the brunt of the program
22 is a week long where they go through and they have
23 intense professional development activities. They're
24 partnered up with a mentor who is an indigenous person
25 studying natural resources already. And it's not
26 specific to wildlife folks, although it's through the
27 Wildlife Society. We also have fisheries,
28 environmental science students, actually we've had
29 lawyers who were interested in environmental law
30 participate in the program. It's open to anybody.

31
32 Primarily it's college, you know, so
33 undergraduate to Ph.D. students; however, we've had one
34 really ambitious student who was high school student
35 who won the program two years in a row. Now he's going
36 to Cornell and studying natural resource. So it's
37 really good.

38
39 But this is kind of he outline of the
40 week long program that we had for them in 2012, just to
41 give you an idea on kind of what they go through. And
42 again they're partnered up with a Native mentor that
43 already works in the profession.

44
45 And then the last item here, the kind
46 of bigger item, it's I think eight or nine pages, is
47 our report we generate. We have a post conference
48 survey that all the students fill out at the end. And
49 this is one other thing that's incredibly important for
50 us from a -- the individuals who design the program, we

1 get really good input from the students on how can we
2 make this program better and how can we make students
3 feel more comfortable. You know, a lot of these
4 students come from reservations or small communities
5 where they're not used to being put into a conference
6 that has 2 or 3,000 people, so it's somewhat
7 overwhelming. And so we've gotten that feedback from
8 students, and we've taken measures to make them feel
9 more welcome and more part of the program. And so
10 these are some of the feedback that we get from
11 students is implemented in this report. And so that is
12 what this is.

13

14 You can see the questions that the
15 students answered as well as their responses. They had
16 kind of a scale on how they graded different aspects of
17 the program as well as their comments.

18

19 But one thing I'd like to point out
20 finally here is on the bottom of the front page of the
21 report there is a website. Last year for the first
22 time we asked students to submit video of their
23 experiences in the program. and it's really short. I
24 mean it's like three or four minutes maybe. But we
25 have students from all over the nature, and actually
26 all over North America, who are involved in the
27 program, and they put together short 20-second, 30-
28 second video clips of how they thought the program was
29 beneficial to them, and how they encourage other
30 students to get involved. So I would encourage you to
31 visit that website and get these testimonies from the
32 students just to see kind of what the program entails,
33 and what they have to look forward to.

34

35 And with that I can answer any
36 questions you have. And feel free to contact me after.
37 I'm sorry I just got this to you today, and if you want
38 to take it home and read it or pass it on to other
39 individuals, they can feel free to contact me at any
40 time. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Any
43 questions.

44

45 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I just want to thank
46 you very much for that. I think it's -- I'm definitely
47 taking it back to our tribal council so they can
48 hopefully get some students involved.

49

50 MR. SVOBODA: Great. I appreciate

1 that. Thank you.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, if I could get a
4 couple extra copies, I'll get them to the three tribal
5 groups here in town.

6

7 MR. SVOBODA: Absolutely. And I can
8 email all this. I have a bunch more information, too,
9 if anyone's interested. I can email it also. And I
10 have an extra copy right here. There might still be
11 one back on the table, but I'll make sure you get this,
12 Mr. Holmes.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you.

15

16 MR. SVOBODA: Thanks. I appreciate
17 your time.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. I think
20 we're done with the agency reports. We're down to
21 Native organizations. Matt Van Daele.

22

23 MS. PETERSON: Hello. This is Chris
24 Peterson from Fish and Game in King Salmon. Mr. Chair.
25 I do have a little bit of information that you might be
26 interested in if this is the appropriate time for it.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: It's an excellent
29 time. Go ahead.

30

31 MS. PETERSON: Okay. Thank you. Mr.
32 Chair and the Board. As I said, this is Chris Peterson
33 from Alaska Fish and Game in King Salmon.

34

35 This year I just put together some
36 information concerning Unit 9 and specifically Unit 9D
37 for regulatory year '12, so this is -- some of it's a
38 little not up to date, but it's the fastest that we can
39 get out of the data -- into the database for
40 examination. In regulatory year '12, for brown bears
41 we had a total of 29 brown bears harvested for the
42 entire unit. Fourteen of these were the RB525 or the
43 near-village hunt. Eleven were DLPs. And one was an
44 accidental trapping, a little bit unusual. Of the
45 RB525, seven of those were harvested down in Unit 9D.
46 Of the DLPs, let's see, there was -- I believe there
47 was about four of those that were done in either King
48 Cove or Cold Bay, so down in Subunit 9D. Of course,
49 that regulatory year there was no state bear hunting
50 opportunity, so that in the main part accounts for the

1 low numbers of brown bear harvested.

2

3 In Unit RD -- I mean, Unit 10 for
4 Unimak Island we had a total of 10 bears harvested.
5 Eight of these were males, and two were females. Three
6 were harvested in the fall, four were in the spring
7 State hunt, two were from RB525, and then one was a
8 State ticket that was given up.

9

10 Okay. For caribou, the Southern Alaska
11 Peninsula Caribou Herd is considered to be increasing.
12 We were not able to get a good population estimate this
13 year due to other projects that we're taking on with
14 the Southern Peninsula Herd, and due to weather
15 constraints.

16

17 We did have a major calf mortality
18 study that we implemented in the Southern Peninsula
19 Caribou Herd. And for that in spring of 2013 we did
20 measure an 84 percent pregnancy rate. We only had a
21 sample of 122 cows, but it was an excellent pregnancy
22 rate.

23

24 Then June through September, actually
25 it's still ongoing, we have been monitoring the survival
26 of 57 calves that we collared, and we've been
27 monitoring their survival and investigating the cause
28 of death as soon as possible after we get a mortality
29 signal from those collared calves. 43 of the 57
30 calves, or in other words 75 percent of our collared
31 calves were still alive after the neonatal period,
32 which is up to two weeks of age, which is very good.
33 Of the 13 mortalities that we were able to examine, 54
34 percent were by wolves and 46 percent were by brown
35 bears. There was one mortality that we were not able
36 to get to because of the volcanic ash fall out in the
37 area.

38

39 There were very healthy caribou calf
40 weights. And as I said, there weren't really any non-
41 predation mortalities that we examined, which would
42 indicate that nutrition is not limiting the population
43 growth or survival in the Southern Peninsula Herd,
44 which is very good.

45

46 The study is not finished. We will
47 continue to monitor those calves through the end of
48 October, which is when we will do our next composition
49 counts.

50

1 For the Unimak Caribou Herd, it is
2 continuing to decline as expected. The current
3 population estimate is somewhere around 200 to 224 was
4 the most recent estimate we came up with, but that was
5 a little time ago, so with the decline, it's expected
6 to continue.

7
8 The fall 2012 composition count
9 established that we had 3 calves per 100 cows, 10 bulls
10 per 100 cows. And both of those are well below the
11 management ratio for at least 35 bulls per 100 cows.
12 The calves is just way down. So it is expected to
13 continue -- as the decline does continue, with the
14 reduced numbers of caribou that are on Unimak Island,
15 that the proportions of the bulls and the cows might
16 hit periodically due to the loss of either sex at
17 different time periods. but you can't really look at
18 that shift and evaluate that as an increase. It's just
19 that with such low numbers, if you lose a few of one
20 sex, it really skews your ratios and it makes it look
21 other than it is.

22
23 In the spring of 2013 on Unimak we did
24 do a pregnancy check on the cows. We had a 65 percent
25 pregnancy rate. We had a sample size of 71 cows. The
26 small population size of the herd and the extreme
27 logistics concerns that are associated with surveying
28 that herd, and also the low pregnancy rates will make
29 it increasingly hard to conduct caribou calf projects
30 on Unimak in the future. We need to maintain the
31 collars that we have there to continue monitoring on
32 the condition of the Unimak.

33
34 For the moose hunt, in regulatory year
35 '12 there were 93 moose reported harvested in all of
36 Unit 9. 53 of these, or 57 percent were harvested by
37 residents, and 33 of those were harvested by local
38 residents, so about a third went to local residents.

39
40 In regulatory year '13, the moose hunt
41 that just finished, of course, all the data is not in
42 yet, but I thought you might interested in the
43 preliminary numbers, there have been 20 harvested moose
44 reported, and there was actually one of those was in
45 Subunit 9A, the rest were scattered across Subunits 9B,
46 C, and E, which is pretty typical.

47
48 For wolves, in all of the Unit 9 for
49 regulatory year '12 there were 39 wolves harvest. For
50 Subunit 9D there were three harvested. And in Subunit

1 10 there were four wolves harvested.

2

3 I neglected to mention earlier along
4 with the calf mortality project or calf survival
5 project on the Southern Peninsula Herd, we did not go
6 out and try to remove any more wolves. We're trying to
7 keep an eye on the situation as it is now, see if the
8 herd can maintain its good statistics that we have set.
9 You know, if we can get by without increasing any of
10 the harvest of wolves in that area. Ever since the
11 major energy was put into the predation control project
12 down there, the statistics have increased substantially
13 for the herd, and it would be best if the herd can
14 maintain that on its own without further interference
15 from us. So we're keeping an eye on that, and we'll
16 continue to monitor the situation.

17

18 For the furbearer report, in regulatory
19 year '12, there were -- okay. For all of Unit 9, there
20 were 103 beaver harvested. In just 9D there were no
21 beaver, and in Unit 10 there were none. None of the
22 furbearers were listed as being harvested in Unit 10.
23 We'd get some (indiscernible).

24

25 For lynx there were 64 lynx harvested
26 in the entire unit, none in 9D. 48 river otter in all
27 of 9 and none in 9D. 26 wolverine in all of 9 and 3 of
28 those were in 9D. And then 18 marten in the entire
29 unit, but none in 9D.

30

31 And that's pretty much the information
32 I put together. Does anyone have any questions or
33 interest.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MS. PETERSON: Well, okay. Thank you.
38 If anyone has any questions of this effort,
39 (indiscernible).....

40

41 MR. KOSO: I've got a question.

42

43 MS. PETERSON:of your time.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: You've got a
46 couple questions here.

47

48 MS. PETERSON: My number is 907-246-
49 3340, and I'd be glad to speak with anyone.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hold on, you've
4 got a couple questions coming at you.

5

6 MS. PETERSON: Oh, okay. Thank you.

7

8 MR. KOSO: Yeah. Hi, this is Rick from
9 Adak here. I just want to know if you guys did any new
10 surveys on Adak on the caribou herd.

11

12 MS. PETERSON: We have not. The Fish
13 and Wildlife Service did put together a survey down
14 there I believe it was this past spring, early summer.
15 And the numbers were quite high. I don't have it
16 specifically in front of me their overall count, but
17 the size of the bulls was apparently coming up a little
18 bit, and there was no concern at all over numbers down
19 there. There's plenty of them to -- plenty of hunters
20 would be welcome in a hunt.

21

22 MR. KOSO: Yeah. Thank you very much.
23 And thank you for the report. I wish maybe the Feds
24 would follow some of your guidelines there on Unimak,
25 but it looks like that's pretty much a dead deal there
26 for that. It looks like it's too late to try and get
27 those caribou up.

28

29 Anyway, thank you again.

30

31 MS. PETERSON: Okay. Thank you very
32 much. Anyone else.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yea. Pat.

35

36 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Christy, this is
37 Pat Holmes. I wanted to compliment you on your
38 excellent report. And I thought your calf study was
39 quite interesting, and that the calf weights were
40 healthy and, you know, that's using a good intrinsic
41 evidence on habitat and nutrition, because one of the
42 things we're told is the decline is a result of lack of
43 browse and micro-nutrients and, you know, on the micro-
44 nutrients, I just think, goodness sakes, there's hardly
45 anywhere in 9D or 10 where, you know, within a day
46 caribou can't be down at the beach for most of those.
47 And I don't think that 20-year old studies on elk in
48 Colorado are comparable for caribou. And so I think
49 it's a whole lot less expensive to look at the calf
50 weights.

1 And kind of appreciate your folks'
2 thoughts on the calving ground study that you use. You
3 know, those removals a few years back of, what was it,
4 23 adults and six cubs that you couldn't give to any
5 zoos, that really -- I mean, that provided for us to be
6 able to have a subsistence fishery -- I mean, not
7 fishery, but hunt. And, you know, it's proof in the
8 pudding to me. And I find it so ironic that you folks
9 are producing some good information on all the
10 hypotheses without having to do doctorate theses, and
11 so I just -- I can't help but commend you for giving us
12 the straight skinny.

13
14 And 9D as far as the comments on lack
15 of habitat, or bad habitat and browse, all I can do is
16 reflect on more than 40 years of berry picking down at
17 Cold Bay, and, you know, when the numbers were up, yes,
18 the browse was down, but the numbers haven't been up
19 for 30 years. And the last time I was down there and
20 when berry picking in a place that used to have six-
21 inch high blueberry bushes, and now they're probably
22 four or five feet high and not browsed at all. So, I
23 mean, there are some just basic observations.

24
25 I think Fish and Wildlife Service ought
26 to be going for traditional knowledge and talking to
27 the folks in the villages down there like you folks do,
28 and just asking their observations. So as far as I'm
29 concerned, the science on critters down there, you
30 folks are taking a low cost approach, and coming up
31 with some really, really good information. And so my
32 hat's off to you and I really salute your hard efforts
33 there.

34
35 So thanks a lot and keep up the good
36 work. And hopefully some day you'll be able to do that
37 on all the calving grounds down there. Aren't most of
38 the calving grounds there in the Refuge that is not
39 wilderness; is that correct?

40
41 MS. PETERSON: Most of the calving
42 grounds for the Southern Peninsula Herd are not in
43 Izembek Refuge. They're further I guess it would be
44 northeast of there on State -- well, it's somewhat
45 split between State grounds and Federal grounds, but a
46 great deal of it's not on Federal grounds.

47
48 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Well, I just find
49 it interesting that you folks weren't allowed to have
50 that experiment on Federal grounds, because at least in

1 that neck of the woods the calving areas, correct me if
2 I'm wrong, are not in the wilderness. And we were told
3 when they had the EA discussions for Unit 10 that the
4 only reason that that type of surgical removal was not
5 allowed was because it was a wilderness. And I asked,
6 well, are you going to restrict things in the other
7 areas that aren't, and they said, well -- I didn't get
8 a straight answer, so I hope some day that your
9 experiment proves out so that some of these small
10 adjustments.....

11
12 You know what we need? We need to have
13 a better description than predator/prey, something that
14 would appeal to the green folks. Population
15 equilibrium adjustment or something like that that
16 would make them feel good and sustainable. Ah, that's
17 it. Figure out a phase for sustainable caribou
18 production.

19
20 Anyway, thanks a lot, and good luck to
21 you.

22
23 MS. PETERSON: Well, thanks for your
24 comments.

25
26 One thing I did neglect. As you were
27 speaking, I did notice in my notes here, the Board of
28 Game -- well, in February of 2013 did open the TC --
29 the tier II TC506 caribou hunt in 9D. And I'm sure
30 you're all aware of that, but I thought you might be
31 interested that so far there have been 10 reported
32 harvested. The hunt continues through September 30th,
33 and then November 1st through March 15th with a limit
34 of one caribou for that winter season per hunter. So
35 there has been some harvest, and it's looking good.

36
37 We'll try to keep up our efforts here,
38 and we do have value in some of the studies that are
39 done as far as looking at minerals and things. It's
40 always of value to be able to, you know, look at
41 something and say, well, that is not the problem. For
42 things like this, when I would get them. One of the
43 places where I was able to hear the conversation, said
44 something about, well, you know, that's nature, Mother
45 Nature, and you know, we don't know everything about
46 it, and some things slip in on us at times and we don't
47 see it. And if we're not looking for them, we never
48 will see them. But so there is value in some of those
49 studies, and we try to use all of the information that
50 we can get.

1 Sorry to take up so much time, but
2 thank you for the time.

3
4 MR. KOSO: Can you give your phone
5 number again, please.

6
7 MS. PETERSON: It would be 246-3340 for
8 this office, for myself. We do also have a new area
9 biologist out here now who is Dave Crowley. He moved
10 over from Cordova this year. So there's two of us here
11 now, and we'd be glad to answer any questions anybody
12 ever has.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Peter.

17
18 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. This is Pete
19 Squartsoff from Port Lions. And I want to thank you
20 for that great report. It think it was really
21 informational for us. But I would like to have a copy,
22 and I'm sure the rest of the RAC here would. I
23 couldn't write as fast as you were talking so I think I
24 missed a lot of stuff that I would like to sit down and
25 go over.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 MS. PETERSON: Okay. I will -- I can
30 email a copy of this to someone there and who would be
31 a good contact for me to do that with.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: You can email it
34 to Carl Johnson, and he'll make sure we get a copy.

35
36 MS. PETERSON: Okay. Carl Johnson.
37 And is his email on the RAC website?

38
39 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, this is Carl
40 Johnson. Yes, you'll find my email on the
41 Kodiak/Aleutians page for the Federal Subsistence
42 Management Program.

43
44 MS. PETERSON: Okay. And what is your
45 phone number, Carl?

46
47 MR. JOHNSON: 786-3676.

48
49 MS. PETERSON: 786-3676. All right.
50 And you should hear from me shortly. Thank you.

1 MR. JOHNSON: Great. Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Is
4 there anyone else on line, any agency on line that we
5 need to hear from.
6
7 (No comments)
8
9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: None. Okay. That
10 this time for use just takes care of the agency
11 reports.
12
13 I think a motion would be in order to
14 accept all agency reports.
15
16 MR. TUTIAKOFF: So move. I move to
17 accept all agency reports.
18
19 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Second.
20
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and
22 seconded. Discussion.
23
24 (No comments)
25
26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing none, is
27 there any objections.
28
29 (No comments)
30
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
32 objections. Oh, Pat, you've got.....
33
34 MR. HOLMES: I'm sorry, the game
35 biologist was talking in one year and your side.
36 You're adjourning?
37
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No.
39
40 (Laughter)
41
42 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Shucks.
43
44 MR. HOLMES: Okay. What are we voting
45 on? I'm sorry.
46
47 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Accept the reports.
48
49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. With that
50 cleared up, is there -- hearing no objections, then the

1 motion carried.
2
3 Okay. That brings us to future meeting
4 dates.
5
6 Oh, Matt, you have your hand up?
7
8 MR. VAN DAELE: Yeah.
9
10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. We stepped
11 right over Native.
12
13 MS. BERNS: Native organizations.
14
15 MR. VAN DAELE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
16 I'll make this very quick, because I know at wants to
17 adjourn.
18
19 (Laughter)
20
21 MR. VAN DAELE: But I'd like to provide
22 the Council with a little bit of illumination about
23 that Chinook project that the Refuge was discussing
24 earlier today. And in 2011 and 2012 there was serious
25 discussion to move the Karluk weir from its location at
26 the Karluk Lagoon out to an area known as the portage,
27 which is about 14 river miles farther upstream. And so
28 with the king salmon runs being what they are, there's
29 a lot of concern that we would lose quite a few of the
30 kings just because they wouldn't be counted through the
31 weir, and the impacts that would have on subsistence
32 and sport users.
33
34 So Koniag initiated a pilot project to
35 put out radio transmitters in a portion of the Chinook
36 escapement in cooperation with Fish and Wildlife
37 Service and Sportfish Division, and we were successful
38 in putting out five radio transmitters in the Chinook.
39 And we learned that Chinook do indeed use the entire
40 river to spawn, and all five fish that we had radio
41 tagged actually spawned in the lower river. So any
42 move of the weir would have -- we would have lost an
43 unknown proportion of the entire escapement of the
44 fish.
45
46 And because this was a pilot project
47 and we learned exactly what we needed to know, that the
48 fish were utilizing the entire river, we didn't pursue
49 continuation of funding, because of funding constraints
50 being what they are, it would be better to not scrap

1 amongst ourselves for limited funds, and instead allow
2 other projects that have more merit going forward, such
3 as in-river survival of the smolt, and also how many
4 fish survive out of sea coming back, instead of going
5 with a nice to know project such as the specific
6 spawning locations in the river.

7
8 In the future when the Karluk River
9 gets to the point of human use that we saw in the early
10 2000s, this would become definitely in my opinion a
11 need to know project, but until that happens, my
12 personal opinion is that we need to know how many fish,
13 how many smolt are actually surviving in the river
14 rather than competing amongst ourselves on such an
15 important resource.

16
17 So that's all I have for that, and I
18 provided you with a paper copy of this report. I can
19 email an electronic copy to Carl, and I apologize that
20 I didn't get this to you sooner.

21
22 Thank you for your time. And if you
23 have any questions, please let me know.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you,
26 Matt. Anyone have questions for Matt.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thanks again.

31
32 MS. KENNEDY: Excuse me, is this the
33 last chance the public has for one last comment?

34
35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: What's that?

36
37 MR. TUTIAKOFF: It would be Native
38 organizations.

39
40 MS. KENNEDY: Is this the -- does the
41 public have time for one more comment? I found
42 something in the literature that's very important.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We're at the end
45 of agenda. We've completed that section.

46
47 MS. KENNEDY: Okay. Well, maybe I can
48 just follow Matt and see what happens. Just for the
49 record, please.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.
2
3 MS. KENNEDY: It's not marked. I don't
4 know who put it out, but it's here at this meeting, so
5 I assume it's from.....
6
7 REPORTER: Microphone.
8
9 MS. KENNEDY:the rural
10 determination process.
11
12 REPORTER: Turn the microphone on.
13
14 MS. KENNEDY: Oh, yes. Sorry. I
15 usually don't need one of these.
16
17 But it's the rural determination
18 process for use, Q and A's. It doesn't say who put it
19 out, but I assume it's from the Board. I hope it's
20 from the Board.
21
22 Anyway on number 7, it says, are there
23 any legal considerations I should be aware of when
24 making my comments. This is for the public so we'll
25 know what to do. Anyway, it's very interesting,
26 because number 1, it's being put out by the Ninth
27 Circuit Court of Appeals, and they were also in charge
28 of Exxon. That took 20 years and went from 5 billion
29 to half a billion dollars. Anyway, we won't go there.
30
31
32 But it says here, regarding the
33 definition of rural, the court said, the term is not
34 difficult to understand. It is not a term of art. It
35 is a standard word in the English language commonly
36 understood to refer to areas of the country that are
37 sparsely populated -- and somebody better turn that
38 phone off -- where the economy centers on agriculture
39 and ranching. Now, we don't have a whole lot of
40 agriculture here, but we do have a couple of ranches.
41 I was talking to Bo about it. We've got buffalo and
42 we've got cattle. That's Omar and the Burtons.
43 They're big. 23,000 square mile leases and a 26,000-
44 square-mile lease.
45
46 But to get back to what I'm getting at.
47 We are sea farmers here. There's no ifs, ands, or buts
48 about it. We are people of the sea, especially the
49 Native people. The commercial fishermen. We've always
50 been considered farmers, sea farmers. We farm fish.

1 Now, it doesn't specify agriculture and ranching as
2 dirt or water. So I hereby declare we are ranchers and
3 farmers, because we're catching fish. And the
4 agriculture people help us get the smolt going, and,
5 yeah, Kodiak Aquaculture, they're awesome. So at least
6 put us down as sea farmers. I think it's a legal term.
7 I'll argue with Judge Zilly (ph) any day of the week,
8 if he's still there. I hope not.

9

10 But I mean this is their own lingo.
11 This is right here in your process review currently
12 underway. You know, this is all coming from the
13 ANILCA, the Alaska Native Interest Lands Conservation
14 Act, and it's their own -- it's the Kenaitze, which we
15 all know is over there on the Kenai, and Cordova, they
16 fought hard for this. And this is coming from a 1988
17 decision, so at least put us down as sea farmers.

18

19 And I found a couple other things in
20 here. Based on the definition, the court struck down
21 the State of Alaska's approach to defining rural areas.
22 You know, while excluding areas dominated primarily by
23 a cash economy.

24

25 So, anyway, at least put us down as sea
26 farmers if nothing else.

27

28 And I think you, and I promise, this is
29 the final word, because you're cutting me off. Thank
30 you very much. And thank you for what you do,
31 seriously.

32

33 MR. HOLMES: Well, sea farmers is a
34 good definition. Thanks.

35

36 MS. KENNEDY: You're welcome, Pat.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. With that
39 then, we are at our meeting dates. Carl, do we have
40 something else.

41

42 MR. JOHNSON: Actually, Mr. Chair, as
43 we discussed, you were going to have the Council review
44 potential annual report topics just before we do the
45 meeting calendars.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Oh, yeah. Thanks
48 for that.

49

50 MR. KOSO: What was that?

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Our annual report.
2 Yeah, at our meetings we always discuss the annual
3 report at the end of the day.

4
5 MR. KOSO: Yeah, right. I've never
6 seen the annual report. Where is the annual report? We
7 never made it up yet?

8
9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, the annual
10 -- like the one we have in our book.

11
12 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. I would
13 direct the Council members to Page 13 of your book,
14 which just kind of gives general guidance as to the
15 sort of information that the Board is seeking in the
16 Council's annual report.

17
18 MR. KOSO: We just gave permission for
19 yourself and Mitch here to do it and to take it on as
20 we did last year. At least they made the report. So
21 do we need a motion or do we just need a consensus.

22
23 MR. JOHNSON: Well, you already
24 submitted your fiscal year 2012 annual report, and the
25 Board has responded to that. So what we're looking for
26 now is your next, the fiscal year '13 annual report.

27
28 Here in the fall we'll always discuss
29 what you would like to include in your annual report.
30 I'll draft it up, and you'll approve it at your winter
31 meeting.

32
33 MR. KOSO: So then we just give you
34 permission then to draft it up, you and Mitch, and then
35 you'll submit it back to us for review before final
36 signing? Is that the way it normally -- normally
37 that's the way we do.

38
39 MR. JOHNSON: That is correct, but I'll
40 need to know exactly what those topics are and what
41 your concerns are in order to draft it up.

42
43 MR. KARMUN: Mr. Chair.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Vince or Pat?

46
47 MR. KARMUN: Pat.

48
49 MR. HOLMES: Go ahead.

50

1 MR. KARMUN: Go ahead.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: I guess one of my concerns
4 is to see that this dynamic process that we had on our
5 discussions of revising the Federal criteria, that that
6 -- you know, we feel we've made some real good progress
7 here, and that we hope that that can develop into
8 something where rural folks can really define
9 themselves as to what's rural and what's a subsistence
10 culture. I think that would be one.

11

12 One question I have is can we argue on
13 the responses that we got back from the Board the last
14 time, because there's a few points that I think are
15 just -- anyway, a polite little blank word. Can we
16 argue with them?

17

18 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah. Through the Chair.

19

20 It's not uncommon for the Councils to
21 bring up issues again in a subsequent year when they
22 weren't satisfied with the reply from the Federal
23 Subsistence Board. I've seen that a couple times
24 already in my short time at OSM.

25

26 MR. HOLMES: I'd have to go back and
27 look at it specifically, but there were some responses
28 that I thought were purely bureaucratic and were really
29 not appropriate. And particularly the reason why I've
30 been making so many comments about berry picking is
31 that one of the responses we got is the decline of
32 caribou was probably due or potentially due to
33 deficient or lacking in nutrients and browse or
34 something like that, and that one just caught me. I
35 just can't agree with that.

36

37 I'll go back to the letter and let
38 somebody else talk.

39

40 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Vincent.

43

44 MR. TUTIAKOFF: I would like to add in
45 the report my concern of the budget and staffing, that
46 we've seen a decline in the last five years in regards
47 to the RAC's funding ability to get information. I'm
48 concerned that, you know, we're losing Staff either
49 through not having any money or they're being retired
50 and not being filled. Some of the positions are key to

1 what I feel this Council's decisionmaking process is.
2 So I'm concerned about that.

3
4 I also would like to see our letter on
5 the rural determination be part of the annual report.
6 Even though we're giving one or sending it on to the
7 main Board, I would like to see it attached to our
8 report.

9
10 What was the other issue. That's good
11 for now until I look at this thing again, but those are
12 the two main issues that I could see in the report this
13 year; of course, along with all the other concerns we
14 have every year. I don't have a copy of last year's
15 report with me, but we seem to have quite a few.

16
17 And the response from the Federal Board
18 on some of the issues, I agree with Pat on that one,
19 you know, but I don't think it's the response. It's
20 just a way to get out of not doing their job or helping
21 us do our job.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Peter.

24
25 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I
26 agree with Pat on the rural determination thing as
27 being our number 1 priority.

28
29 And then on meeting locations. It
30 seems like every time we pick the location, it's
31 changed.

32
33 But I was talking with one of the other
34 Board members earlier, and my question I guess would be
35 does OSM get mileage for all the travel? Maybe we
36 could travel on mileage.

37
38 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I'd
39 like to continue our discussion, and maybe we'd get the
40 point out on travel, and then we can each feed
41 something back to Carl on it, because we've asked for
42 years on being able to get to remote places. And we
43 know budgets are down, and we need to have Staff to
44 support our work. But the response we got back on
45 asking if we could get support from tribal, municipal,
46 or other agencies for travel and lodging costs. And
47 then the response is, Council meetings and room costs
48 -- what does it say. Oh, yeah. Okay. The government
49 cannot accept such gifts. In addition, there's no
50 mechanism for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to

1 accept funds from third parties.

2

3 I've seen in the -- where is it --
4 subsistence newsletter over the last, oh, I don't know,
5 18 years or so I've been following this, where the
6 Federal Board has gone up into northwest Alaska or into
7 the Interior, stayed in people's homes. It says right
8 there, stayed in somebody's home in Nanwalek. And how
9 can the Federal Board people do that and us, why are we
10 held to a different standard than the Board members,
11 because they go to places, you know, and the tribal
12 government says, oh, hey, come on, we'll give you a
13 place to stay. We could have gone to St. Paul Island.
14 They'd pay our food and housing. And we're told, well,
15 we can't accept that.

16

17 Well, the point is, is we're supposed
18 to be getting information from people in our region.
19 And it's pretty hard to do that unless we can go and
20 talk to them. And the point we raised before that I'd
21 like to raise again is our whole Staff doesn't -- our
22 whole Council doesn't have to go. We could have a few
23 people go and telecommunicate. I think the model that
24 we have here now with the reductions that you folks
25 have had, we have a few key people to make the meeting
26 work, answer questions, and teleconference. That's
27 something that we asked for back when your budget was
28 10 times as high, was why doesn't the Staff stay home
29 and teleconference. Send a few people and let the
30 Council go and talk to the public.

31

32 And whenever we have them at Cold Bay,
33 then I recall one meeting there where we had I think
34 four people that lived there that were civilians. We
35 had the Fish and Game biologist that put off his aerial
36 surveys came to the meeting. And then we had probably
37 15 different Federal camp followers. And the reason
38 was, and most of them admitted when we were having
39 lunch, I'd say, hey, Mike, why are you down here, you
40 know? It's odd for you to come to this. Well, gee,
41 the coho fishing's so great. Or somebody wanted to go
42 whack some ducks. And that to me is absolute morally
43 wrong to have a bureaucrat abusing the travel program
44 when we can't get out.

45

46 So things are down, I realize that, but
47 what we would like is not a statement saying they can't
48 accept the gifts. We'd like to see an exploration on
49 how we can do that. And I'd like to get OSM to give us
50 some feedback on what we can do. And, you know, I

1 would go to False Pass and sleep on the gym floor.
2 I've done that before. And, you know, we don't have
3 any problems. Being as we're the ones that generally
4 get reimbursed for our per diem, I'd give it up. You
5 know, the money isn't the thing; it's the information,
6 and we need somehow in figuring some solution where we
7 can go there. Maybe if it's a peninsula problem, maybe
8 the Chairman and Rick would go, and the rest of us can
9 teleconference, or whoever's farthest away from the
10 place we want to go could teleconference, so at least
11 we can get people down there from our group that can
12 first-hand talk to people and get information and ask,
13 what's their problem, and how can we help solve it.
14 And it's terribly frustrating.

15
16 I'm sorry to get off on my band wagon
17 every time, but there it is.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other concerns
20 or ideas we can put on our report.

21
22 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Mitch. I have
23 one, and that's that the Unimak caribou, or just Unit 9
24 caribou.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: 9D?

27
28 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. The whole
29 thing.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Rick.

32
33 MR. KOSO: Yeah.

34
35 MR. HOLMES: 9 and 10.

36
37 MR. KOSO: Again I'll just -- we've got
38 the budget, staffing, letter on rural determination,
39 and then we have some responses from the Feds that
40 we're not happy about. We've got the travel to other
41 communities, villages particularly. And then I've got
42 the recognize the good work that ADF&G at King Salmon
43 is doing on the caribou herd in 9D.

44
45 And then the other one would be emperor
46 good. We still don't have a subsistence hunt, and that
47 we've been after for 10 years. And it just seems like
48 they keep it right at 68,000; they never go up or never
49 go down. So there's something not right there. I
50 think they may want to expand that survey or do

1 something that's a little better, but I think they do
2 that just so they don't have to have a subsistence
3 hunt. So I really think we need to get a subsistence
4 hunt on that emperor goose.

5
6 And that's about all I have as far as
7 putting on the.....

8
9 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Carl.

12
13 MR. JOHNSON: I do know that, I recall
14 that the emperor goose hunt was raised by this Council,
15 not this last annual report, but the one before that.
16 And the response then would be the same response that
17 you would get this time, and that is that's not under
18 the jurisdiction of the Federal Subsistence Board, but
19 if you want to submit something to, you know, Migratory
20 Birds, and the management council, then we could assist
21 you in doing that. So I don't know if necessarily you
22 want to go through that same exercise of bringing it in
23 an annual report, but certainly if there's something
24 the Council would like to submit to migratory birds
25 regarding that, I could assist the Council in that.

26
27 And as for the Unit 9 caribou issue,
28 you just said Unit 9 caribou, so if you could elaborate
29 a little bit about specifically the message you want to
30 convey, then I can make sure I get it correct in the
31 annual report.

32
33 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Carl. Well, I
34 guess it's about the Unimak Island cow/calf ratio, and
35 what's going on with that.

36
37 MR. KOSO: And that was 10. It's 10.

38
39 MR. SQUARTSOFF: That's 10? Unit 10.

40
41 MR. KOSO: Unimak is 10.

42
43 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Okay. Unimak is 10,
44 it's not 9. But King Salmon also gave a report on
45 that.

46
47 MR. JOHNSON: So would your message to
48 the Board be you want to know what the Federal
49 subsistence program plans to do about that?

50

1 MR. HOLMES: His question
2 (Indiscernible - microphone not on) the declining
3 population.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I think that would
6 be a concern, because in her report she said the
7 population was down to around 200, and she thought it
8 would continue to drop. And she didn't say anything
9 about future plans to try and enhance that herd. If it
10 continues to drop, it's going to -- the caribou on
11 Unimak will disappear. What's the plan to get caribou
12 back on the island.

13
14 MR. KOSO: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. Yeah,
15 I think on that deal there, the State actually did try
16 to do something about it, but they were turned down,
17 isn't it. That was part of predator control on Unit
18 10. The Feds turned that totally down, and, you know,
19 they kind of used the idea of, you know, no food type
20 of a thing that's killing them. I don't agree with
21 that, and I don't think anybody on this Board agrees
22 with that. I don't think any of the ADF&G folks that
23 look at the area agree with that.

24
25 And then another thing on the emperor
26 goose, just to bring you up on that, the Feds do the
27 surveys on those. they've never brought it up to the
28 80,000 that's required to have a subsistence hunt.
29 When we do get to that 80,000 threshold, then we could
30 go to the Flyway and request a subsistence hunt. Until
31 we hit that magic number, we can't do anything unless
32 we change that magic number. And it hasn't gone
33 anywhere for the past -- I've been on here what, six
34 years now? It hasn't went anywhere since, that it's
35 stayed between 68,000 and 70,000 birds, and we need
36 80,000 to have a hunt. So I'm getting very suspicious
37 about their surveys. It just doesn't seem to be going
38 anywhere.

39
40 MR. HOLMES: I think we should dust off
41 our previous communications. And I find it interesting
42 that the Federal Board often when there's a problem
43 they don't want to address, or is another agency,
44 that's appropriate, but then they throw it back to us.
45 So then it's another year delay in trying to develop a
46 problem. And let's pack up all our previous verbiage
47 addressing emperor geese, go through -- I mean, we've
48 sent all kinds of letters, and let's send it back to
49 the migratory bird people and ask them in what way do
50 they reset or reevaluate that number, because we did

1 one letter, because I know I helped write it, and it
2 was to the effect of if you can't do it, how do we get
3 it accomplished, because all the other critters in
4 Alaska have different thresholds, and when they
5 announce 80,000 threshold, it was for an open hunt. It
6 was for everybody to go out sportfishing. And when
7 they did that, I think I'd like to have the migratory
8 bird people go back and look at the language for when
9 they came up with that number and give us a report on
10 how they achieved it and how it was established,
11 because, you know, a lot of agencies, those numbers
12 just get plucked out of the air, here, what do you
13 think there, Mr. Vince. And I'd like to know how that
14 number was developed and what it was for. If it's for,
15 you know, total harvest, sport harvest, and what we're
16 trying to get at is how can we get a subsistence
17 harvest. And what we asked for was something like a
18 very low number, something lower than the variability
19 in their estimate of their population. Five per
20 village. I mean, what is 50 geese going to matter.
21 You can't even see that variance in their population
22 estimates.

23

24 So we would like rather than some way
25 to approach it to develop a positive dialogue on a
26 solution. And it's three years, isn't it? Three-year
27 80 average. And what I find amusing is that if you
28 look, I've been told that they know, migratory birds,
29 they know that there's like three to 5,000 harvest up
30 on the Delta, you know. Hey, everybody's doing it.

31

32 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Must be getting close
33 to the end of the meeting.

34

35 MR. HOLMES: So, you know, if they know
36 that's there, then, you know, why not develop some kind
37 of program where we can have -- because our last letter
38 on that communication was just something so we could
39 have a small harvest. One emperor good per village so
40 that the old geezers before they croak can have one.
41 Because folks in our region tend not to poach. They
42 tend to try to play by the rules. And if somebody else
43 is not playing by the rules, why are we held from not
44 being able to have the same level of discretions.

45

46 So that's a whole bunch of words and I
47 don't know how to boil it down smaller, but I would
48 like to build a dialogue again, and we could say to the
49 Federal Board that we are addressing these points to
50 the Migratory Bird Council. And then that's in the

1 report to the Federal Board that we still consider it a
2 problem, and that we're trying to approach it to the
3 migratory birds. Is that a way to explore it? Because
4 we certainly have banged our jaws and have -- you know,
5 Rick's been talking about that since -- a long time,
6 and so has everybody else.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, go ahead,
9 Carl.

10

11 MR. JOHNSON: I think that's a sensible
12 approach dealing with similar issues where it's not
13 something the Board can do, and they would normally
14 refer it off to that agency anyway. So why not just go
15 ahead and have a direct correspondence with the agency
16 or the Refuge manager that actually has the authority
17 to do something, and then as part of your report say,
18 we have submitted this to the Refuge, to the agency.
19 This is still an issue of concern, we know it's not
20 something you deal with, but here's what we've
21 communities to other agencies, and then just include it
22 as an enclosure to your annual report.

23

24 And I would suggest probably that's
25 probably the more sensible way of approaching asking
26 for some type of management results regarding the
27 caribou on Unimak Island as well, because again the
28 Board will defer to the Refuge manager as being the
29 land manager that actually has the management authority
30 to do certain things about bringing up those cow/calf
31 or bull/cow ratios. And then that way say this is an
32 issue of concern. We've addressed this directly to the
33 Refuge manager. Here's a copy of the correspondence.
34 That may be a sensible way of doing it where you end up
35 getting fewer of these bureaucratic responses that I
36 know that Pat loves so well.

37

38 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. That's why I
39 retired, you know.

40

41 I was wondering, could we do, Mr.
42 Chairman, something similar and just advise the Federal
43 Board that our committee sent our recommendations on
44 Proposition 40, because of it's potential negative
45 impacts on our subsistence community, and then we're
46 just saying, hey, we're looking at this, too, that's
47 important. And then we can cc them our letter.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We have a response
50 to that Proposition 40.

1 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Okay.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: But as far as the
4 migratory bird, the emperor geese, I believe we
5 submitted a letter and we requested that they drop the
6 population threshold for emperor geese so that we can
7 have a favorable outcome to our proposal to have a
8 subsistence hunt on Kodiak Island.

9

10 You'll see in the migratory bird,
11 emperor geese report the population threshold had gone
12 down from 70 to 80, now it's down to 60 something.

13

14 MR. KOSO: They didn't do a report last
15 -- or this '13. They said it dropped, you know, nine
16 percent in '11.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: So we've requested
19 a lower population threshold, and how their surveys
20 have dropped below our request.

21

22 Peter.

23

24 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I
25 know, you know, I've served on this RAC a long time,
26 too, and it goes way, way back. We've been asking for
27 this subsistence on the emperor geese. And why can't
28 we use Kodiak as an example with our Canadian honker
29 geese? I mean, there was never a big population on the
30 island, but we're able to get a subsistence hunt on
31 them, or a hunt on them, and they're still increasing
32 very, very fast.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I think we can
35 probably ask Carl to research the whereabouts of the
36 proposal we submitted, and find out where that is. If
37 it's not going anywhere, then we can.....

38

39 MR. KOSO: Resubmit it again.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Re-establish
42 contact, resubmit the proposal. You know, whatever is
43 necessary to keep that going.

44

45 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. Because I don't
46 understand why they need that high of a number to have
47 a subsistence hunt. The way I've always felt, they
48 want to have it open statewide, not just a subsistence
49 hunt, so maybe I'm wrong, but it seems to me that's
50 what the goal is, and they're not going to open

1 anything unless they can open it for everything.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Why don't they
4 close it where they're doing it illegally.

5

6 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I'll
7 be happy to follow up on that letter that the Council
8 submitted to the Migratory Bird Co-Management Council
9 on the emperor geese.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Appreciate that.

12

13 Is there any other items we need to put
14 on the annual report?

15

16 MR. HOLMES: I've been struggling here,
17 because we don't want to dump everything on Carl. I
18 was trying to figure out something that our tribal
19 folks could toss into Glenn Chen's pocket so that he
20 would have a little extra work to do, but I haven't
21 come up with something, because he's usually so darn
22 good at getting things done that there's not so much
23 trouble from his neck of the woods.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If there's nothing
26 else we need to add to that report, I reserve the.....

27

28 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Would you like a motion
29 or just a directive to get this letter drafted and do
30 the same thing with this that you're doing with the
31 drafting letter, get it to us?

32

33 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah. That's correct.
34 There's no motion to be required. We've just had
35 discussion on the record, and the understanding was to
36 direct me to draft an annual report, so that's all
37 that's necessary.

38

39 MR. TUTIAKOFF: So that will be
40 available and we act on in March, right?

41

42 MR. JOHNSON: That is correct. So
43 we'll have the draft ready for you and included in your
44 meeting book for the March meeting.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I reserve the
47 Board's right to submit concerns at any time between
48 now and March -- April?

49

50 MR. TUTIAKOFF: March.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Now we're
2 at the calendar.
3
4 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Mr. Chair.
5
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Are we sure?
7
8 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Did we already approve
9 this March date already or are we stuck there by matter
10 of.....
11
12 MR. JOHNSON: For the March, for the
13 winter 2014 meeting, this Council selected that date at
14 its last meeting.
15
16 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Okay. So now we're
17 looking at the August to October meeting schedule,
18 right?
19
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: That is correct.
21 If you have nothing to change, to confirm your meeting
22 date, then we can go ahead and it's pretty much open
23 season on the fall. It's not indicated in here, but
24 the North Slope Council has set aside a three-day
25 window of August 19th through the 21st, meeting to be
26 determined -- location to be determined for its fall
27 meeting.
28
29 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
30 throw out a recommendation of September 9th through the
31 11th.
32
33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: 9th through the
34 11th.
35
36 MR. HOLMES: Where are we going to be?
37 Cold Bay?
38
39 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Cold Bay. At Cold Bay.
40
41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Set at King Cove.
42
43 MR. KOSO: King Cove, yeah.
44
45 MR. TUTIAKOFF: If we can get there.
46
47 MR. HOLMES: That's right. Yeah.
48
49 MR. KOSO: If not, we have it in Cold
50 Bay.

1 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Yeah. My alternate was
2 Cold Bay. Yeah. King Cove and an alternate of Cold
3 Bay.

4
5 MR. KOSO: I's propose that we have our
6 March here, the Kodiak one.

7
8 MR. HOLMES: I was wondering, is that
9 before the snowbirds show up.

10
11 MR. SQUARTSOFF: How come we don't have
12 it in Old Harbor or Port Lions? On this March meeting
13 here, we just got down with Kodiak. Does that mean
14 we're going to do it again here? We were scheduled for
15 Old Harbor a while back; we weren't able to keep that
16 on the agenda. It ended up in Kodiak.

17
18 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Due to weather.

19
20 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I know. I was
21 thinking Old Harbor was on the list, but we never, ever
22 made it there. Is there a chance that this March
23 meeting could happen in Old Harbor?

24
25 MR. JOHNSON: Well, the Council can
26 change its meeting location. Of course, as has been
27 discussed already, one of the primary things to deal
28 with that would be the cost associated. So one of my
29 tasks will be to do what's called a cost comparison for
30 having the meeting in Kodiak versus having a meeting in
31 Old Harbor.

32
33 And then comes up the intriguing issue
34 that Council Member Holmes indicated, and that is,
35 well, perhaps to save money you could have a meeting
36 where some people attend the meeting in person, some
37 telephonically, that included both Staff and Council
38 members, in order to still have meetings at some of the
39 non-hub village communities.

40
41 MR. KOSO: But I think you'd really
42 lose a lot of perspective by doing that though. When a
43 person could look you in the eye, it's a whole lot
44 easier and better for him to discuss what he wants to
45 happen, especially if you're in the local villages.
46 It's nice for everybody to sit up there where they
47 could look at a person and determine where he's coming
48 from more or less.

49
50 But anyway, I just thought that because

1 we had it scheduled for Old Harbor twice now, if I'm
2 not mistaken, and both times we canceled. I just think
3 it should be put back on the agenda to try to have it
4 at Old Harbor.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: You bet. Put it
7 as Old Harbor, and I'm pretty sure we'll do a cost
8 analysis, and we're going to do Kodiak as a fall back.

9
10 MS. BERNES: I think if you have any
11 questions about a cost analysis (Indiscernible -
12 microphone not on).

13
14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I think one of the
15 concerns with going to a village was lodging. Some of
16 the lodging was not -- they've got to be able to take,
17 I don't know, government PO's or something.

18
19 MS. BERNES: That's not a problem in Old
20 Harbor. We've got several lodges and they're all
21 basically set up to be able to take PO's and credit
22 cards and whatnot.

23
24 MR. JOHNSON: And are those lodges open
25 in the middle of the winter?

26
27 MS. BERNES: Yes. Actually there's two
28 that are open year round, and then two of them close
29 down. And then we've got B&Bs as well, so there's
30 plenty of lodging available.

31
32 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Good. So I'll
33 coordinate with you on that, because I know one of the
34 problems we've run into in some of the other regions is
35 that in some of the more remote villages there are
36 lodges, but they're not open in the middle of winter,
37 so that's good to know.

38
39 MR. HOLMES: Here's a question for you,
40 Carl. How about in some of these cases if we were to
41 stay in a private home and not charge per diem as you
42 file a per diem claim if you're staying in a commercial
43 facility, but like we're here, I don't ever do one,
44 because I live over there a half mile. And what if I
45 had Vince stay at my house next time for -- you know,
46 just that kind of example, is if we had -- I mean, Old
47 Harbor's got lodges, but if we reduced the price and I
48 stayed at my grandson's place.

49
50 MR. JOHNSON: Well, actually the per

1 diem doesn't relate to whether or not you stay in a
2 commercial facility. It relates to whether or not
3 you're traveling away from your home community.

4
5 MR. HOLMES: Old Harbor's close enough
6 to home.

7
8 MS. BERNIS: I think we'll be able to
9 offset a lot of these meeting costs just with the
10 facility use. I'm sure that you're paying quite a bit
11 for, you know, the use of this facility. And with
12 doing it in a village, I know I can gladly say that the
13 tribe and the corporation would offer their space for
14 free. And we also have VTC capabilities, too, so if
15 there is other Staff members that wish to participate
16 via VTC, that's also available.

17
18 MR. JOHNSON: Well, I can tell you that
19 per diem and venue cost rank pretty low as far as the
20 costs associated with conducting these meetings go. The
21 number 1 issue would travel. You have -- this is the
22 most expensive Council to conduct travel, just because,
23 you know, there's a lot of complicated connections you
24 have to make back and forth. So that's really the
25 primary issue is the air fare associated with getting
26 the Council members around.

27
28 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Mr. Chair.

29
30 MR. HOLMES: Well, if we went to Old
31 Harbor on the Refuge boat and the Fish and Game boat, I
32 think that would -- all we'd see is Tom Kron on there.

33
34 MR. KOSO: You can catch the ferry.
35 The ferry goes.

36
37 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. Since
38 we're just having thoughts about where we should go,
39 and what we should do, I just mentioned it to Rick, you
40 know, Cold Bay or King Cove, we just as well have that
41 meeting in Anchorage, because there's a lot people from
42 out the Chain in Anchorage. I know quite a few of them
43 that live there in Anchorage from out in that area. We
44 might have more people from King Cove at a meeting if
45 we had it in Anchorage.

46
47 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. There is no
48 requirement that you conduct your meetings within your
49 region. Two falls ago the North Slope and Northwest
50 Arctic conducted a joint meeting in Anchorage. This

1 coming winter the Southeast and Southcentral Council
2 are going to be conducting a joint meeting in
3 Anchorage.

4
5 MR. HOLMES: That's a good point. And
6 it would be really interesting if we could work the
7 timing out particularly while the criteria are being
8 discussed, to be able to be in Anchorage at the same
9 time as the Southeast RAC. Even if we had the meeting
10 the day before and they had the day after, then we'd
11 all be there, and we could interact and talk on the
12 situation, because, you know, there's so much
13 similarities in some of the issues, particularly on the
14 criteria between our RAC and Southeast, more so than
15 with Northwest Arctic.

16
17 MR. JOHNSON: Well, I would suggest to
18 that that if that's something you're interested in,
19 that you teleconference into the Southcentral and
20 Southeast RAC meeting when they have that in March in
21 Anchorage.

22
23 Okay. Mr. Chair. So at this time what
24 I'm hearing from the Council, and what I will indicate
25 is that the Council would like to explore the
26 opportunity for conducting the winter 2014 meeting,
27 March 20th and 21st, in Old Harbor. I'll with Melissa
28 here on the cost comparison.

29
30 And then I heard a three-date period of
31 September 9th through the 11th, primary location King
32 Cove, secondary location Cold Bay. So is that correct,
33 a three-day meeting?

34
35 MR. KOSO: Two-day meeting with two
36 days travel.

37
38 MR. JOHNSON: Two days -- okay. So do
39 you have a preference as to what days you actually
40 conduct the meeting, would that be.....

41
42 MR. TUTIAKOFF: 9 and 10th, because
43 we'll have to travel out of Anchorage.

44
45 MR. JOHNSON: Right. Okay. So the 9th
46 and 10th for the meeting, travel dates the 8th and the
47 11th.

48
49 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Yes. Correct.
50 September 8th would be a travel day for most of us down

1 that direction, and then back out on the 11th.
2
3 MR. JOHNSON: All right. Thank you for
4 that clarification.
5
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Do we need
7 a motion to accept our calendar.
8
9 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I so move.
10
11 MR. KOSO: Second.
12
13 MR. TUTIAKOFF: I third.
14
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and
16 seconded. Any discussion.
17
18 MR. HOLMES: Tom might want to mention
19 to some of his colleagues that were thinking about
20 getting a freebie trip that the silvers aren't there
21 then, and the berry picking -- probably the blueberries
22 might be a little bit green.
23
24 (Laughter)
25
26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
27 discussion.
28
29 (No comments)
30
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no further
32 discussion, is there objections.
33
34 (No comments)
35
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
37 objections the motion carries.
38
39 MR. KOSO: One more motion to be made.
40
41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any closing
42 comments. Carl.
43
44 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair, I hate to do
45 this to you and the members of the Council, but based
46 on Pat's draft letter regarding Proposal 40 for the
47 Joint Board, I added some additional language, which is
48 some of our standard language we do, introductory
49 language about the Councils and what they do. I've
50 passed that out. It's a two-page there. So hopefully

1 you've had a chance to review that. We don't
2 necessarily have to do it right now to finalize the
3 language, but I wanted to call that to your attention.
4 And I'll email around an electronic copy to the
5 Council, so if you want to have an additional chance to
6 look at it and provide comments. But the sooner we get
7 that done, the better since that meeting is coming up
8 here in just a few weeks.

9
10 Also, in your brown folders you'll see
11 there were three draft letters from your last Council
12 meeting that have been drafted, and I just saw them for
13 the first time just right before this meeting. These
14 have not been finalized and sent out yet, so I wanted
15 to see if the Council had any changes they wanted to
16 make, or if they were happy with the draft language as
17 indicated.

18
19 And for the record, this would be a
20 letter to Joseph Masters, Commissioner, Department of
21 Public Safety; a letter to Karl Johnstone, Karl with a
22 K, Chairman, Alaska Board of Fisheries; and then Cora
23 Campbell, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and
24 Game.

25
26 These were authorized on the record by
27 the Council. I just wanted to see if the Council had
28 any additions or changes. And again we don't have to
29 do that right now on the record, but please forward to
30 me any changes you would like to make, if necessary.
31 If not, then I can go ahead and get those processed
32 through so they can be submitted.

33
34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35
36 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I read those
39 letters. I didn't see anything that I needed to change
40 on there.

41
42 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Mr. Chair. I would say
43 maybe we just set a date for Mr. Johnson to -- if he
44 hasn't received any response from the Council members
45 by, I don't know, pick a date here, then he could send
46 them out. Get a signature and send them out. That
47 would give us a couple of days for a couple of Council
48 members that maybe didn't get it yet or haven't read it
49 all the way.

50

1 I've read this one to the Alaska Board
2 of Game on the Board support of sections. We won't act
3 on that one. I read Joe Masters' letter and the other
4 one here just yesterday.

5
6 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I
7 scanned through these, and I appreciate Carl's using
8 the extra language here on 40, and, you know, that's
9 fine. It looks good. The other letters are good.
10 They're a little more polite than I would have done
11 them in the earlier part of the drafts.

12
13 (Laughter)

14
15 MR. HOLMES: And our previous
16 coordinator eliminated some of that, and, what the
17 heck, let's just send it to them. God knows if they're
18 do anything anyway, so let's just go.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

21
22 MR. TUTIAKOFF: These three, right?

23
24 MR. KOSO: It's okay with me, too. I
25 think we've got everybody here that had a chance to go
26 over those.

27
28 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Do you need a motion or
29 you just follow directions and send them out.

30
31 MR. KOSO: I think we could make a
32 decision here right now on them.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah.

35
36 MR. JOHNSON: A motion won't be
37 necessary since again the Council's already had motions
38 related to these correspondence and approved them. I
39 just wanted to confirm that the Council is satisfied
40 with the language so I could move them forward at OSM
41 for processing and delivery.

42
43 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Mr. Chair. I'm happy
44 with it. Move on.

45
46 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I'm okay with it.

47
48 MR. KOSO: I'm okay with you.

49
50 MR. HOLMES: And I'll bless you,

1 Brother Carl.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. We're still
6 on closing comments.

7

8 I would like thank the Federal
9 Subsistence Board for coming to our meeting. And I'd
10 hope to see you guys at every one of our meetings. But
11 thank you very much for coming.

12

13 And the public that was here, they all
14 made their testimonies. Now they're all out doing
15 something else, but thank them, too.

16

17 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Mitch. I just
18 wish, you know, some of the public would stay and
19 listen to some of the other things we go through on
20 this RAC besides just one issue.

21

22 MR. HOLMES: I'll work on that.

23

24 MR. KOSO: I have a hard time staying
25 awake myself. I don't know how they could do it.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Thanks, Mr. Chair.
30 Well, this meeting went very well, and I appreciate the
31 public's input, and also the Federal Subsistence Board
32 members that were here. Of course, all of our Staff
33 for the reports that they make, because we're sitting
34 out there in limbo in our little dreamworld of
35 subsistence and in our homes, and a lot of things are
36 happening. And until we get to these kinds of meetings
37 and other meetings that I attend, I don't hear anything
38 about them, so I'm happy to be here and get things
39 done, and hopefully protect our lifestyle also,
40 subsistence.

41

42 MR. KOSO: Hey, John, just one more
43 question. I got -- this is kind of like my last
44 meeting right now. We've got the next meeting. When
45 do we find out if we've made this next Board selection
46 or not?

47

48 MR. JOHNSON: That's a good question.
49 So at this point in time the Federal Subsistence Board
50 has concluded its recommendations. Those

1 recommendations have now been forwarded to the
2 Secretary of the Interior for action. And so they're
3 currently in D.C. undergoing review. And we expect and
4 hope that your appointment letters will come out in,
5 you know, late November/early December, in time for
6 reappointment. So that's when you'll find out, and
7 that's when we'll find out as to whether you've been
8 reappointed to the Council, or there will be new
9 Council members seated.

10

11 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Mr. Chair. That
12 happened to me. It went -- for some reason it went six
13 months, and I under the rules had to attend the -- or
14 was required to attend until I was replaced. I don't
15 know why they didn't make their recommendations. It
16 had to do with some kind of timing, or maybe it's
17 election year, or somebody's out stomping around,
18 didn't do their job.

19

20 MR. HOLMES: Well, it seems to me we
21 had a member one time that was coming and practicing on
22 our meetings, and then he found out a year later that
23 he wasn't even on, so sometimes things slip up.

24

25 With the Council's permission, I
26 thought of another point. We praised ADF&G on the
27 Alaska Peninsula, and I think we should do the same for
28 Fish and Wildlife Service and ADF&G Staffs here in
29 Kodiak, because I think particularly since Kent's been
30 on at the Refuge as the acting manager, they're really
31 doing a lot of work in the community, a lot of
32 outreach, a lot of communications. They're
33 anticipating and answering our questions, so if we
34 could add the Refuge and local ADF&G in there, because
35 they all help in our Kodiak model of solving things
36 between the Council and the State.

37

38 And I guess one of my closing remarks
39 is I agree with the other members, I'm really glad that
40 Brad came. Like my buddy Bertram Adams said, he's a
41 good guy. And I think that he honestly cares about
42 subsistence and trying to weed through this bureaucracy
43 and making things work.

44

45

46 And my final comment I hope, grab my
47 rattle on again, is I am so proud to be on our Council.
48 I got comments from the audience on some folks that
49 generally don't show up, and they said, wow, you guys
50 are really professional. You get down, you get to

1 business, you joke, you have fun, but you get things
2 done, and you care about our communities. And that's
3 just a feel good comment to me, and it relates to all
4 of you. And I just really enjoy this, so thanks a lot.
5 You guys are -- everybody's great.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Mr.
8 Cribley.

9

10 MR. CRIBLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I
11 would like the opportunity to thank the Board for the
12 invite to come down to Kodiak and participate in this
13 meeting. I think this is probably one of the more
14 important meetings that has been held, particularly
15 dealing with the rural determination issue. It was
16 very helpful for me to come in, listen to your
17 dialogue, your concerns, your issues, and also to hear
18 the public's perception of what's going on and their
19 recommendations.

20

21 And it's also helped me from the
22 standpoint of just realizing the importance of
23 subsistence to you folks here in the rural communities
24 and such.

25

26 And I want to thank you folks for the
27 work that you're doing, the commitment that you're
28 making, and the 14 other things that you do in these
29 local communities, because there's only so many people
30 to do it, and it seems like every one of you are
31 involved with numerous different issues and such. And
32 I know it takes a lot of time. But from my
33 perspective, this is really important, and the time and
34 effort and the thought that you're putting into it
35 benefits not only you sitting at the table, but
36 everybody out in these communities. And I want to
37 thank you for that.

38

39 And hopefully some day I'll get a
40 chance to come back. It's been very -- it's helpful
41 for me to get out into the small communities, the
42 different communities in the State just to learn about
43 what's going on, and what your issues and perspectives
44 are, because everybody has a different perspective on
45 what's going on. So this has been one more for me to
46 help me in doing my job better. And I hope that I can
47 do that for you.

48

49 I am just a bureaucrat, but we try to
50 listen and learn from that, and we'll try to use that

1 wisdom to help us in crafting the decisions on rural
2 determination for your future, so thank you.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. I'm
5 sure the Council is appreciative of the Federal
6 Subsistence Board sending members out. And I do
7 remember making that request having Board members come
8 to our meetings to get more knowledge of what happens
9 in rural areas. Thanks again.

10

11 If there's nothing further, the last
12 item would be.....

13

14 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Move to adjourn.

15

16 MR. KOSO: Second.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. We're
19 adjourned.

20

21 (Off record)

22

23 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 77 through 213 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the KODIAK/ALEUTIANS FEDERAL SUBSISTENCEREGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME

II taken electronically on the 25th day of September 2013, beginning at the hour of 8:20 a.m. at Kodiak, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed under my direction;

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 8th day of October 2013.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 9/16/14