

1 KODIAK/ALEUTIANS ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

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6
7 VOLUME II

8
9 Kodiak, Alaska
10 March 27, 2013
11 9:00 a.m.

12
13
14 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 15
16 Vincent Tutiakoff, Acting Chairman
17 Melissa Berns
18 Patrick Holmes
19 Richard Koso
20 Samuel Rohrer
21 Thomas Schwantes
22 Antone Shelikoff
23 Speridon Simeonoff
24 Peter Squartsoff
25 Della Trumble
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30 Regional Council Coordinator, Tom Jennings

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Kodiak, Alaska - 3/27/2013)

(On record)

ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Good morning.
I'll call the meeting back into session. Good morning
everybody.

A quick reminder, for public comments,
please sign in up there and bring the sheet forward for
any items on the agenda.

Turn your phones off, please. Me, too.

Della and Mitch, are you on?

MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair. Della has
signified she's on. And Tom Evans from OSM, wildlife
biologist. Those are the two that are on so far.

Thank you.

ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thanks.

MS. JENKINS-BRITO: This is Susie
Jenkins-Brito with the Alaska Department of Fish and
Game out of Dillingham.

ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: All right.

Thank you, Susie.

I'll quickly review our agenda for
today. We've got about four action items to take care
of toward the end of the meeting. We'll be taking up
Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge and ADF&G, any public
comments, and then we'll take up action items.

So is anyone here from Kodiak.

Thank you.

MR. COBB: Good morning. My name's
McCrea Cobb. I'm a wildlife biologist here for Kodiak
Refuge. And I'll be providing you with our Federal
subsistence report for the last six months. You'll
find this on Page 110 of your meeting material.

1 Before I get started here, I wanted to
2 make an announcement that Kodiak will be -- a new
3 manager will be arriving at Kodiak, a new refuge
4 manager, in May. His name is Bo Sloan, and he'll be
5 coming to us from McGrath. He was the refuge manager
6 at Innoko National Wildlife Refuge there. So he'll be
7 coming here again in May.

8
9 So we have our activity report arranged
10 basically by species or group here. And you can see
11 that Table 1 shows the most recent Federal permits
12 issued for subsistence hunting.

13
14 We have a number of continuing brown
15 bear research projects and monitoring projects on the
16 Refuge that have continued and will be continuing this
17 summer. In cooperation with ADF&G, we conduct annual
18 surveys to assess the trend in population size and
19 composition. In May of 2012 we were unable to complete
20 the survey due to unsuitable weather within the Karluk
21 intensive aerial survey area, so we'll be repeating
22 this area again this May.

23
24 We completed seven stream use surveys
25 for bears this past summer on tributaries in the
26 Karluk, Red Lake, Frazer Lake, Surgeon River, and Dog
27 Salmon area. The results from these showed that
28 overall average bears per survey was lower than the
29 previous year and almost half of the 27-year average.
30 Single bears represented a larger fraction of the
31 composition in this past year's survey as well than the
32 long-term average.

33
34 We have a number of bear research
35 projects continuing as well. Field work has been
36 focusing on bear movements and resource use within
37 southwest Kodiak, specifically Karluk Lake, Red Lake,
38 and Frazer Lake. Again this is a collaborative project
39 between the Refuge, University of Montana, University
40 of Idaho, and ADF&G. And the results will enable us to
41 improve management capacity on Kodiak by improving our
42 understanding of movements, habitat use, and cub
43 survival and how that's influenced by variations in
44 environmental factors, specifically salmon.

45
46 And in 2012 we initiated a new
47 collaborative research project with the University of
48 Montana to understand how fluctuations in salmon
49 abundance influence brown bear movements,
50 distributions, and uses of streams. So you can read

1 there's a number of goals associated with that project,
2 and we'll be continuing that project through 2014,
3 which will eventually result in a Ph.D. dissertation.

4

5 As you all know, the Sitka black-tailed
6 deer took a hard hit this past winter. Along with the
7 State, we assessed harvest of Sitka black-tailed deer
8 through a questionnaire to hunters. The questionnaire
9 went on line recently, in 2011, and we've been working
10 with ADF&G to integrate a question on hunting on
11 Federal land, which would give us a better idea of uses
12 of deer on the Refuge.

13

14 The past -- results from the survey in
15 2011 and 2012 indicated that between four and a half
16 thousand and 5,200 deer were harvested in the
17 archipelago. Results from this past year are still
18 pending; however we anticipate that they're lower than
19 the previous year based on an estimated mortality last
20 winter of 40 to 60 percent of the deer on Kodiak.

21

22 Kodiak's deer are primarily regulated
23 by winter conditions, and fluctuations like what we've
24 seen in this past year have happened a number of times.

25

26 This past spring we tested a new method
27 to survey deer in non-forested areas on the Refuge.
28 Using the method, we were able to get a population
29 estimate with statistical confidence for the
30 experimental study area, which was the Aliulik
31 Peninsula. This spring we'll be expanding upon this
32 survey method and into more areas of non-forested
33 habitat in southern Kodiak Island, so that we can get
34 an index of population changes, annual population
35 changes of the deer. The method also appears to be
36 able to identify carcasses, so we hope to be able to
37 get an idea of annual mortality rate over the over the
38 winter through this method as well.

39

40 ADF&G has a number of radio-collared
41 elk that they use to estimate herd composition and
42 population size, and harvest quotas. The Waterfall
43 herd which occurs on the Refuge on Afognak Island
44 appears stable from 2011 at about 40 elk. From this we
45 have concluded that it appears that the elk population
46 was substantially hit by this past winter like the deer
47 were, and were able to make it through this past winter
48 relatively unscathed.

49

50 The Refuge works with the Marine

1 Mammals Management Office in Anchorage on a number of
2 sea otter research and monitoring programs, projects.
3 We've been working with them to try to review the
4 existing survey method that's been used in the past for
5 assessing the number of sea otters that we have here in
6 Kodiak. So that's still in the works. Once this is
7 completed, we're going to be applying this method to
8 Kodiak to get an updated estimate of how many sea
9 otters are on the archipelago.

10
11 We've continued to work with them also
12 on a project looking at their diets, causes of
13 mortality. And we also work with them in their marking
14 and tagging program as taggers. This past six months
15 we've tagged eight sea otters on the Refuge. There's
16 also 15 taggers distributed in villages on Kodiak
17 Island.

18
19 A number of monitoring and research
20 projects are involved on the Refuge here for migratory
21 birds. We have a coastal water bird survey that
22 continued in 2012 that was initiated in 2011 on marine
23 near-shore birds. That covers both intertidal zone and
24 inshore shallow waters.

25
26 This past summer we conducted a survey
27 in June and August when the majority of the birds have
28 established nests and populations are relatively
29 stable, using Ursa Major as a mobile base and then
30 conducting the surveys from skiffs.

31
32 We conducted 93 transects covering
33 about 2,000 kilometers of shoreline. And this past
34 season it was focused from Spruce Island and Kizhuyak
35 Bay northward. It included Raspberry, Afognak, and
36 Shuyak Islands. The table, I'm not sure what page it
37 is, but it's Table 2, shows the results from that
38 effort. And you can see there, the most commonly
39 encountered birds were Black-legged kittiwakes,
40 glucous-winged gulls, tufted and horned puffins,
41 marbled murrelets, and a number of others. And this
42 new survey is an improvement over the previous methods
43 which only included marine waters adjacent to refuge
44 lands and had limited ability to detect increasing,
45 decreasing, or stable populations.

46
47 Work was also done on banding as well
48 and contaminants sampling. Refuge biologists have been
49 banding sea ducks almost annually, and it's primarily
50 been focused on harlequin duck. We've banded over 1300

1 birds since 1996. And by gathering these data, we're
2 able to learn about annual changes in survival, also
3 movement, harvest patterns, and hunter demographics.

4
5 Just as an interesting find, in 2006
6 the Refuge biologist discovered a group of over 100
7 Barrow's goldeneye in Blue Fox Bay, molting. It's part
8 of the Kodiak Refuge. And although they're a common
9 bird on Kodiak, it's pretty unusual to find them molt
10 large -- or on marine areas. Normally they molt on
11 large fresh water complexes in Interior Alaska. So at
12 Blue Fox Bay where the group of females has been banded
13 for three years may be one of the only locations where
14 the species molts in marine environments.

15
16 This past year the Refuge was awarded
17 funding from Fish and Wildlife's Avian Health and
18 Disease Program to take blood samples from a subsample
19 of ducks for contaminant analysis. And they're
20 specifically interested in PCBs and trace metals in a
21 subset of species, and wanted to see whether or not
22 contaminants levels in ducks in remote locations, how
23 that compared to ducks that were closer to the town of
24 Kodiak.

25
26 So in 2012, this past summer, we banded
27 a number of harlequin ducks and goldeneye, and we
28 recaptured some of these that had previously been
29 banded, took blood samples which will be analyzed for
30 contaminants. So we're awaiting these results, and we
31 hope to expanding the banding and blood collection
32 efforts to additional areas this past -- this next
33 season.

34
35 So I'm going to brush over the
36 fisheries results. These results come from ADF&G, and
37 they'll be talked about I think in more detail later.
38 But I will talk about we have a project that's a joint
39 project between Koniag, Alaska Department of Fish and
40 Game, and the Refuge to estimate steelhead population
41 sizes in the Karluk River. And we're focusing on
42 steelhead because it appears that recently sports and
43 subsistence users are focusing more attention on the
44 species.

45
46 Our RIT Tonya Lee has been busy, has a
47 busy schedule planned for this summer, and she plans to
48 visit Larsen Bay to deliver an open house event for the
49 community aboard the Ursa Major II. And it will have
50 displays covering nature and the environment and

1 current wildlife research and monitoring efforts that
2 the Refuge has been doing.

3
4 We're also working with the Karluk
5 School to provide a means to allow students from Karluk
6 to participate in the event in Larsen Bay, try to get
7 them over there.

8
9 We have wildlife program and kits
10 available for instructors in local schools. And if
11 you're interested or know of anyone interested in
12 these, contact Tonya and she can give you more
13 information on specific programs that we have.

14
15 With that, I'd be happy to answer any
16 questions. We have our acting Refuge Manager Kent
17 Sunsdeth and our biologist here as well that can help
18 me answer any questions as well.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Thank you.

23
24 Any questions.

25
26 Pat.

27
28 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, McCrea. I guess
29 I'll start at the back. I took a look at some of
30 Tonya's kits and chatted about her program, and I'm
31 really impressed. I used to do something on a smaller
32 scale here in town when I was working with the
33 Department, and I think Tonya is a real asset to your
34 program. And I know the folks from the tribes here in
35 town have similar comments, and people I've chatted to
36 in the villages, too.

37
38 On your bear program, I noted in your
39 survey's there an increase in single bears in your
40 survey area, and it looks like changes in the
41 population that you were commenting on. And I'm glad
42 to see that you're looking forward to doing a big
43 picture on the relationships with salmon. Your
44 research biologist back in the 80's there kind of
45 raised that question. And, you know, I can't help but
46 wonder -- maybe I'd put it in the frame of a question.
47 I understand you folks have seen a shift from bears
48 from the Karluk moving south, and more bears down
49 around Ayakulik, and is that in your mind kind of
50 linked with salmon abundance as well, because those

1 runs at Karluk have been cut one pulse or so, but as a
2 rule the last several years have been on the decline?

3

4 MR. COBB: We have our bear biologist,
5 Bill Leacock here I believe, and, yeah, I think he'd be
6 able to speak better upon that than I would. I'm going
7 to defer to him here.

8

9 MR. LEACOCK: Yes, a good question.
10 Thanks for your interest.

11

12 Some of the information from our
13 collared bears in the past three years have shown that
14 there has been bears that were collared in the Karluk
15 Basin, for example, did move to the Ayakulik drainage
16 in response evidently to better salmon runs. But
17 interestingly enough, this year there was a pretty good
18 run within the Karluk Basin, but we still saw very low
19 numbers in the Karluk Basin. It just may be an
20 artifact of the pattern for the last three years or so
21 of relatively low abundance in the Karluk Basin, and
22 pretty good abundance in the Ayakulik/Red system.

23

24 MR. HOLMES: Well, maybe culturally
25 they haven't readapted to the change and moved over. I
26 know working down at Frazer sometimes when the upper
27 Thumb was strong, and Karluk, you would see within 12
28 hours of when the fish hit the fish pass at Frazer,
29 before that there might be one bear, and then 12 hours
30 later or over night, then you'd -- once the fish were
31 there, you'd see 12 or 14 bears show up. And I've been
32 teasing some of your folks for a long time about trying
33 to do some ESP studies on them and see what sort of
34 perceptive things they're keying in on, whether it's
35 mergansers or kittiwakes they see over the mountain
36 flying by, who knows. But it's incredible how fast
37 they can move and adjust when they don't have something
38 to eat and the fish show up somewhere else.

39

40 MR. LEACOCK: Yeah, it certainly is.
41 And you see some of the patterns that we've seen, they
42 go on walk-about of sorts, okay, and they go to -- you
43 know, they obviously have past knowledge and they go to
44 different streams or tributaries and it looks like they
45 go to these different tributaries, and if they are
46 good, there was fish there, they stay; if not, they
47 high-tail it out of there and go and check out other
48 ones. But there's a lot more to it than just walk-
49 abouts and.....

50

1 MR. HOLMES: Uh-huh. My next question,
2 Mr. Chair, is on the deer populations and your new
3 surveys. And my question is on the guesstimate on the
4 population drop on deer. I assume that's a qualitative
5 one, or are you folks -- the last time I had to
6 teleconference, because were down in the States and had
7 a new grandson, and I asked the question if you folks
8 were --for quite a while we had those mortality studies
9 on the outer capes where the deer seem to drift in a
10 bad year to eat kelp and then counting carcasses. And
11 so I'm wondering if this 40 to 60 percent was based on
12 your mortality surveys, or is that just sort of a best
13 guess between your shop and Larry and talking to folks.
14

15 MR. COBB: Pat, through the Chair.
16 Thanks, that's a good question. The 40 to 60 percent
17 estimate of mortality from this past winter comes from
18 a number of different sources. And it is an
19 interagency sort of collaborative estimate.
20

21 I'd say the primary source that we use
22 is the survey that we this past May on the Aliulik
23 Peninsula, and given it is one area on the archipelago,
24 it did give us an index I guess of the number of deer
25 there, and the number of dead. And during the survey,
26 we did line transects at low levels, low enough where
27 we could clearly see hair piles of deer. And they
28 stuck pretty evident from the rest of the vegetation,
29 and so we counted those along with the deer that we
30 saw. And assuming that there's no movement in between
31 when they died and when they were there, we counted
32 about half as many carcasses as the number of deer that
33 we counted. So from that, we estimate about 50 percent
34 or so deer in that area die over the winter. And so we
35 use that as the quantitative side. And we also use
36 qualitative sides from talking with hunters, some of
37 the guides, and Larry VanDaele as well has talks with a
38 number of the public, villages. And so from that we
39 know that that estimate varies depending on where you
40 re on the island, but overall that's the range what we
41 went with this past winter.
42

43 MR. HOLMES: Thank you. Yeah, the
44 qualitative index is the liars' table down at King's
45 Diner. You know, the Aliulik is probably the last
46 place where there's any numbers of deer at all to die.
47 Yeah. At least that's the conjecture of the geezers.
48 And, you know, north end, they seem to be pretty darn
49 thin. I know I haven't seen anything I could shoot on
50 the road system last year, but then I can't get so far

1 up the hill as I used to, either.

2

3

But thank you.

4

5 And then I had a question on the sea
6 otters. I'm glad to see you discussion sampling
7 design. One time many years ago we had a presentation
8 on that. And I got the impression that they were
9 flying basically line transects around the island. And
10 I certainly would suggest that you encourage them to
11 use some adaptive sampling techniques and expand where
12 they do see them, because all the years I've been
13 either commercial fishing or going out on Fish and Game
14 work on the boats, I've noted that there's a really
15 strong visual relationship to the way the wind's
16 blowing. And sometimes, you know, I've heard them say
17 the numbers are down, but, you know, if you're having
18 westerlies or easterlies makes a big difference as to
19 where those aggregations -- I'm sure you've seen it
20 yourself along the Bay, so perhaps they should explore,
21 you know, some adaptive techniques in their sampling
22 design. And I think they might be coming up with quite
23 different numbers.

24

25 MR. COBB: Yeah, if I could speak to
26 that just for a moment. The method that was used in
27 the past on Kodiak, I'm not sure if it's the one you're
28 referring to, it is a published method that results in
29 a pretty good I would say estimate of the number of sea
30 otters with some statistical confidence around it.
31 Right now we're working to adapt that method so that we
32 can use it over a wider area for less money basically.
33 It's a very intensive survey method. It requires
34 circling a plane quite a bit to get really fine, good
35 views of sea otter groups. So we're hoping to use that
36 same method and adapt it so that we can do it less
37 expensively, more efficiently over a wider area, and
38 with less logistics.

39

40 MR. HOLMES: Thank you. It sounds like
41 they've already made some adjustments in their sampling
42 design over 20 years ago or so.

43

44 And I had one other question relating
45 to harlequins, because our former Council member,
46 elder, Alex Panamaroff, Jr., over in Larsen Bay has had
47 questions, you know, relating to the sport hunting of
48 harlequins and the other ducks by, you know, non-
49 residents from Europe. And I know some of the guides
50 there are very conscientious and have a high degree of

1 scruples, and yet, you know, have heard some rumors of
2 other folks that aren't so, and so with the -- I guess
3 I'll just change this into a statement, you can correct
4 me if I'm wrong. It seems, because from what we've
5 heard from you folks, the harlequins tend to have a
6 very strong winter homing, and hang out in the same
7 locations. You know, there seems to be almost a
8 resident winter population of harlequins, and I think
9 that's something some of the old timers have noticed,
10 too, and so they're just kind of worried about what's
11 happening with the population and what the removals
12 are. And so if I stepped out of line there, please
13 correct me, but I really hope that you folks do a good
14 job on checking the harlequins and the other soup
15 ducks, because that's something of great concern to
16 folks over there.

17

18 Thank you. Sorry, Mr. Chairman.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Any more
21 comments.

22

23 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Questions.

26 Tom. Tom first.

27

28 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair.

29

30 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Getting a lot of
31 music.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, go ahead

34 Della.

35

36 MS. TRUMBLE: Yeah, hearing a lot of
37 music on here.

38

39 (Off record comments re phone
40 connection)

41

42 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Pete, you had
43 a question.

44

45 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, I just have a
46 little bit of concern about the deer. I went down to
47 Old Harbor this last fall, and it's the first time in
48 all the years I've been going there I didn't see not
49 one deer. So I don't know what Melissa feels about
50 that, and Mitch down in Akhiok, but I really think

1 there needs to be a little more research on it. 40 to
2 60 percent, I don't know, it might be maybe 75 percent,
3 or maybe even higher mortality this last winter. And I
4 did hunting on Afognak, and the north end seems to be
5 okay, but there wasn't any spike deer, it was only
6 forked deer, and no big deer. It's a little scary to
7 see what's happening there.

8

9 And I don't know if you guys are going
10 to propose to change the limits for this next year or
11 not after your survey's this spring.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: McCrea.

14

15 MR. COBB: Thank you. As I mentioned I
16 think that everyone agrees that the deer mortalities
17 varies depending on where you are in the archipelago,
18 so it is possible that there are pockets as you're
19 describing that have very high mortality. And there's
20 definitely a need for more information and better
21 information to be able to better manage this species.
22 We don't have any plans, any desire to change the
23 hunting regulations at the moment. Everything that's
24 been seen in the past, and this is agreed between us
25 and the State, shows that hunting is not additive
26 mortality to the deer here on Kodiak. It doesn't have
27 a big impact on population changes every year. The
28 primary change is winter conditions. And the
29 population fluctuated with that. And regardless of
30 higher or lower hunting pressure. And because of that,
31 we don't have plans for changes right now.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Yes, Melissa.

34

35 MS. BERNS: I fish throughout -- or
36 hunt throughout Sitkalidak Island, and also around the
37 Refuge land on -- around Old Harbor. And throughout
38 this last winter I'll say that I as well as well as
39 many other members of the community have not taken or
40 harvested deer, and it's due to the numbers of deer
41 that are out there. We spend many days out where we'd
42 only see I think -- over three days I'd only seen like
43 six deer. And they were does and they had their fawns.
44 And just because of the numbers of deers that we were
45 seeing, we chose not to take them.

46

47 So I will mimic what Pete says, is that
48 I do believe that it is a higher mortality rate. Last
49 year we were seeing them in groups of like 50, gosh, I
50 believe on Ocean Beach side, I'd seen them in groups of

1 100 down low because of the amount of snowfall that had
2 pushed them down into large groups. And this year
3 going out, it's not the same. You don't see them at
4 all.

5

6 So that's on the deer side.

7

8 I had a question about the bear side.
9 Looking at the amount of bears that were taken for
10 subsistence, and I'm not sure if every community on the
11 island is participating in the subsistence bear hunts.
12 It shows that you guys are giving out the permits, and
13 they're not being hunted; is that correct? So it's
14 like in 2010, 2011, seven were given out and one was
15 hunted; is that correct?

16

17 MR. COBB: That's correct.

18

19 MS. BERNS: And so on. From looking at
20 this data, I'm looking at the number of bears that are
21 taken, and from my experience, I know that these bears
22 are being taken from Old Harbor; is that correct? At
23 least for like the last several years, I know that
24 these bears were.....

25

26 MR. COBB: Old Harbor and Akhiok.

27

28 MS. BERNS: Akhiok has taken subsistence bears.
29 Okay. How would a community go about increasing bear
30 limit if they would like to maybe take -- I know that
31 we're given two a year, if we'd like to get three, how
32 would a community go about requesting that.

33

34 MR. COBB: I'm not really sure of the
35 process of that. Perhaps Ken Sunsdeth is going to
36 answer that. Our deputy.

37

38 MR. SUNSDETH: Those regulations are
39 set by the Federal Subsistence Board, so that would be
40 a Federal Subsistence Board process that you would have
41 to go through to adjust those limits or seasons.

42

43 MS. BERNS: Okay. Thank you. I know
44 that in Old Harbor it's something that we really take
45 pride in, and something that the community benefits
46 from. A lot of the harvest is used for our subsistence
47 potlucks. And the hides are used for arts and crafts
48 and down to the guts and everything else. We use very
49 part of the animal. And each year there's probably a
50 list of 12 people that apply to get those permits, and

1 only two are given out.

2

3 This year my daughter, who's 12 years
4 old, she received one of those bear permits, and she's
5 really excited to go out with her uncle, to be able to
6 go and hunt that. And I know last year we had two --
7 one gal, she had gone out and gotten her bear, it was
8 her first bear. And we also had a 16-year-old young
9 man. And so it is a great program that I'd like to see
10 continue, and if possible look at getting additional
11 permits for our community.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, Tom.

14

15 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16

17 So what Melissa was describing was
18 possibly increasing the harvest allowed for a
19 community. And yesterday Tom Evans mentioned that
20 we're having a call for proposals to the Federal
21 Subsistence Board to change any wildlife or trapping
22 regulations. So this would be a time for you later
23 today is something you can maybe talk about if that's
24 an appropriate proposal perhaps to submit to the
25 Federal Subsistence Board.

26

27 A reminder the closing date is Friday.
28 We have to get all our proposals submitted and on the
29 record by then, so it's something we'll have to do some
30 work on if that's what you wanted to do.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank
35 you. I was just -- it' on Page 14 of this, the process
36 in there. And we can take it up as a discussion or
37 agenda item also.

38

39 Any more questions.

40

41 MR. SIMEONOFF: Mr. Chairman. This is
42 Mitch. I have one.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, go
45 ahead, Mitch.

46

47 MR. SIMEONOFF: Good morning. Yeah, I
48 have a question on the birds, as to (indiscernible -
49 breaking up) the estimate d population. And the
50 other part has have you seen any emperor geese in the

1 areas that you surveyed?

2

3 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, we
4 missed the first part of your question there, Mitch.
5 Do you want to say it again?

6

7 MR. SIMEONOFF: Did you.....

8

9 MR. JENNINGS: Mitch. We missed the
10 first part of your question. If you could restate it,
11 please.

12

13 MR. SIMEONOFF: The question is how did
14 you get the population estimate of those birds. And in
15 the areas that you surveyed, have you seen any emperor
16 geese?

17

18 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Yeah. I think
19 you want to know what the process was of how did you
20 get the estimate of the birds and the.....

21

22 MR. SIMEONOFF: Yeah. How did you get
23 those population estimates? Do you fly? You do an
24 aerial survey, or do you go out there in a boat or how
25 do you get that?

26

27 MR. COBB: Just in general the surveys
28 that I mentioned, the coastal waterbird surveys, those
29 are done on a skiff. We have observers on a skiff that
30 travel set transects, set lines. And from the skiff
31 they count birds that they see. So it's on the water.

32

33 MR. SIMEONOFF: Okay. Have your
34 surveys -- have you seen any emperor geese in the bays
35 that you surveyed from the skiff?

36

37 MR. COBB: We're going to have Robin
38 Corcoran, our bird biologist, answer that question for
39 you.

40

41 MS. CORCORAN: Good morning. This is
42 Robin.

43

44 Those skiff-based surveys that we do
45 are breeding birds and do them in June and August, so
46 we don't see emperor geese on those surveys, since
47 they're here in the winter, but we do have an aerial
48 survey that we do in the winter. We don't do it on an
49 annual basis. We did the last one in 2010, and we'll
50 do the next one in 2015. We're trying to do that

1 survey every five years, and we partner with Migratory
2 Bird Management in Anchorage. And since we haven't
3 done that survey since 2010, I don't have the emperor
4 geese estimate in my head right now.

5
6 I apologize.

7
8 MR. SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you. I
9 was just curious, because we have a population of geese
10 right there in front of the village that's about 3 to
11 400 geese that land right in front of the village.

12
13 MS. CORCORAN: Yes. The aerial survey
14 that we do covers the whole east side and down in that
15 area around Akhiok and Alitak, and the geese numbers do
16 seem to be strong especially on the south end.

17
18 MR. SIMEONOFF: Thank you.

19
20 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Pete, do you
21 have a question.

22
23 MR. SQUARTSOFF: No, I had a question
24 for Mitch. I was just wondering what he felt on their
25 deer populations down around Akhiok.

26
27 MR. SIMEONOFF: The deer population
28 here around Akhiok is very low. The deer that we see
29 are way up on the mountain. And the only time we see
30 them down low is during the low tide, just coming down
31 to the beach or just leaving. As soon as those deer
32 see a skiff or hear a motor, they're out of here.

33
34 And also earlier this, oh, probably
35 summer I guess, when the deer season opened, I spent a
36 lot of time going out, but I never did get a deer this
37 year. But I did hear a comment made by the hunters,
38 there were a lot of hunters out here this year. One of
39 the hunters, you know, made a statement that a lot of
40 does were being taken out of here, because they
41 couldn't find any bucks, and that, you know, a lot of
42 them went home empty-handed, but a lot of them went
43 home with small deer. I don't know if that statement
44 is true, but he said there were a lot of does taken out
45 of here.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Any more
48 questions for Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge people.
49 Pat.

50

1 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. McCrea, I know that
2 the biologists and then at the Fish and Game AC, both
3 the Refuge and the State felt that -- stated that the
4 winter mortality is the main reason for the decline in
5 deer, not necessarily hunting. And at that meeting I
6 was asked to sit in for Old Harbor and for Melissa's
7 dad, and then Pete Squartsoff was -- or not Pete.
8 Pete, your brother Herman. And there was a proposal in
9 from one of the Native folks to decrease the total bag
10 limit, and he and I were in the minority. But I guess
11 what would be your response if it ended up that -- I
12 mean, we don't want to be -- you can have a cause of
13 mortality that's winter, but you still have a residual
14 population. And if your residual population is further
15 decreased by hunting, then would that not delay any
16 rebuilding of the population? I guess that's my
17 question.

18
19 MR. COBB: Given the low numbers of
20 deer that we have, I think the hunting pressure will be
21 comparatively low, just because of what we have been
22 describing. People are having a hard time getting a
23 deer. We've seen this -- I don't know how many, but
24 something like four to five times here on Kodiak now.
25 And it's come back just about every -- it's come back
26 every time. Whether or not it would have come back
27 faster or slower if hunting regulations had been
28 different, I can't speak to that.

29
30 MR. HOLMES: That's what I was fishing
31 for, and nobody can answer that, but, you know, it's an
32 awful important thing, and I think Mitch's report on
33 taking a lot of does is a bit scary.

34
35 I had one question for you, Mitch.
36 Melissa was inquiring about increasing the subsistence
37 harvest of bears for Old Harbor by one. I was
38 wondering how important with fewer deer if that would
39 be of interest to Akhiok, and then we'd probably work
40 on a proposal when we get to the action part of our
41 agenda.

42
43 MR. SIMEONOFF: Yes. I think that
44 would be an interesting topic for Akhiok. We have a
45 few brown bears around here. I think they would be
46 very interested in that.

47
48 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Antone.

49
50

1 MR. SHELIKOFF: I just had one question
2 on these coastal sea ducks, primarily harlequin ducks.
3 Where have they been observed having their young. Have
4 you found their nests? I was reading somewhere where
5 it was a mystery. Has that mystery been solved? Maybe
6 someone on the Council knows.

7
8 MR. COBB: Through the Chair. If I
9 understand correctly, you're asking about where
10 harlequin nests are.

11
12
13
14 MR. SHELIKOFF: Yes.

15
16 MR. COBB: And whether we saw that
17 during the survey's that we've been doing.

18
19 MR. SHELIKOFF: Yeah.

20
21 MR. COBB: And the surveys are skiff
22 based, and so we're not in the area where harlequins
23 would typically be found nesting, and so we haven't
24 gotten any information about harlequin -- areas on
25 Kodiak where harlequin would be nesting from the
26 surveys that we've been doing, because it's just not in
27 the same area.

28
29 MR. SHELIKOFF: So it's still a mystery
30 then. It's still a mystery then.

31
32 MS. CORCORAN: This is Robin Corcoran
33 again. They nest inland on the fresh water streams,
34 and so occasionally the hens will bring their broods
35 down to the marine environment, and we will see them
36 with young, so we know they're nesting. My predecessor
37 on the Refuge, Denise Weefulhofer (ph), he tried for a
38 couple of seasons. He transmitted harlequin hens on
39 the Karluk River. He knows they were nesting in that
40 area. He's seen hens with broods, but unfortunately
41 none of the birds he transmitted, he was never able
42 to follow them back to a nest. And that's not
43 atypical. They're a pretty savvy bird.

44
45 And in other regions, in Prince William
46 Sound they have a hard time finding the nests as well.
47 So they're nesting on the streams, but they do
48 occasionally bring their broods when the ducklings are
49 pretty big down to the marine environment, and we'll
50 see them in August.

1 But, no, we have yet to find harlequin
2 duck nests on Kodiak.

3

4 MR. SHELIKOFF: Thank you.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Any
7 more questions.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Well, thank
12 you for your report.

13

14 We'll make a note to add another action
15 item to increase the bear harvest limits for Akhiok and
16 Old Harbor from one to two for Akhiok and two to three
17 for Old Harbor when we get to it. And that will be
18 just a motion or some sort.

19

20 All right. The next item, the next
21 agency is ADF&G report.

22

23 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
24 For the record again, my name is Jennifer Yuhas, and I
25 am the Federal Subsistence Liaison Team leader. We
26 have some other folks on line. We've got probably I
27 think Susie Brito-Jenkins has called in by now and Lem
28 Butler had told me that he'd be calling in for some of
29 the questions you had yesterday with regards to the
30 wildlife statistics. And we.....

31

32 MR. JENNINGS: Do you want me to check?

33

34 MS. YUHAS: Excuse me? Is it all right
35 if the coordinator checks real quick?

36

37 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Sure.

38

39 MR. JENNINGS: Yeah. I'm just trying
40 to connect. Is Lem Butler on line with the
41 teleconference?

42

43 MS. JENKINS-BRITO: I haven't heard
44 Lem, but this is Susie. I'm on line. Good morning,
45 Jennifer. Good morning, Board.

46

47 MS. PETERSON: Hello. This is Chris
48 Peterson in King Salmon; I'm on line as well.

49

50 MS. YUHAS: Wonderful. Thank you,

1 Susie and Chris, both. We'll also be getting an update
2 on one of our fisheries projects from our fishery
3 Staff, and Wayne Donaldson is also here for any
4 questions regarding commercial fisheries.

5
6 In my capacity, I speak for the
7 Department on policy issues. And you heard a brief
8 report yesterday on the MOU. I am on the MOU Staff
9 Working Group through the InterAgency Staff Committee.
10 And a little different than previous Staff working
11 groups, I'm not just representing the Department this
12 time, but the Board of Fish and the Board of Game
13 Chairmen are also signatories on the MOU and they
14 designated me their representative, so as many of you
15 who live rurally know, sometimes you wear more than one
16 hat when you go to a meeting, so that's been kind of an
17 exciting adventure.

18
19 It seems like the MOU is back up again,
20 and I've told a couple of the RACs we're just still
21 working on it. After the Secretarial direction in 2008
22 to revise the program and take a look at how things
23 were working, the MOU went out for review to the RACs,
24 came back to the Federal Subsistence Board, then back
25 out to the RACs.

26
27 And at that time I let the Board know
28 that that was May and we had already concluded our AC
29 meetings. Our ACs meet, many of them monthly, but
30 usually just throughout the winter, so they missed the
31 cycle on the last RAC comment, and they've just
32 concluded their comments to the Department. I will be
33 meeting with the MOU Staff Working Group tomorrow to go
34 over the RAC comments.

35
36 In general -- or, sorry, the AC
37 comments on the State side.

38
39 In general the ACs wanted more of a
40 guarantee for some sort of consequence if the MOU was
41 violated, meaning that the data-sharing protocol, they
42 wanted to have some sort of stop gate to ensure that
43 both parties were adhering to the data-sharing
44 protocol, that we were working together. And so we're
45 looking at where we could possibly insert language like
46 that, talking to some of the attorneys. We're not
47 really sure.

48
49 We'll be getting back to the Federal
50 Subsistence Board end of April and possibly working on

1 a new version of the document in May.

2

3 I heard a few questions yesterday that
4 -- I know we've got Staff who can answer a lot of the
5 detail questions with regards to the biology.

6

7 There were several questions yesterday
8 with regards to the ghost fishing pots, crab pots, and
9 what had we done about it. I heard other members ask,
10 when it was not the Department's turn, how much money
11 we had given and what we had done. Well, to be honest
12 it's a governmental and it's a bureaucracy. It doesn't
13 move that fast. And I just found out about these ghost
14 fishing pots in Women's Bay in January. So what have
15 we done with regards to that? Well, we've paid some
16 attention. And as soon as the reports are done that
17 the non-profit is working on, that will help generate
18 support for State and Federal grants obviously and from
19 other entities.

20

21 On the side, I've been talking to the
22 non-profit Island Trails Network since January and met
23 with them yesterday. I will be donating my personal
24 time. You can move a lot faster through some of the
25 entities that don't have the bureaucratic process when
26 you're trying to raise funds and get action. But it
27 takes time for the State and the Federal Government to
28 react to some of these things sometimes.

29

30 If you have specific questions with
31 regards to biology, I'll go ahead and open that up to
32 the RAC right now and then wait for our fisheries
33 report.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Go ahead. You
36 have questions. Rick.

37

38 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I brought up yesterday
39 on that Adak caribou out there. I don't know if the
40 lady from King Salmon is on, if she could let me know
41 if they're planning on having a survey done there in
42 the new future or if they've already done one. I'm not
43 aware that they done one so far. '08 was the last one
44 that I'm aware of.

45

46 MS. PETERSON: Excuse me, sorry. I was
47 on mute. Is the question -- I'm not sure that I
48 understood the question to where you're speaking about.
49 Caribou survey on Unimak, is that what you're asking?

50

1 MR. KOSO: Negative. No. I was
2 talking about Adak. I was just wondering if you were
3 going to get a survey done out there on the caribou
4 herd, or if you did in the past. The only one I know
5 of is the 2008 survey. I hasn't seen one since.

6
7 MS. PETERSON: Okay. The latest
8 survey that I am aware of that's done on Adak was done
9 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service this past year.
10 And they came up with some pretty high numbers for
11 Adak.

12
13 As far as I'm aware, there is no plans
14 in Fish and Game to go out and do a survey. Not in the
15 near future at least.

16
17 MR. KOSO: I really didn't copy some of
18 that I guess. I understand that Fish and Wildlife did
19 the survey last year out there, and I don't see any
20 numbers if that was the case. I guess I didn't get the
21 report, unless I missed somewhere. So maybe you could
22 let me know what that was, or if there's a report I can
23 see on it.

24
25 MS. PETERSON: Yes, and I apologize.
26 The phones are really, really doing poor. I'm having
27 difficulty hearing the conference as well.

28
29 On Adak, the last survey that I am
30 aware of was conducted by U.S. Fish and Wildlife
31 Service, and I believe it was done in summer of 2012.
32 And the Refuge there would have their numbers on that.
33 I can look them up I believe and let you know those
34 later if I could get your name and number.

35
36 And I do not believe that we have any
37 plans to do a survey from Alaska Fish and Game on Adak
38 in the next couple of years. I'm not aware of any
39 plans to do that. We do, however, have a new area
40 biologist who will be reporting to King Salmon in the
41 very near future and therefore we do have a possibility
42 of changes in plans. So it may be a possibility there,
43 but it's not something I am aware of at this time.

44
45 MR. KOSO: Yeah. Thank you. Yeah, if
46 you could get that to, I don't know, to Tom here on the
47 Subsistence Board here, that would be great then.

48
49 And another question is that on the
50 tags, did you receive very many tags back?

1 MS. PETERSON: On caribou hunting on
2 Adak, is that what you're asking?
3
4 MR. KOSO: Yes. On the caribou hunt
5 there. Did you receive any of the tags back from the
6 hunters that's been going out there?
7
8 MS. PETERSON: I have not here in this
9 office. I don't believe I've received any from Adak.
10
11 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I know there's been --
12 on almost every airplane this last winters there's
13 probably been 20 people going back and forth for
14 caribou hunting. So I'm thinking there's at least 3 to
15 400 people that go out there caribou hunting in a year,
16 and you should be getting some tags back I would think.
17
18 MS. PETERSON: Well, that's certainly
19 something I can check into, but I have not received any
20 at this point in our office. Yeah, I will follow up on
21 that and find out. It does seem like we should be
22 getting them if they're sending them in.
23
24 MR. KOSO: Thank you.
25
26 That's all I have.
27
28 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Pat.
29
30 MR. HOLMES: On Adak caribou, in '82 I
31 was down there and there was a strong concern, you
32 know, on the caribou populations. And it was a classic
33 thing where the biologists out there were all new, and
34 they were relying on notes from 10 years prior, and
35 they didn't feel there was a problem, but other folks
36 did. And so I kind of got my ears boxed later on, but
37 I gave the Fish and Wildlife a half-day helicopter
38 time, because they had a plane there, and it was sort
39 of a case of, you know, Fish and Game helping out
40 another agency, and that often happens with planes of
41 opportunity, because it's really tough to get a plan to
42 Adak or a helicopter.
43
44 One thing, in chatting with the Navy at
45 that time, they hinted broadly that they had numbers,
46 but they couldn't say how or why. And that prompted me
47 to donate the helicopter time.
48
49 And I was wondering on interagency
50 cooperation perhaps Fish and Game or Fish and Wildlife

1 Service could have a chat with some of the military
2 agencies and see if they're doing a satellite pass over
3 Adak. I Googled up Adak before and gotten some amazing
4 resolution from that funky satellite for Google. But I
5 can't help but wonder if some place like Adak, that
6 high altitude, fine resolution photograph, given a rare
7 clear day, might be one way to make some kind of
8 estimate and answer Rick's question, because I know
9 there's been concerns for the last 30 years on
10 populations increasing and over-grazing the habitat.
11 And, of course, the rare endangered Aleutian sword
12 fern, only found on Adak. But anyway that might be
13 something to look into.

14

15 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16

17 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Continue your
18 report or are you done.

19

20 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
21 Simply opening up to any questions on the issues from
22 yesterday or today before we hear from our fisheries
23 biologist.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, go
26 ahead.

27

28 MR. ROHRER: Through the Chair. I just
29 want to make a comment on the MOU. Frankly I've never
30 gotten too worked up about it when we've discussed it
31 in the past, because Kodiak has always done such a good
32 job of that anyways. The data sharing issue.

33

34 I don't relate to the -- the AC that
35 told you that they want to see some kind of
36 consequences if there isn't proper data sharing, I just
37 don't relate to that being from Kodiak, because both
38 the Service and the Department has worked so well
39 together. It would be real frustrating as a user here
40 if they didn't work well together. That certainly
41 doesn't benefit anyone, but our Department and the
42 Service here has always worked well together. Worked
43 well with the different user groups, and appears to
44 work well sharing information with each other.

45

46 And so for that I just want to commend
47 them. We certainly appreciate it here. And I would
48 say we're probably a little bit lucky here on Kodiak
49 that everyone works so well together. I know it's not
50 that way in other places in the State.

1 So I just wanted to make that comment.

2

3 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
4 And thank you for putting that on the record. And that
5 is noted within the Department, the relationship at
6 Kodiak and especially for Southeast wildlife as well.

7

8 There were actually four ACs that
9 wanted the same thing in a letter form, and several
10 others that discussed it.

11

12 And it hasn't always been at the area
13 biologist level, but usually at a higher policy level.
14 One or two-day turnaround for comments on very
15 important issues, not necessarily the minutia of the
16 data sharing, but issues like that, or missed meetings.
17 And we have recognized that there's been a lot of
18 turnover on the Federal side, and so there have been
19 instances, where to no malicious intent, the Department
20 has been left off of a list or left off of a meeting.
21 And it hasn't served the process well.

22

23 One instance, just for an example, and
24 not to rehash, because, you know, our counterparts are
25 doing their best, but we were left off of a meeting and
26 a report was giving to the Federal Subsistence Board
27 last May that there was unanimous support from the
28 InterAgency Staff Committee to support a wildlife
29 special action, and the Department hadn't been
30 included. So we were scrambling two days before the
31 meeting and coming up with a letter saying, actually we
32 need you to change that if you want us to support it.
33 And that wasn't really in the spirit of the MOU to
34 collaborate early and often and streamline the process,
35 that it was understandable for the users. And that's
36 the drift.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Any more
39 comments. Pat.

40

41 MR. HOLMES: I have a question for you
42 there, and it's for Lem Butler. We were looking at the
43 population numbers for Unit 9 and the caribou. And I
44 asked the question if there was -- I think I did, I
45 wanted to, and I'll put this to you, Lem. It looked to
46 me like if one did a little bit of a time lag on that
47 population information, bull to cow ratios and calf
48 survival, it looked to me like there was a rather
49 immediate response to the whole area from your
50 selective removals of the 25 adult wolves there over

nothing to 40 percent, and then it seemed that
3 just a two-year lag from your experiment, and the
4 ratios are shifting, and the calf survival is falling
5 again. And I know that you only did that on 40 percent
6 of the calving grounds. And I was wondering if our
7 observations are correct, that it seemed to be, to me,
8 a direct linear relationship to a removal of -- the
9 surgical removal of just a few wolves that were keying
10 on the calves. And I was wondering if you have -- if
11 that's a valid observation.

12

13 MS. PETERSON: The question I believe
14 was told for Lem, and I'm not sure if Lem is on the
15 line, but this is Chris Peterson in King Salmon. And
16 I'd answer that if you'd care.

17

18 The surgical removal of wolves was
19 accomplished in 2008. And as the gentleman has stated,
20 and I think it was Pat Holmes, I'm sure from here, but,
21 you're correct in that the calf/cow, calf to 100 cow
22 ratio did jump dramatically immediately, as well as the
23 bull/cow ratio. And the last numbers in 2011 and 2012,
24 the calf to cow ratio did decrease down to 20 calves
25 per 100 cows. And, yes, this was to be expected,
26 because the actual wolf removal was no longer taking
27 place, and naturally it's expected that there would be
28 some more predation taking place at the time.

29

30 But also one thing that was occurring
31 at the same time is that we had an influx of all of
32 those calves that finally survived, those were being
33 integrated into the herd, which very suddenly raised
34 the ratios of the number of cows in the herd, as well
35 as the number of bulls in the herd. And possibly a
36 good many of the -- probably a good many of those new
37 cows in the herd are not yet reproducing. And so it
38 does play with the calf to cow ratios.

39

40 But part of that decrease in the
41 calf/cow ratio the past two years may be attributed
42 into that influx of new cows into the herd, as well as
43 to ongoing predation that is going to take place
44 particularly if there is not the (indiscernible)
45 predation study going on.

46

47 So hopefully that answers your
48 question. If not, please let me know.

49

50 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, it did. And I guess

1 our Council is really thrilled to be able to have
2 enough surplus caribou to get a few for each of the
3 villages, except for Sand Point. It sounded like a bit
4 of a snag there. But if the numbers shift the wrong
5 way, then we probably would lose that potential for
6 subsistence harvest, I guess is a question.

7
8 And the a follow-up question, is there
9 any plans for the Department of Fish and Wildlife, I
10 know they'd have to do a policy decision, but to do any
11 further selective readjustment of carnivores there so
12 that we can at least keep a subsistence population or
13 hopefully get it higher. Is there any plans to do any
14 further studies of that sort or is it we just kind of
15 wait and see?

16
17 MS. PETERSON: This is Chris in King
18 Salmon again.

19
20 We are currently planning to do a calf
21 mortality study in the area of the Southern Alaska
22 Peninsula Caribou Herd this coming summer, probably in
23 June and through July, we will be down there working on
24 a calf mortality. Checking into the predation issue,
25 how are the predators in the area affecting the calves
26 at this time, a few years after the initial wolf
27 removal was accomplished.

28
29 It's certainly true that by doing the
30 wolf predation work, we are not trying to remove all
31 wolves from the picture. We were merely trying to
32 remove wolves that were identified as being directly
33 implicated in caribou calf predation only on the
34 calving grounds, and only if they were identified as
35 having participated in that activity. The actual
36 removal of wolves was discontinued because it was so
37 successful. The wolves that were needed to be removed
38 were removed, and so we proceeded to kind of shut down
39 that part of the project for the time being, but it is
40 still in the Board of Game regulation that it can be
41 followed through on if need be. And so the next step
42 is to check into that situation this summer and see how
43 the numbers are holding up, what are the numbers of the
44 predators involved, what are the numbers of calves, and
45 how much are the calves actually being influenced by
46 those predators. So we will follow through on that
47 this summer.

48
49 The Board of Game did in just this past
50 February pass a proposal -- or accept a proposal to

1 open the caribou hunt in a Tier II drawing hunt for the
2 Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd, and so that
3 will be in the regs for this coming fall of 2013.

4

5 And I think that addresses all of the
6 questions you had. Yes, it is still possible for us to
7 go in if need be and reimplement wolf removal if need
8 be, and we will determine that this coming summer.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, thanks, Chris. I
13 think that's just really swell to see those
14 improvements coming from such a small surgical removal.
15 And I can't help but look at the table for Unit 9
16 versus Unit 10, and, you know, when we had our hearings
17 on that a year or two ago, you know, there's -- a
18 person can certainly see a strong relationship there in
19 Unimak continuing to basically get worse. And so I
20 think I really commend you folks for your work on that.
21 And I -- anyway, that's good enough.

22

23 Thank you very much.

24

25 MS. PETERSON: Thank you.

26

27 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Yes, go ahead.

30

31 MS. TRUMBLE: This is Della.

32

33 Chris, I know you were on the line
34 yesterday, and you did hear me share the fact that we
35 are seeing a large number of wolves within this
36 community. And basically they're looking -- they are
37 going toward the landfill. And just the amount of
38 wolves that this community has seen in this past year,
39 which you've never, hardly ever, you know -- on
40 occasion over the last five years a few sightings, more
41 toward the mountains, not necessarily so close into
42 town, or.....

43

44 (Dog barking)

45

46 MS. TRUMBLE: Hold on. Hold on. Sorry
47 about that.

48

49 MS. PETERSON: That was really close
50 there, Della. I didn't realize they were in your home.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MS. TRUMBLE: Well, you ought to listen
4 to them howl at nighttime. They're close to the
5 landfill, so the dogs in the neighborhood howl back at
6 them.

7

8 Hold on here. Hold on.

9

10 MR. HOLMES: Sounds like the wolves
11 came through the door, Della.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MS. TRUMBLE: Anyway, the concern is,
16 you know, I hear it a lot here, is because of the
17 number of wolves, and, you know, if you see a pack of
18 seven or four, and people have been trying to take them
19 down. Like within the landfill themselves, there's
20 probably about six that have been shot I think in the
21 last couple months. But it is a concern, because
22 they're close and we can see them. And it also I think
23 leads to the concern that these numbers are up, and
24 that contributes toward, of course, you know, the
25 caribou.

26

27 And so that's why I was looking for
28 numbers, there's been numbers. And I know I've
29 discussed this with you before, these dogs, I think
30 last year in regard to this very issue, because, of
31 course, we were seeing them more last year, but not so
32 close to town.

33

34 MS. PETERSON: Okay. Yes. I did not
35 hear you discussing wolves yesterday. I got called --
36 I had the conference on, but I got called in the other
37 room to seal some wolves that had been harvested. So I
38 apologize if I missed a question there or something.

39

40 But I do recall our conversation last
41 year about wolves being culled. I had not heard
42 anything this year about a lot of wolves there. But it
43 sounds to me like your question is whether or not Fish
44 and Game would come over to King Cove and do some wolf
45 removals; is that what you're asking or -- I'm sorry if
46 I'm missing the point.

47

48 MS. TRUMBLE: I think my point, I was
49 -- it's been on my list to call Lem and talk to him
50 about this. I just have been really busy. You know,

1 looking at the area that's not on Federal lands, it is
2 State lands and corporation lands, whether it needs to
3 be, I think, looked at as a whole again. My feeling
4 and sense from everybody is, yes, this population is
5 definitely high. You know, a couple weeks ago in the
6 morning, the city guys watched a wolf chase a bear, and
7 we saw that happen last spring right up in here, too,
8 so it's a problem I think. And they're basically
9 hungry.

10

11 And I talked a little bit yesterday, of
12 course, about the bear problem we had last spring in
13 King Cove, because there wasn't any fish in the streams
14 at all. And, you know, these animals were hungry.
15 They were everywhere. Hopefully that won't be the case
16 this year, but we know we're going to have a couple
17 years based on some heavy rains that washed out some of
18 the salmon streams I think a few years -- about four or
19 five years ago, that we're going to, you know, have to
20 -- that that -- those years are going to have to
21 slowing rebuild. So that is going to have an effect on
22 the wildlife.

23

24 But I think that we do have a problem.
25 I do know that False Pass continues to have a problem.
26 I think six of their dogs have been killed this winter
27 from the wolves. And I know False Pass is tricky,
28 because a majority of it is Federal lands. I also know
29 that people are making an effort to try to take them
30 down, because people are seeing so many of them. But
31 they're not something that's targeted. You know, I
32 think you can take 10 a day is what I'm thinking the
33 regs say, but it's not something that people go out of
34 their way to do. But that's kind of where I was coming
35 from.

36

37 MS. PETERSON: Okay. Well, I'm glad to
38 hear that there are some actual observations over
39 there. I'd not heard anything this year, so I
40 appreciate that information. It sounds like it might
41 be a really good year for us to be out in the
42 (indiscernible) summer checking on the calf mortality,
43 so we will be out doing that.

44

45 And, yes, you're correct that the
46 harvest limits for hunting on wolves is 10 a day. But
47 there's also the option of trapping, which has no
48 limits. And the trapping in Unit 9 goes August 10th
49 through June 30th. And if the wolves are kind of -- it
50 sounds like you indicated they're kind of centrally

1 located around the dump, where at least that might be a
2 good place to start with for putting some traps out.
3 There are options such as that that could -- it's been
4 shown in the past that one or two really good trappers
5 out there can make a huge dent in the population.

6

7 So I do appreciate the information, and
8 please do keep up with me on that and let me know how
9 things are going, and I'll also keep this in mind as we
10 do our planning for the coming year's work.

11

12 MS. TRUMBLE: Yeah, there through the
13 -- towards the airport way up into the lagoon, all the
14 way through, you know, into Leonard's Harbor. So, like
15 I say, they have been seeing quite a number of them.

16

17 MS. PETERSON: Okay. Well, thank you.
18 I have not seen any wolves sealed from King Cove coming
19 through on the database here, and I just checked that
20 the other day. So that's really new information for
21 me. And please do encourage people to get those
22 sealed. It is information that we use directly here in
23 our management. So it's nice to know that.

24

25 MS. TRUMBLE: Yeah. And just to add to
26 that, you know, I've gotten word from some people in
27 Cold Bay that one of the guys had gone out to clean the
28 snow off his dish, and, you know, he was basically --
29 there was four wolves around him, and they were kind of
30 growling. He backed away from them, and they didn't do
31 anything, which is good.

32

33 But while I was there, because I ended
34 up spending two nights there actually because of
35 weather, you know, at night time you can basically hear
36 the wolves howling. And, you know, we've got the same
37 situation here. So the point is, if I've grown up here
38 and lived here all my life, and never heard or seen
39 anything like this, you know, there's some changes
40 going on, and that's the point.

41

42 MS. PETERSON: Okay. Well, thank you,
43 Della, I appreciate that info.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank
46 you.

47

48 Any more comments.

49

50 Pat.

1 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Della, you know, I
2 was thinking. I went to a Federal Board meeting a few
3 years back, and I recall up in one of the northern,
4 northwest refuges, the area manager there and the Fish
5 and Game folks go together to set up a mentoring
6 program for young folks and basically teaching them how
7 to trap. And I think this would be an excellent
8 opportunity for the Department and the State and the
9 tribes to work together, because I know there's quite a
10 generational gap from folks that are older than me to
11 the young puppies. And, you know, I think that would
12 be a really good type of program to promote and use
13 that model that already exists.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 MS. TRUMBLE: Thanks, Pat.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Now
20 we'll move on.

21
22 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
23 If there's no further questions, then Tyler's got the
24 update for his fisheries project.

25
26 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thanks.

27
28
29 MR. POLUM: Good morning, Mr. Chair
30 and members of the Council. My name is Tyler Polum.
31 I'm a fisheries biologist with the Department of Fish
32 and Game, Sportfish, here in Kodiak. And I'd just like
33 to give you an update about our Buskin River sockeye
34 salmon stock assessment project here in Kodiak, and
35 then give you a chance to ask any questions about that.

36
37 So since 2000, the Office of
38 Subsistence Management has funded a Buskin -- of a
39 project, a weir project counting sockeye salmon on the
40 Buskin River, and that was continued through 2012. The
41 goal of the project is to refine the escapement goal
42 for the Buskin, which is currently a biological
43 escapement goal of 5 to 8,000 fish. I'm sure many of
44 you guys are familiar with this, but I'll just run
45 through a quick summary of the project and our results
46 for 2012. That was changed from a sustainable
47 escapement goal of 8,000 to 13,000 in 2011.

48
49 We currently operate the weir at the
50 outlet of Buskin Lake. The weir this year was operated

1 from about mid May through mid September, and we also
2 operate another weir on the Lake Louise tributary that
3 flows out of the Lake Louise and Catherine Lakes
4 tributary. And we have operated that weir since 2002.

5

6

7 This year, in 2012, we counted 8,565
8 sockeye salmon through the Buskin Lake weir. That was
9 about 5,000 fish less than our -- or about 6,000 fish
10 less than our recent 10-year average of 14,500
11 approximately. But it was about our escapement goal of
12 -- upper escapement goal of 8,000 fish, so we actually
13 just barely exceeded the upper escapement goal, but
14 were well above our lower escapement goal for the year.

15

16 We also counted 301 sockeye through the
17 Lake Louise tributary, which is down quite a bit.
18 That's the lowest escapement we've had since 2002
19 there, which has ranged up to over 4,000 fish through
20 that weir. This -- well, I'll talk more about Lake
21 Louise there in a minute.

22

23 Oh, I thought there was a question.

24

25 This year though the Buskin, the
26 subsistence fishery remains status quo in the Buskin.
27 We just barely made our upper escapement goal, but we
28 did increase the sportfishing bag limit briefly just as
29 a result of projecting to go up over the upper
30 escapement goal.

31

32 We annually sample sockeye salmon at
33 the weir, both of the weirs on Buskin Lake and the Lake
34 Louise tributary as well as the subsistence fishery out
35 in front of Buskin. This year we were able to sample
36 370 sockeye salmon at the Buskin Lake weir, with most
37 of those being age two/three fish, which is pretty
38 typical. This year we didn't see a lot of differences
39 from previous years.

40

41 The only difference being at Lake --
42 when we sampled at Lake Louise we were only able to get
43 a very few age samples there. Something we've seen at
44 Lake Louise in the past -- or recently is that the
45 water's been so low in that creek that the fish haven't
46 travelled up the river and through our weir until late
47 August or September, and so by then they're well beyond
48 being able to take -- or getting any age information
49 from their scales, so we only got a few age sample
50 there, not really enough to tell us much.

1 We did sample the subsistence fishery
2 this year, and we collected about 150 scale samples.
3 And with most of those being aged two/three fish, which
4 is typically what we see there. As those fish we
5 presume that they're predominately they're Buskin fish
6 since we typically see larger fish in the mainstem
7 Buskin than in Lake Louise. And usually the gillnets
8 are size-selective, so we catch the larger -- they
9 catch the larger fish in them in the subsistence
10 fishery.

11
12 We are collecting -- or have been
13 collecting genetic samples every year, and this year
14 our genetics lab will be analyzing those samples to
15 compare the samples collected over the last four years
16 to our baseline genetics data for Lake Louise and the
17 Buskin River to see what proportion of fish harvested
18 in the subsistence fishery are Lake Louise and Buskin
19 fish.

20
21 So that's something that -- this year
22 is the last year of our funding cycle for this project,
23 and we're going to be submitting a final report next
24 May, which will detail the genetics portion of this
25 project.

26
27 We're also going to be submitting
28 another annual report here pretty soon from our results
29 of the 2012 project. I've included in -- or Mr.
30 Jennings has included through us a report to the RAC in
31 your meeting materials. I'm not sure if you've had a
32 chance to look at that, but it's in your meeting
33 material. It's just a report from ADF&G to the RAC
34 with an update on our -- through 2012 on our project.

35
36 This next year we will have our returns
37 on the Buskin will be from the 2008 and 2009 parent
38 years, which were the lowest escapements we've had
39 since we started fish there on the Buskin, but they
40 were still within our current escapement goal range of
41 5 to 8,000 fish, so we don't expect to see any problems
42 with the run this year, or any drastic changes. The
43 last couple years have been a little lower than some of
44 our escapements that were up in the 15 to 20,000 range
45 over the last 10 years, but they were well within or
46 above our escapement goals, so we don't expect to see
47 anything different this year.

48
49 And that's pretty much a summary of the
50 -- a quick summary of the Buskin River sockeye weir.

1 We do employ two local Federally-qualified subsistence
2 users every year, two high school students from Kodiak
3 High School, as interns in June and July on this
4 project, and that's going to continue this year. And
5 we're hiring those right now. And it's been a big
6 success for the program and for the Department. We've
7 hired back most of the interns as seasonal technicians
8 with the Department. Many have worked for the Refuge.
9 I was one of those interns. And we have continued to
10 see that as a very beneficial thing not only for the
11 community, but for the Department.

12
13 We also have been the last couple years
14 continuing our sockeye weir at Buskin Lake through
15 September primarily to count coho, but we do get a
16 little better time frame to capture the complete
17 sockeye run. Typically on the Buskin that's over by
18 the end of July, but we do continue to count some of
19 those later in August and September.

20
21 As I mentioned before, this is the last
22 year of our four-year funding cycle for the Buskin
23 River project, and we are applying as we speak to OSM
24 for to refund this project for another four-year cycle.
25 We will have our final report in at the spring of 2014
26 as the conclusion of this project cycle, and we'll be
27 applying. I think the deadline is next week, and I
28 believe we have our application for funding in right
29 now, our proposals, to refund this project.

30
31 In the past the Council has been very
32 supportive of this project, and has actually given
33 formal support when we've reapplied. This is the
34 fourth time we've applied for funding through OSM for
35 this project. And as you know, this project is the way
36 we are able to evaluate our escapement goal for the
37 Buskin River. It's also how the subsistence fishery is
38 managed, as well as the sportfishery on the Buskin,
39 which, as you well know, too, is one of the largest
40 subsistence fisheries in the Kodiak/Aleutians region.

41
42 So I actually didn't give you the
43 recent harvest numbers for subsistence fishing, and I
44 forgot about that. I'll do that real quick. But we
45 don't have -- since 2012 subsistence harvest numbers
46 are now out yet, and that's actually compiled by our
47 Commercial Fisheries Division, and they can answer any
48 management questions about that, but just for the -- we
49 do have the 2011 harvest, which on the Buskin River was
50 about 4600 sockeye, which was up substantially from the

1 two previous years where there was lower harvest. But
2 that fishery does average about 5,000 sockeye taken out
3 from the Buskin River annually, which is about half of
4 the total Kodiak Island sockeye salmon subsistence
5 harvest. And it's also -- generally about half of the
6 folks that get subsistence permits fish the Buskin,
7 which averages about 250 permit holders. And sockeye
8 is also the predominate subsistence fish caught at the
9 Buskin which in 2011 was about 90 percent of the fish
10 harvested at Buskin in subsistence fisheries was
11 sockeye, but typically it's about 75 percent on
12 average.

13

14 So I apologize for not giving that
15 earlier, and getting out of order here a little bit,
16 but you can see, as we typically tell you, this is a
17 very important subsistence fishery in Kodiak. And in
18 the past the Council has given formal support for our
19 project as we apply for funding. And so I'll leave
20 that up to guy guys, but we do appreciate that support
21 and would appreciate continued support.

22

23 And I can answer any questions.

24

25 We also have Staff from the Commercial
26 Fisheries Division who are the state subsistence
27 managers as well. And I believe one of the biologists
28 who used to manage the McLees project is also here,
29 too.

30

31 So I'll take any questions at this
32 time. Thanks.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Yeah. Do you
35 have a question or comment. Question.

36

37 MR. HOLMES: I remember when we had
38 that big drop in escapement I think in 2008. And being
39 the fish were 2/3's, going back in time can you project
40 why that decline occurred?

41

42 MR. POLUM: Mr. Holmes through the
43 Chair. We -- that's a difficult thing to pinpoint, but
44 the parent years for those two returns were
45 exceptionally high returns for the Buskin River, up to
46 20,000 fish. So that's a pattern you typically see
47 with over-escapement, but we don't have limnological
48 data for that obviously like we did for like Afognak
49 Lake and Karluk and things. So while it's difficult to
50 pinpoint, that was the -- your question is that those

1 -- the parent years were exceptionally high into Buskin
2 Lake for those two returns.

3

4 MR. HOLMES: And did you folks have a
5 smolt program going on 2008/2009? And I'm just kind of
6 wondering, you know, if there's any smolt information
7 to collaborate that over-escapement, because that's
8 kind of what it looked like to me. And I guess let me
9 ask another question. Is there any focused commercial
10 harvest on Buskin sockeye?

11

12 MR. POLUM: Mr. Holmes, there are
13 typically some commercial landings. In 2012, there was
14 one fish reported for the sockeye season anyway.
15 Sometimes later in the year they harvest sockeye, but
16 those are not usually Buskin fish it appears. Annually
17 it's less than 100 fish, so it's a very small fishery.

18

19 MR. HOLMES: Probably during the pink
20 season I imagine is when they're being picked up?

21

22 MR. POLUM: Yeah, and I believe James
23 or Matt could answer that a little better, but, yeah,
24 typically it's in -- from what I saw, it was in July
25 usually.

26

27 As for the smolt part of your question,
28 we operated a sockeye smolt assessment project on the
29 Buskin in 2011 and -- or 2010 and 2011. So we
30 initiated that project just after those low returns
31 that we saw. So we don't have smolt -- we can
32 correlate some of the out-migrants from those parent,
33 those spawning events to our smolt data, but I don't
34 have any of the numbers off hand with me right now.

35

36 MR. HOLMES: I remember from chatting
37 with James and with Don Tracy, it looked like, you
38 know, from that couple of years back for that over-
39 escapement that the smolt were pretty darn skinny, and
40 then once, you know, we got past that point, I think --
41 I found it very heartening at least having a biological
42 background and being able to talk to Ronny Zeiter (ph)
43 and my buddies out at the Buskin on, you know, when the
44 smolt started to come out in better numbers and be much
45 more robust. I found that very encouraging. And being
46 able to go back and figure, well, gee, the Buskin looks
47 pretty skinny for a couple years, Iver and I shifted
48 our efforts over to Pasagshak, which my wife has told
49 me that we can't do any more, because we're both too
50 old.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. HOLMES: But anyway I hope that
4 it's possible for you folks to keep your funding. And
5 I think our Council should do another action letter,
6 Tom, to support the continued funding of research at
7 the Buskin, and also smolt if that can come about. I
8 don't know. I know both Rick Rolland and I testified
9 quite strongly to the FAA folks that that could be --
10 should be a source that FAA focuses on, is to do smolt,
11 because that's the first indicator that something's
12 wrong there at the Buskin. So I hope that that
13 eventually come to some fruition.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 MR. POLUM: Mr. Holmes, through the
18 Chair. Just to clarify, this project that we -- our
19 proposal is only for the adult project. I think I
20 heard that in there that smolt might have been tied to
21 that, but it's only for the adult weir project.

22

23 MR. HOLMES: Why aren't you going after
24 smolt? Don't have enough people left?

25

26 MR. TRACY: Mr. Chair. Mr. Holmes. My
27 name is Don Tracy. I'm the local sportfish area
28 manager and project supervisor for the Buskin River
29 stock assessment.

30

31 And, Pat, to answer your question, we
32 haven't applied to renew funding for the smolt project.
33 The first study that we did was a two-year project
34 based on recommendation from the Office of Subsistence
35 Management. And that was a feasibility study where we
36 were trying to determine the methods and outcomes from
37 trying to assess the smolt, abundance of sockeye salmon
38 smolt on the Buskin drainage. And during that two-year
39 study, we had one year which was largely unsuccessful,
40 mostly due to flooding. We had anomalous spring
41 flooding that year, that first year in 2009, and we
42 didn't get good results largely because of that fact.

43

44 The second year we had more normal
45 environmental conditions. We refined our methodology
46 and we actually got a very good outcome. Just as an
47 example, part of the typical smolt assessment study to
48 estimate total abundance is to do mark/recapture
49 experiments where you take a sample of smolt that you
50 capture in the drainage. You actually mark those

1 smolt. You dye them. You actually use a brown dye
2 that turns them the color of goldfish temporarily, and
3 you use those dyed fish, after releasing them, as an
4 indicator of, or a means to estimate the total
5 abundance of smolt that you're catching in your traps.
6 And, in other words you try to estimate what percentage
7 of those dyed smolt, or what percentage those dyed
8 smolt represent in terms of the total abundance that
9 you're capturing.

10
11 And the second year we did that study,
12 we had, of all the different sockeye salmon smolt
13 projects that are conducted around Kodiak Island
14 annually down at Frazer, Karluk River, up at Afognak,
15 we actually had the highest recapture rates of our dyed
16 smolt, or from our mark/recapture experiments, of any
17 of those other projects on the Buskin. So the second
18 year we had a really successful outcome with that
19 project.

20
21 The problem with continuing to fund it
22 was that our two-year feasibility study ended out of
23 cycle with the OSM call for proposals to refund the
24 project, and so we were unable to continue that project
25 during consecutive years after the first two-year
26 study, because we were out of -- we weren't in a
27 funding cycle year like we are now to continue that
28 project.

29
30 Since then Sportfish Division, as some
31 of you folks may know, has undergone some pretty
32 substantial budget reductions due to the national
33 recession and the corresponding decline of sportfish
34 license sales in Alaska. And that funding situation
35 has had some pretty dire ramifications for Kodiak. And
36 we've lost one of our permanent staff members. This
37 has always been a small program. We have three -- or
38 in the past have had three sportfish staff in the
39 Kodiak office. Now we're down to two, and we're
40 struggling to keep the funding levels that we have
41 right now to maintain our operational capability. And
42 so we're not in a position at the moment I think where
43 we could continue that smolt project unless our
44 programmatic resources are brought back up to a level
45 where we've seen them previously.

46
47 But we would certainly like to see that
48 project continue. It really held a lot of promise, but
49 Sportfish Division for the time being has opted not to
50 pursue funding that project again because of our budget

1 situation overall.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: You had
6 another question or.....

7

8 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. I'm wondering,
9 would a letter from our Council and then from the local
10 advisory committee at least help basic in the future on
11 being able to have that program? And then I know that,
12 you know, this might also be, because, you know, both
13 the basic weir project and the smolt are really
14 important for letting subsistence folks know what's
15 going to be happening and plan for another alternatives
16 if things are going down. You know, this might be some
17 place if we could provide a letter of support and the
18 AC and maybe the tribes, and then hopefully maybe the
19 tribes might be able to come up -- I know Rick's trying
20 to do things for the Buskin on some cooperative effort,
21 you know, for partnering, to be able to come up with
22 staff to man the weir or to assist in that. And then
23 maybe we can help to at least write a letter hoping
24 that -- suggesting that the department fund your
25 position, so that you'd have ability to supervise that.
26 And I think it would make a really great partnership if
27 that could eventually evolve, because what you do is --
28 I mean, that's the most importantly honestly
29 subsistence fishery in the Western Gulf of Alaska. And
30 I know there's some alternates coming up, but, you
31 know, for folks in town with little boats, that's it.

32

33 And I really appreciate your folks'
34 splendid work and dedication to try to develop that
35 information for the community.

36

37 (Phone interruptions)

38

39 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Mute your phone,
40 ladies.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Yeah.

43

44 MR. JENNINGS: Yeah. This is Tom
45 Jennings. If anyone's just listening in, please mute
46 your phone. We're getting a lot of extraneous talking
47 on here.

48

49 Thank you very much.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Do we have any
2 more questions. Yeah.

3
4 MR. TRACY: Mr. Chair. I just wanted
5 to add as Tyler stated during his report, that we have
6 really appreciated the past support the RAC has
7 provided for this project. I think it has been an
8 important element in the funding consideration process.

9
10 And as Tyler also stated, it is very
11 important to maintain that annual weir operation on the
12 Buskin. It allows us to manage the subsistence fishery
13 in-season, and, as Tyler stated also, refine our
14 escapement goal. And having the weir has led to
15 opportunities recently, even with the down-turn in
16 abundance of Buskin sockeye four or five years ago,
17 having the weir has allowed us the opportunity to
18 liberalize subsistence fishing opportunity during some
19 years. And refining that escapement goal is also an
20 important part of that management scheme, because it
21 has actually allowed us to -- or allowed the users an
22 opportunity to harvest more of those fish as we've
23 adjusted the goal during the course of this project.

24
25 And I think Tyler talked about the
26 genetic sampling. That's a real important thing,
27 because we have been, as he mentioned, sampling the
28 subsistence harvest, taking tissues to -- that allow us
29 to apportion the subsistence harvest between Buskin
30 Lake and Lake Louise, and then also if there are any
31 other local sockeye stocks that are being harvested.
32 Having that information is vitally important, because
33 in the past we've just assumed -- without any better
34 means for analysis, we've just had to assume that all
35 those fish are Buskin Lake-bound sockeye. That harvest
36 number goes into our annual run reconstruction, and
37 it's a vital or an integral part of the escapement goal
38 evaluation. But having the genetics component from
39 sampling subsistence harvest annually is really helping
40 us better home in on precisely evaluating the
41 productivity of that run, because now we will know with
42 certainty how many fish harvested in front of the
43 Buskin are actually headed to Buskin Lake versus Lake
44 Louise or elsewhere. And that gives us a really good
45 -- gives us very good information on what the actual
46 productivity of that run is.

47
48 But again we've appreciated the RAC's
49 support in the past and just wanted to thank you for
50 that.

1 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank
2 you.
3
4 If there's no more comments.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Thank you for
9 your report. I want to go to break pretty soon.
10
11 Go ahead, Pete.
12
13 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. I'd just like
14 to -- we definitely need to continue to support that
15 for the Buskin. And I don't know who -- I think we
16 need to take action on it definitely at this meeting if
17 your deadline's coming up.
18
19 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Yeah. I've
20 added it to our action items for a support letter.
21
22 Okay. Thank you.
23
24 MS. JENKINS-BRITO: This is Susie
25 Jenkins-Brito with Fish and Game out of Dillingham.
26 I'm with the Board Support Section with Fish and Game.
27
28 And there was a couple of comments
29 yesterday during the Council members' report regarding
30 the Joint Board meeting deadline for comments coming up
31 this fall. And I just wanted to reiterate that the
32 comment deadline for the Joint Board is in fact
33 September 25th, and those Joint Board books are
34 available on our website, and they've also been mailed
35 out to all advisory committee members and anybody who
36 else is on our mailing list.
37
38 And there was also some questions
39 regarding the Board of Fish meeting for the Alaska
40 Peninsula and Aleutian Islands fin fish regarding
41 trawling in Unalaska Bay. That was Proposal 162. The
42 summary of actions is also posted on our ADF&G website
43 under Board of Fish, and you guys can go on there and
44 see what else happened at that meeting. The official
45 summary is now posted, and so I just wanted to put that
46 out there, because there was some discussion about it
47 yesterday during the Council members' report.
48
49 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank
50 you.

1 Are there any more comments.
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: We'll take a
6 10-minute break.
7
8 (Off record)
9
10 (On record)
11
12 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. We'll
13 call back to order here if we can.
14
15 Yeah, who do we have on line. Della
16 and Mitch, are you with us yet.
17
18 MS. TRUMBLE: I'm here. This is Della.
19
20 REPORTER: Mitch, are you there?
21
22 (No comments)
23
24 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: All right.
25 We're going to go back into session now. And what do
26 we -- we have someone here.
27
28 MR. KEYSE: My name is Matt Keyse. I'm
29 the Kodiak assistant management biologist. And last
30 summer I was the assistant management biologist in Cold
31 Bay, and I ran the McLees project, so I'm here to
32 briefly just report on that project.
33
34 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. This is
35 on Unalaska, Cold Bay?
36
37 MR. KEYSE: Yep. So last year the
38 Department took over the McLees weir project for the
39 first year. It was funded through the Alaska
40 Sustainable Salmon Fund. And it's a three-year
41 project, so it will go on for two more summers at
42 least.
43
44 And so last year we had some unforeseen
45 circumstances and got started a little bit later than
46 normal. The first weir count was the 10th of July.
47 Normally we see fish around the 10th of June.
48
49 But even with that late start, we still
50 met our minimum escapement goal of 15,111 fish. In

1 2010 the Department established an escapement goal of
2 10,000 to 60,000 fish. And over the last four years we
3 have met that minimum escapement goal of 10,000 fish.
4 The year before that it was about 37,000 and the year
5 before that it was about 32,000.

6

7 And just sort of off the cuff estimate,
8 I did a 5 and 10-year average daily count to kind of
9 get a better estimate of the fish that we probably
10 missed in our absence, and we estimated about 30 to
11 45,000 fish probably entered into that system in our
12 absence, or total including those fish in our absence.
13 And we did receive strong reports of fish from
14 subsistence users during our absence, too. So we think
15 the run there was very strong.

16

17 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank
18 you. Yeah, I was out there about the 20th of June with
19 a couple other guys, and that creek was plugged at that
20 point, so you missed the main run I think in that
21 creek.

22

23 MR. KEYSE: Yeah. Yeah, we knew we
24 missed a lot of fish.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Yeah. Any
27 questions for anybody -- for you.

28

(No comments)

29

30 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Well, thank
31 you for giving us a report on that. Pat.

32

33 MR. HOLMES: Well, I'm really tickled
34 to get a report. We've asked before to. I don't think
35 it got communicated back down the line on the report on
36 McLees, and that was kind of my last area of work when
37 I was with the Department, and rooted a lot to get a
38 program going. And basically, I don't know, got all my
39 projects cut, so I retired.

40

(Laughter)

41

42 MR. HOLMES: But I'm just really
43 tickled to see that. You might want to keep a close
44 eye on it when you get a big return like 30, 40,000,
45 because Arnie Shaw, the Peninsula biologist, and I used
46 to talk about it when the OSM-funded program was going,
47 and we had that one huge escapement, because I think
48 once you bump up above 20, then -- what's the age of
49
50

1 the fish there? I missed that.

2

3 MR. KEYSE: I don't have an age
4 estimate at this point. That's being worked on.

5

6 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Well, if you have
7 some, you might want to take a look at that and do a
8 projection forward in time, because odds are that
9 they're two/twos, five years -- you know, five, six
10 years in the future that could be a really poor return.

11

12 And I was wondering on your management
13 strategies, once you get to 10,000, you open it to the
14 mouth?

15

16 MR. KEYSE: Yes. We do look at the
17 progressiveness. But unfortunately we didn't really
18 have that control this year. It's likely we met that
19 10,000 much earlier, before the weir was operational
20 again in July, so we had to maintain those closed
21 waters just because of our not having information to be
22 able to open it up to the mouth as we normally would.

23

24 MR. HOLMES: Perhaps in that case.....

25

26 REPORTER: Pat.

27

28 MR. HOLMES:(indiscernible, mic
29 not on) had a difficulty, do you try and fly the.....

30

31 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Turn your mic
32 on.

33

34 MR. HOLMES: Pardon me. Excuse me, Mr.
35 Chair.

36

37 I was just wondering, you mentioned
38 that you had a time when, you know, the weir was in,
39 and you probably already had the 10,000 in. Is the
40 problem not being able to maybe countercheck that with
41 an aerial survey? I know they're kind of hard to see
42 until they color up.

43

44 MR. KEYSE: Yeah, Mr. Holmes, through
45 the Chair. Yeah. Well, logistically speaking also, it
46 just -- we would have to come from Cold Bay to do even
47 an aerial survey, so logistics and actually seeing fish
48 in the system is quite difficult. And I think Arnie
49 Shaw spoke to that, which is one of the biggest reasons
50 why a weir was even established in that system to begin

1 with.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Thank you very
4 much. I had another question, but I lost it in my
5 geezer brain, so I'll ask you afterwards.

6

7 I'm just really glad that that program
8 is going on, because that system is so important for
9 subsistence out there.

10

11 Oh, is there any commercial effort out
12 there any more? We used to -- Rick, maybe do you head
13 out there when you're fishing? There used to be one or
14 two seiners that would go there, but I think that's
15 gone. Nobody operating out there any more, is there?

16

17 MR. KEYSE: Mr. Holmes through the
18 Chair. Currently most of the targeted species for
19 commercial is pink salmon, and most of that happens
20 within the bay there. Unalaska Bay, I'm sorry. So
21 targeted sockeye, generally that doesn't happen out on
22 Unalaska in the recent years that I've been there.

23

24 MR. HOLMES: All right. Thank you very
25 much. And I sure hope that you can continue your
26 program. And, you know, if you need support, letters
27 of support or something, let us know.

28

29 MR. KEYSE: Thank you very much.

30

31 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: On a side
32 note, the Unalaska Native Fishermen's Association and
33 the Unalaska Tribe will be submitting a request to do a
34 survey in the Unalaska Creek and Summer's Bay outlets
35 this summer. We'll be sending it through to you once I
36 get back home.

37

38 MR. KEYSE: Okay. And I would like to
39 just mention that Aaron Poetter would be your better
40 direct contact for that. He is the area management
41 biologist.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Yeah. So
44 we've been talking to him at our meetings in Unalaska
45 there two months ago. So we're working on that.

46

47 Okay. Thank you very much for that
48 information.

49

50 MR. KEYSE: Thank you.

1 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Now we've
2 got.....
3
4 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you. Steve
5 Thompson. I run the Afognak Lake project.
6
7 I turned in the report to you guys in
8 September, and was just on line during that meeting.
9 And I wanted to see if you guys had any further
10 questions about that project.
11
12 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Anybody have
13 any comment or questions.
14
15 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, you gave us your
16 report in the fall. I was wondering if you've had a
17 chance to look at your -- now, you folks are going a
18 smolt project up there as well, or just adults?
19
20 MR. THOMPSON: Through the Chair. Yes,
21 we're doing smolt and we're doing lake studies up there
22 with juveniles as well through the end of this OSM
23 cycle, so through 2013. And then we're reapplying
24 again for further smolt work and limnology work.
25
26 MR. HOLMES: I was wondering kind of
27 based on what you'd gotten from last year, I don't know
28 if you have a formal forecast or gut feeling, but how
29 does the potential for a reasonable subsistence fishery
30 look for this coming summer.
31
32 MR. THOMPSON: Through the Chair again.
33 The forecast looks fairly good for this year, but
34 coming up, the smolt numbers were the lowest they've
35 been in the 10 years that we've been doing this.
36 Roughly about 40 percent of the average out-migration.
37 So in the future it's going to go down, but the
38 forecast I believe was for about 37,000, somewhere
39 around there, and the lower end of the escapement's 20.
40
41 MR. HOLMES: So it will be good this
42 year, and next year will be so-so, but probably two
43 years out things will drop?
44
45 MR. THOMPSON: That sounds likely, yes.
46
47 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Steve, do you
48 have any idea of the Dolly Varden population in Afognak
49 Lake?
50

1 MR. THOMPSON: No, we don't. We
2 haven't done anything on that. The smolt data works
3 pretty good, but what we're finding there from doing
4 this study more and more is that that system is pretty
5 complex. They feed a lot in the spring on insects, and
6 then with that there's a lot of competition with coho
7 that are in the lake, and sticklebacks, and, you know,
8 I'm sure Dollies are a part of that. So it's going to
9 require quite a bit of study I think, and maybe looking
10 into things like that in the future to see more what's
11 driving it.

12
13 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Any more
14 questions, comments.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Well, thank
19 you very much for your -- oh, Iver.

20
21 MR. MALUTIN: Is there any information
22 (indiscernible, away from mic). Thank you. Yeah. My
23 name is Iver Malutin again, and I've just got a couple
24 questions.

25
26 When I was a young kid, I used to fish
27 at Karluk, say in '48, and there was a lot of fish.
28 And I looked at a book recently published, and there
29 were 10 canneries in the Karluk River. And in 1910,
30 the book was put out by I think the Baranof Museum,
31 with all the information, and in 1910 620,000 cases
32 were put up by the 10 canneries in the Karluk River.
33 Okay. And that was over half the packs of the whole
34 territory at that time.

35
36 And I just don't understand. 50 years
37 later, 60 years later, I was looking at the report that
38 was handed out, and there was some years they couldn't
39 even subsistence fish in the Karluk. And it wasn't too
40 long ago. So with all our technology we have today,
41 with all the information, look at the computers, look
42 at everything that's happening. To me, common sense
43 doesn't prevail in Karluk River, and it doesn't prevail
44 in Litnik in Afognak.

45
46 And the reason I say it doesn't prevail
47 in Afognak, because when I was a kid living at Afognak
48 quite a bit, there were four processing plants that had
49 a tender, a cannery tender, picking up fish every
50 single day, Monday through Friday. They fished five

1 days a week. Gillnets in the bay, and every single day
2 for the whole season. And there must have been quite a
3 bit of fish in Afognak Lake.

4

5 And today in 2013, we need to find the
6 answer to some of them questions as to what it was then
7 to see what we can do to maybe try to get it back a
8 little bit, you know. I'm not even sure we're going to
9 have subsistence again in Litnik. Maybe we will at
10 Afognak, but probably we will.

11

12 But I just wanted to ask you a
13 question. What can we do?

14

15 MR. THOMPSON: All right. Thanks.
16 Well, Karluk's not really, you know, something I study
17 much, but for Afognak, like I said, it's very complex.
18 Historically things went up and down a lot more. You
19 had really high years; you had really low years. And
20 now we tend to even that out. So you're not going to
21 have the highs and hopefully not the lows. So you
22 won't have quite the same production, because you've
23 cut down all that nutrient going in.

24

25 And then you may not have the same mix
26 in the lake as far as what your Dollies are, or what
27 your cohos are. Your temperature changes. The timing
28 of the insects. There are so many factors in there
29 that come to play. When those juveniles get on the
30 lake shore as zeroes and start trying to feed on those
31 insects, if that's timed just wrong with the insects,
32 then they don't have that food supplement, and the
33 zooplankton doesn't normally start up until a little
34 bit later.

35

36 So there's so many of these factors
37 that come into play that it's just really hard to get a
38 good handle on all the details.

39

40 MR. MALUTIN: Okay. In closing, I
41 want to apologize for asking you those questions,
42 because I've asked everybody at every meeting I ever go
43 to, and I never got an answer yet, and the fish are
44 still the same.

45

46 But anyway, I just want to thank
47 everybody for being here and listening to me. And all
48 I have to give you is information that comes from my
49 mom and dad and common sense, and absolutely no college
50 education. So with common sense we could do a lot. And

1 I just want to thank everybody for being here.

2

3 And the fish that was provided in the
4 back was by our tribal council. And that's another
5 reason I'm here, to protect the resources. And the
6 tribal council is a profit-making corporation that
7 handles that. It complies with all your laws to be
8 able to sell that by laws.

9

10 And I just want to thank every single
11 one of you for giving me an opportunity to speak again,
12 and I'll see you guys at the next meeting when I have
13 to talk about Karluk and Litnik again.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Well, thank
18 you, and thanks for the fish. It's very tasty.

19

20 All right. Thank you for your report.

21

22 Appreciate you stopping in.

23

24 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Moving
27 on our agenda items, we have -- well we've heard from
28 the Native organizations. Are there any more entities
29 here. Oh, yeah, We've got Glenn. I thought we'd skip
30 right by you, but, no, you woke up.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 DR. CHEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
35 Council members. My name is Glenn Chen. I'm from the
36 Bureau of Indian Affairs.

37

38 And I just wanted a few minutes of your
39 time today to talk about a marvelous capacity building
40 effort that the Bureau is supporting. This has to do
41 with a tribal marine science workshop. And the intent
42 of this workshop is to provide tribal folks with
43 knowledge and resources to manage marine-based
44 subsistence resources. This is our fourth year of
45 offering this workshop. It will be held during the
46 weeks of April 21st.

47

48 We've just recently had several people
49 drop out, so we've had some openings come about. We
50 did have a full roster up until a week ago. And we are

1 hoping that the Council can bring information about
2 this workshop back to your communities and your tribes.
3 Encourage folks to sign up. We've had people from
4 Sun'aq, for example, from Kodiak Island here
5 participate in our workshop before. And everyone has
6 remarked that this is a wonderful workshop. There's a
7 lot of information. It is an intense workshop, because
8 there are five days of instruction, and long days,
9 which include laboratory sessions, field sessions, and
10 lectures. Sometimes these go into the evening until
11 9:30 or so. We have a wonderful panel of instructors,
12 including folks like Mr. Iver Malutin and Leanna Jack
13 and other folks that you are probably well aware of.

14
15 But this is a great opportunity for
16 tribal folks to learn about Alaska's marine science so
17 they can again manage their natural resources, marine-
18 based natural resources in a more effective manner.

19
20 And to make this feasible for tribal
21 folks to attend, there's not cost for this workshop.
22 All lodging, all food, all instruction materials, and
23 even a substantial amount of people's travel costs are
24 covered, up to \$1100, are provided to cover travel
25 costs for participants.

26
27 So, again, if you could take back to
28 your communities this information about our upcoming
29 workshop, that would be wonderful.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thanks.
34 We'll pass it around.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 Do we have a James Jackson here with
39 Fish and Game, commercial fish biologist.

40
41 MR. JACKSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
42 Members of the Council. I actually didn't -- oh, for
43 the record, my name is James Jackson. I'm the area
44 management biologist for salmon and herring commercial
45 and subsistence fisheries in Kodiak.

46
47 I didn't come with any specific
48 presentation. I was just kind of coming here if you
49 guys had any management questions.

50

1 We didn't have any subsistence
2 restrictions last year. And we don't anticipate any
3 this year. So if you guys have any questions I'll
4 happily answer what you have.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Do we have any
7 questions. Pat.

8
9 MR. HOLMES: I was just wondering if
10 you had a feeling for anything, that everything looks
11 for subsistence on some of the areas that weren't
12 discussed. How are things looking for returns at
13 Karluk and then some of the other areas around the
14 island that weren't presented.

15
16 MR. JACKSON: Okay. Through the Chair.
17 Mr. Holmes. For the majority of the subsistence fish
18 that we catch are around the road system. So we
19 touched on a lot of those, Afognak, Buskin.

20
21 Some of the ones we didn't touch on are
22 Pasagshak. We have a weir at Pasagshak. Again we're
23 going to have another weir this year. We're continuing
24 to collect data there just to get a baseline actual
25 escapement goal based on a weir. We don't anticipate
26 any subsistence restrictions there this year.

27
28 Another one is Saltry. Saltry is a
29 highly under-utilized subsistence fishery in Kodiak.
30 There's really only about 3 to 700 subsistence fish
31 taken out of there. The majority of the fish that are
32 taken out of there are sportfish, but this year will
33 probably be something similar to previous years. When
34 the commercial fishery opens there, we actually roll
35 back the closed waters to the mouth for subsistence
36 fishing. That's one thing that we might change this
37 year. We might actually just roll back the waters, the
38 markers all the way to the mouth at the beginning of
39 the year and leave them there this year for subsistence
40 fisherman. Like I said, it's an under-utilized
41 subsistence stock, just to get some people down there
42 to actually catch some fish, because we seem to not
43 have a -- we really can't control the escapement there
44 very well. and that seems like one method that we could
45 actually do there.

46
47 Other places, Paul's Bay, Portage,
48 great escapements the last few years for sockeye. The
49 catch has been excellent up there, and no fisheries
50 restrictions up there. Malina Bay, same thing. We had

1 pretty good catches there.

2

3 Uganik, although you'll find in some of
4 your reports we didn't meet the escapement goal there
5 this year, that has more to do with the fact that it's
6 just hard to see fish in Uganik. So I think the
7 fishery was doing just fine there this year. And the
8 catch seemed to be pretty good as well.

9

10 For Karluk, we don't receive any
11 subsistence data out of Karluk, but like a lot of these
12 guys pointed out, last year we met our escapement goal
13 for both early and late run sockeye, and also Chinook
14 salmon. I don't foresee any subsistence restrictions
15 down there this year. The forecast, we have a
16 harvestable surplus for commercial sockeye, both early
17 and late this year. So it's probably going to be
18 something similar as last year, so it should be pretty
19 good fishing down there.

20

21 There was a few complaints in the fall
22 about people in Karluk not being able to get their
23 subsistence fish, and, you know, commercial fisheries
24 is always the bogeyman when it comes to that. It's
25 always somebody else caught your fish, but I think that
26 had more to do with the function of really high water
27 in the fall, and the fish just shot up past the weir.
28 That's probably why we had excellent coho salmon
29 escapement.

30

31 Other than that, not too much in the
32 way of subsistence fishing down in Alitak that is
33 reported, but we do have a forecast for diminished
34 returns of sockeye down in Alitak this year, but I
35 don't foresee any subsistence restrictions there as
36 well.

37

38 MR. HOLMES: Through the Chair. And
39 then you probably don't have, and I know at Old Harbor
40 that coho stream there is really important to folks
41 after the commercial fishery is over for subsistence.
42 And you probably aren't monitoring that.

43

44 And then I would ask you, you might
45 want to brief the Council, a couple years back you kind
46 of changed the subsistence reporting to make things
47 easier for folks in the village, and you might want to
48 touch on that.

49

50 MR. JACKSON: Through the Chair. Mr.

1 Holmes. One of the things we actually do on the east
2 side this year, we reinstated coho salmon surveys in
3 the fall. I'm pretty good at beg, borrow, and stealing
4 money from other agencies to be able to do that. So
5 it's a pretty important resource. And you're probably
6 talking about Big Creek or Midway. Midway had pretty
7 excellent coho salmon escapement last year. It had
8 excellent everything actually last year. It was pretty
9 full of chum, and pinks, and coho. But we do monitor
10 those coho stocks over there, and the subsistence
11 information that we do get from Old Harbor is pretty
12 darn good. They're actually one of the better places.

13

14

15 And I'm not quite sure I'm up on what
16 you're talking about. Are you talking about just the
17 availability of the people in the villages to issue
18 subsistence permits? Is that what you're talking
19 about?

20

21 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, that, you know, you
22 kind of relaxed things so if somebody's living off the
23 road system, they don't have to come in.

24

25 MR. JACKSON: Oh, I gotcha. Well,
26 there's that, too. And we also liberalized the
27 subsistence fishing off of the road system so that
28 there's no limit. And so that actually increased
29 reporting, believe it or not, too, because I think some
30 people were loath to report that they were taking, you
31 know, a lot of fish. So those risks, you know, we kind
32 of changed those restrictions, and that's actually
33 increased the subsistence reports that we have for
34 Kodiak. Kodiak has amazing subsistence reports. Right
35 now we're sitting at about 70 percent returns so far
36 for this year. We're typically in the high 90s of the
37 permits that we issue get returned to us in Kodiak.
38 Subsistence is very important, and I think the public
39 knows that and responds really well to that.

40

41 MR. HOLMES: Thank you very much.

42

43 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, I live in Port
44 Lions, and I was just wondering why Marmot Bay was put
45 in the Karluk Management Area?

46

47 MR. JACKSON: Through the Chair. Mr.
48 Squartsoff. So what you're asking is why Marmot Bay --
49 so like you're talking about the Central and North Cape
50 section, why that was added into -- it's always been a

remember, but back before the Central and North
3 Cape section was created, the geography of the sections
4 and districts was different. The names were different,
5 but it was still managed exactly the same. When they
6 actually made the Central and North Cape section into
7 sections, it must made it easier to write news
8 releases, to tell you the truth. So it's always been
9 managed in June and the latter part of August and
10 September based on Karluk sockeye.

11

12 It used to be a little easier back in
13 the day to close different sections, so you could close
14 the Uyak District or the Uganik District or the
15 Kizhuyak Bay section of what used to be called the
16 General District. We don't much do that any more. We
17 usually just open the Central, North Cape, Southwest
18 Afognak, and some of the inner bays together.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank
21 you very much for that report update.

22

23 Okay. We're on to any Native
24 organizations that want to speak or report. Yes.

25

26 MR. ROWLAND: I'm Rick Rowland, natural
27 resource director for Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak.

28

29 And I came today to present the Kodiak
30 Regional Aquaculture -- or Kodiak Regional Advisory
31 Council with a letter that was drafted by the Sun'aq
32 Tribe of Kodiak, and I'd like to read that to you.
33 Dated March 27th, 2013.

34

35 To the Kodiak/Aleutians Regional
36 Advisory Council from Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak, proudly
37 representing members of the Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak.

38

39 It has come to the attention of the
40 Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak of Kodiak that there is a
41 proposal before the Board which will affect our
42 customary and traditional use of crab in Womens Bay in
43 Kodiak, Alaska. On behalf of our 1650 members, the
44 Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak strongly opposes limiting
45 customary and traditional crab usage for our people for
46 the following reasons.

47

48 (1) The area that has been named Womens
49 Bay has a strong documented historical and traditional
50 pattern of usage by our membership for over 10,000

1 years.

2

3 (2) Womens Bay is a traditional use
4 area which allows individuals shelter from inclement
5 weather. Individuals are able to access their
6 traditional resources without additional safety
7 complications.

8

9 (3) Limiting customary and traditional
10 usage in Womens Bay would affect our elders and all
11 members would be forced to compromise their safety by
12 traveling to farther areas to obtain an important
13 stable in their diet and traditional lifestyle.

14

15 (4) Our members rely on being able to
16 utilize Womens Bay to access customary and traditional
17 foods which have been used from that area for over
18 thousands of years.

19

20 We strongly urge and encourage the
21 Board to oppose any changes in the existing regulations
22 and support customary and traditional use as a
23 priority.

24

25 Sincerely, Robert Polaski, CEO.

26

27 And I'll leave that letter here with
28 your.

29

30 Also one thing that I wanted to
31 mention, too, is that I overheard the Department of
32 Fish and Game's report about ghost crab pots. And I
33 just wanted to mention a couple of things. There's a
34 new buzz word called traditional ecological knowledge
35 that everyone's saying that people in the area have.
36 And so now it's apparent that they're recognizing what
37 the Natives know, and they're calling it traditional
38 ecological knowledge.

39

40 But in relation to this lost crab pots,
41 we did an environmental capacity building project
42 within the last couple years with the Sun'aq tribe of
43 Kodiak and we found that there are thousands, if not
44 hundreds of thousands of lost crab pots in the Gulf of
45 Alaska into the Bering Sea. And we formed a
46 partnership with St. George Island to find a way to
47 address these issues. And during the research of those
48 pinpoint potential projects for doing sample surveys of
49 where lost crab pots are at, some of the reports that
50 were researched document information from how long the

1 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and NOAA has known
2 about those lost crab pots, they used to call them
3 derelict crab pots. But they've been losing crab pots
4 in the Bering Sea and around here since the 60s.

5
6 And so I have a document here that's
7 from a report from 1993 that was done by National
8 Marine Fisheries and Alaska Department of Game in
9 Kalsin Bay here. So by Fish and Game saying that they
10 don't know about ghost crab pots, maybe they didn't
11 know about ghost crab pots because they didn't call
12 them ghost crab pots. They call them derelict crab
13 pots. But the information is there, and I wanted you
14 to know that I had a copy printed to give to you guys
15 so that you know that -- I mean, it's something the
16 tribe is looking at, and that it should be looked at
17 seriously by not only the tribe, but Regional Advisory
18 Council and Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

19
20 So thank you.

21
22 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank
23 you very much. And we'll be bringing that crab issue
24 as one of our action items.

25
26 Any more entities or Native
27 organizations that wish to speak to the Council.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Hearing none,
32 then we'll move on the agenda and take up our actions.
33 And the list has grown since the last discovery. I
34 have seven action items.

35
36 The first one I'll ask to be brought
37 forward and ask for a motion to put on the table is to
38 approve the annual report which is in your packet here.
39 It's on Page 3 or 4. Page 8 and 9.

40
41 We added during the process of this
42 meeting issues on the deer population I believe it was,
43 but we have that on the record somewhere. Then rural
44 determination issue support. And wolf predator control
45 policy change requested in the Aleutian Izembek area.

46
47 Was there any more. Anybody else had
48 any more on that, to include in the letter to Tim
49 Towarak.

50

1 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I was
2 wondering, are we going to do a separate proposal there
3 under the opening for trapping in -- or, no, no.
4 Recommending the -- I think we can do a proposal to
5 support Old Harbor and Akhiok. Would that be a
6 separate item, or would that be in our letter.
7
8 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: That would be
9 a separate item agenda. I think I had it down here
10 already, to add the bear limit.
11
12 MR. HOLMES: Okay. On the list that
13 I've been working on, I had on the emperor goose, to
14 raise the question and I don't know whether we
15 would.....
16
17 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: That's also an
18 action item.
19
20 MR. HOLMES: Is that separate?
21
22 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Yeah. Let's
23 stick with the annual report.
24
25 MR. HOLMES: Okay. I'm just trying to
26 check here.
27
28 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: We'll go down
29 the list.
30
31 MR. HOLMES: Okay.
32
33 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. We need
34 a motion to approve the annual report.
35
36 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman, I move
37 that we accept the annual report.
38
39 MR. KOSO: Second.
40
41 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: It's been
42 moved by Tom Schwantes and seconded by Rick Koso. All
43 those in favor say aye.
44
45 IN UNISON: Aye.
46
47 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Della. Mitch.
48
49 MR. SIMEONOFF: Aye
50

1 MS. TRUMBLE: Aye.
2
3 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank
4 you.
5
6 That's moved on.
7
8 The next item is the crab pot proposal.
9 And I understand that the committee has come up with
10 some changes. Maybe we can hear that quick report on
11 the changes recommended, and any other from Council.
12
13 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. The crab study
14 group got together. Myself, Same Rohrer and Tom
15 Schwantes.
16
17 And the one item that we decided to
18 proceed through on was to change in that second
19 section, changing person to permit holder.
20
21 And we did discuss the potential of
22 having smaller crab pots, six-by-six, because that's
23 probably used more by the seiners that go out, but then
24 we decided being as the request was a statewide
25 proposal, that we'd probably just leave it the way that
26 it was.
27
28 And then Wayne typed up the corrections
29 for us this morning.
30
31 I think that we do need to have a vote
32 as to whether to proceed with this change, because one
33 of our members felt that he didn't think that we needed
34 to have -- approach any of these regulations at all,
35 and so I'll let him speak to that.
36
37 And that's my report, Mr. Chairman.
38 Oh, we did decide that it would be good to have a
39 different date on there so that it would be closed
40 during -- to prevent this ghost pot problem, we thought
41 that it would be really important to close it from
42 November 15th through the end of April, or through the
43 molting period, because then we wouldn't be losing more
44 crab pots to the ice. And most folks don't do any
45 fishing at that time of the year, so that would get
46 people to pull their gear out of the water, and then
47 not be creating more ghost pots.
48
49 So it was changed saying to permit
50 holder, and then as we discussed before, we added in

1 ring nets and then this as it's written now, it will
2 allow more than one permit holder to fish out of a
3 single boat, and kind of allow people to go after crab
4 in their more traditional way. And then at the bottom
5 having the closure to get the pots out of the water.
6 And so this paper that you have before us, we would
7 need to approve that.

8

9 And I'll leave the dissenting member of
10 our committee to raise his own arguments.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank
13 you. We'll hear from Tom and then from the Department.

14

15 Okay, you want to go first?

16

17 MS. YUHAS: It's your committee, Mr.
18 Chairman, so if that's the will of the committee, I'm
19 happy to go now.

20

21 As you're aware, the handout was spread
22 around the table from the subcommittee's
23 recommendations. The majority I suppose. I was handed
24 these this morning, and they were simply typed up for
25 your convenience.

26

27 I was asked to speak briefly to a
28 couple of the points within the document. The
29 Department is absolutely agreeable to changing things
30 to permit holder and defining the ring net.

31

32 With regards to the date, although it's
33 seen as a benefit to close it during the icing up
34 starting in November, we've got a conservation concern
35 with shifting the whole season back to April 1st. And
36 while it accommodates the molting season, the mating
37 season actually peaks in April, and has its substantial
38 mating happening in May. So there's a high point in
39 April, but there's -- and I knew that Member Holmes
40 might have questions, and so Wayne Donaldson has
41 prepared me with my study references. Please remember
42 I am not a crab biologist. Doing my best here. But
43 we've got some references here from the previous
44 studies that I can provide to the committee. So we're
45 hoping that that season would still only be starting in
46 June and just moving that date back from January 31st
47 to the November date, but not beginning until June
48 after the mating season.

49

50 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Do you

1 have any questions. Go ahead.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Mr. Chair.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: You've got
6 questions on the.....

7

8 MR. HOLMES: I guess our approach on
9 April 30th was because crab basically molted and mated
10 in February, March and April. I know there's might be
11 a few soft shell later, but, you know, we were thinking
12 about having some readjustments that would allow
13 fishing in that little bit earlier in May, although the
14 crabs wouldn't be as full, but I don't have any real
15 big heartache on changing it to June. And I guess I'd
16 open that for discussion from our advisory little panel
17 that worked on that.

18

19 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Tom
20 Schwantes.

21

22 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman. Members
23 of the Board. After meeting with that committee last
24 night for a few minutes and then going home, I spent a
25 great deal of time last night, in fact, about 1:30 this
26 morning I wrapped up looking at this proposal and where
27 we're at. And if the Chair will allow, I have several
28 points to address here this morning.

29

30 I'd like to go back just for some of
31 those Board members who haven't been here through this
32 whole thing, this proposal has been an ongoing thing
33 for at least three years now. In the March meeting of
34 2011 here in Kodiak, which I was excused from due to my
35 work on the Slope, a proposal was introduced by Mr.
36 Holmes to close Womens Bay to subsistence fishing
37 entirely. As I said, I wasn't at that meeting, wasn't
38 aware of that proposal until I got my booklet in the
39 fall. I was quite surprised when I saw that proposal,
40 because I'd spoken to Mr. Holmes several times
41 throughout the summer, and that never came up.

42

43 As a result, having just received that
44 booklet a few days before the meeting, I spoke to
45 several member of the Sun'ag Tribe regarding that
46 proposal, and became aware that they were not even
47 aware that a proposal had been submitted, and that they
48 certainly opposed it. As a result I was given a letter
49 to present to the Board at the fall meeting in Cold
50 Bay. And after some discussion the Board chose to

1 withdraw that proposal.

2

3 Last year at our fall meeting we again
4 dealt with a proposal to deal with crab fishing in
5 Federal waters, and a proposal was put forward by the
6 Department of Fish and Game that would severely
7 restrict our access and the way that subsistence crab
8 were harvested. And those restrictions would have
9 dealt a real blow to the subsistence users of this
10 area. The Board discussed it. We discussed it at
11 great length and voted that down at that fall meeting.

12

13

14 Quite frankly I thought we were through
15 with the issue. But then it seems like this ghost
16 fishing issue came up and at the Board meeting in
17 Anchorage in January the Department of Fish and Game
18 presented this information. And, you know, this crab
19 study has been going on for 30 years; however, I would
20 point out that we have little or no data for the past
21 three years, so we really don't know what's going on
22 out there.

23

24 And the other thing, by the ghost
25 fishing report presented indicated that 49 percent of
26 those ghost pots were dungeness pots which in no way,
27 shape or form are affected by this proposal. The
28 proposal does not address in any way the cause of ghost
29 fishing in the Kodiak -- it does not address escape
30 mechanisms. It does not address buoy size or line. It
31 does not address anything that would prevent a pot from
32 being lost.

33

34 I'd like to point out to you some back
35 and forth conversation from the Federal Subsistence
36 Board meeting held in Anchorage in January. And I
37 refer to this handout that I think we all got this, but
38 I'm just going to quote from this. It says, Mr. Owen,
39 through the Chair. A question to Fish and Game. Then
40 are you saying that the problem is actually a failure
41 to enforce existing regulations, and, if that's so, is
42 there really a need for additional regulation in this
43 case. Mr. Donaldson responds, and one of the things he
44 says, and I quote, so the Department put this proposal
45 forward to define what a king crab pot is with
46 dimensions and define what a Tanner crab pot is with
47 dimensions. That would help protection department
48 enforce the pot limits, which would then, we believe,
49 cut down on the ghost fishing.

50

1 Now, let me go over this proposed
2 regulation with you. The proposed regulation 28E4IC
3 describes a king crab pot as a pot that is no more than
4 10 feet long, 10 feet wide, 42 inches high and that
5 tapers inward from the base to a top consisting of one
6 horizontal opening of any size. Proposed Regulation
7 28E4VA describes a tanner crab pot as a pot that is no
8 more than 10 feet long, 10 feet wide, 42 inches high
9 and tapers inward from its base to the top, consisting
10 of one horizontal opening of any size.

11
12 Those are identical descriptions.
13 There's absolutely not difference. So how is
14 enforcement going to be able to tell the difference
15 between a king crab pot and a tanner crab pot?

16
17 Additionally, the king crab regulations
18 state that you may only use one king crab pot per
19 subsistence permit holder. Tanner crab regulations
20 state that king crab may be retained from a tanner crab
21 pot provided the king crab household limit has not been
22 met.

23
24 So bingo. Now all of a sudden I'm
25 allowed six king crab pots.

26
27 What are we solving? We're not solving
28 anything, you know. They're identical. So I go out
29 there, I put my five pots out that are labeled tanner
30 crab pot. I put my one pot out that's labeled king
31 crab pot. They're identical. And I can keep king crab
32 out of my tanner crab pot, so now I have six tanner
33 crab pots. You know, it doesn't make sense.

34
35 The proposal is not worth the paper
36 it's written on in my estimation. I've spent 20 years
37 working enforcement in the Kodiak area, and I can tell
38 you that proposal is a joke.

39
40 I'm not in any way taking lightly
41 what's happening with the crab stock in Womens Bay.
42 There may well be a conservation concern; however this
43 proposal will do nothing to deal with or reduce in any
44 way the number of future pots lost or the number of
45 lost pots that continue to ghost fish.

46
47 Further, this Board does not represent
48 the State of Alaska. The State Board of Fisheries has
49 that responsibility. This Board, I'd like to remind
50 us, represents and has a responsibility to Federally-

1 qualified subsistence users in the Kodiak/Aleutians
2 area. Our regulations need not be the same as State
3 regulations. And in fact they should not be. Let us
4 not forget that we're here because the State of Alaska
5 refused to recognize qualified subsistence users.
6 That's why this Board is here.

7

8 The State has taken no steps to curtail
9 commercial fishing in Womens Bay, and by their own
10 admission, as I mentioned before, 49 percent of the
11 ghost pots are dungeness pots which are not even
12 addressed by this proposal. Rather than addressing the
13 issue, they are attempting to dump this back on the
14 backs of the subsistence users.

15

16 As I was going through this information
17 last night, I realized that this is the third go around
18 in as many years, in three years, that we've been
19 dealing with this issue.

20

21 I'd like to make one more point here
22 from the Anchorage meeting. It's a question to Mr.
23 Simeonoff, the Chairman of our Board, from the Chair of
24 the Federal Board, Mr. Towarak. It says, Mr. Towarak's
25 asking the asking. He says, I've got a question to Mr.
26 Simeonoff. Based on what you've heard from the State's
27 presentation, do you think there's enough information
28 to either withdraw this proposal, or do any other
29 action than we would plan on doing today. Mr.
30 Simeonoff's response, I think removing the proposal
31 would be a good thing. And yet we're dealing with it
32 again.

33

34 As I was thinking about the amount of
35 time we're spending on this proposal and dealing with
36 this issue that the State seems to keep pushing at us,
37 trying to get us to conform to their way of thinking, I
38 was reminded of a saying. You put a frog in a pot of
39 boiling water and he'll jump out, but you put that frog
40 in a bottle of cool water and turn up the heat gently
41 and you'll cook him.

42

43 And, you know, if you think about this,
44 three years ago they came to us and said, close the
45 season. We said no. We jumped out of that pot of hot
46 water. The next year they came back with severe
47 restrictions. We said no again. Now they're coming
48 back at us with supposedly more information, new stuff
49 that they've had for 30 years, but now all of a sudden
50 we're just now hearing about it, because it might help

1 them convince us to move our regulations towards what
2 they want.

3

4 I believe they have a problem in Womens
5 Bay, and I believe they should take every step possible
6 to resolve that problem. Close commercial seasons,
7 clean up and removed lost pots. Whatever it takes.
8 And then if absolutely necessary, as a last resort, ask
9 our elders and indigenous people to give up a
10 traditional lifestyle until and only until those stocks
11 can be rebuilt.

12

13 I would welcome working with the State
14 of Alaska to resolve these issues; however, this
15 proposal that's before us today in no way even begins
16 to deal with the concerns at hand. I personally would
17 recommend that the State rethink this and come back to
18 the Board with a proposal that would help solve that
19 problem.

20

21 For that reason, Mr. Chairman and
22 members of the Board, I'm going to propose this and
23 adamantly oppose this and I'm going to do everything I
24 can to make sure that this proposal isn't passed on the
25 backs of our subsistence users.

26

27 You know, like I said, I welcome the
28 opportunity to work with the State to resolve those
29 issues, but this doesn't do it.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Thank you.

34

35 You have a comment, Pat.

36

37 MR. HOLMES: Well, Mr. Chair, as I
38 discussed last night, this is isn't only -- these
39 proposals are not only to address Womens Bay. And it's
40 a bigger thing than what has been addressed to us. I'd
41 like to back up and say that I presented the proposal
42 for the closure. That was a result of a report that we
43 had from NOAA, and they expressed a really strong
44 concern about the stocks there. It was echoed by one
45 of the Department staff members. And they asked us to
46 address the question of the nursery area. And the
47 divers that are there, they don't have quantitative
48 information on what's going on in the bay, but let me
49 back up to give the big picture. That was where that
50 came in.

1 But Tom has not attended the local
2 advisory committee meetings or read the proceedings of
3 the State Board. And I heartily agree with him that
4 the big problem is enforcement. And both the state
5 advisory committee prior to and then after the nursery
6 area question in Womens Bay, they were trying to
7 develop a way to, and Mitch will agree with me on this,
8 because Mitch has raised the question for many years on
9 the problems in State waters of folks that are not
10 subsistence users, not legitimate State or Federal
11 subsistence users, out-of-state residents, commercial
12 fishermen, tender operators, lodges. And then there
13 was quite a long discussion at a couple of the AC
14 meetings with the Department of Public Safety
15 requesting enforcement. And so that's where these
16 definitions came from. They did not come from anything
17 to address Womens Bay. They came from the State
18 advisory council and then it went from them to the --
19 or anyway that concern from them and the concern from
20 us about enforcement islandwide.

21
22 Then the State, a fellow named George
23 Pappas, who was a State liaison to the Federal Board,
24 was assigned the task and he was given the criteria
25 given to him by Public Safety, and that they felt that
26 these things were needed in order to define crab pots
27 and solve problems statewide. And so he compiled that
28 with input from the Staff, Fish and Game Staff, and
29 from Public Safety on trying to address the Statewide
30 issues.

31
32 And you're correct, Tom, this does not
33 directly relate to Womens Bay. And I agree that you
34 did raise the question on whether nursery area, the
35 last area on the island, should be available to State
36 fishing, and you won that argument and validly so. But
37 it is a broader question. And really these definitions
38 help solve our islandwide problems more so than in the
39 bay.

40
41 But you are incorrect, because the
42 definition of the date which we were just about to
43 discuss. The date, by having all pots pulled out of
44 the bay, mid November, and whether it's April 30th or
45 June 1st doesn't matter to me that much, that will
46 eliminate the problems of pots being lost in the ice,
47 because the ice shears everything out and leaves them
48 behind.

49
50 And I would certainly agree approaching

1 the State on seeing -- I don't even know if anybody
2 even fishes dungeness in the bay any more. The one
3 fellow that I know that did, he moved down to Juneau.
4 And I think that would be a swell proposal for us to
5 submit over on the State side to eliminate dungeness
6 fishing in there because of the, you know, strong
7 problems of trapping king crab.

8
9 But I think in the broader perspective,
10 these proposals will help. At least that's what the
11 Department of Public Safety has said, is that they
12 needed that to do enforcement. Myself, I think they
13 could do a lot of enforcement sitting down at their
14 computer and looking at websites on people claiming to
15 take crab from lodges, or went down and just hopped on
16 that one big tender that goes down there that's causing
17 a problem on the tender side. But in my mind, I'm
18 looking at the politics.

19
20 I don't see that this would be a burden
21 to folks. The only thing you have to do -- I don't
22 know anybody that fishes more than one or two pots, and
23 the big thing is you'd have to label your name and
24 address and that it's a king crab pot when you're
25 fishing king crab, or tanners when you're fishing
26 tanners. There's not a whole lot of tanners in there,
27 there's some. And I know I usually fish farther out,
28 or used to. I can't really pull much by hand any more.

29
30
31 But, anyway, those are my comments.
32 And it is a broader perspective than that. I think
33 there is problem with nursery areas, but then I'm a
34 biologist and I care about baby critters and grandkids
35 and whatever. But, you know, I can see going ahead and
36 continuing the subsistence fishing there. I think it's
37 great, because it's the only place we can. But if
38 things went -- if it does decline further, then we need
39 to address the nursery issue separately, and sometime
40 in the future.

41
42 But I do feel that in a broader overall
43 islandwide perspective, this will help get enforcement
44 off of the peg. And I think if nothing else, even if
45 this goes down or it gets approved, which I hope it
46 does, I think that our Council and the local AC should
47 send letters to the Department of Public Safety,
48 because you know as well as I that once the Bristol Bay
49 season opens, there aren't any protection folks in
50 Kodiak to enforce even commercial regs. And

1 subsistence is way down on their list. And I think
2 it's, as you do, the most important thing is protecting
3 folks' ability to take crab and to protect the few
4 resources we have left to be able to access. And so I
5 think we certainly are in agreement on protecting the
6 resource and providing food for folks. And so I guess
7 that gives a counterpoint to your discussion, and I
8 really appreciate your point of view, and that's mine.

9

10 So thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Yeah. Tom
13 Jennings.

14

15 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16

17 It was pointed out to me by our OSM
18 Staff that considering adding in season or date changes
19 might require some consultation with our solicitor. He
20 said it hasn't gone through the public process the way
21 the rest of the proposal have, so they wanted to
22 confirm what their place is on that.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Yeah. Mitch,
27 are you there. We'd like to hear from you.

28

29 MR. SIMEONOFF: Yes, I'm here but I'm
30 having difficulty picking up stuff here.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Did you get
33 that changed format that was handed out by the
34 committee, which is basically.....

35

36 MR. SIMEONOFF: The weather might be
37 affecting my phone as it was cutting in and out here.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Well,
40 can you speak to the proposed regulation. We've heard
41 two different views so far.

42

43 MR. SIMEONOFF: Mr. Chairman, can you
44 hear me?

45

46 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: I can hear
47 you. Go ahead.

48

49 MR. SIMEONOFF: Yeah. Yeah, with the
50 king crab and tanner crab proposal, I would suggest

1 that the Council take a really close look at the
2 wording and definitions of this proposal, because this
3 proposal is not only for Womens Bay; it's going to
4 affect everybody in the Kodiak region. When I first
5 heard the proposal in -- not the first time, but when I
6 heard the proposal in January, the reasons for sending
7 it back to the RAC was making a proposal that addresses
8 concerns in Womens Bay that would affect the whole
9 island I would (indiscernible) were reasons for
10 opposing that was that very thing. Including that
11 (indiscernible) area. We should -- maybe that Womens
12 Bay should be a separate proposal in itself.

13

14 I do advise the Council to look at the
15 wording carefully, especially those people that subsist
16 for crab in other areas of Kodiak Island. This
17 proposed crab regulation will affect them.

18

19 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank
20 you, Mitch.

21

22 Tom Schwantes and Sam.

23

24 MR. ROHRER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 Just a couple comments.

26

27 First I'd just like to say there's been
28 two folks now comment about the severe restrictions
29 that this proposed regulation makes, and I should say
30 that with quotations, severe restrictions. There's no
31 severe restrictions in here. I'm just not buying that
32 argument; I'm not seeing it. You know, feel free,
33 anyone, to point out to me how this would be a severe
34 restriction, but I'm just not seeing it in here.

35

36 There's -- I mean, this proposed reg
37 isn't perfect. I don't understand frankly why there
38 isn't a difference on the pyramid style pots between a
39 king crab pot and a tanner pot, but I don't pretend to
40 be an expert when it comes to crab fishing. So I'll
41 leave that one alone.

42

43 But what I will say, what I do think
44 will make a difference when it comes to the ghost
45 fishing issue is the season changes. Currently king
46 crab fishing is closed most of the time anyways when
47 the ice is an issue in the bay. That's already
48 currently closed from January 31st to June 1st. So all
49 this would be doing would be moving that back a month
50 and a half earlier. And again this is only in Womens

1 Bay we're talking about for the season closure. And
2 then we'd be adding in tanners to that.

3

4 You know, we heard from Pete Cumiskey
5 yesterday about him actually observing a bunch of pots
6 being lost due to ice. That is a real problem and
7 that's something that directly contributes to ghost
8 fishing, and that's an easy fix we can do here by
9 closing down Womens Bay fishing to that period of time
10 when there's ice in the bay, and it has a tendency to
11 move out and take crab pots out. That's a real issue.
12 That's something we can address with this. And frankly
13 we should fix it on our side, on the Federal side, and
14 then we should take a proposal to the State side and
15 try to fix it on the State side as well. So that's a
16 real issue that needs addressed.

17

18 And the last thing I'll say I think to
19 Tom's comment about worrying about making the State and
20 Federal regs match. I personally think that there's a
21 lot of benefits to our community to have continuity
22 between the State and Federal regs. Our regulations
23 are confusing enough as it is. To then have separate
24 Federal, separate State one, it just adds to the
25 confusion, adding that to the fact that there's very
26 little Federal water around Kodiak that we're even
27 talking about. It's just asking for problems I think
28 when you have separate regs that folks get confused
29 about, where those regs apply when the majority of
30 water that's actually being subsistence for is State
31 waters. Guys are going to look at these regs and have
32 a tendency to go out and do it on State waters and be
33 confused about the jurisdiction for where they're
34 operating.

35

36 So anyways those are my comments.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank
39 you.

40

41 Tom.

42

43 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman. The
44 proposal that came before us is a proposal to change
45 definition of king crab pots and tanner crab pots and
46 what can be fished, what can't be fished. Nothing in
47 this proposal has -- and I would point out that this
48 proposal is not restricted to Womens Bay. This
49 proposal is for all Federal waters in the
50 Kodiak/Aleutians area.

1 Secondly, I would point out that
2 nowhere in this initial proposal that was presented to
3 us was there anything that indicated a request for a
4 closure, a season closure. And in my mind, I think
5 that by adding that in there, or considering a season
6 closure on this proposal, puts this proposal -- that's
7 outside of our parameters as far as I'm concerned. I
8 may be wrong, but this proposal that was presented to
9 the Board had nothing to do with closures. Season
10 closures or area closures or anything else. And it
11 wasn't brought to this Board specifically to deal with
12 the Women's Bay issue. It's a Federal waters issue.

13

14 So again I would go back and say, and
15 I'm going to oppose this, and I would hope that the
16 Board would do the same thing. And then the Department
17 could come back to us with a proposal specifically to
18 deal with that Womens Bay issue.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Tom Jennings.

23

24 MR. SIMEONOFF: Those are my thoughts
25 exactly at the meeting in Anchorage in January. If
26 there was a problem with Womens Bay, they should deal
27 specifically with Womens Bay, not enter a proposal that
28 affects the whole region of Kodiak.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Thank you,

31

32 Mitch.

33

34 Yes. Hold on. Yeah.

35

36 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37

38 Just a clarification; it's been said a
39 couple of times that the definitions are identical, and
40 there's a lot of similar language and it gets late in
41 the meeting. I'd just like to point out in both of the
42 paragraphs before you, on line 4 contains the
43 difference. So king crab pots are defined with the eye
44 opening five inches or more, and tanner crab pots are
45 defined with an eye opening less than five inches, to
46 point out the difference there.

47

48 Also there's some discussion over
49 Womens Bay or areawide. The RAC does have within its
50 power to recommend that it be narrowed to Womens Bay,

1 so you have multiple choices within the process. You
2 could decide this is something you want to do simply in
3 Womens Bay, make that recommendation, or we can wait
4 two years and look at new proposals. But you have
5 multiple options.

6
7 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank
8 you.

9
10 Tom Jennings, You had a comment.

11
12 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Mr. Chair. Steve
13 Fried could speak to my comment before about the
14 appropriateness of season changes and that. He did
15 consult with Ken Lord.

16
17 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Steve.

18
19 MR. SIMEONOFF: I'm sorry, Tom. This
20 is Mitch. I couldn't hear you.

21
22 MR. JENNINGS: Steve Fried will speak
23 to my comments just now, Mitch.

24
25 MR. FRIED: My name is Steve Fried with
26 Office of Subsistence Management.

27
28 And I just wanted to let the Council
29 know that Jerry Berg and I were able to call and speak
30 to Ken Lord from the Solicitor's Office, because we
31 were a little concerned about getting into defining a
32 season date. And Ken Lord said that the original
33 proposal really spoke to defining king crab and tanner
34 pots and marking of buoys. And this is really getting
35 into a different area. It really should be addressed
36 by, you know, a different proposal.

37
38 And it's because of public notice. And
39 even though this Council meeting is a public meeting,
40 there really wasn't appropriate public notice. It
41 wasn't in the Federal Register, and so he thought this
42 was really outside the parameters of the original
43 proposal.

44
45 And we were just concerned -- I mean,
46 you certainly can go to the Board and recommend
47 something like this, you know, saying, well, we looked
48 at this. Maybe this proposal doesn't -- you know,
49 whether or not you pass this proposal as revised or
50 oppose it, you can also tell the Board that you think

1 that, you know, it would be more important to, you
2 know, change the season as a method to maybe help the
3 ghost pot fishing issue, or something like -- depending
4 on how the Council votes.

5
6 But, you know, if this comes before the
7 Board, you know, as a deferred proposal, then they're
8 going to say, well, we can't change 28E4VI, because
9 there was not sufficient public notice.

10
11 So we just wanted to make sure that the
12 council spent its time, you know, productively and
13 realized what they can do with this and what they
14 can't.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank
19 you for that clarification.

20
21 Tom Schwantes and then Pat.

22
23 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah. Mr. Chairman.
24 Back to pot definitions. I agree with what has been
25 said, but if you go down to line 6 in that definition,
26 it says, or a pot that is not more than 10 feet by 10
27 feet by 42 inches and that tapers to the top with any
28 size opening. It says the exact same language in both
29 the tanner crab and the king crab pot regulation.
30 There is no difference if I'm fishing a tanner crab
31 pot. If I'm fishing a pyramid pot, it's identical
32 description. There's no difference.

33
34 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Pat
35 and then we'll ask for.....

36
37 MR. HOLMES: One final point, Mr.
38 Chairman, if I may.

39
40 MR. SIMEONOFF: This is Mitch.

41
42 MR. HOLMES: Go ahead, Mitch.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Yeah. Go
45 ahead, Mitch.

46
47 MR. SIMEONOFF: I'm sorry to interrupt,
48 but somebody's got to get that music out of there. I
49 can't hear anything with that music going on.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, somebody
2 on the -- need to let them know, go to shut them off
3 and have them call back if we continue to hear music.

4
5 (Off record discussion of music)

6
7 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. We'll
8 move on here. Hopefully, Mitch, you can hear us,
9 because we need to move this issue on and I'll be
10 looking forward to a motion to put it on the table here
11 shortly.

12
13 Pat.

14
15 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I'm not really
16 debating this at all any more. And I'm ready for a
17 vote.

18
19 The most important point, people, turn
20 to Page 16, and Staff analysis, discussion. The
21 proponent, which is the State, seeks to align Federal
22 subsistence regulations for the harvest of king and
23 tanner crab with current State subsistence regulations
24 within the Kodiak area. You read through this, it has
25 nothing to do with Womens Bay, and they're two entirely
26 separate issues. This is a point coming from the State
27 and it was stimulated by the local advisory committee,
28 also stimulated by our concerns expressed in the past
29 about a lack of enforcement.

30
31 And these proposals, this is the State
32 coming and asking us whether or not we think those
33 would work. And when we turned it down before we said
34 it didn't work, and we were not discussing Womens Bay
35 at all. So they're two entirely separate issues. And
36 the question on these proposals is whether this is an
37 improvement. Right now what's stated in there is the
38 Sate regs. It's been approved by the State Board of
39 Fish.

40
41 And so unless we change them, there's
42 no way that people can go and get crab in State waters
43 the way they used to. It will be one boat with one
44 permit going out to one pot basically.

45
46 And so these changes would allow folks
47 down in Alitak to be able to get crab like they always
48 have. And so it's an entirely different issue. It's
49 not Womens Bay.

50

1 Womens Bay, the only solution on Womens
2 Bay is a date and obviously we have to bring that up at
3 some other time. It's a date change. That would
4 change the amount of pots. We could also suggest go to
5 the AC and ask them to restrict dungie fishing to
6 protect kings. Those are different issues.

7
8 And so the issue presented to us in
9 this is what it precisely says on Page 16, and this
10 would make it -- these changes would make subsistence
11 crab fishing easier on the rest of the island. If we
12 don't approve this, that means that Mitch will not be
13 able to have his cousin come down and take out four
14 families and run four pots. They cannot do that under
15 the existing State regulations. This is what's the
16 State regs.

17
18 So they're asking us how can we make
19 the State regs work better for folks on the rest of the
20 island. It's not Womens Bay.

21
22 And so I would urge folks to vote in
23 favor of this, because it will let us go back to being
24 able to fish the way we did. And the only thing we're
25 going to have to do is label our pots. And if we don't
26 approve this then you can't go out in your boat and
27 take your cousin out with you and pick more than one
28 pot like you've always done. And that's the issue.
29 It's not Womens Bay. It's not nursery area. Those are
30 separate things. So please when we have our vote,
31 think about it in that way.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 And I'm ready to call for a vote.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Pete.

38
39 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. Just a quick
40 comment, Pat. Alitak is not State waters, that's
41 Federal.

42
43 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chair. If I may.
44 This proposal is not going to solve Mr. Spiridon's
45 problems. This proposal is a Federal proposal. And
46 it's only going -- if we pass this, it's only going to
47 be effective in Federal waters.

48
49 MR. HOLMES: That's true, but we can
50 send it back to the State and say the State should

1 change it to make it work. And right now it doesn't
2 work. It doesn't work anyway. And if we don't do
3 this, then, you know, it will take another -- anyway,
4 I'm tired. Call for question.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: We need to
7 get a motion on the floor first. Does somebody want to
8 move to approve. We need a positive motion first
9 before I can get it on, and then we'll ask for a roll
10 call. If we can get that music and Mitch can hear us.

11
12 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair. I'd like to make
13 a motion we put this proposal on the floor.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: And that's the
16 proposal is the one without the change of dates, right?

17
18 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Second.

19
20 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Not the one
21 with the changed dates.

22
23 MR. KOSO: Right. It's the original
24 one.

25
26 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: The original
27 one. Okay. Do I have a second.

28
29 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Second.

30
31 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: It's been
32 moved and seconded to approve the proposed regulation
33 on king crab and tanner crab fishing. We need a roll
34 call, please. Yes. One line. Discussion.

35
36 MR. SIMEONOFF: This is Mitch.

37
38 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Hold on a
39 minute.

40
41 MR. SCHWANTES: Maybe I misunderstood
42 you, but I thought you said it was put on to approve
43 this proposal; is that what you're saying?

44
45 MR. SIMEONOFF: Mr. Chairman. This is
46 Mitch.

47
48 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Yes. Go
49 ahead, Mitch.

50

1 MR. SIMEONOFF: (Indiscernible) I'm
2 sorry, I did not get any of that discussion that you
3 just had. Got to find that music and turn it off.
4
5 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. We're
6 going to call for a five-minute recess so we can
7 restructure the telephones and get them people off the
8 line. We're going to disconnect everybody. Can you
9 call back, Mitch and Della.
10
11 (Off record)
12
13 (On record)
14
15 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. We'll
16 call it back into session here. We've got our two
17 members on the telephone, We were in recess to begin
18 the roll call. It's been called on the motion to.....
19
20 (Conference operator)
21
22 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay.
23 Hopefully those people that are on the line won't put
24 their phone on mute, because it plays back some music,
25 and it's not the kind of music we want to hear.
26
27 Okay. We're right in the middle of a
28 call for a roll call on proposal regulation on king
29 crab and tanner crab. Roll call, please.
30
31 MR. JENNINGS: A roll call vote on
32 FP13-14 deferred, to modify the king crab and tanner
33 crab pot regulations in the Kodiak area.
34
35 MR. SIMEONOFF: Mr. Chairman, this is
36 Mitch.
37
38 MR. JENNINGS: Mitch, the motion was to
39 support the proposals as written and we're doing a roll
40 call vote right now. And I'll read the roster and
41 collect the vote.
42
43 Antone Shelikoff.
44
45 MR. SHELIKOFF: Yes.
46
47 MR. JENNINGS: Patrick Holmes.
48
49 MR. HOLMES: Yes.
50

1 MR. JENNINGS: Richard Koso.
2
3 MR. KOSO: No.
4
5 MR. JENNINGS: Sam Rohrer.
6
7 MR. ROHRER: Yes.
8
9 MR. JENNINGS: Tom Schwantes.
10
11 MR. SCHWANTES: No.
12
13 MR. JENNINGS: Pete Squartsoff.
14
15 MR. SQUARTSOFF: No.
16
17 MR. JENNINGS: Vince Tutiakoff.
18
19 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: No.
20
21 MR. JENNINGS: Della Trumble.
22
23 MS. TRUMBLE: I'm going to abstain. I
24 really could not hear the discussion that was happening
25 prior to this vote.
26
27 MR. JENNINGS: Speridon Simeonoff.
28
29 MR. SIMEONOFF: I'm going to have to
30 make the same statement. I can't make a vote without
31 having heard all of the discussion.
32
33 MR. JENNINGS: Melissa Burns.
34
35 MS. BURNS: No.
36
37 MR. JENNINGS: Okay. The final vote is
38 three to support and four to oppose. And two abstain.
39
40 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank
41 you. What that means then with the recommendation.....
42
43 MR. KOSO: It should have been five to
44 oppose.
45
46 MR. JENNINGS: Excuse me. You're
47 correct. I'm not a good counter some days.
48
49 (Laughter)
50

1 MR. JENNINGS: But we have two
2 abstentions, three votes in support and the remainder
3 opposed.

4
5 Thank you for the correction.

6
7 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: What this
8 does, it will go, that issue, and it will come back --
9 hopefully it will come back. My understanding what's
10 come back from the Council is if you're going to talk
11 about just Women's Bay, get a proposal in for Women's
12 Bay. This affects the whole island, and you see it in
13 the vote that we're not supporting it at this time.

14
15 All right. Now we'll move on. The
16 next item on my list here was to -- on the emperor
17 geese survey expansion, a request to -- we requested a
18 letter be submitted to the Izembek group to get a
19 further expansion on the emperor count past Unimak. My
20 understanding is, Council, it's been reported that the
21 actual survey stops at Unimak.

22
23 How does the Council feel on this, just
24 a directive from the Council to the coordinator to get
25 a letter out to request they do a further expansion.
26 That would take care of it.

27
28 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chair.

29
30 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Tom Schwantes.

31
32 MR. SCHWANTES: I would support that.

33
34 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Any members
35 opposing.

36
37 MR. HOLMES: Not opposing, but you said
38 to send it to the Refuge. The Refuge doesn't do the
39 surveys. It's a whole different group, and we need to
40 get the right group to send it to, but I agree with
41 doing it.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Tom Jennings.

44
45 MR. JENNINGS: Yeah, I concur with Pat.
46 The group that conducts the surveys is the Migratory
47 Bird Management of Fish and Wildlife Service. We could
48 direct it to that. But also the AMBCC should be
49 plugged into this as well. So we'll send them to both
50 the executive director of that group and point out your

1 concerns.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Yeah.

6

7

8

9

10

11

Thank you.

12

13

14

15

16

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Am I correct?

37

38

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46

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48

49

50

MR. JENNINGS: And that was a proposal

1 to the Board of Fisheries, correct?

2

3 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Yes.

4

5 MR. JENNINGS: So that's who we should
6 direct your letter of support to I believe. And like
7 you pointed out, the Federal Subsistence Board does not
8 have jurisdiction in that area. We could copy them on
9 there in some manner if you want to alert them to --
10 it's a subsistence concern, right?

11

12 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Yes, it is.

13

14 MR. JENNINGS: So it's appropriate for
15 them to be aware of that.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank

20 you.

21

22 So is there any opposition to this
23 directive.

24

25 (No opposition)

26

27 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Hearing none,
28 we'd ask you to do that for us. Thank you.

29

30 The next item is the -- we discussed
31 rural determination yesterday, and it's coming up in
32 our fall meetings, so that was taken off action.

33

34 The next item was to add the bear hunt
35 limit at Akhiok to two, and Old Harbor to three. Would
36 we make a motion to that effect to increase the bag
37 limits.

38

39 MR. SIMEONOFF: Mr. Chairman. This is
40 Mitch.

41

42 I would move that we increase the
43 registration bear hunt in Old Harbor and Akhiok to two.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Also Old
46 Harbor to three.

47

48 MR. SIMEONOFF: Oh, sorry. Three for
49 Old Harbor.

50

1 MR. SCHWANTES: I'll second that.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Seconded by
4 Tom Schwantes. Discussion.

5

6 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I'm not sure,
7 because I'm getting really old, but I'm trying to
8 think, and maybe someone from the Refuge or -- I don't
9 think we have any State game people, but was that
10 subsistence proposal done on the State C&T? And was it
11 a State subsistence proposal, or was it a Federal one,
12 or was it both, because I remember it was discussed at
13 the advisory committee and the Council, and both sides.

14

15 MR. PYLE: My name is Bill Pyle. I'm a
16 wildlife biologist with Kodiak National Wildlife
17 Refuge.

18

19 Mr. Holmes, are you referring to the
20 Federal subsistence bear hunt?

21

22 MR. HOLMES: I'm trying to clarify if
23 it's a Federal subsistence bear or a State one, because
24 I know it was discussed both on the State and the
25 Federal side. And I think that was a case where they
26 decided the Federal system worked the best. But that's
27 all I was trying to clarify.

28

29 MR. PYLE: To the best of my knowledge
30 we're talking about the Federal subsistence bear hunt.
31 If you have a copy of the regulations, you should be
32 able to see the number of permits that are available
33 for each of the six villages. The number per village
34 varies.

35

36 And one comment that I had regarding
37 this proposal is you may want to inquire with the
38 tribal councils that represent some of the villages
39 that may not be represented here to see where they
40 stand. And I can tell you that traditionally the main
41 hunting interest since this regulations has been in
42 place has been from Larson Bay, Old Harbor, and Akhiok,
43 and there may have been one or two over the course of
44 the last 10 years or so that were requested from Port
45 Lions. But it's been a while for them.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank
50 you. And this is only on Federal lands.

1 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. Would it be
2 appropriate after Mr. Pyle's comments to maybe modify
3 that and add one to Larson Bay pending comments from
4 the village council or tribal council? I don't know
5 what to do.

6
7 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Procedurally
8 if the motion maker and the second agrees, there would
9 be a friendly amendment to add Larson Bay, and that can
10 happen.

11
12 MS. BERNS: I'd like to comment.
13 Larson Bay currently has three permits. I know that
14 theirs was increased not that long ago. A few years
15 back, so they currently have three. And from the
16 report from the Fish and Wildlife Refuge here in
17 Kodiak, they have not been actively fulfilling those
18 limits. So I'd like to see that stay as it is, and,
19 you know, if communities -- I can actually actively
20 pursue talking with the other tribes on the island to
21 see if there is any other interest in increasing their
22 limits in the future.

23
24 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay.
25 Because the deadline is the 31st of March, we won't
26 have the time to discuss raising Larson. Then that's
27 fine. But we need to contact their village councils
28 for the next round.

29
30 A motion has been made to increase
31 Akhiok to two permits and Old Harbor to three permits.
32 And I'll need a roll call.

33
34 MR. JENNINGS: Okay. The motion's made
35 to raise Old Harbor to three permits and Akhiok to two
36 permits.

37
38 Antone.

39
40 MR. SHELIKOFF: Yes.

41
42 MR. JENNINGS: Patrick Holmes.

43
44 MR. HOLMES: Yes.

45
46 MR. JENNINGS: Rick Koso.

47
48 MR. KOSO: Yes.

49
50 MR. JENNINGS: Sam Rohrer.

1 MR. ROHRER: Yes.
2
3 MR. JENNINGS: Tom Schwantes.
4
5 MR. SCHWANTES: Yes.
6
7 MR. JENNINGS: Pete Squartsoff.
8
9 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yes.
10
11 MR. JENNINGS: Vince Tutiakoff
12
13 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Yes.
14
15 MR. JENNINGS: Della Trumble.
16
17 MS. TRUMBLE: Yes.
18
19 MR. JENNINGS: Mitch Simeonoff.
20
21 MR. SIMEONOFF: Yes.
22
23 MR. JENNINGS: And Melissa Berns.
24
25 MS. BERNS: Yes.
26
27 MR. JENNINGS: It's unanimous, Mr.
28 Chair.
29
30 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank
31 you. The motion is approved to increase the bear
32 permits.
33
34 The next item on our last action list
35 here is a letter of support for the Buskin River to
36 OSM. Need a motion, please.
37
38 MR. SQUARTSOFF: So move.
39
40 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Moved by
41 Peter.
42
43 MR. SCHWANTES: Second.
44
45 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Seconded by
46 Tom Schwantes.
47
48 Discussion. This was brought up
49 earlier when we got a presentation that they needed
50 support to continue their necessary work that they do

1 out there. And it's very important to subsistence in
2 this community.

3

4 All those in favor say aye.

5

6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: All opposed.

9

10 (No opposing votes)

11

12 MR. HOLMES: I'd like to request -- I
13 vote aye, but I'd like to request to reconsideration on
14 that, because there's another point that might be
15 helpful for Fish and Game.

16

17 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: What is the
18 point.

19

20 MR. HOLMES: Right now we have support
21 Fish and Game work on the Buskin, but they pointed out
22 that they've had budget cuts on personnel, and I was
23 wondering if we could say support the Fish and Game
24 research work on the Buskin, and suggest or support
25 them being fully staffed to do so. And then they could
26 use that in their arguments with their bean counters in
27 Juneau.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: I believe
30 that's what the letter of support was intended to do.
31 You know, it's the whole program. Without a complete
32 staff, we don't get the full -- the real numbers, so
33 that would be my hope, that letter would include. All
34 those in favor say aye.

35

36 MR. HOLMES: Thank you. I think that's
37 fine.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. All
40 those in favor say aye.

41

42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Opposed.

45

46 (No opposing votes)

47

48 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Motion carries
49 unanimous.

50

1 We have -- let's see. I think you had
2 one more item. Sam.

3
4 MR. ROHRER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5
6 Actually two items. Both are fairly
7 quick.

8
9 But the first one is it might be worth
10 adding to our annual letter to the Subsistence Board,
11 it might be worth another section in there just
12 encouraging them in this time of budget cuts both
13 within the Federal government and State government to
14 just encourage them -- or to bring awareness to them of
15 how much we depend on the funding coming from OSM to
16 run some of our State subsistence program, you know, to
17 go along with this letter we're sending to OSM. Just
18 add that in as another item to help the Board to be
19 aware.

20
21 The main issue though I wanted to bring
22 before you quickly, there's a fellow by the name of
23 Nate Turner who is currently a Board of Game member.
24 He's up for reappointment this year. And like to see
25 our Council give a letter of support for his
26 reappointment. It's going to be a bit of a contentious
27 one.

28
29 And just for a bit of background on
30 Nate, I know him real well personally. I've hunted
31 with him quite a bit. He's a great guy. He truly
32 lives a subsistence lifestyle more so than just about
33 anyone I know. He's a full-time trapper in the
34 Interior. Does a bit of guiding, but for the most part
35 he's running miles of trapline. A pretty neat guy with
36 a neat history.

37
38 But in the way of telling you what
39 benefits there are to having a guy like Nate on the
40 Board of Game, I'll just give you two things. Number
41 1, the AOC is dead set against him, is doing their
42 hardest to kick him off. So that right there should
43 tell you why he's worthy of our support.

44
45 But the other thing is, I'm not sure
46 how many of you are aware of the community harvest that
47 the Board of Game has implemented around the State, but
48 there's been a couple down the Peninsula. Down in
49 Unimak there's a community harvest deal down there. A
50 couple other places for bear on the Peninsula. But

1 anyways it's a pretty neat program they've done. And
2 Nate's been a proponent of that. He's pushed for
3 those, and certainly gone along with those.

4
5 So anyways Nate's a great guy. He's a younger
6 guy. Real open to hearing all sides of an issue. And
7 he's the kind of guy we need on the Board of Game. And
8 like I say it's going to be a bit of a contentious
9 battle to keep him on there, and I'd like to see our
10 Board send a letter of support to the Governor's Office
11 in support of him, in support of his reappointment.
12 And I can answer any questions on him if anyone has
13 any.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Do we have any
16 -- I don't know how this procedurally would go. I
17 don't know what the -- if it's ever been done before,
18 or this kind of thing. Maybe we can get some help
19 here.

20
21 MS. YUHAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
22 Again I can offer some assistance procedurally since
23 it's for the State Board, so it's a State program and
24 your letter would go to the Governor who makes the
25 appointments.

26
27 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank
28 you.

29
30 Pete.

31
32 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yes. You know, I have
33 a hard time doing this without knowing where he's from
34 and where he lives and who he's running against.

35
36 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair.

37
38 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Yes, go ahead.

39
40 MS. TRUMBLE: I agree with Pete. I
41 have no idea who's all in the running. And without
42 talking to anybody in the region I represent, I don't
43 feel comfortable doing that also.

44
45 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay.

46
47 MS. YUHAS: Mr. Chairman. I'm not
48 advocating one way or another. This is, you know, the
49 RAC's process.

50

1 The way the Board of Game appointments
2 work, there's no one running against each other. There
3 will be three openings for appointment. Some people
4 may wish to reapply. Until all of the applications are
5 in, sometimes all the applications are not even
6 considered, because they already know who they want to
7 appoint. And so it's kind of an open pool similar to
8 the RAC structure when you have your set openings each
9 three years.

10
11 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank
12 you.

13
14 Sam.

15
16 MR. ROHRER: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
17 Chair.

18
19 And thank you for that explanation. I
20 was going to say the same thing. Yeah, he's not
21 running against anyone. He's just put his name in for
22 reappointment. He has been on there for one term so
23 far.

24
25 In answer to your question, Pete, he's
26 from Nenana up close to Fairbanks, and he traps out on
27 the -- west of there. I should know the name of the
28 river, and I can't think of what it is. But that's
29 where he works, out there.

30
31 You know, all I can say is I
32 understand, you know, a lot of folks. If you don't
33 follow the Board of Game process, aren't familiar with
34 him. All I can say is I highly recommend him. He's
35 been a strong proponent of subsistence rights. So
36 that's all I can. And, well, in addition to -- the
37 folks that are opposing him are, to put it bluntly, are
38 anti-subsistence. So I can assure you he's the best
39 choice of the names that are going to be put forward
40 for the Board.

41
42 So again, it's my two cents, but I
43 understand if folks don't want to support him know
44 knowing him.

45
46 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Pat.

47
48 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I don't read
49 all the State Board reports and things, but I have
50 followed a few issues. And the gentleman that Sam is

1 recommending for support, I have him to found him to
2 vote in favor of subsistence. I don't know who's
3 running against him, but I do know that judging from
4 the proposals that have already gone in to the Joint
5 Board, and from what I've heard on other ones, that
6 there's a really active push from the Alaska Outdoor
7 Council to try to dominate the Board of Game. And the
8 Alaska Outdoor Council in my opinion were the ones that
9 were trying to get Sitka and Kodiak bumped off of the
10 Federal rural subsistence. And one of their folks has
11 got the one in to drop Kodiak now.

12

13 And so in my mind, I don't have any
14 influence with the Governor at all, but I think this
15 follow would be probably better for subsistence users
16 in the State than most other candidates just based on
17 his past performance.

18

19 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, Rick, go
22 ahead.

23

24 MR. KOSO: Yeah. I just wanted to say
25 that I did follow the Board of Game a little bit myself
26 there. And I know a little bit about, not very much
27 with any of them. I don't pay much attention. But I'm
28 going to go ahead and give my support to him. I think
29 he'll favorable for us, but I don't know if that's --
30 we're out of our realm here of doing things or not, but
31 I know when you were looking to support an individual,
32 there's other individuals. I don't know if that
33 becomes a conflict of not. So I'm not exactly sure how
34 this is going to go, but as far as I go, I'll support
35 him.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: I don't
38 believe it will hurt or help, but I can't see why we
39 wouldn't support somebody that supports the subsistence
40 lifestyle and is being opposed by the AOC.

41

42 I think that we can bring it up for --
43 rather than a motion, I think I'll just ask for a
44 directive and ayes or nays on the support of -- what
45 was his last name, Turner?

46

47 MR. ROHRER: Turner, yeah.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Nate
50 Turner to the Board of Game.

1 All those in favor say aye.
2
3 IN UNISON: Aye.
4
5 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Opposed.
6
7 (No opposing votes)
8
9 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Motion
10 carries, and we'll be sending that support letter for
11 what it's worth.
12
13 MR. ROHRER: Thank you.
14
15 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Mr.
16 Coordinator, do we have other items that I'm missing on
17 my -- I'm done with my list here.
18
19 MR. HOLMES: I have two on my list, Mr.
20 Chair.
21
22 MR. KOSO: Are we going to check in for
23 the hotel for another day or what's happening, because
24 we have to be checked out by noon usually.
25
26 MR. JENNINGS: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I did
27 speak to the hotel staff when I left this morning. I
28 told them that we were going to try to conclude mid day
29 here. And that we'd like late check-outs for those of
30 us that are checking out. Some folks have rooms for
31 tonight, but we know who we are who are going to check
32 out today to travel to Anchorage. So I gave them a
33 head's up.
34
35 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Excuse
36 me. What's the feeling of the Council at this point.
37 We've got probably a half an hour more to do here.
38 According to my -- we've got to confirm the dates for
39 the next meeting in 2013 and select a date and location
40 for the winter meeting of 2014. Then we have closing
41 comments. Other than that we're just about there.
42
43 What's the feeling of the Council.
44 Pat.
45
46 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. There's a
47 couple items I had on my list that we talked about.
48 One I think the most important one is a letter of
49 support to the agencies involved in the emperor goose
50 management that they review and adopt a stepped

1 threshold approach for reopening harvest of emperor
2 geese to allow for a small subsistence harvest of
3 geese. And I could help on expanding the letter, but I
4 think that might accomplish what we were talking about
5 before, because they're probably going to come back to
6 our request and say, you know, we've got this absolute
7 threshold for opening everything. Anyway, I'd like
8 to.....

9

10 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. We can
11 just add that to the letter that we're sending out when
12 we asked expanded emperor geese count, we also are
13 requesting they revisit the policy regarding their
14 threshold. And that should take care of that one.

15

16 MR. HOLMES: And one other one that
17 we've beat around, and that would be a letter to the
18 State and Federal management folks for the need for
19 area wide enforcement of misuse of subsistence harvest
20 of whatever resource, because there's problems.

21

22 Would you go for that, Tom? Tell them
23 get off the stand?

24

25 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman.

26

27 MR. SHELIKOFF: I support that.

28

29 MR. SCHWANTES: I think that can be
30 addressed right through the divisions. I've worked
31 with the State a lot. I think if the Department of
32 Fish and Game goes up to their commissioner who walks
33 across the hall and talks to the commissioner of Public
34 Safety, those issues can be solved right there.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: I kind of
39 agree with that. They should be able to walk in the
40 door and say, hey, we've got a problem. We need to
41 have it addressed. I don't know if I'm in support of
42 having more running around in my area.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 MR. HOLMES: Well, this is relating to
47 Kodiak, and, you know, the problem that Mitch and the
48 folks have at Akhiok, and, you know, we just need them
49 to get something. And I guess would say from my
50 experience since 1974 is that the politics of fish and

1 game things work when you rattle a can and shake them
2 up. And there isn't going to be any way that Cora
3 Campbell is going to go and say, do this, to the
4 commissioner of Public Safety, unless you've got the
5 public requesting her to do that. And also, you know,
6 if it comes from any body, be it an advisory council or
7 advisory committee, that carries the weight of the
8 people saying there's a problem, and these people
9 aren't doing their job. And so I think that it's
10 really important for us to make that statement, because
11 we wouldn't have wasted four hours of our meeting
12 discussion philosophy if they were doing their job. So
13 I really think that that's an important topic to
14 address.

15

16 Mr. Chair.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. I'll
19 leave it up to the Council and entertain any direction
20 in that regard.

21

22 MR. ROHRER: Mr. Chair. Yeah, I would
23 recommend as well that we send the letter. It can't
24 hurt anyways. It can only help.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Mitch. Della.

27

28 MR. SIMEONOFF: I'm sorry, Mr.
29 Chairman, are you asking me a question.

30

31 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Yeah. We're
32 just asking would you oppose a letter of support to the
33 enforcement agencies to continue their efforts to seek
34 funding and be out in our communities and enforce the
35 laws that we see are being broken by non-subsistence
36 users.

37

38 MR. SIMEONOFF: Well, I wouldn't
39 oppose that.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. I'll
42 direct the coordinator to draft a letter to do that,
43 what you requested there, Pat. You can get with Tom
44 and get the wording.

45

46 Okay. Any other issues.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: At this time

1 I'd like to go to the schedule and propose some dates
2 and then we can go from there.

3

4 After looking at the calendar for 2013
5 meeting calendar, August through October. I'm going to
6 recommend that we have our meeting on September 10th
7 and 11th, and that it be in Cold Bay.

8

9 MR. KOSO: I'll second it.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: I need a
12 motion first. Yeah, go ahead Tom -- Sam.

13

14 MR. ROHRER: Just to comment on that.
15 We had discussed as much as it's good to get down the
16 Peninsula and we don't get to do it enough, we had
17 discussed because of the rural determination review
18 about potentially doing that meeting here in Kodiak so
19 we had some more time to address that issue.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Go ahead, Tom
22 Jennings.

23

24 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25

26 I'd just refer you to Page 135 in your
27 meeting book. We've got the calendars for the fall
28 meeting dates, that the Council had selected in the
29 past. We usually select meeting dates a year out in
30 advance, and you did this at Sand Point for this coming
31 fall's meeting date. And you desired to have it in
32 King Cove with a fall-back to Cold Bay. And the
33 meeting date that you selected was September 24 and 25.
34 So that was just a correction.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Right. It
39 shows here.

40

41 MR. JENNINGS: And if I may continue,
42 just to get the words out here, for this winter meeting
43 date in 2014 I did include an updated calendar from the
44 one that's in your meeting book. So I would look at
45 the one from your yellow handout for the winter meeting
46 calendar in February and March 2014.

47

48 And I'll just briefly say that we're
49 allowed to have two Council meetings in one week to be
50 able to accommodate staffing and recorders and things

1 like that. So looking at the calendar, we've got the
2 first block, one, two, three weeks are taken up
3 already. And the remainder from March 3rd down through
4 the winter where it closes is available. So those
5 would be the dates I think that would be optimal to
6 choose from depending upon everyone's work schedules
7 and other schedules of commitment.

8
9 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Do we have
10 any recommendations for the 2014 winter meeting. And
11 it looks like from March 2nd through March 22nd,
12 somewhere in there.

13
14 MR. ROHRER: Mr. Chair. I would just
15 say the later in the month for me the better. The
16 closer towards April, the better for me.

17
18 MR. SIMEONOFF: Mr. Chair. This is
19 Mitch. I would suggest we move our meetings as far
20 away from any deadlines as we can.

21
22 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Right. like
23 this time.

24
25 MR. SIMEONOFF: Yeah, before the
26 deadlines at the end of March. I'd suggest we have our
27 meetings the week of the 3rd or the week of the 10th.
28 That would give us plenty of time to submit any
29 proposals at the end of the month. Right now we don't
30 have -- we have a day.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. I'd
33 recommend.....

34
35 MR. SIMEONOFF: That isn't any time at
36 all to put together a real comprehensive and meaningful
37 proposal.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Yeah. What
40 about the 11th and 12th. I'll throw the date out and
41 then see if everybody's good with that date, 11th and
42 12 of March. That will give us eight days to come up
43 with new proposals or work on them anyway.

44
45 (Council nods affirmatively)

46
47 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: If there's no
48 objection. Pat.

49
50 MR. HOLMES: Well, I can understand

1 that, but, you know, we can put together our proposal
2 and then the, you know, Staff can submit it. And I
3 think, you know, we'll have the material given to us
4 before then, and hopefully by early March.

5
6 And I think Mr. Rohrer really has some
7 good insight on subsistence issues, and particularly
8 from Kodiak perspective. And then he also does work on
9 the Peninsula. And I know that his work probably would
10 have complications at that time, and I'd sure like to
11 see him be able to participate.

12
13 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Tom Jennings.
14 What about it, Sam.

15
16 MR. ROHRER: Well, the only question I
17 have, it says on here March 21st the window closes.
18 That's just our meeting window. That's not when our
19 proposals and whatnot are do; is that correct?

20
21 MR. JENNINGS: Yeah, that's correct.
22 And they set the windows, you know, so we don't get
23 squeezed right up to the deadline. Now, in this
24 instance we're meeting today, because we adjusted the
25 schedule and we met outside the window. I mean, they
26 can approve doing that to accommodate things, but
27 there's consequences, of course. So we've got the
28 short time to get the work done.

29
30 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Well,
31 we need to agree on a date here, or we could leave it
32 open and come back at the next meeting.

33
34 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman. 11th and
35 12th will work for me. I mean, whatever.

36
37 MR. KOSO: Works for me.

38
39 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I
40 still have city counsel meetings on the 11th and 12th.

41
42 MR. KOSO: (Indiscernible - mic not on)
43 How about on the 20th and 21st.

44
45 MR. ROHRER: Yeah, I'd recommend either
46 the 17th or 18th, or the 20th and 21st so we don't hit
47 your meetings.

48
49 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I'd go for the end
50 of month.

1 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: So if there's
2 no objection, we'll set the meeting for the 20th and
3 21st.

4
5 MR. SIMEONOFF: Of March?

6
7 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: March 2014.

8
9 MR. SIMEONOFF: Okay.

10
11 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. All
12 right. That's where we're at then.

13
14 MR. SIMEONOFF: A question, Mr.
15 Chairman.

16
17 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Go ahead.

18
19 MR. SIMEONOFF: The September meeting,
20 is that -- are we having a rural determination
21 discussion at our September meeting for Kodiak.

22
23 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Yeah. We're
24 aware of that. I don't know. Talking the process
25 yesterday, the rural determination is made by the
26 Federal Board, right? And the Secretary of Interior I
27 guess. I don't know. It was suggested that we have a
28 day of public testimony, and in talking to some of the
29 Council members here feel we could do that by
30 teleconference. I don't know what the feeling of the
31 Board is, but we did schedule it for Cold Bay or King
32 Cove in September. So we're still there.

33
34 Pat.

35
36 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I think I'd
37 like to maybe put part of our scheduling question to
38 Mr. Rowland. He's here from the Sun'aq Tribe and
39 they're the largest tribal group here on the island.
40 And the question is scheduling our next meeting and
41 whether we should go out to Cold Bay. There was a
42 suggestion from the Federal Staff that we maybe change
43 and meet in Kodiak and have a full day of hearing on
44 the rural subsistence characteristics. And we're
45 talking about the potential of going to our previously
46 approved meeting out west. And would you think that
47 would work for folks to call in, or would you think
48 folks would prefer to be able to testify in person.

49
50 MR. ROWLAND: Rick Rowland, Sun'aq

1 Tribe Kodiak.

2

3 Thanks, Mr. Holmes. I appreciate you
4 mentioning that. And as a reminder, relating to what
5 Mitch mentioned, is that the end of comments are I
6 believe on November 1st. And the Sun'aq Tribe of
7 Kodiak has formed a group to filter through the
8 questions that are asked and will have a significant
9 amount of information related to that. And I'm sure
10 that there will be a few people that will want to
11 testify if there's an opportunity to have people from
12 this area come and communicate to the Regional Advisory
13 Council instead of having to go farther into the future
14 about arguing whether or not it's something that has to
15 exist here or not. So this rural/non-rural
16 determination is important. And I think it would be
17 important for the opportunity to be here instead of on
18 the telephone.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Tom Jennings.

21

22 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair. I
23 kind of want to remind everybody, you know, to think
24 about this, that the government-to-government
25 consultation process is the tool that Kodiak should
26 request as long as the rural determination affects
27 them. And that allows for people that are actually on
28 the Federal Board to be there in person as they go
29 through these public testimonies. The ground part of
30 it is a piece of it, but I think the bigger picture
31 here is going to be the direct consultation to a couple
32 of the Federal Board members being present as you go
33 through this process. So I would check and get a
34 little more information, because it's going to probably
35 in my mind be more than one hearing. To effect -- if
36 you want to make a positive, you know, influence on the
37 decision.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Thank you,
40 Della.

41

42 And then Tom Jennings.

43

44 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
45 What I mentioned yesterday about considering the
46 possibility of packaging a public hearing with your RAC
47 was a thought in our office. We're just -- this rural
48 determination process, nothing's firm in place in how
49 we're going to attack that. But our work group does
50 recognize the need to have public hearings in places

1 where the individuals will be more affected, and the
2 communities will be most affected. And obviously this
3 is one of those communities, as is Sitka and Ketchikan
4 area. So we're not tied, you know, to having the RAC
5 meeting in Kodiak just for that purpose. There's going
6 to be more hearings.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, that's
11 kind of what I was trying to say in the beginning was
12 that this process of determination, rural determination
13 is going to have probably several meetings. And
14 they're going to be attended by the Federal Board, the
15 bigger Board. We as a RAC can make recommendations,
16 and we're going to wholeheartedly support Kodiak to
17 continue to be designated as it is. But, I don't know.
18 I kind of agree that these hearings are going to be
19 held in Kodiak, and we as a RAC probably will not be
20 involved unless you're here in the community and you
21 attend.

22

23 Pat.

24

25 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I can agree
26 with your philosophy and Della's as well, but if we
27 look at the number of folks that have already commented
28 on the process, you know, there's a large component
29 that unfortunately do not have access to government-to-
30 government communications. And, you know, this really
31 is a big effect. And this first step, it closes in
32 September 25th, and that's a place where the people
33 that are affected can provide their comments.

34

35 And so for us to be an advocate earlier
36 by having a meeting here in town, I know Melissa
37 Borton, I've been working with them as a consultant for
38 the Native Village of Afognak. She couldn't be here,
39 and her environmental staff couldn't either, but I'm
40 quite certain they would endorse having a hearing to
41 have their two bits worth.

42

43 Jake Jacobson, who is probably the most
44 conservative right-wing person that I know, he came and
45 talked about subsistence. And when you have Jake come,
46 it's like -- he's kind of like the opposite extreme
47 from Iver in our community in philosophy, but they both
48 agree on subsistence. And I think if we had Iver here,
49 Iver would say, yeah, we should have a hearing in
50 Kodiak to talk about this, so that they can get our

1 Council's support in this process. Because when the
2 work that's being down with the Rural Round Table, you
3 know, that will be a summary, but there's all kinds of
4 folks that wouldn't be able to comment, or are too shy
5 in some respects to.

6
7 Look at the trouble we're having
8 teleconferencing with our two members. And I really
9 think it would be important to shuffle the meetings and
10 have them here, and then the next go around -- because
11 we have changed our agenda in the past depending on
12 what's the most important, or an important issue to our
13 Council. So I would urge folks to consider a September
14 meeting, maybe mid September there, to allow for a
15 public hearing here. And I'm sure Rowland and I can
16 get a fair number of people, and Iver, to turn out to
17 comment at that, don't you think?

18
19 MR. ROWLAND: (Nods affirmatively)

20
21 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Yeah. Tom
22 Jennings.

23
24 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25
26 MR. SIMEONOFF: Mr. Chairman. This is
27 Mitch.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Go ahead
30 Mitch.

31
32 MR. SIMEONOFF: Yeah. I do agree that
33 rural determination is a discussion that would better
34 take place during government-to-government
35 consultation. The Kodiak/Aleutians RAC has been
36 involved in the past in rural determination
37 discussions. I would not even suggest that we remove
38 ourselves from this process. We can have the
39 discussion with community members or tribal councils
40 and either, you know, support their findings or make
41 suggestions to the Federal Board. During our
42 deliberation here I would not suggest that we remove
43 ourselves from the picture.

44
45 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, I don't
46 think there was any discussion that. It was just
47 trying to get the location and changing it from our
48 original. Last meeting in September we had designated
49 the meeting to take place at King Cove or Cold Bay.
50 And now we're considering moving it to Kodiak. I

1 personally don't feel -- either way is fine. We've
2 just got to agree that it's going to happen, change the
3 schedule.

4
5 MR. SIMEONOFF: We can teleconference
6 as long as they keep the music out, right?

7
8 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Right.

9
10 (Laughter)

11
12 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Tom Jennings.

13
14 MR. JENNINGS: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Just
15 a point again I'll hit on. There's going to be more
16 public meetings than just those associated with the RAC
17 meetings. I mean, you've got the RAC process, and you
18 guys -- this Council seems to have a pretty good
19 balance of how you schedule your meetings, you know,
20 and it seems to work pretty good. Fall meetings down
21 south further and west, and then here in the winter. I
22 don't -- that's up to you where you choose to meet and
23 when. But there, for Pat's benefit and Rick's, there
24 are going to be meetings or public hearings where
25 they're going to -- where the public is going to be
26 able to provide their testimonies in regards to the
27 process. So it's not strictly the RAC. This is a
28 broader public process.

29
30 So that's all I'll say on that. Thank
31 you.

32
33 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair.

34
35 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Rick.

36
37 MR. KOSO: Yeah. You know, if we
38 change this meeting, you know, to March down in Cold
39 Bay are, that's probably the worst time of the year
40 that you're going to go down to the Aleutians. And
41 being as in September's a part of the year that's the
42 best time to go to the Aleutians. And that's kind of
43 the reason we set this up this way. So if we change
44 that September meeting in King Cove, which we never had
45 one there since I've been on the Board, so that's got
46 to be five, six, seven years.

47
48 I just don't know. I guess you can
49 weigh the, you know, each party's got an interest, and
50 I guess they could set their preferences of however

1 they want to. And I know this is a very important
2 issue with Kodiak. But we also have important issues
3 in our area. So I think I'm hearing both sides. I
4 think we could accommodate both people.

5
6 I really don't care where we have it,
7 but I'm just saying if you do move it out of September
8 from King Cove, you're probably not going to get it
9 back there for a couple more years, because of the
10 weather. And in March you wouldn't want to think about
11 having it down there.

12
13 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Pete.

14
15 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I
16 think, you know, regardless of where we have our
17 meeting, this RAC has always been in support of Kodiak
18 staying rural.

19
20 MR. SIMEONOFF: Yes.

21
22 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair.

23
24 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Yes, go ahead.

25
26 MS. TRUMBLE: This is Della.

27
28 I know that the tribes can request as
29 part of the government-to-government whether they can
30 get the Kodiak regional to help support and pull off
31 that effort so they can have actually by conference if
32 there's a site in each community to call in, you know,
33 with the government-to-government consultation. Plus I
34 know given how big this issue is, and being involved
35 with it in the past, there was more than one
36 opportunity for public testimony, and not only -- that
37 also carries into the actual Federal Board hearing it.
38 They'll have a section on that I'm sure, just for
39 hearings and testimony. So I know there's going to be
40 more than one opportunity. In fact I'm think there's
41 probably -- there will be multiple opportunities.

42
43 And to set aside a portion I think on
44 our agenda for public testimony, even if it's by
45 conference call like if we are in Cold Bay or King
46 Cove, I think we should be able to accommodate that.
47 And we almost did the same thing in Cold Bay, is taking
48 public testimony on the issues surrounding the wolf.
49 Just as a recommendation.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank
2 you.

3
4 MR. SIMEONOFF: Mr. Chairman. This is
5 Mitch.

6
7 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Go ahead,
8 Mitch.

9
10 MR. SIMEONOFF: Yeah. When I brought
11 that up, I wasn't implying that we change our meeting
12 location. I was just trying to affirm that this
13 discussion was coming up, and I did not want the
14 Kodiak/Aleutians Council to remove themselves from this
15 discussion of rural determination.

16
17 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank
18 you. And we understand your clarification.

19
20 Pat.

21
22 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I'm kind of
23 coming around in my thinking a bit, because Rick's
24 comments, you know, our Council hasn't been to King
25 Cove in a long time, and our odds are best going out to
26 Cold Bay, trying to get to King Cove. And that does
27 have really good merit. And I'm thinking out loud so
28 Rick can hear me. I'm thinking that what Kodiak itself
29 might wish to do that might give us a little more
30 clout, is like we did the last go around on this, and
31 being as this criteria is such an important concept,
32 might be for our community, and particularly the tribes
33 that have got the power for clout in subsistence, is to
34 RAC bend (ph) at having -- ask the Board if they
35 couldn't have a special hearing here like they did the
36 last time, because when we had that discussion, they
37 weren't going to come at all. And then the community,
38 everyone said, hey, you know, you need to come and talk
39 to us. but maybe we could get some direct input to the
40 Federal Board by asking them to come down and actually
41 schedule, you know, a public hearing on those items
42 here in town. What do you think.

43
44 MR. ROWLAND: Well, thanks, Pat. One
45 thing that I have to point out, too, is that this is
46 about process, the rural determination process, not
47 about whether Kodiak is rural or non-rural. So there's
48 all those different avenues of communication. And when
49 you asked me, I just thought it was important to say
50 that, yeah, we recognize that the Subsistence Council

1 is important in the process, and it's also important to
2 state that we felt like we should communicate to them
3 as well.

4
5 So the suggestion of consultation with
6 the Feds, having them for a special meeting, those are
7 all part of the process, but just as long as what Mitch
8 said, is you guys are in the process, too, so we don't
9 get in a situation where we're opposed to what's going
10 on. So it's good to hear that the RAC supports
11 subsistence, rural for Kodiak.

12
13 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, thanks, Rick.
14 Because I think maybe if we made that approach, then we
15 could go out to King Cove and the folks in Kodiak can
16 provide their communications to the Council, you know,
17 for their endorsement at their meeting. And maybe if
18 we can get, you know, the suggestion of getting a
19 couple Federal Board folks here to have a separate
20 hearing, then it will allow for, you know, endorsement
21 all the way around.

22
23 And so I think I would be inclined to,
24 with that thought, go for a meeting in King Cove, and
25 particularly with the discussions on carnivores and
26 herbivores out there. I haven't been to King Cove in
27 years. And I think it would be really, really good for
28 our Council to get there. And Cold Bay's a fall back,
29 but I sure hope we can get into King Cove.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. I'll
34 entertain a motion at this time. Because we beat the
35 dead horse.

36
37 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I'd
38 like to make a motion that we leave our fall calendar
39 as it, and our next spring for March 20th, 21st,
40 Kodiak.

41
42 MR. SCHWANTES: Second that motion.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Moved by Tom
45 Schwantes.

46
47 All those in favor say aye.

48
49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Opposed.
2
3 (No opposing votes)
4
5 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Unanimous in
6 support of our calendar.
7
8 At this time we'll ask for any Council
9 comments regarding this meeting or future meeting or
10 travel.
11
12 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair.
13
14 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, go
15 ahead, Pat.
16
17 MR. HOLMES: I would like to commend
18 our Chairman Vince Tutiakoff, because with the
19 different points of view that we often have on our
20 Council, you kept us moving along really good. And so
21 I'd like to give you an attaboy, and I hope the rest of
22 the Council feels the same way, because you did an
23 exceptionally good job of steering us along, sir.
24
25 Thank you.
26
27 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thanks.
28 Pete.
29
30 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. I just had one
31 thing. I don't know with our agenda the way it is, and
32 the add-ons and everything, has there ever been any
33 workshops prior to the meeting so the Board could go
34 over the agenda.
35
36 MR. SIMEONOFF: Yes.
37
38 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: In the
39 beginning there was, but it went away when the funds
40 started depleting. So we had to make a choice.
41
42 Tom Jennings.
43
44 MR. JENNINGS: I'll just speak to that
45 briefly. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
46
47 I know we formulate draft agendas at
48 OSM and based on the issues and our regulatory
49 timelines and such. And then we share that with the
50 Councils and other parties, and bring it back and amend

1 it based on that. That's what we've been doing. And
2 so that's the opportunity. I wasn't involved in that
3 process previously.

4
5 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: And all
6 Council members have the opportunity to direct their
7 comments directly to every Council member through Tom
8 Jennings' position. So, you know, if you do have an
9 item that you think was extensive and you want to bring
10 more information like we did today and yesterday, then
11 that's really helpful to help us move along and
12 understand and not have debates for four hours on ghost
13 pots, you know.

14
15 (Laughter.)

16
17 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: I sympathize
18 with what's going on, but it's not only here. It's in
19 every community in the Bering Sea that supports the
20 crab industry, and it's happening everywhere, so it's a
21 major issue.

22
23 Any more comments from Council.

24
25 MR. KOSO: Just one more comment. Tom
26 mentioned he's not going to be here for out next
27 meeting. It sounds like they're putting him in a
28 different department or space area I guess or whatever
29 you want to call it. Someone else is moving into the
30 slot. So I guess we say goodbye to you, Tom, or what?

31
32 MR. JENNINGS: Good-bye, Rick.

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 MR. JENNINGS: But who knows with this
37 organization sometimes who we will be working with in
38 the future. I mentioned it to the officers of the
39 Council and a few others that this was going to be my
40 last meeting as coordinator, but I'm going to be
41 working to transition another person, and that
42 individual's name is Carl Johnson. And he's the
43 division chief of our Council Coordination Division.
44 And so he's been supervising. He's been on the job for
45 about a year and a half now, and he's been supervising
46 all the other coordinators. And so he's gotten an
47 understanding of the entire process, the RAC process,
48 and the responsibilities and such.

49
50 And as Steve Fried was describing about

1 our budgets, some of our staffing levels, our hiring
2 freeze and such, we've been short-staffed, and we're
3 not growing, and we still have the same amount of work,
4 and they're divvying it up in different ways, and I've
5 got other responsibilities to deal with. And so for my
6 temporary assignments, it's been almost onto two years,
7 so we're going to shift some of those duties.

8
9 But the fact of the matter is, you can
10 contact me any time you want and I'll share the
11 information appropriately. And I've really enjoyed
12 working with you. A lot of good folks that I've got to
13 know here. And so I've appreciated that opportunity.

14
15 I'll pass you Carl Johnson's business
16 card with his contact information. And I'll be working
17 with him. I'm going to follow up on action items from
18 this meeting and continue that way. And I'm going to
19 shift him to prepare for the next meeting that's on the
20 schedule and that.

21
22 But again thank you for the chance to
23 work with you all.

24
25 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank
26 you, Tom, and I really appreciate your work you've been
27 doing with us and keeping us informed and setting up
28 all the meetings and keeping us happy basically.

29
30 Thanks.

31
32 MR. SIMEONOFF: Mr. Chairman. This is
33 Mitch.

34
35 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Yeah. Go
36 ahead, Mitch.

37
38 MR. SIMEONOFF: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
39 Chairman. And thank you for chairing this meeting
40 today for me. I'd just like to thank the Council for
41 their vote of confidence in me. And I would also like
42 to thank Tom Jennings for all the work he's done for
43 the Council. And I'd like to let the Board know that I
44 will be working with Tom while he makes his move, and
45 after that I'll be working with Carl. But I'll be
46 working with them hopefully to produce the directives
47 of this Council.

48
49 I appreciate your confidence in me, and
50 I would like to thank everyone for putting with our

1 teleconferencing system. I don't know where that music
2 was coming from, but it was kind of frustrating. I
3 can't participate very well with a lot of distraction
4 like that, but hopefully it won't happen again if
5 anybody have to teleconference in.

6
7 Thanks again. And have a good flight
8 home.

9
10 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Okay.
11 Thanks, Mitch. And that's what you get for not being
12 here.

13
14 (Laughter)

15
16 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: When you're
17 not here, you get appointed to do things.

18
19 MR. SIMEONOFF: Yeah. I can appreciate
20 that.

21
22 MR. ROHRER: I'll make a motion to
23 adjourn.

24
25 MR. KOSO: Second.

26
27 ACTING CHAIR TUTIAKOFF: Thank you to
28 our recorder for all your help in keeping our records.

29
30 We're adjourned.

31
32 (Off record)

33
34 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

35

