

1 KODIAK/ALEUTIANS FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5  
6 VOLUME I

7  
8 U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
9 OFFICE OF SUBSISTENCE MANAGEMENT

10  
11 Anchorage, Alaska  
12 Teleconference

13  
14 March 31, 2009  
15 10:30 o'clock a.m.

16  
17  
18 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 19  
20 Speridon Simeonoff, Chair  
21 Patrick Holmes  
22 Thomas Johnson  
23 Richard Koso  
24 Thomas Schwantes  
25 Samuel Rohrer  
26  
27  
28 Regional Council Coordinator, Michelle Chivers

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - TELEPHONIC - 3/31/2009)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Call the meeting to order. My time says 10:03.

MS. CHIVERS: I'll go ahead and start with the roll call. Tom Schwantes.

MR. SCHWANTES: Here.

MS. CHIVERS: Patrick Holmes.

MR. HOLMES: Here.

MS. CHIVERS: John Parker. I've already informed Mitch that John Parker is actually -- he just accepted a job with the school district, so he will not be at the meeting today.

Sam Rohrer.

MR. ROHRER: Here.

MS. CHIVERS: Al Cratty. Okay. He's planning on being here, so maybe he'll sign on in a little bit, so we'll check back.

Jim Hamilton. He's somebody I can't seem to get ahold of. His phone lines have been disconnected, so I'm not sure exactly where he is.

CONFERENCE OPERATOR: Excuse me. Nancy Hoffman has joined.

MS. CHIVERS: Okay. And then Rick Koso.

MR. KOSO: Here.

MS. CHIVERS: Alex Panamaroff. He may or may not be on line. I think he might be caught up in the weather flying back to Larsen Bay.

Speridon Simeonoff. Mitch?

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, I'm here.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Tommy  
2 Johnson.  
3  
4 MR. JOHNSON: I'm here.  
5  
6 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. Thank you. Mr.  
7 Chair. We have a quorum.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: What?  
10  
11 MS. CHIVERS: Oh, and before we get  
12 started, if I can remind everybody that when you get  
13 ready to speak, if you'd please say your name before  
14 you start talking so we know who it is that's speaking.  
15 Thank you.  
16  
17 MR. HOLMES: Michelle, this is Pat.  
18  
19 MS. CHIVERS: Hi, Pat.  
20  
21 MR. HOLMES: At the Fish and Wildlife  
22 Service. It was really great for Bill to get the room  
23 for folks. We've got Gary Wheeler, Don Fox from the  
24 advisory committee, Bill Pyle, also from Fish and  
25 Wildlife Service, Paul Chervenak from the fish and game  
26 advisory committee. Bob Palowski for Shoonaq'. And  
27 then Roxanne will be joining us shortly from the Native  
28 Village of Afognak. And I think a little bit later  
29 we'll have -- oh, shucks, what's Mike's last name, Bob?  
30 Yeah. Mike Peterson from the Woody Island Tribal  
31 Council. And then the ADF&G folks are still on their  
32 way down the hill.  
33  
34 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. Thanks, Pat.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.  
37  
38 MS. CHIVERS: In the room we have  
39 Nathan Hile, our court reporter. Pippa Kenner, our  
40 anthropologist. Gary Goldberg, he's going to actually  
41 do some of the reports today, reporting for OSM.  
42 George Pappas from the State. Laura Greffenius, our  
43 wildlife biologist. And Ricky Koso is here from Adak.  
44 And Steve Fried, our fish biologist. And myself,  
45 Michelle. Thank you.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Well, thank you  
48 everyone, although we couldn't all get together with I  
49 guess nature hazards and all but we'll get right along  
50 with our agenda. The first thing was election of

1 officers. Does it need to be in that order? Can we do  
2 the agenda?

3

4 MS. CHIVERS: Okay.

5

6 CONFERENCE OPERATOR: Excuse me, Jim  
7 McCaula has joined.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: A reminder. When  
10 you speak on the mic, please state your name before you  
11 start talking. Tell who you are.

12

13 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. Do you want me to  
14 go ahead and start with the election of officers?

15

16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah.

17

18 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. Well, each year  
19 during the winter meeting, officers are elected by  
20 majority vote and serve in their positions for one  
21 year. I'll describe the duties for each position  
22 before opening the floor for nominations for that  
23 particular position.

24

25 For the Chair, this person serves a  
26 one-year term, and they may serve more than one term,  
27 but the Chair will conduct the meeting, attend and  
28 represent the Regional Council at the meetings of the  
29 Federal Subsistence Board. They are a voting Council  
30 member. And they also sign the reports,  
31 correspondence, meeting minutes and other documents for  
32 external distribution.

33

34 And at this time I'll go ahead and open  
35 up the floor for nominations for the Chair.

36

37 MR. KOSO: I make a motion we nominate  
38 Mitch for another year as the Chair. This is Rick  
39 Koso, excuse me.

40

41 MR. HOLMES: This is Pat. I'll second.

42

43 MS. CHIVERS: And who just spoke up.

44 Excuse me.

45

46 MR. HOLMES: This is Pat. I second  
47 that.

48

49 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. Great. Are there  
50 any other nominations. Hearing no others,

1 congratulations, Mitch. You are Chair again.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you.

4

5 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. So I'll go ahead  
6 and move on to the Vice Chair. The Vice Chair serves a  
7 one-year term, and they may also serve more than one  
8 year. But the Vice Chair helps the Chair and assumes  
9 all functions in his absence if he is away from a  
10 meeting or needs to attend the Federal Subsistence  
11 Board meeting.

12

13 Did somebody just speak up? Okay.

14

15 Well, I'm going to go ahead and open  
16 the floor for nominations. So if somebody wants to  
17 make a motion and elect somebody.

18

19 MR. ROHRER: This is Sam. Tom's down  
20 the table. He wants to nominate Al.

21

22 MS. CHIVERS: Okay.

23

24 MR. KOSO: Rick Koso. Second.

25

26 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. Any other  
27 nominations for Vice Chair. All right. Thank you. Al  
28 is the Vice Chair.

29

30 So we'll move on to the secretary. The  
31 secretary serves a one-year term as well, and they may  
32 serve more than one year. The secretary actually takes  
33 roll call and decides if a quorum is present, records  
34 the votes, and assumes all functions of the Chair if  
35 the Chair or Vice Chair is absent.

36

37 At this time I'll open the floor for  
38 nominations for secretary.

39

40 MR. HOLMES: Michelle, Tom wants to  
41 know who the current secretary is.

42

43 MS. CHIVERS: Currently it is Jim  
44 Hamilton. And as I stated before, I'm unable to reach  
45 him, so I don't know if he -- his home phone line is  
46 disconnected, his work phone line, and his cell phone,  
47 the voice mailbox is full. And he doesn't -- his email  
48 bounces back undeliverable, so I'm not sure how to get  
49 ahold of him, so I don't know if he -- he's never  
50 called to let me know if he's left state or anything,

1 so I don't know what's happening there. So I don't  
2 know if you want to just go ahead and nominate someone  
3 else, and we'll see what happens if he comes back on  
4 with the Council.

5  
6 MR. SCHWANTES: Michelle, this is Tom  
7 Schwantes. I'd like to nominate Pat Holmes.

8  
9 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. Thank you.

10  
11 MR. KOSO: Rick Koso. Second.

12  
13 MS. CHIVERS: Any other nominations for  
14 secretary. Hearing no others, Pat Holmes is the new  
15 secretary.

16  
17 So as it stands, we have Mitch  
18 Simeonoff as the Chair, Al Cratty as the Vice Chair and  
19 Pat Holmes as the secretary.

20  
21 Thank you. Mr. Chair. That concludes  
22 the election of officers.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The next item on  
25 our agenda is the review and adoption of our agenda.  
26 Any additions to our agenda that anyone would like to  
27 make right now.

28  
29 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. Gary Goldberg  
30 has his hand raised.

31  
32 MR. GOLDBERG: Mr. Chair. This is Gary  
33 Goldberg from OSM. On the agenda, going down to number  
34 9, which is the agency report section, there's a  
35 section that says memorandum of understanding between  
36 the Federal Subsistence Board and the Boards of  
37 Fisheries and Game. That was included primarily as  
38 informational in this packet, and there's no briefing  
39 planned for the MOU, but I am available to answer  
40 questions if anyone has some.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Any other  
43 additions to the agenda.

44  
45 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. This is  
46 Pat. I'd like to add under after the refuge  
47 presentation to have a presentation, a short one, from  
48 Larry Van Daele from the Alaska Department of Fish and  
49 Game, a little wildlife briefing.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Under  
2 agency reports, Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, right  
3 under that.  
4  
5 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, that works.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If there's nothing  
8 else, then a motion is in order to accept the agenda as  
9 amended.  
10  
11 MR. KOSO: Rick Koso makes a motion to  
12 accept the agenda as amended.  
13  
14 MR. HOLMES: Excuse me. Mr. Chairman.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead. Who is  
17 that?  
18  
19 MR. HOLMES: This is Pat. I'm sorry.  
20 One of my colleagues here was reminding me that we  
21 didn't have Paul Chervenak on from the advisory  
22 committee. Oh, he can go on with Larry. He had a  
23 report on goats. I think we probably talked to you  
24 about that on the phone, I'm sorry I forgot. I'm sorry,  
25 I forgot. I'd like to add Paul Chervenak after Larry  
26 Van Daele for a goat report.  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: All right. With  
29 the written reports.  
30  
31 MR. KOSO: Spell his name, Pat.  
32  
33 MR. HOLMES: C-H-E-R-N-A-V-A-K, is that  
34 right? Okay. Paul will spell it for you.  
35  
36 MR. CHERVENAK: C-H-E-R-V-E-N-A-K.  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Sure, right there  
39 right alongside Larry Van Daele.  
40  
41 Is there anything else?  
42  
43 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman. This is  
44 Tom Schwantes. With that change, I would make a motion  
45 then that we accept the agenda as outlined.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The motion is  
48 already on the floor. We're just adding other topics  
49 under discussion. Do I hear a second -- hear a  
50 question to end discussion.

1 MR. SCHWANTES: That motion was to add  
2 this new item we just added, so with that added, I  
3 would make a motion we accept the agenda as we just  
4 discussed.  
5  
6 MS. CHIVERS: Can -- who.....  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Who is that?  
9  
10 MS. CHIVERS: Who was that that just  
11 spoke up, please?  
12  
13 MR. SCHWANTES: It's Tom Schwantes.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Here's the  
16 deal. We have a motion on the floor and under  
17 discussion we added Paul Chervenak to the agenda right  
18 next to Larry Van Daele.  
19  
20 Do I hear a call for the question if  
21 there's no more discussion.  
22  
23 MR. KOSO: Question. Rick Koso.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The question is  
26 called. All those in favor of the agenda as amended  
27 say aye.  
28  
29 IN UNISON: Aye.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: All those opposed.  
32  
33 (No opposing votes)  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Motion carries.  
36  
37 The minutes of September 26th, 2008  
38 meeting in Kodiak. We need to adopt the minutes of  
39 that September meeting.  
40  
41 MR. KOSO: This is Rick Koso. I move  
42 to adopt the minutes of the September 26th, '08 meeting  
43 in Kodiak.  
44  
45 MR. HOLMES: I'll make a second to that  
46 motion.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: It's moved and  
49 seconded. Is there any discussion.  
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no  
4 discussion, is there any objection to the motion to  
5 adopt the minutes of our September 26th meeting in  
6 Kodiak.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no  
11 objections, the motion carries.

12

13 Next, Council member reports. I'll  
14 give a short one.

15

16 We're kind of planning a heavy-duty  
17 kids camp this summer. We're going to have the Alaska  
18 Native Harbor Seal Commission is going to come in.  
19 They're going to do a seal camp in the village or out  
20 at the kids camp. What they're going to do is they're  
21 going to get some hunters, get some seal. They're  
22 going to teach the residents in the villages to can and  
23 smoke the seal meat so that it will preserve longer.  
24 And all that happens in conjunction with the kids camp  
25 or kids petroglyph camp that's -- we get great  
26 participation from the Alutiiq Museum in Kodiak. So I  
27 think they'll have an exciting time in the village in  
28 August. They have a couple other seal camps happening,  
29 one in April down at Yakutat and then after that there  
30 will be one in Juneau.

31

32 And we did go on a goat hunt. A goat  
33 hunt is always an awesome experience.

34

35 We did have a bear problem. Last month  
36 I was out with Van (breaking up) and Allen Jones. They  
37 were (breaking up) with them. (Breaking up) a bear with  
38 -- I guess Van Daele and Allen Jones had contacted me  
39 to go out and try and get those two bear, but by the  
40 time I got the chance to go out, it was cold and windy  
41 and the bears had fled the scene. We're expecting two  
42 bears to continue their rampages, or just one, but  
43 they're pretty well habituated now. They're hitting  
44 other cabins up in -- all along one side of Olga Bay  
45 all the way up into Deadman Bay. That's like a month  
46 or so, they'll be back doing the same thing as soon as  
47 they crawl out of the hole.

48

49 So that's my little report from Akhiok.  
50 Who wants to go next.

1 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. This is --  
2 pardon me. This is Pat.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.

5  
6 MR. HOLMES: In Kodiak we had a run  
7 failure at the Buskin, and so after folks fished that  
8 for a few weeks and weren't catching any fish, the Fish  
9 and Game along with Fish and Wildlife Service closed  
10 the fishery for reds this year. And so most folks in  
11 town either went to Litnik or over to Pasagshak. And  
12 Pasagshak had a good run, but that's a tough place for  
13 folks to fish, because you have to launch your boat out  
14 through the scamp or skip out through the surf there.

15  
16 And I think that the -- being as we  
17 don't have anybody from Afognak here, they're going to  
18 be having their spirit camp again.

19  
20 And I was invited by the Kodiak  
21 Regional Aquaculture to represent subsistence folks,  
22 because Herman couldn't get to town. And they're  
23 revising their comprehensive plan, and they have a  
24 section in there that they want to get input from the  
25 villages and people in Kodiak on subsistence systems  
26 that might need enhancement or some help. And they are  
27 currently doing a project over at Port Lions on reds  
28 and silvers. And so when they get their questionnaire  
29 out, I'll try and get that out to all the different  
30 folks here on Kodiak that are interested, and to the  
31 different tribal groups and KNA so that we can get a  
32 good bit of information in on what folks would like to  
33 see done.

34  
35 I also testified on behalf of a  
36 proposal that's being aired. The Kodiak regional folks  
37 work with the Fish and Game and with the Fish and  
38 Wildlife Service, but there was one proposal for coho  
39 enhancement at Jap Bay to pressure off of the village  
40 system, but all those things are in the works. So I  
41 just want to let the RAC members know that the Kodiak  
42 Regional Aquaculture group is also interested in the  
43 local subsistence.

44  
45 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.

48  
49 MR. KOSO: Yeah. Mr. Chair. This is  
50 Rick Koso from Adak. We do have in Sand Point and also

1 Dutch Harbor during the summer, they have the native  
2 camps there, too. They do pretty much what Mitch has  
3 talked about there, and showing the younger kids how to  
4 prepare salmon and seal and whatnot, and teach them how  
5 to smoke fish and that kind of stuff. So it's kind of  
6 a teaching hand-me-down thing from the older folks. So  
7 it's been a good program. It's been going on for a few  
8 years now. So I just wanted to report that that's  
9 still going on.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Rick.

12  
13 Al, are you on yet.

14  
15 (No comments)

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Anybody else from  
18 Kodiak.

19  
20 (No comments)

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Can you hear me?

23  
24 MS. CHIVERS: Hello?

25  
26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Holmes, are you  
27 there?

28  
29 MS. CHIVERS: Yeah, we're here. Can  
30 you hear us?

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes. Any board  
33 members in Kodiak wish to give a report.

34  
35 MR. ROHRER: This is Sam Rohrer.  
36 Nothing to report.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Just go  
39 around the different board members that are there.

40  
41 MR. JOHNSON: This is Tommy. Yeah, I  
42 don't have anything to report at this time either.

43  
44 MR. SCHWANTES: Tom Schwantes. Nothing  
45 to report either.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

48  
49 MR. KOSO: There's one more thing,  
50 Mitch, this is Rick Koso here, as far as King Cove/Cold

1 Bay goes. They pass through the Senate and House and  
2 got it signed on that the road is supposedly going to  
3 go through. They've still got some more hurdles to  
4 jump, but they got through a couple of big one. And so  
5 as far as I know, Obama signed the package to have the  
6 road to King Cove/Cold Bay proceed. So I just thought  
7 I'd bring that to your attention.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: That's good news,  
10 Rick. They've been looking for that for a long time.

11

12 MR. KOSO: Yeah. Everybody in the  
13 region I think has been looking for it outside of the  
14 non-region people.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah. Finally  
17 they can have better access to Anchorage now. Get out  
18 of Cold Bay.

19

20 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. This is Pat.  
21 Congratulations, Rick. I wrote some letters for  
22 Stanley Mack and folks out in your area to the aunties  
23 and uncles in D.C. and I'm really glad to see that road  
24 finally coming to fruition.

25

26 MR. KOSO: Yeah. Thank you. And  
27 that's been a big help, I'm sure.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Is that it for  
30 reports.

31

32 MR. HOLMES: It sounds like that for  
33 here at Kodiak. We're done.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. The next  
36 item is call for proposals to change 2010/2012 Federal  
37 subsistence wildlife regulations.

38

39 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. I believe  
40 that is open until April 13th and so if we have any  
41 proposals.....

42

43 MR. GOLDBERG: The 30th.

44

45 MS. CHIVERS: .....that the Council --  
46 what?

47

48 MR. GOLDBERG: April 30th.

49

50 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. April 30th. If

1 the Council wants to submit a proposal, we've got some  
2 agency staff here to assist. And if we don't do it at  
3 this time, I mean, if something comes up later on in  
4 the meeting, you can always do it at that time, too,  
5 but we just wanted to open the floor if there's some  
6 proposals coming from Council members or with staff  
7 here at the meeting. Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The proposal  
10 deadline again?

11

12 MS. CHIVERS: April 30th.

13

14 MS. GREFFENIUS: Mitch, this is Laura  
15 Greffenius. And members of the Council. I'm the  
16 wildlife biologist with OSM.

17

18 The proposal deadline is April 30th.  
19 Anybody can submit a proposal, I mean, as an  
20 individual. That's the deadline. Or agencies. But if  
21 you want to submit one from the Council, you know, as a  
22 Council, then you would need to do that today, since  
23 you're meeting together. And as Michelle said, if  
24 something comes up later on in the meeting, we can  
25 always do it, and I'd be glad to help out with writing  
26 that up. So I just wanted to let you know that.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you.  
31 If we get ideas during the meeting, just keep that in  
32 mind, Board members. If you come up with an idea for a  
33 proposal, let Michelle know before the end of the  
34 meeting. That's all on item A.

35

36 Moving along, reports.

37

38 MR. GOLDBERG: Okay. Mr. Chairman.  
39 This is Gary Goldberg from the Office of Subsistence  
40 Management covering the agency report section.

41

42 As I mentioned earlier, the section  
43 dealing with the memorandum of understanding is  
44 included in there for informational purposes only. But  
45 if anyone on the Council has any questions about it,  
46 I'll do my best to answer at this time.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Does anyone have  
49 any questions for Gary Goldberg.

50

1 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chairman. Yeah. Rick  
2 Koso here.

3  
4 I've got a question on that. I read  
5 through that memorandum of understanding, and last year  
6 I had some questions between the Federal subsistence  
7 and the -- the Fed people and the State people on some  
8 of the regulation. And I was reading through the  
9 memorandum of understanding and I think that may have  
10 covered it, but I'm not too sure, there's such a --  
11 it's such a long process. But there was a little bit  
12 of a discrepancy on some regulations between the two as  
13 far as goose hunting and duck hunting on the refuge and  
14 on State lands. And I never did get an answer back on  
15 that, so -- last year. But I was reading through the  
16 memorandum, and I think that may cover some of the  
17 issues that I had last year.

18  
19 MS. CHIVERS: Do you want to bring up  
20 what the issue was again?

21  
22 MR. KOSO: Oh, golly gee. I think it  
23 was on your possession.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Speak up a little  
26 bit.

27  
28 MR. KOSO: It was on the possession  
29 with the -- having the State -- the Feds, that you  
30 could only have so much in possession on Federal land,  
31 and then on the State land you had a different  
32 possession total that you can have. And I don't know  
33 where the regulation comes into play on the enforcement  
34 part of it, if you went from Feds to the State land, or  
35 State to the Fed lands. And so there was definitely a  
36 discrepancy on that regulation. And we brought that up  
37 last year, but I never did hear back on it.

38  
39 MR. GOLDBERG: Okay. Through the Chair  
40 to Mr. Koso. That's a little but outside the scope of  
41 this memorandum of understanding, which deals primarily  
42 with coordination on Federal lands of subsistence uses  
43 between the State Board of Game, State Board of  
44 Fisheries, ADF&G and the members of the Federal  
45 Subsistence Board, primarily laying forth how  
46 coordination and communication is carried out within  
47 the Federal Subsistence Program. There is some  
48 reference in this MOU to different statutory  
49 authorities, State statutes as well as ANILCA Title  
50 VIII. And no change as far as operations go. The

1 Federal Board is mandated to implement Title VIII. The  
2 State carries out under State statutes. So each  
3 program continues to operate under its given statutes.

4

5

6 I would encourage you, if you still  
7 have a question regarding the issue you raise, we could  
8 certainly follow through on that. You could give it to  
9 the Council coordinator and we could try and get you an  
10 answer on that later.

11

12 MR. KOSO: Yeah. Thank you, Gary. I  
13 will check back on my deal and see if I can find where  
14 I was looking for, but it kind of got lost over time  
15 here. So it's a new year now, so I guess we'll bring  
16 it back up and I'll see if I can't get a better  
17 question to my -- or an answer to my questions I guess  
18 I should say.

19

20 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. This is Pat  
21 Holmes.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.

24

25 MR. HOLMES: I'm really tickled that  
26 the two agencies have been able to put together this  
27 memorandum of understanding. It's been needed for a  
28 long time, and we've -- the different agencies have  
29 gone through some real feeling in order to get to this  
30 point, but I think that that's a good sign for the  
31 future on being able to coordinate and talk to each  
32 other without going into confrontation mode  
33 automatically. So I think this is really swell.

34

35 Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.  
38 Let's continue on to the next one, Mr. Goldberg.

39

40 MR. GOLDBERG: Okay. Thank you, Mr.  
41 Chair. We'll be proceeding on to a summary of our  
42 projected regulatory schedule for the two-year cycle.  
43 That's on Page 17 of your respective Council meeting  
44 books.

45

46 For calendar year 2009, where we're at  
47 right now is the Regional Advisory Councils are  
48 meeting to develop proposals to change subsistence  
49 wildlife regulations. And the deadline to submit those  
50 proposals is April 30th.

1                                    Tomorrow, April 1st, the 2009 through  
2 2011 Federal subsistence fishing regulations take  
3 effect.

4  
5                                    Later in calendar year 2009, September  
6 and October, Councils will meet to develop  
7 recommendations on the proposals to change subsistence  
8 wildlife regulations and Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
9 Program projects. In January of calendar year 2010 the  
10 Federal Subsistence Board will meet to consider  
11 proposals to change subsistence wildlife regulations  
12 that would be in effect from 2010 through 2012, and  
13 also proposed Fisheries Resource Monitoring Projects.

14  
15                                    In the February/March timeframe of  
16 2010, which would be the winter Council meetings,  
17 Regional Advisory Councils meet to develop proposals to  
18 change subsistence fishing regulations.

19  
20                                    July 1st of next year the 2010 through  
21 2012 Federal subsistence wildlife regulations take  
22 effect. So that would be the culmination of the  
23 wildlife cycle that we're actually beginning today.

24  
25                                    Then in September to October of  
26 calendar year 2010, which would be the fall Council  
27 meetings, the Regional Advisory Councils meet to  
28 develop recommendations on proposals to change  
29 subsistence fishing regulations.

30  
31                                    Moving on to calendar year 2011, in  
32 January the Federal Subsistence Board will meet to  
33 consider proposals to change subsistence fishing  
34 regulations for the years 2011 through 2013.

35  
36                                    Following that, the winter Council  
37 meetings for calendar year 2011, taking place in  
38 approximately February to March, the Councils would  
39 meet to develop proposals to change subsistence  
40 wildlife regulations.

41  
42                                    Then on April 1st the 2011 to 2013  
43 Federal subsistence fishing regulations take effect.

44  
45                                    And then in September and October, the  
46 fall calendar year 2011 Council meetings, the Councils  
47 will meet to develop recommendations on proposals to  
48 change subsistence wildlife regulations and Fisheries  
49 Resource Monitoring Program projects.

50

1                   So essentially 2009, calendar year  
2 2009, the proposed cycle is mirrored again in calendar  
3 year 2011.

4  
5                   And this concludes my presentation on  
6 this particular topic, and I can entertain any  
7 questions people might have.

8  
9                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you.  
10 (Breaking up)

11  
12                  MS. CHIVERS: Mitch, your voice is kind  
13 of cutting out. Can you speak up again, please?

14  
15                  CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If there are no  
16 questions for Gary, then the next item on the agenda is  
17 tracking of bear claws.

18  
19                  MR. GOLDBERG: Okay. Mr. Chair. Again  
20 this is Gary Goldberg from OSM covering the material  
21 that's on Page 18 of your Council books, tracking of  
22 handicrafts made with brown bear claws.

23  
24                  There's possible action that you might  
25 desire to have occur after we get done with the  
26 briefing, and that would be Councils may assign a  
27 member to work on a State-sponsored work group.  
28 Council participation is optional

29  
30                  Background on this issue. At the April  
31 to May 2008 Federal Subsistence Board meeting, the  
32 Board addressed a proposal WP08-05, that had been  
33 submitted by the State of Alaska to refine Federal  
34 regulations which in its view allow for unconstrained  
35 commercial sale of handicrafts made from brown bear  
36 parts, and create market incentives for poaching.  
37 Based on a recommendation from ADF&G Commissioner Denby  
38 Lloyd, the Federal Subsistence Board deferred the  
39 proposal to the next wildlife cycle pending the  
40 formation of a work group. The Federal Subsistence  
41 Board directed that the work group include  
42 representation from Regional Advisory Councils.

43  
44                  There was a pre-work group meeting.  
45 State and Federal Staff met on January 21st of 2009 to  
46 clarify the intent of the work group and explore  
47 possible ways to address the issue. Meeting  
48 participants agreed that while conservation concerns  
49 could generally be addressed through existing systems  
50 that set regulations on bag limits, seasons, and method

1 and means of take, an effective mechanism for tracking  
2 legally harvested claws that are incorporated into  
3 handicrafts would help protect legal practices.  
4 Participants explored various options for tracking with  
5 discussion mostly focused on some type of paper  
6 documentation rather than something more  
7 technologically sophisticated such as microchips.  
8 These different ideas will be further discussed and  
9 explored with the work group.

10  
11 And the Staff who met on January 21st,  
12 2009 developed the following charge, draft charge, for  
13 the work group. And that follows. Develop a method or  
14 methods to recommend to the Federal Subsistence Board  
15 and Board of Game for tracking brown bear claws made  
16 into handicrafts that is enforceable and culturally  
17 sensitive commensurate with the need to provide  
18 conservation of this wildlife resource.

19  
20 Work group mechanics. Federal and/or  
21 State Staff will present this issue to Regional  
22 Advisory Councils at their winter 2009 meetings.  
23 Interested Councils may provide the name of a member to  
24 represent the Council at the meetings of the work  
25 group. Participation may be by telephone or in person.  
26 Ideally a meeting of the work group will occur prior to  
27 May 1st, 2009 to address the charge and develop a  
28 recommendation for consideration by both Boards by  
29 January 2010. One or two meetings are anticipated.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any questions on  
32 the tracking of handicrafts from bear claws.

33  
34 MR. KOSO: I've got one question, Mr.  
35 Chairman, Rick Koso here, for Gary on that.

36  
37 Has this been an on-going problem? Is  
38 this a Native problem or is it a non-Native problem on  
39 this deal that you guys are pushing through on this  
40 tracking of bear claws for handicraft?

41  
42 MR. GOLDBERG: This was something  
43 actually -- I'm sorry. Mr. Koso, through the Chair.  
44 This issue arose as a result of a proposal being put  
45 into the public process. And we are just following  
46 through on these work group meetings as a result of the  
47 direction from the Board, because the Board did elect  
48 to defer Wildlife Proposal 08-05 at the Council meeting  
49 -- or, I'm sorry, at the public Board meeting that  
50 occurred. So in essence, I don't want to -- I can't

1 state, I don't know whether or not it's arisen to be an  
2 issue. The State felt strongly enough about it to put  
3 in a proposal, and what we're doing here is essentially  
4 carrying out the will of the Federal Subsistence Board  
5 to work with the State on this work group to identify  
6 methodologies for tracking these handicrafts. And then  
7 it will be presented to the Board for ultimate  
8 decision.

9

10 MR. KOSO: Is this kind of like the  
11 gall bladder deal that they were having with the black  
12 bears and that type of thing, or is it not as bad? You  
13 know, I.....

14

15 MR. GOLDBERG: I can't speak to that.  
16 I honestly don't know how to compare. I don't have the  
17 facts on this.

18

19 MR. KOSO: Okay. Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. I think it  
22 has to do with the art work made from bear claws.

23

24 MR. GOLDBERG: It does.

25

26 MR. KOSO: Yeah. But I was looking at  
27 it as -- in the money aspect, you know, they get so  
28 much for a gall bladder, they get so much for a claw or  
29 a native art claw or whatever. I guess that's what  
30 they're doing, is selling in on the black market more  
31 or less. Is that why they're putting this into play?

32

33 MR. GOLDBERG: I think the intent was  
34 actually by the State just to refine the Federal  
35 regulations in this area. I don't recall from the  
36 meeting any discussions getting as, you know, as  
37 specific as the points you're raising right now with  
38 regards to, you know, volume of activity regarding bear  
39 claws or not. But this is mainly to address the legal  
40 tracking -- or rather the tracking of legally produced  
41 handicrafts that are made with the brown bear claws.

42

43 MR. KOSO: Yeah. Because when I read  
44 that, it stated in there that they didn't want it to  
45 get into the illegal killing of bears to where to me  
46 it's profit. That's why I was just wanting to know if  
47 it was coming from the Native villages and the Native  
48 people or if it was coming mostly from non-Native type  
49 people. So I was just kind of directing it from  
50 village to non-village I guess is what I was saying.

1 MR. GOLDBERG: Sure.  
2  
3 MR. KOSO: Okay. Thank you.  
4  
5 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman. This is  
6 Tom Schwantes. I'd recommend that we appoint Rick Koso  
7 to represent our Council on this board.  
8  
9 MR. KOSO: You know, I would like to  
10 maybe decline that. I appreciate the offer, but, you  
11 know, I'm stuck in Adak, and, man, it's hard to get  
12 back and forth and even communicate half the time, so I  
13 don't think I would be too good at that. I would  
14 suggest somebody probably from Kodiak that could be  
15 more accessible to people, because Adak, it's hard to  
16 get out, and it's hard to even communicate half the  
17 time. So outside of that, I would love to be on it,  
18 but I think you'll be better served by getting somebody  
19 that's able to be in contact with everybody.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: You've got a  
22 telephone at home, Rick?  
23  
24 MR. KOSO: Yeah, it works half the  
25 time.  
26  
27 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman. This is  
28 Tom Schwantes. I'll withdraw that nomination and  
29 nominate Sam Rohrer to serve on that committee.  
30  
31 MR. KOSO: I'll second that nomination.  
32 It's Rick Koso.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Motion was made to  
35 appoint Sam Rohrer to this working group tracking  
36 handicrafts made by brown bear claws. Seconded by Rick  
37 Koso. Any objections.  
38  
39 (No comments)  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no  
42 objections, then the motion carries. You're on the  
43 working group, Sam.  
44  
45 MR. ROHRER: This is Sam. Thank you  
46 very much.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. What's  
49 next? Chistochina court case summary. Mr. Goldberg.  
50

1 MR. GOLDBERG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2 Again this is Gary Goldberg with the Office of  
3 Subsistence Management.

4  
5 Beginning on Page 19 in your Council  
6 books is a memorandum that initially was internal and  
7 subsequently released to the Councils by Chairman  
8 Fleagle of the Federal Subsistence Board. I have a  
9 separate set of talking points on this so I will not be  
10 reading through all five pages to you.

11  
12 Just kind of the issue statement up  
13 front for anyone who may not have been familiar with  
14 it, but the Chistochina decision could best be  
15 summarized as this. The State of Alaska challenged the  
16 Federal Subsistence Board's ability to grant C&T in an  
17 entire unit based on demonstrated use in a portion of  
18 that unit. And I'll go on with the rest of this.

19  
20 A summary of the Ninth Circuit Court of  
21 Appeals' decision on the Chistochina customary and  
22 traditional determination is included in your Council  
23 book on Page 19.

24  
25 In 2004 the Cheesh-Na Tribal Council of  
26 the Village of Chistochina submitted a proposal  
27 requesting a customary and traditional use  
28 determination for moose throughout Unit 12. Both the  
29 Southcentral and Eastern Interior Regional Advisory  
30 Councils recommended that a C&T determination be  
31 granted to Chistochina for moose throughout Unit 12.  
32 ADF&G expressed reservations about the proposals. The  
33 Federal Subsistence Board supported the recommendations  
34 from the Councils and granted Chistochina C&T for moose  
35 throughout Unit 12.

36  
37 The State of Alaska submitted a request  
38 for reconsideration which the Board denied.

39  
40 The State filed a lawsuit in U.S.  
41 District Court challenging the Board's Chistochina  
42 decision. The State alleged that this decision was  
43 made without substantial evidence, is inconsistent with  
44 ANILCA and would cause unnecessary restrictions on non-  
45 subsistence uses. In 2007 the U.S. District Court  
46 found in favor of the Federal Subsistence Management  
47 Program. The State appealed that district court's  
48 decision to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

49  
50 Last fall the Ninth Circuit Court of

1 Appeals validated and vindicated the Federal  
2 Subsistence Board's Chistochina C&T determination on  
3 every point. There is nothing in the Chistochina  
4 decision that requires the Federal Subsistence Board to  
5 change any of its practices or procedures.

6  
7 And that concludes my briefing, sir.

8  
9 MS. CHIVERS: Mitch, are you still on  
10 line?

11  
12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I'm still here.  
13 Does anyone have any questions for Gary Goldberg on any  
14 of his report he's given so far.

15  
16 (No comments)

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If there are no  
19 questions, then thank you, Mr. Goldberg.

20  
21 MR. GOLDBERG: You're welcome.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We'll move to item  
24 B, Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. Nancy Hoffman.

25  
26 MS. HOFFMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
27 This is Nancy Hoffman. I'm the new refuge manager at  
28 Izembek National Wildlife Refuge.

29  
30 I would like to make one small  
31 correction on my name. It's Hoffman, H-O-F-F-M-A-N. A  
32 minor detail.

33  
34 Your report starts on Page 24 of your  
35 draft agenda, or your agenda.

36  
37 I do have one correction on the  
38 caribou, Unit 9D. The correction is, it's like the  
39 third paragraph down, the three caribou collars were on  
40 mortality mode. Two were observed on the ground and  
41 had no animal remains in them, while one was not  
42 observed. The current wording implies that there was  
43 three mortalities in addition to the two collars  
44 observed on the ground. I just want to make that  
45 correction.

46  
47 This is a new procedure for me, a RAC  
48 meeting. Do you want me to go through this entire  
49 report, rereading it, or ask people if you have any  
50 questions about? How do you want me to proceed?

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Summarize it as  
2 best you can. The guys will have questions if they  
3 read it.

4  
5 MS. HOFFMAN: I'm sorry, I didn't hear  
6 you totally.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I'm sorry. Yeah,  
9 this is Mitch. Just go ahead, summarize your report as  
10 best you can, and we'll entertain questions after.

11  
12 MS. HOFFMAN: Okay. Thank you, Mr.  
13 Chair.

14  
15 We coordinated with the State to do the  
16 fall composition counts in October, and there's a table  
17 on the first page that shows results of both the  
18 cow/calf ratios and the bull ratios. Currently there  
19 is no caribou hunting in Unit 9D. And the  
20 recommendation is to continue that closure until we see  
21 some type of recovery.

22  
23 Caribou hunting on Unit 10, Unimak  
24 Island. We were unable to conduct a population count  
25 because of weather, and we have a new pilot that came  
26 on. He's still going through the training to be  
27 certified to meet all the regs to do low elevation  
28 flights and also landings off airports.

29  
30 The State there conducted a composition  
31 count in October of '08. The cow/calf ratio was six  
32 calves to 100 cows, pretty much the same as the  
33 previous year. There was a decline in the bull to cow  
34 ratio. As in previous years, we were working with Fish  
35 and Game, working on their composition counts and also  
36 other activities with this herd. There does seem to be  
37 a decline in the caribou numbers in Unimak and the  
38 Refuge is proposing that caribou hunting be closed  
39 until the population can recover so it can allow a more  
40 sustainable harvest.

41  
42 The State bear hunting took place on  
43 Unimak between October and December of '08. Three  
44 bears were sealed here at the refuge.

45  
46 The waterfowl, the brant survey was not  
47 conducted in Mexico this year. This is the first time  
48 it's been canceled since the late 50s. And mostly it  
49 was canceled because of the violence in that area, and  
50 they just didn't want to run the risk of going down and

1 flying.

2

3 This February they did conduct a survey  
4 here, and the numbers are outlined on the table.

5

6 There is a point that the bag limits  
7 were relaxed in the fall of '08 to three brant per day,  
8 because the average exceeded the threshold of 135,000  
9 birds. At present it's unknown how the lack of data  
10 from '99 [sic] flyway will affect fall harvest. So,  
11 like I said, this is the first year in a long time that  
12 we don't have the survey of the west coast down into  
13 Mexico. Alaska is the only location where the limits  
14 were relaxed on the west coast.

15

16 Emperor goose. The spring survey  
17 netted a total of 64,944 birds. It's a decrease of  
18 more than 15 percent from the previous year, '07. The  
19 three-year average between 2006 and 2008 was 72,864.  
20 And a spring three-average of 80,000 is needed to  
21 consider it for an open season.

22

23 Population counts were conducted during  
24 the spring and fall staging along the coast of western  
25 Alaska and the Peninsula, and are not specific to this  
26 Refuge.

27

28 And the avian influenza, the Refuge is  
29 continuing to collect samples of the Alaska avian  
30 influence surveillance program. And last fall we  
31 collected samples from hunter harvest, also from  
32 Steller's eider and also from tundra swans. And that  
33 program will be continued this year, this fall. Last  
34 fall we had a total of about 470 birds harvested -- or  
35 samples from the hunter harvest, and just over the  
36 sample -- required sample size of 200 for the Steller's  
37 eiders.

38

39 And if there's any questions, I can  
40 answer; otherwise that concludes my briefing.

41

42 MR. SCHWANTES: Nancy, this is Tom  
43 Schwantes from Kodiak. I have a couple questions.

44

45 On your Southern Alaska Peninsula  
46 Caribou Herd statistics on Page 24, you do not have a  
47 do not have a population estimate, is it partially  
48 because you have a new (breaking up)? Why don't we  
49 have a population.....

50

1 MS. HOFFMAN: I'm sorry, I missed like  
2 the last half of what you said.  
3  
4 MR. SCHWANTES: 2008/2009, you show no  
5 data for herd population size. Is that because of your  
6 new pilot or we just didn't do the surveys or what?  
7  
8 MS. HOFFMAN: Yes, it's a combination.  
9 We did not do the survey, because of weather  
10 conditions. We didn't have a lot of snowfall, it was  
11 patchy and hard to see them. And also we didn't have a  
12 pilot. So it was a combination of the two.  
13  
14 MR. SCHWANTES: I guess the next  
15 question I have is similar with the emperor goose  
16 survey results on Page 26. Is it possible that that  
17 number is down because of the new pilot, or did we get  
18 a good survey there?  
19  
20 MS. HOFFMAN: You're asking the number  
21 of the emperor goose survey, the spring survey, of why  
22 it's down?  
23  
24 MR. SCHWANTES: Yes, the 2008 spring  
25 survey. It shows that it's down. My question is, did  
26 we get a good survey, or is it possibly down because of  
27 not getting a good survey?  
28  
29 MS. HOFFMAN: I would think it would be  
30 a consistent survey, because the pilots who conduct  
31 that survey are routinely conducted. Our new pilot was  
32 not involved in that survey. So it's the same  
33 technique, method and approach. So I would say that is  
34 a fair number. A reasonable true number.  
35  
36 MR. SCHWANTES: Okay. Thank you. That  
37 answers my question.  
38  
39 MS. HOFFMAN: You're welcome.  
40  
41 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair. This is Rick  
42 Koso. I've got a couple of questions I guess on this.  
43 I guess we'll start off first on this question  
44 regarding the subsistence migratory birds and  
45 possession limits. I think we brought that up on  
46 Izembek last year. And it did come up, it's on the  
47 bottom of Page -- it was pointed out to me on Page 7  
48 there, that Pete Probasco stated that he got, you know,  
49 ahold of Val, the deputy refuge manager at Izembek.  
50 And they were supposed to draft up something to us, but

1 I never did see it. So can you elaborate on that a  
2 little? Did you follow through on that, the  
3 discrepancy between the State and the Federal  
4 Government?  
5  
6 MS. HOFFMAN: And that was directed to  
7 me, Nancy?  
8  
9 MR. KOSO: Excuse me? Say again?  
10  
11 MS. HOFFMAN: Could you restate your  
12 question, please?  
13  
14 MR. KOSO: Well, it's on Page 7. If  
15 you look on the bottom of the page, back to the  
16 question.....  
17  
18 MS. HOFFMAN: Page 7 of the -- of what  
19 report?  
20  
21 MR. KOSO: It's the same report you  
22 gave there, but it's on Page 7.  
23  
24 MS. CHIVERS: The Board.....  
25  
26 MR. KOSO: It's actually the blue  
27 Aleutian Federal Subsistence Regulatory Council book.  
28 The blue one.  
29  
30 MS. HOFFMAN: Okay. I don't have it  
31 with me. I just have my report.  
32  
33 MR. KOSO: Oh, okay. Well, anyway.....  
34  
35 MS. HOFFMAN: Sorry.  
36  
37 MR. KOSO: Anyway, regarding the  
38 question I had earlier on the possession limits between  
39 the -- regarding the subsistence migratory birds  
40 possession limit. They were supposed to get back --  
41 there was a question on the State and Federal  
42 Government on possession limits, and it was supposed to  
43 be followed through. I got some questions on it last  
44 year, and that's the reason I was asking it again,  
45 because it never was answered.  
46  
47 MS. HOFFMAN: All right. Okay. And  
48 you said you asked it last year to Val Urban and he was  
49 supposed to get back to you on that?  
50

1 MR. KOSO: No, I brought it up in our  
2 meeting in Kodiak.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: This is Mitch. I  
5 think Pete Probasco was supposed to draft up a response  
6 to that question and clarify why the difference in  
7 State-possessed migratory bird possession. If I could  
8 ask Michelle, did we ever receive that from Pete?

9  
10 MS. CHIVERS: No, we have not, Mr.  
11 Chair.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Maybe you  
14 might want to follow up with him and remind him of  
15 this, and when he gets that printed up, we could send  
16 -- forward it on to the Board members.

17  
18 MS. HOFFMAN: May I be copied on it  
19 also? I'd be curious to know why.

20  
21 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair. This is Pippa  
22 Kenner.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, go ahead.

25  
26 MS. KENNER: I have a little bit of  
27 information on this that I could offer the Council.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Please do.

30  
31 MS. KENNER: All right. Well, I know  
32 -- I've looked into this a little bit since it came up  
33 this morning.

34  
35 The State and the Federal migratory  
36 bird hunting regulations are the same and they come  
37 from treaty, from the Migratory Bird Act. And I'm just  
38 giving background I'm sure you all know.

39  
40 And I think the question was about  
41 interpretation of the possession limit. I actually  
42 read the interpretation in the State reg, as they're  
43 described in the State regulations. Two, one of the  
44 enforcement officers, and they are the same. The  
45 difference is in interpretation, and I think what Mr.  
46 Koso's talking about is that -- it probably has to do  
47 with the definition of when you have your daily  
48 possession limit in camp. Is that still a possession,  
49 or is it -- do -- can you then go hunting again.

50

1 MR. KOSO: Yes. Well, there was a  
2 discrepancy on the Federal land possession versus being  
3 on State property possession.

4  
5 MS. KENNER: But it's the  
6 interpretation?

7  
8 MR. KOSO: It could have very well  
9 been. It could very well.

10  
11 MS. KENNER: It's not the wording.  
12

13 MR. KOSO: The question, I received it,  
14 because it was brought up in Cold Bay on a goose  
15 hunting trip to a couple different people with the Feds  
16 versus the State people.

17  
18 MS. KENNER: And even though this is  
19 the Federal Subsistence Council, and migratory bird  
20 hunting regulations don't come from either of our  
21 boards, this is an appropriate venue to pick it up.  
22 And, unfortunately, it does have to go to Pete  
23 Probasco, who is now -- Nancy Hoffman, to discuss the  
24 different ways those regulations may be interpreted by  
25 enforcement and make sure we're all on the same page.  
26 So we'll do that.

27  
28 Thank you. Does that.....

29  
30 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair. This is Rick  
31 Koso again. You know, I got pretty much clarified on  
32 that. I think we need to come back to Pete Probasco to  
33 get a report on that so that we can put it out and  
34 everybody will be aware of what it says.

35  
36 But I've got another question for you,  
37 Nancy, if I could.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.

40  
41 MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah, go ahead.

42  
43 MR. KOSO: You know, I've got a  
44 question on the caribou ratios out there. I notice  
45 that, you know, we came up from 39 calf to a 100, so  
46 we've come up quite a bit from the previous year. But  
47 I noticed that the bull ratio has been declining both  
48 in Unimak and area 9D. Is that -- could that be a  
49 reason, I guess you could call them the guides or the  
50 head hunters that are taking the big bulls, or is that

1 just from the wolf population or a combination of both?

2

3 MS. HOFFMAN: And your question was in  
4 9D?

5

6 MR. KOSO: Well, the question is for  
7 the whole region, it's for Unimak also, because they've  
8 both declined as far as the bull ratio goes.

9

10 MS. HOFFMAN: Right. I don't know for  
11 sure. I mean, I would have to be -- I have no data to  
12 say either way.

13

14 MR. KOSO: Well, I think that would be  
15 a good question, because I think subsistence should  
16 come prior to, you know, commercial hunting.

17

18 And Adak is still another example of  
19 the same deal. I know in Adak they put a limit last  
20 year, or was it the year before, on two bulls to be  
21 shot in Adak with no limit on the females. And that  
22 was put in by the guides. And so I know the guides the  
23 last few years, the last five years in Adak, they did  
24 take all the large bulls, and right now they're kind of  
25 putting themselves on hold, because there's no more big  
26 bulls left. And I know that the people that are meat  
27 hunters care less about the antlers, but -- or the  
28 subsistence people.

29

30 I don't know. If you could check on  
31 that, I would appreciate maybe getting something back  
32 from you on that deal, if it's being affected by the  
33 guides, or is it being affected by who that's, you  
34 know, got such a drastic count on the -- or decrease on  
35 the bulls versus the calves or whatever. Or cows,  
36 excuse me.

37

38 MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah, and that would be a  
39 good question I think if someone from the State is on  
40 the call here that might be able to answer that. They  
41 might have more information about trophy elk being -- I  
42 mean, sorry, caribou being collected.

43

44 MR. ROHRER: Mr. Chair. Sam Rohrer  
45 here.

46

47 Just a comment. I would have to say  
48 that the bull ratio probably has nothing to do with  
49 guided hunters, primarily because as far as I know,  
50 there's no sport hunt for caribou in 9D and hasn't been

1 for.....

2

3 MR. KOSO: Two years.

4

5 MR. ROHRER: .....a couple years as far  
6 as I know. I'm not sure on Unit 10, but I don't think  
7 there is for Unit 10 either. But anyway, so, certainly  
8 the declining bull population would have nothing to do  
9 with sport hunting. In fact, I don't think -- what's  
10 the status of the subsistence in Unit 9D? I think  
11 that's.....

12

13 MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah, there's no hunting  
14 for caribou in 9D. But I thought his question was --  
15 involved both Unit 10 and 9D. I mean, well, 9D is  
16 closed. So basically I've kind of assumed he meant  
17 Unit 10.

18

19 MR. ROHRER: No, he was talking about  
20 9D as well. So certainly 9D would have nothing to do  
21 with -- the declining bull population obviously has  
22 nothing to do with hunting as there's no legal hunting  
23 allowed for caribou there. Unit 10, again, like I  
24 said, I'm not sure of the regulations there.

25

26 MR. KOSO: Well, I tend to disagree a  
27 little bit with your answer on that, but -- the reason  
28 I say that is that 9D has been closed, what, for two  
29 years now, or is this -- this is the second year I  
30 guess, this year, since we did have a hunt there. And  
31 we did have quite a few guides that did hunt down there  
32 for caribou prior to that. And it takes a little  
33 longer than two years to, you know, come back from --  
34 you know for reproducing I guess it is.

35

36 And the reason I say that is Adak in  
37 these last couple years, we still have a season in  
38 Adak, and I know there isn't any large bulls left out  
39 there. We had a couple, two or three different guides  
40 go out there and surveyed the island, and they actually  
41 didn't come back for a hunt the last two years, because  
42 the bulls, the big bulls were all shot off the past  
43 five years. So it definitely has affect prior to the  
44 past two years, I would go that far to say that.

45

46 MS. HOFFMAN: There really is quite a  
47 decrease in Unit 10 compared to 9D. 9D is closed like  
48 you mentioned, but a decrease with 31 bulls per 100  
49 cows down to 9, that's worth taking notice.

50

1 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I was  
2 wondering if Lem Butler from Fish and Game is on line.  
3 Perhaps he might be able to shed some light on that  
4 question.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Is that you, Pat?  
7

8 MR. HOLMES: Yes. I'm sorry, Mr.  
9 Chairman. This is Pat Holmes. I was wondering if Lem  
10 Butler, ADF&G was on the line, if he might be able to  
11 answer or shed some light on that question.

12  
13 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. I did talk to  
14 Lem Butler, and he had intended on being on line, but  
15 -- and he received all the information, so I'm not sure  
16 why he's not on line. He did put in -- let me look and  
17 see what page number. He did submit some information  
18 on the Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd status  
19 report, and that starts on Page -- it looks like 47.

20  
21 And, I don't know, Laura, maybe you can  
22 do a recap on this. Lem had submitted some memorandum  
23 that was submitted -- there's three different ones  
24 along with some -- it looks like some population  
25 estimates. It's Page 47 through 55.

26  
27 But he's not -- I guess he was unable  
28 to attend, so maybe Laura can recap a little bit of  
29 that information.

30  
31 MS. GREFFENIUS: Mr. Chair. This is  
32 Laura Greffenius.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, go ahead.

35  
36 MS. GREFFENIUS: Yeah. Maybe Lem will  
37 be joining us, because he's certainly the one who's  
38 been doing so much of the work down there.

39  
40 I did work on some of the proposals for  
41 the closures, and I know that just in the last few  
42 years -- well, as Rick Koso was saying, it's been  
43 closed since 2007. And I know in the last couple years  
44 Lem has been concerned about some of the same patterns  
45 in Unit 9D being exhibited in Unimak as well. So, you  
46 know, getting those surveys is certainly really  
47 helpful, and I know that weather constraints make it  
48 difficult.

49  
50 So it sounds like the Refuge is

1 considering a proposal just to lessen the harvest or to  
2 decrease it.

3

4                   You know, as far as the numbers, yeah,  
5 on Page 47 is the summary of the composition counts,  
6 and it looks like that recent information is included  
7 on the tables in the Izembek Refuge summary.

8

9                   So that's pretty much all that I have.  
10 And I know that, you know, there's been a real concern  
11 about Unit 9D and just people wanting to have that  
12 caribou harvest, and so that's being kept track of very  
13 carefully by the Izembek Refuge and the State has spent  
14 a lot of time down there. And also the Office of  
15 Subsistence Management had provided monies for that  
16 collaring project. It's one of the areas of concern,  
17 and so we provide moneys for some of those kinds of  
18 projects. And so we get reports back from Lem, and  
19 that's why there's been a lot of collaring work going  
20 on down there.

21

22                   But I won't read all the information  
23 there on Page 47 and 48, but if there's any other  
24 questions, I'll see if I can answer them. But maybe  
25 Lem will join us, if there's further questions, we  
26 might be able to get back to this a little bit later  
27 on.

28

29                   Thank you.

30

31                   MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. This is Pat  
32 Holmes.

33

34                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pat.

35

36                   MR. HOLMES: I've got a couple  
37 questions on Unit 9E -- or on 9. And I know some folks  
38 that live out there at False Pass and, of course,  
39 Rick's got lots of relatives at King Cove that use to  
40 hunt both those herds, at Unimak and the south  
41 Peninsula. And sometime I'd suggest you folks listen  
42 to Iver Malutin's story about a lady out there that  
43 paid 1500 bucks for a drum of fuel oil, because food is  
44 so important to people out there.

45

46                   And I guess this brings up, I guess, my  
47 point is in 2007 the previous Refuge manager mentioned  
48 that he had a new pilot and couldn't get the flight in  
49 and the data, and, you know, the same thing last year  
50 and the same thing this year. And it would seem to me,

1 I'm retired from Fish and Game, and I've flown stream  
2 surveys out there, and worked (breaking up). A lot of  
3 times you have to have a machine there and you just sit  
4 and wait (breaking up) before you can get out, but, you  
5 know, the importance of these herds for food and  
6 subsistence, it would seem that in the last four years  
7 that the Fish and Wildlife Service for Izembek would  
8 have some way of getting a survey in for those areas.

9  
10 And I guess I would express my dismay  
11 that that hasn't happened. I do understand weather and  
12 I do understand getting new staff. But it would seem  
13 you could borrow a pilot from somewhere or I've had  
14 success working with the Coast Guard and asking them to  
15 do training work and help out the department in  
16 fisheries. And so I would really express my concern to  
17 the new manager to work into your comp plan to find  
18 some way to get that survey done, because we're -- up  
19 until this last year, we had the poorest survival rate  
20 and the highest predation rate in the entire state on  
21 those herds. And the numbers are potentially down to  
22 where they could disappear.

23  
24 I do have a question. I noticed that  
25 your cow to calf ratio has jumped up to 39 this year.  
26 What happened there?

27  
28 MS. HOFFMAN: This is Nancy Hoffman.

29  
30 We -- I started in January. Our pilot  
31 started in late October, early November. We did have a  
32 plane here. We didn't have a pilot to fly the plane.  
33 Our pilot has to go through certain training and meet  
34 all of the Federal regulations. When the pilot was  
35 ready, the weather wasn't ready. So there's a lot of  
36 variables. And I do understand your concern.

37  
38 When I came in Octob -- I mean,  
39 January, we talked about it. We also met with the  
40 State and the Alaska Peninsula Refuge and had a joint  
41 meeting about the caribou herds and about survey  
42 techniques. And out of that meeting we decided that we  
43 would do a joint post-calving aggregation count in  
44 July. And I think that will be the first time that's  
45 happened in a lot time. Many moons. So I think we're  
46 starting down another track, and hopefully it's going  
47 to be a very positive move. So I hope we find  
48 improvements that you might see at our next RAC  
49 meeting, or review of the data.

50

1                   And now your question is about the  
2 2008/2009 39 calves per 100 cows?

3  
4                   MR. HOLMES: Yeah. That's a big  
5 improvement. That's great. But what happened?

6  
7                   MS. HOFFMAN: There's no hunting. I  
8 don't know. There's probably a lot of things. It  
9 could be weather. Could be health. It could be lack  
10 of hunting. There's many variables. I can't tell you  
11 exactly what caused that.

12  
13                  MR. ROHRER: Mr. Chair. Sam Rohrer  
14 here.

15  
16                  I just wanted to comment on that. I  
17 was reading through Lem Butler's report and I noted he  
18 thinks that having a wolf control program going on down  
19 there. It looks like 28 wolves were killed in the  
20 calving grounds during the summer of 2008. And he  
21 certainly thought that had a dramatic effect on the  
22 calving ratio, which I would say going from 1 calf per  
23 100 cows to 39 calves per 100 cows, obviously that wolf  
24 control was a good deal. So I want to congratulate the  
25 State, way to go.

26  
27                  And also note at our winter of 2008 RAC  
28 meeting, this advisory board had -- I think we did a  
29 resolution encouraging the State to continue on with  
30 the predator control program. So anyway, I'm glad  
31 you've listened to our resolution and anyway, for the  
32 State people listening, good job.

33  
34                  MS. HOFFMAN: I just want to make a  
35 clarification. There was no wolf control on Unit 9D  
36 within the Refuge, so that 39 calves per 100 cows is no  
37 relation to -- there's no data to support that has any  
38 relation to a wolf control program.

39  
40                  MR. HOLMES: I believe you're  
41 incorrect, because the calving grounds for that area is  
42 on State land, and that's where the.....

43  
44                  Excuse me, Mr. Chairman. This is Pat  
45 Holmes.

46  
47                  That's where the wolf control did take  
48 place. And so the calves for your area, they were born  
49 there, and that's what happened it appears to me from  
50 this information from the State.

1 MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah. We just don't have  
2 data to support that.

3  
4 MR. ROHRER: The composition count of  
5 the South Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd was conducted  
6 April 14th, Bruce Dale, ADF&G biologist, survey crew of  
7 caribou locations in the vicinity of Caribou Flats,  
8 Black hill in Game Unit 9D. That's your herd, isn't  
9 it?

10  
11 MS. HOFFMAN: What I'm saying is we  
12 don't have data to support that this calf/cow ratio is  
13 due to wolf control.

14  
15 MR. HOLMES: Well, the previous surveys  
16 you had the lowest survival in the entire state of one  
17 percent and the highest wolf population. And if 28  
18 wolves are removed along the calving grounds for that  
19 herd, then it seems that that is the only cause and  
20 effect. But anyway, we won't get any further on that.

21  
22 I guess we would just urge you to use  
23 any effort to get that survey in. There are also  
24 commercial pilots there that fly stream surveys for the  
25 department, and I've flown with them, and flying a  
26 stream survey sure a hell of a lot hairier than flying  
27 and counting caribou. So I'd urge you to use any  
28 method, and I know there's at least 10 pilots for the  
29 refuges here in the state, if not more, and I mean,  
30 it's -- to me, and if you're looking at it from someone  
31 from living at False Pass or King Cove, a matter of  
32 survival of people. And I really find it unacceptable  
33 for three years in a row to say, gee, we've got a new  
34 pilot. So please find a plane and please find a way to  
35 count those critters.

36  
37 Thank you very much.

38  
39 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair. This is Rick  
40 Koso.

41  
42 Nancy, I've got one more question. I  
43 notice you mentioned the meeting you had with the State  
44 and the other people involved. Did you invite the King  
45 Cove or the False Pass or the Nelson Lagoon or any of  
46 the tribal village members to attend those sessions  
47 with you?

48  
49 MS. HOFFMAN: No. This was just a  
50 meeting of coordination on surveys on what is -- I'm

1 new. Also there was just a coordination, I've never  
2 been to a coordination meeting or had coordination with  
3 the State or Alaska Peninsula Refuge. So it was a  
4 coordination meeting with biologists. No, we did not  
5 invite the public.

6

7 MR. KOSO: Yeah. I guess I wasn't  
8 referring to inviting the public. I was referring to  
9 inviting the presidents of the village corporations or  
10 the tribal entities and the villages out there. I know  
11 they have a lot of history behind them, and I think  
12 maybe you guys could learn a lot if you would invite  
13 them and have them be part of this survey that you're  
14 doing.

15

16 Thank you. I don't have any more.

17

18 MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah. It was a meeting  
19 of biologists mainly, just talking about what we're  
20 doing, how we can coordinate better. It was more of a  
21 coordination meeting with wildlife biologists.

22

23 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. We've been  
24 joined by Harry Dodge. He's a local guide, and also a  
25 reporter for the Kodiak Daily Mirror. Rob Baer from  
26 Fish and Game. Iver Malutin from KNA. Roxie, and I'm  
27 sorry, I forgot your last name, Roxie. Aday (ph) from  
28 the Native Village of Afognak. Bob Palowski from  
29 Shoonaq', the Kodiak Tribal Council was here, and he  
30 just stepped out. And we expect probably someone from  
31 Shoonaq' to show up a little bit later.

32

33 Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: All right. Thank  
36 you, Pat.

37

38 Other questions for Nancy.

39

40 MR. SCHWANTES: Yes. This is Tom  
41 Schwantes again.

42

43 I have another question regarding the  
44 emperor goose survey results. Nancy, can you tell me  
45 if those surveys are taken in the same area every year?  
46 Is the same area covered every year?

47

48 MS. HOFFMAN: Yes. From my  
49 understanding it's the same areas are concentrated on.

50

1 MR. SCHWANTES: I guess one of my  
2 concerns is that we're looking at exactly the same area  
3 every year instead of expanding the survey to see if  
4 some of those geese are moving.

5  
6 MS. HOFFMAN: Well, they have areas  
7 that they concentrate, they stage at, and so those have  
8 been tried and true after doing I guess field  
9 reconnaissance of finding locations of areas where they  
10 stage before they move through in different migration  
11 periods. And so for years they haven't changed,  
12 because that's where the resource is for them to feed,  
13 or it's a calmer bay or there's no ice. And so based  
14 on those resources, that's what kind of drives where  
15 you would find them, and why we would sample those  
16 areas.

17  
18 MR. SCHWANTES: Okay. So basically  
19 what you're telling me is you're looking at the same  
20 area every year and you're not expanding the survey at  
21 all. So we could be seeing an increase in the  
22 population of emperor geese, but we're just not looking  
23 in new areas. Is that right?

24  
25 MS. HOFFMAN: No, I'm sorry if I  
26 misspoke, that is not what I meant. What I was saying  
27 is these surveys are based on information of resources  
28 available for migratory birds. If the birds need  
29 certain things, certain foods to build up their energy  
30 reserves so they can go through their entire migration,  
31 they're going to try to land or rest in those areas  
32 where they're going to have protection, be it from wind  
33 or ice or weather, and they're going to have a good  
34 food base so they can get enough energy so they can  
35 move on to the next stages. Also an area that is going  
36 to be relatively predator-free. And so those resources  
37 haven't changed much over the years. There might be  
38 some minor fluctuations. These are aerial flights, and  
39 so they may pick up areas -- like maybe they've always  
40 been concentrated in Bay A, and there's a little sub-  
41 bay on the side, and they would notice, oh, well,  
42 there's maybe a larger group. Say there's 200 have now  
43 moved over to the smaller bay. We'll count those also.

44  
45  
46 I can't -- I'm not part of the team. I  
47 can't say they don't do any totally new reconnaissance,  
48 but based on the resources that they need and knowing  
49 the locations of those, that kind of drives where the  
50 geese will spend their time.

1 Does that make any -- is that more  
2 clear?

3  
4 MR. SCHWANTES: Yes. Would it possible  
5 in the future to provide us with a map or something  
6 showing areas you are actually focusing in on a yearly  
7 basis?

8  
9 MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah, I could find that  
10 for you. I think most of it is still in their -- in  
11 the Pacific Flyway Management Plan for the emperor  
12 goose, but I can try to get a more up-to-date map.

13  
14 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, if you could  
15 maybe work that through Michelle so it could get out to  
16 the RAC members, I'm sure we'd all appreciate seeing  
17 that.

18  
19 Thank you.

20  
21 MS. HOFFMAN: Okay. So I'm going to  
22 try to get you an up-to-date map for the surveys of the  
23 emperor goose.

24  
25 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair. Rick Koso again  
26 here.

27  
28 Nancy, one more question on a follow-up  
29 on this emperor goose. I don't know if you do surveys.  
30 I know you're just spring and fall you say. But, you  
31 know, in Adak, you know, I've counted in excess of 2 to  
32 300 emperor goose, you know, just in the one spot  
33 there, Clam Lagoon in Adak. I don't know if you do  
34 your surveys out that way, but I would -- you know, I  
35 was looking at your -- what it's going to take to have  
36 a subsistence hunt, and you're looking at 80,000 birds.  
37 And you've been always sticking around 78,000 for the  
38 last few years. It just seems to me that you don't  
39 want to get over that 80 or something to create a  
40 subsistence hunt. So, I don't -- you know, I'm not  
41 pointing fingers at anybody, but it just seems so  
42 obvious to me that, you know, it had been staying at  
43 status quo for quite a few years and I've been trying  
44 to push for a subsistence hunt in the villages out  
45 there for the people, even if it's one or two. You  
46 know, I don't think it would hurt, you know, the count  
47 on them.

48  
49 So anyway, if there's -- you know, I  
50 appreciate you're going to give us a map of where you

1 guys do your surveying, because I think the Aleutians  
2 does have a lot of emperors out there, particularly  
3 Adak area, I know there's a lot of them there. I don't  
4 know what you refer to as a lot. You know, I see 2,  
5 300 of them at Adak, but that's just in one spot.

6  
7                   Anyway, that's just information from  
8 me. If it could be of some help, great. And I know  
9 getting a map and see where you do things would be a  
10 big help to us.

11  
12                   Thank you.

13  
14                   MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah. And when they're  
15 in Adak, they'll be coming up the chain, so that spring  
16 survey, hopefully they come up and then they're going  
17 to go to those little bays or whatever, and those  
18 numbers should be counted in the larger group. Are you  
19 seeing those numbers at the same time of the spring  
20 survey?

21  
22                   MR. KOSO: No, these have been spotted  
23 here in January, December -- November, January -- or  
24 December and January and part of February when I came  
25 back from Adak, they were still there. So I don't know  
26 if they're a localized goose or what.

27  
28                   MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah. So those geese  
29 would probably move then further north as they're  
30 migrating and they would most likely, I can't guarantee  
31 it, but tend to congregate up and be counted in the  
32 spring count. That's why that spring count is pretty  
33 important, because those birds, Adak and down that way,  
34 would be moving further north by that time for the  
35 count.

36  
37                   MR. KOSO: All right. Thank you very  
38 much.

39  
40                   MS. HOFFMAN: You're welcome.

41  
42                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other  
43 questions for Nancy.

44  
45                   (No comments)

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If there are no  
48 further questions, I thank you, Nancy. We'll move  
49 along.

50

1                   The next item on the agenda is Kodiak  
2 National Wildlife Refuge. Brandon Saito.

3

4                   MR. PYLE: Mr. Chairman.

5

6                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Is Brandon there?

7

8                   MR. PYLE: No, he's not, Mr. Chairman.

9 My name is Bill Pyle. I'm the supervisory wildlife  
10 biologist for Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, and I  
11 will be presenting on behalf of the refuge if I may.

12

13                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Bill.

14

15                   MR. PYLE: Starting with fisheries.  
16 The Karluk River chinook salmon run has historically  
17 provided for a popular sport fishery, and has also  
18 served for local subsistence users. Escapements have  
19 been in a downward trend over the last few years,  
20 ranging from 2005 when we had about -- close to 4800  
21 fish, and last year it was 752 fish. And that is, you  
22 know, several years below the Department of Fish and  
23 Game's lower escapement goal. So these decreased  
24 escapements are a pretty serious concern not only to  
25 the residents in those communities out there, Larsen  
26 Bay and Karluk, but also Federal and State fishery  
27 managers.

28

29                   The forecast for 2009 does not look  
30 promising. And that forecast is made by the Alaska  
31 Department of Fish and Game. And I'm referring both to  
32 the Karluk and the Ayakulik in that case as far as the  
33 forecasts go. And in response the Department of Fish  
34 and Game issued two emergency orders in February of  
35 2009 to restrict sport fishing in an effort to achieve  
36 and facilitate the escapement goal. So with respect to  
37 the Ayakulik, the restriction was a bag limit of one  
38 per day with an annual limit of to on fish that are  
39 greater than 20 inches in length. On the Karluk it's  
40 pretty much down to a catch and release, no artificial  
41 lures or bait (breaking up). So no (breaking up)  
42 allowed on the Karluk.

43

44                   And relative to these two salmon  
45 fisheries, (breaking up) to the Karluk chinook fishery,  
46 you know, there are questions as to (breaking up) for  
47 the decline. And the Refuge is collaborating with the  
48 Department in regards to trying to ascertain what  
49 limiting factors in the fresh water phase of the fish's  
50 life cycle may or may not be contributing to this

1 particular decline. And so there are proposals that  
2 have been developed to study the chinooks in the Karluk  
3 system. One, the first step this year is to examine  
4 the distribution of chinook salmon fry. Once that's  
5 known, then we'll focus on those areas where the  
6 chinook occur, the young chinook and then examine  
7 abundance, and probably other habitat factors. So  
8 we're looking at, you know, is the fresh water part of  
9 the problem.

10

11 So that's the extent of my summary on  
12 fisheries.

13

14 Moving on to wildlife, we will be  
15 conducting surveys of brown bear density in May.  
16 That's usually the time of year we do it, late May.  
17 And we rotate around different regions at the Refuge  
18 and the adjacent area. This year we'll be doing the  
19 assessments on the Aliulik Peninsula and the Spiridon  
20 Peninsula. That is done in collaboration with the  
21 Department.

22

23 We have a study of bear habitat use and  
24 preference going on. It was primarily a Department  
25 project down in the Old Harbor vicinity, primarily  
26 Sitkalidak Island. Larry comment on that further  
27 following my presentation. And then there's another  
28 project that's going on in the Karluk, upper Karluk  
29 watershed. Both of these projects involve looking at  
30 locations of bear and habitat use associated with those  
31 locations. They involve GPS collars, and so you get a  
32 lot of information based on the number of locations  
33 from those bears.

34

35 Moving on to deer. We will as usual  
36 conduct the deer mortality surveys at three locations  
37 this April. (Breaking up) And we'll get back to the  
38 Council in September with the results of that survey.  
39 We plan to continue to support the Department in its  
40 survey of deer hunters, a questionnaire that's  
41 distributed to approximately half of the deer hunters  
42 in May.

43

44 We issued 49 designated deer hunting  
45 permits under Federal subsistence management since last  
46 fall. Most of those were reported later.

47

48 Regarding Elk last fall, there was  
49 three permits issued for hunting under Federal  
50 subsistence regulations. I don't believe any elk were

1 taken under those permits.

2

3                   Sea otter. Last fall there was a  
4 proposal to designate critical habitat for the  
5 southwest stock of northern sea otter. And the  
6 distribution of that stock ranges from the western  
7 Aleutians to Kodiak and across to the Alaska Peninsula.  
8 And the specific area of critical habitat that's  
9 proposed is essentially everything within the 60-foot  
10 or 6 fathom -- excuse me, 10 fathom depth, and so it  
11 includes all near shore water around Kodiak and the  
12 Kodiak Archipelago as well as these other areas  
13 extending out into the solutions -- excuse me, the  
14 Aleutians.

15

16                   And so this is a Federal proposal. And  
17 the public comment period I believe ran from December  
18 through mid February. Now those comments are being  
19 evaluated and the final Federal regulation is being  
20 prepared. And it's expected to be released I suppose  
21 sometime late this spring.

22

23                   So, you know, the Service in its  
24 analysis and in preparation for this rule, it examined  
25 the potential for conflict with personal fisheries and  
26 its basic assessment was that based on what they knew  
27 of sea otter diet, that there was really no significant  
28 potential implications as far as this critical habitat  
29 designation is concerned.

30

31                   And the other thing to note about this  
32 designation, if approved, is that it essentially deals  
33 with projects that have some type of Federal  
34 connection. And it's pretty restrictive in that  
35 regard. Gary, would you care to elaborate on that?

36

37                   MR. WHEELER: Yeah, any project  
38 requiring Federal help would be -- would require  
39 consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service. I'd  
40 like to mention, too, that this does not affect  
41 subsistence harvest of sea otter.

42

43                   MR. PYLE: So that's it for sea otters.

44

45

46                   Talking about migratory birds now.  
47 This June we'll survey populations in selected colonial  
48 nesting seabirds, including gulls and terns between  
49 Chiniak and South Cape along the east and southwest end  
50 of Kodiak Island.

1                   In August we will be back on the west  
2 side of Kodiak Island looking at doing a population  
3 assessment of various near-shore coastal birds  
4 including harlequin duck. A specific area would be  
5 Uyak and Uganik Bays. And results from this survey  
6 will be compared to previous surveys to determine  
7 whether our management efforts have tended to stop the  
8 decline that has been previously documented for the  
9 harlequin population in Uyak Bay.

10  
11                   And in regards to that effort in Uyak  
12 Bay, we've been doing outreach on a pretty regular  
13 basis in the past couple years, contacting residents of  
14 Larsen Bay as well as further south guiding outfits,  
15 and presenting posters with the rundown on the concern  
16 to lodges. And we ask them to participate by keeping a  
17 log of harlequins harvested, and none of our contacts  
18 or lodge owners indicated that -- you know, we pass the  
19 information on, and they were very, very conservative  
20 in terms of their harvest practices regarding harlequin  
21 duck.

22  
23                   Migratory bird subsistence harvest  
24 survey. We did one here a few years ago. This was run  
25 by the Anchorage office of Fish and Wildlife Service  
26 and we're in coordination with them as well as Fish and  
27 Game. And so the word is that the next survey will  
28 probably happen in 2010 following -- you know, there's  
29 going to be some kind of restructuring of the survey.  
30 Migratory Bird Management has contracted the Department  
31 to conduct that restructuring and set up a survey.

32  
33                   The Refuge hired a new bird biologist.  
34 His name is Robin Corcoran, senior biologist currently  
35 at the Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge  
36 Complex, and is expected to arrive here in mid May.

37  
38                   Regarding other cooperation, we'll be  
39 running the summer science salmon camp as usual. We're  
40 still supporting and working with the Natives of Larsen  
41 Bay on a Fish and Wildlife Service Tribal Wildlife  
42 Grant that will build the tribe's EIS capacity and it's  
43 application of resource management.

44  
45                   We have had an active program of  
46 management of invasive plants that has been largely  
47 supported through grants. And say, for example, in  
48 2008, we had 15 individuals contribute 735 hours of in-  
49 kind support, labor in survey, outreach and control  
50 actions directed to eliminate or spread the word on the

1 threat of orange hawkweed, Canada thistle and oxeye  
2 daisy.

3

4                   And we also partner regularly with the  
5 Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District in surveys  
6 and outreach of coastal lands in Olga Bay and Uganik  
7 Bay. And our field crews, two of them, collectively  
8 visited 63 sites and contacted and exchanged  
9 information with 54 parties in Olga Bay and Uganik Bay.  
10 And the good news is that they didn't really find too  
11 much. A couple small -- a few small infestations, and  
12 we're doing some follow up in coordination with the  
13 district with either the land owners in the case of  
14 private land or the permittees in the case of those  
15 that have setnet operations on the Refuge.

16

17                   In November of 2008 the Fish and  
18 Wildlife Service was sued over its invasive management  
19 program in Alaska. And the outcome of this lawsuit is  
20 still pending and is expected to be resolved soon. But  
21 in the meantime the Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska  
22 agreed to stop herbicide application on refuges in  
23 Alaska until procedural requirements are met through  
24 the National Environmental Policy Act. And so our  
25 response to that is, you know, we're revising our  
26 management plans for this year and our herbicide  
27 applications which we've been doing to take care of the  
28 problem is on hold until we complete the NEPA process.  
29 We'll do what we can to minimize any kind of expansion  
30 in the meantime while we're finishing this planning  
31 effort.

32

33                   And also we hope to work with the U.S.  
34 Department of Agriculture and National Resources  
35 Conservation Service is conducting soil and ecological  
36 surveys here in the Kodiak Archipelago, and have been  
37 for a couple years. They'll be here for a couple more  
38 years. And they're moving toward moving onto the  
39 Refuge, working with private land owners, the Native  
40 corporations out there, and we hope to join that effort  
41 and focus in on collecting soil and ecological site  
42 information in support of management of the resources  
43 in a few targeted watersheds, including, for example,  
44 the Karluk River and Sturgeon River in 2009.

45

46                   Fish and Wildlife -- so that is the  
47 summary of this report that we submitted, and I would  
48 like to add a couple items here. One is in regards to  
49 fisheries, another in regards to wildlife.

50

1                   And regarding fisheries, I just wanted  
2 to call to the attention of the Council that the  
3 Federal Aviation Administration is development an  
4 environmental impact statement regarding extension of  
5 runway safety areas in the Kodiak State Airport. And  
6 that's been an on-going process. They have been doing  
7 the research and the background here for the last  
8 couple years. And then they had a meeting where they  
9 released some of their initial results here a few weeks  
10 ago and gave a forecast of what their timeline would  
11 be, when they expected to release the draft  
12 environmental impact statement as well as, you know,  
13 hope to wrap the final product. And based on what I  
14 heard, they were expecting to release the draft impact  
15 statement sometime early this summer, and then hope to  
16 wrap up the final at the end of the year.

17  
18                   You know, the reason I mention this is  
19 that the Refuge has responsibility for in-season  
20 management of Federal subsistence fisheries in that  
21 Buskin area. They would be affected, as well as -- and  
22 this is on behalf of Alaska maritime jurisdiction of  
23 the submerged lands that extend off of the mouth of the  
24 Buskin there. And so there are potential issues and  
25 concerns that the Fish and Wildlife Service has. It  
26 submitted comments when initially presented an  
27 opportunity at scoping -- in the scoping process a  
28 couple years ago. I would anticipate that we will be  
29 following up once we've had a chance to examine the  
30 alternatives, and the information that has been  
31 collected during the past couple years by the FAA and  
32 its contract team. So there is this concern.

33  
34                   I would just say that there will be  
35 this opportunity that is presented potentially for the  
36 Council to comment on, you know, subsistence fishery in  
37 that Buskin River area relative to the proposals. And  
38 I just want to make you aware of that process.

39  
40                   And then here over the winter the  
41 Refuge commented on a couple of proposals that had been  
42 submitted for a change in regulations affecting  
43 wildlife on the Refuge. And just a quick recap of our  
44 position on those, because I know Larry's going to go  
45 into some of that afterwards here, is that -- the two  
46 that I would mention, one pertained to reindeer and  
47 another pertained to -- another series pertained to  
48 mountain goats.

49  
50                   And the reindeer proposals were 159 and

1 160, and we did not support those proposals. And these  
2 proposals would have essentially changed the  
3 restrictions for reindeer which occurred down on the  
4 south end of Kodiak Refuge and made harvest more  
5 restrictive. And so we didn't support that.

6  
7 And then relative to mountain goat  
8 there was three proposals, one of which we supported.  
9 And 163 was the one that we supported, which would  
10 increase harvest by creating a registration hunt, and  
11 goat management subject (breaking up) 475 and 477 over  
12 on the western end of the goat distribution in an area  
13 where the goat population has been on a pretty dramatic  
14 increase, and we believe is close to, if not already in  
15 the process of exceeding carrying capacity. So there's  
16 a concern about sustainability of the goat population.  
17 If you allow it to continue to expand, eventually it's  
18 going to collapse. So hopefully the harvest will occur  
19 in time and reduce the population, maintains it's  
20 productive status.

21  
22 That concludes my presentation. I'll  
23 be glad to field any questions.

24  
25 MR. SCHWANTES: Mitch, I have a couple.  
26 This is Tom Schwantes. And you mentioned there were  
27 three goat proposals, you supported one. What were the  
28 two that you didn't support.

29  
30 MR. PYLE: Excuse me. I'm sorry. One  
31 was 164 and 165 were the ones we didn't support. 163  
32 was the one that we did.

33  
34 MR. SCHWANTES: Okay. So what did 164  
35 and 65 deal with that you wouldn't support them?

36  
37 MR. PYLE: Well, we just thought that  
38 Proposal 163 actually was the more comprehensive of the  
39 set that would have actually produced the best result  
40 in terms of harvest management. I don't have the  
41 specifics of those proposals in front of me, but we  
42 have Fish and Game here and they can (breaking up).

43  
44 MR. SCHWANTES: And then in regards to  
45 the restrictions on the fishing on Karluk and Ayakulik,  
46 what -- I guess one of the questions I'd have is what  
47 are you going to be doing to enforce those regulations,  
48 which is more important. I mean, it doesn't do much  
49 good to make a regulation if you're not going to have  
50 the enforcement. So my question is how -- what steps

1 are you going to take to enforce that.

2

3 MR. PYLE: Right now it's -- I believe  
4 that's a -- you know, since the current restriction is  
5 one that is a restriction in sport fishing managed by  
6 the State, so that's a concern where they would, you  
7 know, be partly responsible for. The Fish and Wildlife  
8 Service is also kind of co-charged and has  
9 responsibilities for both State and Federal  
10 regulations. So, you know, as we have done previously,  
11 we have patrols that occur during the peak of king  
12 salmon season. And so we're contacting people in the  
13 field, doing what we can to advise people of the status  
14 (breaking up), and the concern and restrictions, and  
15 then go in the field and making sure that during the --  
16 through the peak of fishing use, that we're out there  
17 making contact and making them aware of it. We have --  
18 as we've done that before, we'll do it again.

19

20 MR. SCHWANTES: Is the State on that,  
21 too, to see if they can provide additional enforcement  
22 as well?

23

24 MR. WHEELER: We're in coordination  
25 with the State, but we.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: This is Mitch  
28 here. Whoever is trying to ask you a question, I can't  
29 hardly hear them at all.

30

31 MR. WHEELER: This is Refuge Manager  
32 Gary Wheeler. Just in response to the question about  
33 whether we coordinate with the State on law enforcement  
34 of the restrictions on king salmon. Absolutely. We  
35 have two enforcement officers on the Refuge, and we  
36 coordinate with the state troopers on our enforcements.

37

38

39 Also anyone that is non-guided on the  
40 Karluk River needs to get a permit from the Refuge, so  
41 they apply to us and we know who's out there and when  
42 they're out there, and that assists with enforcement.  
43 And then all of the guided folks get permits through  
44 Koniag, and we have access to that information as well.

45

46

47 So, yes, absolutely we coordinate with  
48 the State on enforcement. Thank you.

49

50 MR. SCHWANTES: This is Tom Schwantes.

1 I have one more question on the Sitka black-tailed deer  
2 surveys. Like over the years these surveys are done in  
3 the same location every year. Is there a reason for  
4 that? I mean, why don't we look at other areas other  
5 than primarily those three areas?  
6

7 MR. PYLE: We'd like to do that, but we  
8 really don't have the -- haven't really dedicated the  
9 resources to that. The value of following one place  
10 year after year that we're able to say, you know, with  
11 some confidence that here's what's happening, its one  
12 of the (breaking up) with respect to trend. And given  
13 the limited resources that we've dedicated to this  
14 effort, that's, you know, we think the most efficient  
15 way to approach the question of what's changing through  
16 time.  
17

18 And, you know, we recognize that  
19 there's differences in how mortality during the winter  
20 is distributed on this island. You know, west side  
21 versus Shelikof versus the south end, and that's, you  
22 know, a concern where, you know, we have surveys in  
23 each of those three. And we've seen differences in  
24 those, you know, when we go out there as expected. You  
25 know, you'll usually find a difference between the west  
26 and the Shilikof versus the south end in (breaking up).  
27 But given the limited amount of surveying that we do,  
28 we think it's of greatest value to actually just follow  
29 these, you know, trend in these single sites.  
30

31 MR. SCHWANTES: Thank you.  
32

33 MR. PYLE: Yes, sir.  
34

35 MR. HOLMES: This is Pat. I guess just  
36 to add onto that, your predecessors when they selected  
37 those areas, those were the areas that guides and  
38 subsistence users and Fish and Game all determined as  
39 being heavy mortality areas, a place where deer go to  
40 feed on the kelp and where they end up dying out on  
41 those particular capes. So it would be interesting to  
42 cover more of the island, but I think those areas were  
43 figured out with some pretty good justification, and a  
44 pretty long series of information there.  
45

46 Mr. Chairman. I have a couple of  
47 questions if I may. This is Pat.  
48

49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pat.  
50

1 MR. HOLMES: On the otter population  
2 decline, I've got a few friends here that are Native  
3 handicraft, and they use otter pelts. Would this  
4 reduction in the sea otter population have any  
5 implications on local handicraft or use of otter.

6  
7 MR. WHEELER: No. It would have no  
8 impact on use of sea otters for handicraft. And our  
9 indications are that the population around Kodiak seem  
10 to be fairly stable.

11  
12 And the idea for establishing critical  
13 habitat is essentially that according to our  
14 regulations, whenever a species is listed, it's a  
15 normal procedure to establish critical habitat. It  
16 identifies those areas that are most important to  
17 maintain and to help the species recover. So there was  
18 no critical habitat listed when the species was listed.  
19 Now we've gotten to the point where we're getting  
20 around to listing that critical habitat.

21  
22 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Again, Pat. On  
23 your earlier comments that there wouldn't be an affect  
24 on the commercial fisheries, I assume the data they've  
25 gathered on gillnetting on Kodiak probably indicates  
26 that there shouldn't be conflicts with subsistence  
27 users at the Buskin or other places as long as they're  
28 keeping an eye on it here?

29  
30 MR. WHEELER: That's correct. We  
31 looked at historically for any take of sea otters from  
32 gillnetting and there appears to be no significant take  
33 of sea otters by gillnetting so we don't anticipate  
34 that there would be any impacts on gillnetting or  
35 setnetting from this.

36  
37 MR. HOLMES: Pat Holmes again. I'd  
38 also like to compliment the Refuge. Harlequin duck  
39 numbers in Uyak declined in the past, (breaking up)  
40 that expressed concern about those declining numbers,  
41 and I'm quite heartened to hear of your public  
42 relations effort and your log books, and I know Paul  
43 Turnevak here, he's a guide in that area, and lodge  
44 owner, and I have heard from him that they're trying to  
45 be as conservative as they can with trophy hunting and  
46 harlequins. So hopefully we'll see those numbers  
47 increase. I know it depends on which part of the  
48 island, and I know out in Rick's area harlequins are  
49 considered starvation and, you know, a food item. Some  
50 people on Kodiak don't eat them and others do. I know

1 the time one of my neighbors gave me one, that swore me  
2 off them for life. I'm really glad to see you folks  
3 working actively on that.

4  
5 And I have a question on the invasive  
6 plants. I heard from one of the Fish and Game folks  
7 that it sounds like there might be some new algae or  
8 something in the Frazer River. And perhaps you might  
9 want to talk with Fish and Game. And -- because I --  
10 he was telling me he had quite a bit of problem with  
11 that on his smolt, and when I did smolt work in the mid  
12 80s, I don't think we had that problem. I figured that  
13 might be something new.

14  
15 And on birds in general, I know  
16 cormorants aren't very popular. And again one time one  
17 of my neighbors fed me one, and that's -- I'm not going  
18 to be eating them ever again, but I've noticed here  
19 around Kodiak and off the Buskin particularly in my  
20 gillnetting, that there aren't as many cormorants  
21 sitting on those rocks that there used to be. There  
22 you used to see 40, 50 or 100, there might be 2 or 3.  
23 And it's (breaking up). So I'm wondering if that's an  
24 indication of forage fish or if that's some other  
25 problem.

26  
27 And I do appreciate your head's up,  
28 Bill, on the FAA and the area there at the Buskin. I  
29 know that that's of concern to the tribal folks in  
30 town. And that a lot more will evolve on that as time  
31 goes along and the EIS comes out, where people can  
32 comment on it. So I appreciate your head's up to our  
33 Council.

34  
35 That's the end of my comments. Mr.  
36 Chairman.

37  
38 MR. WHEELER: Well, I might just make  
39 -- we'll certainly look into and speak with Fish and  
40 Game about the algae problem there on the Frazer dog  
41 salmon.

42  
43 For years we've got a track record of  
44 probably over 20 years of winter bird counts both on  
45 the east side and west side of the island. And I'm not  
46 aware of any re -- a trend in reduced numbers of  
47 cormorants, but generally we're not -- well, we have  
48 done breeding surveys as well. That's something we'll  
49 have to -- we'll consider anyway, and try to keep an  
50 eye on it.

1 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Just a question and  
2 an observation. I don't know how valid it is or if  
3 it's just change of weather or whim, but (breaking up)  
4 my work and (breaking up) you folks are doing lots of  
5 coordinating with the Department and working with the  
6 Refuge on fish and critters and wildlife issues and I  
7 think that's really swell.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other  
10 questions for Bill.

11  
12 (No comments)

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If there's no  
15 questions, then does that conclude your report, Bill.  
16 Mr. Pyle, does that conclude your report.

17  
18 MR. PYLE: Mr. Chairman. This is Bill  
19 Pyle. That concludes my report. Thank you very much.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Bill.

22  
23 Is Larry Van Daele in the room at  
24 Kodiak.

25  
26 MR. VAN DAELE: Yes, sir. I'm here,  
27 Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the opportunity, Mitch, to  
28 give this presentation.

29  
30 And what i'd like to do is just very  
31 briefly give an overview of the status of the big game  
32 animals here in the Kodiak Archipelago and if you or  
33 any of the Board members here have questions after each  
34 species, I'll be glad to entertain those questions.

35  
36 This was originally intended to be a  
37 PowerPoint presentation, but with the volcano keeping  
38 us all hostage here as Lisa Murkowski said this  
39 morning, we've kind of modified things. So what I've  
40 done is I've handed out a copy of the PowerPoint slides  
41 to the members here present, and any extras will be  
42 collected by Mr. Pyle and forwarded on to you or  
43 whoever needs to get them, and I can get more copies if  
44 that's necessary.

45  
46 First with regard with to Sitka black-  
47 tailed deer, I'd first like to start off by saying that  
48 Mr. Pyle is very optimistic if he thinks we're going to  
49 have no snow in April looking around here. It's been a  
50 real tough winter for the deer. They did real well up

1 until this past month, but quite frankly I'm very  
2 concerned about them, at least on the north end of the  
3 islands here, because it's essentially been a worse  
4 case scenario for the late spring. Cold weather, heavy  
5 snows, and just continuing on like this. And I  
6 honestly think we're going to see a late green up. So  
7 we can anticipate a much lower deer population this  
8 year than we've seen in the past. And this is coming  
9 on the heels of three tough winters.

10  
11 What we've seen is a declining deer  
12 population for the past three years. We honestly don't  
13 know how many deer there are total, but it has gone  
14 down.

15  
16 The way that we conduct our deer trend  
17 accounts are as Mr. Pyle indicated. We work with the  
18 Service for specific deer winter mortality counts. We  
19 also interview every spring bear hunter that comes  
20 through, and other folks that are in the field quite  
21 often, especially the guides, bear hunting guides, to  
22 find out what they've found in various parts. You put  
23 those pieces of the puzzle together and you get a real  
24 good field for how many deer died. And that oftentimes  
25 is reflected in our harvest questionnaires that come  
26 back.

27  
28 What we've seen in the past three years  
29 is a decline in the harvest from over 6,000 deer to  
30 less than 3,000 deer. Our typical harvest is now right  
31 around 3200 deer per year, and that's with about 4,000  
32 hunters. Hunter success has also declined over the  
33 past three years from about 83 percent hunter success  
34 in 2005 down to 57 percent hunter success (breaking  
35 up).

36  
37 We feel that the decline in hunter  
38 success and also the decline in the number of people  
39 that will come to Kodiak will take care of things so  
40 there were no proposals in front of the Board of Game  
41 this year, and the deer hunting season will be exactly  
42 the same this coming year as it was in the past.

43  
44 The other thing that we've been doing  
45 with deer is monitoring the chronic wasting disease  
46 potential on the island. We've been doing the  
47 surveillance for six years now. We've looked at over  
48 1,000 deer and about 75 elk from across the  
49 archipelago. None of those have shown any indication  
50 of chronic wasting disease. So as far as we can tell,

1 unlike some of the places in the lesser 48, we do not  
2 have to worry about chronic wasting disease up here  
3 right now.

4  
5 The status of that particular program  
6 is in limbo right now. We don't know if we'll be doing  
7 it next year or not.

8  
9 Any questions, Board members, for the  
10 deer before I move on to elk.

11  
12 (No comments)

13  
14 MR. VAN DAELE: Okay. Hearing none,  
15 with the Roosevelt elk, we also have a declining  
16 population in elk. Those numbers have gone down to  
17 about 640 elk. Again in the past three years we've had  
18 lower productivity, and from winter kill up there.  
19 We've reduced the harvest by reducing the amount of  
20 time that the registration hunt goes on. And this  
21 coming year, although we're not going to change the  
22 seasons or bag limits at all, we will reduce the number  
23 of permits available. In fact we've just cut the  
24 number of permits in half for this coming year. That  
25 will hopefully allow us to continue a registration hunt  
26 of some sort also.

27  
28 The elk population, as I say, they're  
29 going down, but it's not dramatically. I think that  
30 it's something that we can turn around fairly quickly  
31 by changing hunting regulations.

32  
33 Any question with regard to the elk  
34 before we move on to mountain goats.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.

37  
38 MR. ROHRER: One question came.....

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Larry, just.....

41  
42 MR. ROHRER: .....up here under the  
43 Roosevelt Elk conditions (indiscernible).

44  
45 MR. VAN DAELE: Mitch, did you have  
46 something there?

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, I had one  
49 question. Has there been any more sightings of elk on  
50 the mainland Kodiak.

1 MR. VAN DAELE: No, sir, we have not  
2 had a sighting of elk on mainland Kodiak for the past  
3 three years.

4  
5 MR. ROHRER: Mr. Chair. Sam Rohrer  
6 here. I have just one question on the Roosevelt elk,  
7 on the issues, Larry, you mentioned privately it's  
8 wildlife management. Do you want to expand on that at  
9 all?

10  
11 MR. VAN DAELE: Yes, sir. Mr. Rohrer  
12 through the Chair. The Afognak Native Corporation in  
13 cooperation with Natives of Kodiak and Ouzinkie are  
14 working with the Department to find ways to minimize  
15 their logging impacts on the elk, and maximize second  
16 growth so that it comes back first as elk habitat and  
17 later as trees. They're also working to develop a  
18 series of guides that they can have go out to their  
19 areas to take advantage of the elk when it's -- when  
20 there are enough there that you don't have to keep them  
21 all for subsistence uses. And they're also working  
22 closely with their access permits to put hunters in  
23 various places where the elk can take it and keep them  
24 out of places where the elk cannot.

25  
26 The other thing they're doing is  
27 hopefully reducing the fee for bear hunting in some  
28 areas, so that they can reduce bear populations,  
29 specifically in (breaking up) have some concern on  
30 productivity.

31  
32 Okay. Moving on to mountain goat. As  
33 Mr. Pyle alluded to, the mountain goat population has  
34 done very well. In 1999, 10 years ago, we estimated  
35 900 goats on the island. We now estimate 2200 goats on  
36 the island. So in 10 years the population has more  
37 than doubled. And these numbers are much better than,  
38 for instance, our deer numbers, because we have good  
39 survey data in cooperation with the Refuge.

40  
41 The vast majority of this increase has  
42 occurred on the south and west end of Kodiak Island  
43 itself. Up here on the north end, the goat population  
44 has stayed pretty stable, and we've been able to  
45 sustain a fairly high harvest rate, much higher than  
46 the rest of the State of Alaska, because we have access  
47 to those goats. In fact, Kodiak Island now kills more  
48 goats than any other place in the State of Alaska, and  
49 some of the largest goats.

50

1                   With our current system of having a  
2 drawing hunt initially in nine different areas followed  
3 by a registration hunt if we do not exceed our harvest  
4 goals, we have not been able to stop that growth on the  
5 south and west end of the island, primarily because of  
6 access. Our harvest has pretty much been flatlined at  
7 about 150 goats per year.

8  
9                   So what has transpired with the Board  
10 of Game was the series of three proposals that Mr. Pyle  
11 alluded to. The first proposal had to do with  
12 allocating a certain number of permits to guides for  
13 non-resident hunters who have to be guided. The Board  
14 of Game opted not to pass that, because they didn't  
15 feel it was appropriate at this time, and also because  
16 the Board expressed an interest in the cooperative goat  
17 program that your RAC has, the Fish and Game Advisory  
18 Committees, the Department and Fish and Wildlife  
19 Service. They wanted to see more discussion of that  
20 amongst our four-party team that we have down here.

21  
22                   The second proposal that the Board  
23 deliberated on was to essentially gut our registration  
24 hunt compromise whereby we have the permits issued  
25 before the season, we have the permits issued in the  
26 village closest to the hunt, and we have a limited  
27 number of permits -- a limited number of goats  
28 available depending on what the harvest quotas are.  
29 The proposal would have allowed permits to be available  
30 throughout the State throughout the season. The Board  
31 spent about five minutes on that proposal, essentially  
32 saying you've got a compromise that Kodiak agrees with  
33 and we don't want to jeopardize that (breaking up).

34  
35                   So the Board of Game was a very strong  
36 proponent of everything we've done with goats so far.

37  
38                   The third proposal was for the new goat  
39 hunt registration area that Mr. Pyle alluded to. And,  
40 Paul, do you want to dive into that?

41  
42                   MR. CHERVENAK: Yeah. Mr. Chairman.  
43 Board. My name is Paul Chervenak. I'm vice chairman  
44 of the Kodiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee. I'm  
45 also Chairman of the Joint Kodiak Mountain Goat  
46 Committee.

47  
48                   And our Mountain Goat Committee as  
49 Larry Van Daele alluded to, everybody's working  
50 together down here. We had a meeting last October, and

1 looked at the concern with the growing goat population  
2 at the south end and came up with a proposal to change  
3 that to all registration hunt and it was unanimous  
4 among all the users, RAC members, villagers. Even  
5 though we all couldn't make the meeting, we were able  
6 to get at least ahold of everybody ahead of time. And  
7 everybody -- like I said, it was unanimous, and we're  
8 hoping this will help curtail the growth of that  
9 population down there.

10

11 Well, the actual regulation, we took  
12 areas 475 and 477, and drawing on the areas, turned it  
13 into a registration hunt which starts and runs  
14 concurrent with the drawing hunt at the north end of  
15 the island, but -- and then continues through the old  
16 registration hunt, so it goes from August through mid  
17 December.

18

19 MR. VAN DAELE: Okay. Any questions on  
20 goats before I move on to brown bear.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: This new  
23 registration hunt, does that (breaking up) go from  
24 August through December now or just a certain time in  
25 August?

26

27 MR. VAN DAELE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The  
28 way it is going to start, this particular year, in '09,  
29 we will have the drawing hunt as it was originally  
30 advertised, so that will start in August and continue  
31 through October. The registration hunt that Mr.  
32 Chervenak just described will start immediately after  
33 that, during our normal registration time, and permits  
34 will be available statewide. The permits for the rest  
35 of the areas will be available as we've had it in the  
36 past, in the village nearest and earlier.

37

38 Starting in 2010, those areas, 475 and  
39 477, will strictly be a registration hunt. There will  
40 no longer be a drawing hunt in those two areas. Okay?

41

42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

43

44 MR. VAN DAELE: Okay. Moving on to the  
45 brown bears. Our brown bear population on Kodiak  
46 Archipelago is stable in most areas and increasing in a  
47 few areas. We increased the number of permits couple  
48 years ago across the archipelago because of research  
49 data indicating that the population could handle that  
50 and still produce large bears. Commensurate with that

1 increase in permits, we saw an increase in the number  
2 of bears that have been harvested. We still are  
3 harvesting at a rate that gives us about 75 percent  
4 males each year. And about nine percent of the harvest  
5 continues to be Boone and Crocket sized large bears.

6  
7 Bear research, as Mr. Pyle mentioned,  
8 we have a joint project in the Old Harbor area, also  
9 another one around the Karluk area, looking at where  
10 bears move and what they eat. The Old Harbor project  
11 is hopefully going to be giving us some information  
12 before the village makes their land -- or dump now,  
13 hopefully a landfill, make it bear resistant like  
14 Larsen Bay and Port Lions have done.

15  
16 We are also doing a nutritional ecology  
17 study, which basically means we're taking hair from 500  
18 different bears and using that hair to find out what  
19 the bears are eating in different parts of the  
20 archipelago. We're doing that in conjunction with  
21 Washington State University.

22  
23 And the other research project we're  
24 doing has to do with bear behavior around fish weirs,  
25 looking for ways to minimize bear impacts to fish weirs  
26 and the fish technicians.

27  
28 For public outreach for bears, the bear  
29 management plan here on Kodiak continues to be a living  
30 document with the Kodiak Unified Bear Subcommittee as  
31 an active group with regular meetings. We just  
32 completed a course at Kodiak Community College to teach  
33 people how to view bears in an ethical manner. We  
34 continue with bear safety presentations with a series  
35 of newspaper and public presentations throughout the  
36 world actually on Kodiak bears.

37  
38 Bears within the Village of Old Harbor  
39 and Kodiak were quite a challenge last year. We had  
40 more bears than ever in both of these two locations.  
41 We had at least 20 of them around Kodiak City,  
42 including three that were on a humpback whale at Fort  
43 Ambercrombie and at least six that were around the  
44 Buskin River.

45  
46 We continue with very close  
47 coordination with various law enforcement agencies, the  
48 Borough, the Refuge, Fish and Game, the waste  
49 management, et cetera, the media. And as a result of  
50 that, there were no human injuries, and although there

1 was property damage, only one bear had to be killed by  
2 the agency, and two bears killed in defense of life and  
3 property. We also had a record number of bears killed  
4 on the road system during the fall harvest. So we  
5 continue to address the challenge of town bears.

6

7 The villages of Larsen Bay and Port  
8 Lions still had a few bear problems, but nothing like  
9 they did before they put up the landfill and the  
10 electric fence. It's been a tremendous success from  
11 what I've heard there.

12

13 So any questions on bears before we  
14 move on.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Just an item of  
17 information. This is Mitch. I never did find that  
18 bear I was sent out after. I guess he got the message  
19 before I did.

20

21 MR. VAN DAELE: Yeah. Kind of figured  
22 that would happen, didn't we, Mitch. Okay. Maybe we  
23 can chat about that this afternoon or tomorrow if you  
24 get a chance. I'd like to hear some more about that.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

27

28 MR. VAN DAELE: And I really appreciate  
29 your willingness. I think that's a perfect example of  
30 the teamwork again that we have going here on Kodiak  
31 and a lot of other places, is they're all trying to  
32 make it work and working with each other, be we with  
33 agencies or private or whatever.

34

35 Furbearers. Not much to report on  
36 furbearers. Our beaver harvest remains low at about 39  
37 beaver per year. And our river otter harvest has also  
38 gone down considerably as the price has gone down. We  
39 currently harvest about 213 per year.

40

41 The other item which I do think will  
42 take a little bit of discussion amongst the group here  
43 has to do with the feral reindeer on the south and west  
44 end of the island. And, Mr. Chairman, you could  
45 probably give us a much better history of this, but  
46 from what I understand, those reindeer were brought in  
47 in 1921 down there in Akhiok, and were actively herded  
48 until about the early 1960 when there was a fire that  
49 destroyed the corral destroyed quite a bit of the  
50 range.

1                   And as I understand it, many of those  
2 reindeer, if not all of them, moved out and were no  
3 longer herded at that time, and essentially became a  
4 feral population that remains stable at around 200 to  
5 250 reindeer.

6  
7                   In 2001 the State authorized same-day-  
8 airborne hunting of that herd. And at that time  
9 interest continued -- or started to increase and has  
10 continued to increase since then so that the harvest  
11 has increased tremendously.

12  
13                   There were two proposals to the Board  
14 of Game to start managing these feral reindeer for  
15 sustained yield. In other words, to reduce the harvest  
16 so that we can maintain the number of animals somewhere  
17 between 200 and 500 animals for as long as possible.  
18 The Board looked at both of those proposals and in the  
19 end amended one of them so that the proposal that was  
20 passed now says the feral reindeer on Kodiak will be  
21 managed for sustained yield. The season will be the  
22 same as the deer season, which is the 1st of August  
23 through the end of January. The bag limit is one  
24 caribou, one reindeer, whatever you want to call it.  
25 And same-day-airborne is no longer authorized. All  
26 meat has to be salvaged. And you need to get a caribou  
27 harvest ticket, or tag if you're a non-resident, just  
28 the same as if you hunted caribou everywhere else in  
29 the state.

30  
31                   The reason I bring this to your  
32 attention is because I don't know if your group has  
33 authority, I think they do over caribou. I don't know  
34 if there's a customary and traditional declaration for  
35 Kodiak caribou, but if there is, you may want to  
36 consider a proposal to mirror the State's so that the  
37 State is not more liberal than what the Federal system  
38 is. So I leave that up to you, but that's pretty much  
39 what I have to say about reindeer.

40  
41                   And, Mr. Chairman, do you have anything  
42 to add to that, if you have personal experience with  
43 (breaking up).

44  
45                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: What you said was  
46 pretty accurate. What I would do is I would probably  
47 go to the tribal council and see if those families  
48 still retain ownership of that reindeer herd. Once  
49 they got away, you know, they couldn't herd them back  
50 up and get them back into the corrals so they just kind

1 of let them run wild. I don't know. I'd have to ask,  
2 see if the families wanted to retain ownership of that  
3 herd. If not, then -- well, they could take it from  
4 there.

5  
6 MR. VAN DAELE: Yeah. And according to  
7 the State's attorneys, because they were declared feral  
8 back in the 60s and no one has challenged that, they  
9 didn't feel that that was necessary at this time, but  
10 it certainly would seem that that would be the right  
11 thing to do, even if it isn't a legal necessity.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I'll bring it to  
14 their attention anyway.

15  
16 MR. VAN DAELE: Okay. Well, Mr.  
17 Chairman, that's pretty much what I had here from the  
18 Fish and Game standpoint.

19  
20 One last statement. I did try to get  
21 ahold of Mr. Butler, our area biologist in King Salmon  
22 while you were having your discussion earlier. As you  
23 may or may not know, he has accepted a new assignment  
24 in the Juneau/Douglas area and will be moving soon.  
25 But right now he is out trying to fly a caribou survey  
26 as we speak. And they indicated that if you had any  
27 specific questions about that South Alaska Peninsula  
28 herd, that he'd be glad to answer them by email as soon  
29 as possible. So if you have anything you'd like to  
30 know that was not answered this morning, just give him  
31 a holler or send it through me and I'll make sure he  
32 gets it, okay?

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you.

35  
36 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. This is Pat  
37 Holmes.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.

40  
41 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. I think folks here  
42 would be very interested to see what results Lem got on  
43 his survey, so maybe, Larry, you could suggest to him  
44 that if he could -- you know, when he has his  
45 preliminary report together, if he could forward that  
46 to Michelle and to the AC members -- or to the Council  
47 members. Anyway, that would be great.

48  
49 And I'd like to commend you, Paul, for  
50 keeping the goat roping committee going. And I think

1 that -- and to Larry for helping facilitate that, what,  
2 seven or eight years ago. It's definitely a model for  
3 the whole state. And I know when I've one to the State  
4 Board of Game meetings in the past on this issue on  
5 other modifications that you've done, they've basically  
6 said, well, gee, if folks in Kodiak can do this, wish  
7 that the other advisory committees and RACs could get  
8 together and solve their problems in a similar manner.  
9 So I guess my hat's off to both you folks and to the  
10 Kodiak Advisory Committee for continuing to work with  
11 the RAC and for us to be able to solve problems  
12 mutually here before they end up going to courts and --  
13 anyway, thanks to both of you folks for all your hard  
14 work.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thanks, Pat. Any  
17 questions.....

18  
19 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. We have  
20 Donn Tracy is here now and Dick Ford (ph). I think I  
21 forgot him a while ago. People are kind of coming and  
22 we get along, but an update on who's here.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Is there  
25 any more questions for Larry and his information.

26  
27 MR. HOLMES: No, there doesn't seem to  
28 be.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. I had Paul  
31 Chervenak next to Larry Van Daele.

32  
33 MR. HOLMES: I think that Paul kind of  
34 covered the -- and Larry together sort of covered the  
35 compromise there, so I don't think that Paul needs to  
36 testify, unless he wants to.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: All right. Next  
39 on the agenda would be Buskin River sockeye salmon  
40 assessment project. Donn Tracy.

41  
42 MR. TRACY: Thank you. Mr. Chair.  
43 Good morning to the Council members in Anchorage, other  
44 folks, and folks here in Kodiak.

45  
46 I'm here today to give you a brief  
47 update on our Buskin sockeye stock assessment project.  
48 As most of your folks know, that project has been  
49 funded by the Office of Subsistence Management since  
50 2000. And the objectives of the project are two-fold.

1 The primary objective is to conduct stock assessment  
2 research on that Buskin sockeye population, and  
3 evaluate and over time refine our escapement goal for  
4 that stock so we can ensure maximum sustained yield for  
5 the subsistence fishery. The other project objective  
6 is to operate a weir and monitor the escapement in-  
7 season so that we can effectively manage the (breaking  
8 up) along with the State subsistence and also the sport  
9 and commercial fisheries.

10

11 The Buskin run -- I'm going to try to  
12 be brief today, but the Buskin run, historically it's  
13 been very healthy. We haven't had any problems with  
14 escapements. We've not found a need to restrict any of  
15 the fisheries up until this last year. In 2009 the  
16 Buskin sockeye run was a historic low return. Our weir  
17 count in 2009 was about 6,000 fish, which is the lowest  
18 on record. Or 2008, I'm sorry. 2008. And that  
19 resulted in the need for the first time ever to place  
20 restrictions on not only the sport fishery, which was  
21 closed in mid June, but also the low run last year  
22 resulted in a complete closure of the subsistence  
23 fishery.

24

25 The unfortunate situation with that run  
26 is hopefully going to be mitigated somewhat this year.  
27 We haven't developed a formal forecast for Buskin  
28 sockeye, but I think I've mentioned during previous  
29 presentations that typically that run is comprised of  
30 age 1-3 and 2-3 fish, which essentially means fish that  
31 have spent one or two years rearing in fresh water and  
32 then three years during their ocean-rearing stage.

33

34 In 2008 -- or actually in 2007 we  
35 noticed an anomaly in that age composition in that most  
36 of the fish returning that year were age 1-3 fish. And  
37 that in itself wasn't so alarming as the fact that  
38 there were virtually no age 1-2 or 2-2 fish in the run  
39 in 2007. And again the reason why that's significant  
40 is that the typical run composition of age 1-3 and 2-3  
41 fish are in the same cohort or from the same brood year  
42 as the prior year's age 1-2 and 2-2 fish. So we had a  
43 good indication in 2007 that the run was going to be  
44 poor this last year, but it turned out worse than we  
45 expected.

46

47 The good news is that this last year we  
48 sampled the run for age composition again, and it does  
49 look like those cohorts necessary to support the strong  
50 runs that we see in the past were present again in the

1 2008 returns. There was a fair percentage of age 1-2  
2 and 2-2 fish.

3

4                   Using the average proportion that those  
5 fish comprise of the run, it looks like informally we  
6 could have a run this coming year, in 2009, of maybe 8  
7 to 10,000 fish. So the situation is looking better for  
8 2009. I don't know that we're going to see a large run  
9 that we've seen in past years of up to 15, even 20,000  
10 fish, but it does look better for 2009 than the return  
11 we had last year. And hopefully this year's run won't  
12 create a need for any restriction on subsistence users.

13

14                   The only other thing that I want to  
15 report on the Buskin project is that we have applied --  
16 our current contract is funded for one more year. We  
17 have funding through 2009 for the stock assessment  
18 project. We have applied to continue that project for  
19 another four years. The application process is still  
20 underway with OSM. We haven't yet heard back on  
21 whether that proposal was forwarded for an additional  
22 four years of funding, but we're hopeful that it will  
23 be, and we very much appreciate the support from the  
24 RAC that we've received over the years for this  
25 project. And we would like to (breaking up) in the  
26 future.

27

28                   But that's really all I have. Mr.  
29 Chair. I'm trying to be a little briefer than I was at  
30 the last meeting. If you'll recall, I think I got a  
31 little long-winded at that occasion. So I don't have  
32 anything else for you, but I'd be happy to answer any  
33 questions that you or any of the other members may  
34 have.

35

36                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Donn.  
37 Questions for Donn.

38

39                   MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I really  
40 think that this program is of great importance. When  
41 it came up for funding originally, I know that the  
42 Council had a resolution in supporting it, and it's,  
43 you know, the most important subsistence system for the  
44 Town of Kodiak, and I know folks from Ouzinkie and Port  
45 Lions come here when they can, because our run's a  
46 little bit earlier. And I certainly hope that the  
47 people at OSM see fit to continue this. Or if when the  
48 discussions come up they'd come back to our RAC for  
49 further counsel, because this is really the system to  
50 continue work.

1                   And I think the -- I wanted to commend  
2 Donn for what he's been doing, but also the fact that  
3 year before last he did give us a warning that we'd be  
4 possibly having a bad run at the Buskin, and so I think  
5 some folks were able to use that. I know I went out  
6 and in the time I usually caught half of my fish, I  
7 only got four and had to shift over to the Pasagshak  
8 (ph) and that's a terrible place to fish. And so I  
9 appreciate getting the head's up on that so it wasn't a  
10 total surprise when they had to close that.

11  
12                   And I think monitoring this system is  
13 just so important to our town, and I appreciate the  
14 outreach program that Fish and Game has on this where  
15 they hire young folks and bring them in as interns to  
16 work on the sampling and it's always fun to meet and  
17 talk with them out on the grounds and see some of these  
18 folks potentially, Natives and non-Natives become  
19 biologists in the future. So I think this is great,  
20 and I sure hope it continues, and that we don't have to  
21 go to Pasagshak (ph) to fish next year.

22  
23                   Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24  
25                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.  
26 Anything else.

27  
28                   (No comments)

29  
30                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If there's nothing  
31 else, thanks, Donn. Appreciate your report.

32  
33                   MR. TRACY: Thank you, gentlemen, for  
34 your time.

35  
36                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Next on the agenda  
37 is the Afognak Lake sockeye salmon progress report.  
38 Bob Baer.

39  
40                   MR. BAER: Good morning, Mr. Chairman.  
41 Members of the Board. Rob Baer with Fish and Game here  
42 to offer a brief summary of the 2008 Afognak studies  
43 and to answer any questions which you may have.

44  
45                   Within your booklet you'll find the  
46 brief text reflecting the 2008 summary, and proceeding  
47 that from the fall's meeting, I'll just recap some of  
48 the highlights there.

49  
50                   We did have major high water in May

1 which was record-breaking. We got 15 inches of rain.  
2 The average fall is five inches in May. And it pretty  
3 much wiped our trap out there. I guess this year we'll  
4 recover some of the material.

5  
6 At any rate, we were able to still come  
7 up with an estimate. It was approximately -- it was a  
8 little less than prior years, and you'll see from the  
9 timing there on the next page, Page 4, shows the  
10 average timing. And the time that that trap blew out,  
11 we had to use the smolt captured pre and post sampling  
12 -- pre and post flood event to estimate that five-day  
13 period. At any rate, approximately 196,000 fish were  
14 estimated in the system, which is a little less than in  
15 prior years.

16  
17 The other thing that we noticed was the  
18 condition factor dropping slightly with this. The  
19 condition factor being the overall health of the smolt.  
20 And the thing that we're seeing, a very strong  
21 relationship with that condition factor, are the  
22 plankton condition, population, biomass of zooplankton  
23 and condition factor of the smolt is very strongly  
24 related to temperatures, which doesn't really surprise  
25 us, but at the same time it is apparent. You have late  
26 springs, you have cold temperatures, late emergence,  
27 meaning that the eggs are hatching a little later.  
28 They're coming out, feeding on -- they want to try and  
29 feed on as much zooplankton as possible. If it's not  
30 there simply because of colder temperatures, well,  
31 that's going to affect their overall condition. And  
32 it's also going to cause them to stay in the lake a  
33 little later and not leave as age ones, which has  
34 predominantly been the case. We've got approximately  
35 80 percent age ones leaving this system. This last  
36 year we've estimated that at the age two (breaking up)  
37 were a little over 50 percent leaving the system. So  
38 temperature's as I was saying could be vitally  
39 important.

40  
41 And the escapement this year, which is  
42 funded by Fish and Game. The smolt portion is funded  
43 by the Office of Subsistence Management. And we did  
44 follow up with the escapement of approximately 24,000  
45 -- or, excuse me, 26,000 adults escaping into the  
46 system this year. There was no commercial fishery.  
47 The sport/subsistence fishery were open, and that data  
48 is not finalized as of yet.

49  
50 This 2000 season is scheduled to

1 continue with the same operation, smolt and adult.  
2 2009 is the last year of this funding.

3  
4                   And as Donn had just mentioned, we have  
5 also put in a proposal for an additional four years.  
6 We were hopeful to find out before this meeting whether  
7 or not that preproposal had been approved. Hopefully  
8 we do this week. I've been told that the announcements  
9 will be coming out this week, and we're anxious to hear  
10 on that. The additional four years would involve the  
11 same types of out-migration studies, in addition to, if  
12 we're fortunate enough to get the funding, would  
13 include biohydrogenex (ph) in which we would study the  
14 condition of the fish in the lake before they even  
15 leave, figuring out if these fish are getting the  
16 nutrition they need as well as a little more in depth  
17 weather observation around the year. Temperature  
18 recording and a little more thorough climate  
19 evaluation.

20  
21                   I believe that's all I had and wanted  
22 to touch on for this brief summary and address any  
23 questions. And again, thank you greatly for your  
24 support in this. We really do appreciate it. I'd be  
25 happy to address any questions.

26  
27                   MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I have a  
28 couple questions for Rob, and it's kind of.....

29  
30                   CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pat.

31  
32                   MR. HOLMES: .....if I may. I guess,  
33 what does this all come down to, Rob? I know you are  
34 reluctant, but, you know, we're not going to hold your  
35 feet to the fire if you're wrong, but what's your best  
36 guess for harvest here? About the same as last year?  
37 A little better?

38  
39                   MR. BAER: I would -- I'm sorry. Mr.  
40 Chairman. What I would -- or I would estimate  
41 approximately 24,000 fish returning to the system this  
42 year. It's a ballpark, but it doesn't seem like there  
43 will be a stellar, record-breaking numbers coming back.

44  
45  
46                   An encouraging thing, and something  
47 that we do look at, most importantly, that the valu --  
48 production of a system is what we call return for  
49 spawners. And it takes several years to utilize (ph)  
50 what has occurred, simply because you're waiting for

1 that brood year to come back and actually be realized.  
2 The 2004 season, even though it is not even fully  
3 realized yet, we're still waiting for fish that are  
4 greater than four years old, 1-3 as being the big one,  
5 has not happened yet. And we already are at almost --  
6 we're at .8, which means anything over one, you really  
7 have to have something over one to have self-sustaining  
8 runs. And this is looking very encouraging, because we  
9 still need the 1-3s to come back and that looks like it  
10 will be happening.

11  
12 The prior years, in the brood years  
13 2001, 2002 and 3, going back prior to 2000 were not  
14 very good. They had less than .5 returns per spawner,  
15 which is not self-sustaining.

16  
17 So as of recent years, recent being  
18 2004, again we're waiting for these fish to return from  
19 that parent year. It's encouraging.

20  
21 MR. HOLMES: Okay. And then you  
22 mentioned the decrease in condition factor as a  
23 function of temperature, zooplankton and probably  
24 seeing a shift in the out-going smolt to age two. Do  
25 you see this drop, and it's a pretty touchy thing to  
26 guess on, but could that also affect our returns? I  
27 guess the question I'm asking is, is the condition  
28 factor on the out-going smolt, is that to the point  
29 where we should be worried or is it just simply a  
30 reflection of environmental change and there's some  
31 compensatory ability of those critters to come back?

32  
33 MR. BAER: Mr. Chairman. Yes, it's a  
34 bit of a speculation, but I don't think that it's  
35 something to be completely worried about. At the same  
36 time, anytime a fish stays longer in the fresh water  
37 environment, of course, it has less ability to grow  
38 faster in the marine environment. The reason they're  
39 staying longer is they don't have the health and  
40 condition to leave and be successful. So ideally we do  
41 want to see age ones leaving with this system. They  
42 have proven that they can do it and grow quick enough.  
43 It's a function of them doing what they need to do to  
44 get to that size. I don't think that it's a flag, but  
45 something we're going to pay attention.

46  
47 MR. HOLMES: Well, I think it's so  
48 important to have the smolt information, and that's  
49 what the RAC argued when we got the original funding  
50 for this. We stopped in Anchorage and met with Tom and

1 all of the Kodiak members when this first proposal was  
2 up and we really encouraged the funding of this  
3 program, because this is our second most important  
4 system, and vitally important for the villages in  
5 Afognak, particularly Port Lions and Ouzinkie and folks  
6 in (breaking up) as well as folks than can get there.  
7 It used to be our fall-back subsistence system. So I  
8 guess that's why I'm also asking on a political basis  
9 as well as a biological one about the importance of  
10 that smolt information.

11  
12 So I'll ask you one more question.  
13 What's the best lower escapement goal numbers, and I  
14 guess with 24,000 possible return, what's your feeling?  
15 Do you think we might be able to have a small harvest  
16 this year?

17  
18 MR. BAER: I would say not. With  
19 24,000 we will (breaking up) 24,000 (breaking up). I  
20 don't believe that the subsistence fishery will be shut  
21 down. At the same time, I'd like to see those fish in  
22 there. But a commercial fishery I don't see occurring,  
23 and I do see a small -- just a small (breaking up) for  
24 fish. I think there will be fewer fish harvested for  
25 subsistence.

26  
27 MR. HOLMES: Well, maybe I guess would  
28 be the best phrase, or a similar subsistence fishery to  
29 last year where it will be pretty sketchy and probably  
30 spirit camp might be able to get a few fish, but for  
31 folks to go and count on that being what they put up  
32 for the winter, that's not going to be the place to  
33 plan on going.

34  
35 MR. BAER: I would agree.

36  
37 MR. HOLMES: Well, thank you so much  
38 for your excellent report, Rob. I really appreciate  
39 you keeping our Council up to date on what's happening  
40 on that important system. And I think I can speak for  
41 the Council members here from Kodiak is that we sure  
42 hope to see that continue to be.

43  
44 MR. BAER: Thank you.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you,  
47 Rob. Is there any other questions for Rob.

48  
49 (No comments)  
50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. If  
2 there's no other questions, then thanks again.  
3  
4 Next on the agenda Southern Alaska  
5 Peninsula Caribou Herd. Is Lem Butler on. Apparently  
6 not. (Breaking up) paper.  
7  
8 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair. Rick Koso here.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Rick.  
11  
12 MR. KOSO: Yeah. Didn't they say he  
13 was out doing a survey on the caribou right now?  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I think you're  
16 right.  
17  
18 MR. KOSO: I've got one question on the  
19 caribou, and it's a frequent question I get asked in  
20 our region, is how many caribou it's going to take to  
21 have a subsistence hunt.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Say it again,  
24 Rick?  
25  
26 MR. KOSO: I say the question that's  
27 asked a lot in our region is how many caribou  
28 population before they're going to allow a subsistence  
29 caribou hunt in 9D. I don't know who can answer that,  
30 but if someone here can answer it, that would be great.  
31  
32 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I think we  
33 were presented that information at a previous meeting,  
34 and I don't recall at the moment.  
35  
36 MR. KOSO: I wasn't sure if it was  
37 3,000 or what, but it seems to me that number clicks in  
38 my head, but I just wanted to make sure on that, if  
39 somebody had the information available.  
40  
41 MS. GREFFENIUS: Mr. Chair. This is  
42 Laura Greffenius.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes. Go ahead.  
45  
46 MS. GREFFENIUS: Yeah. I just am  
47 referring to -- I don't have it right in front of me,  
48 but it's mentioned in one of Lem Butler's memos on Page  
49 48. There is a Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd  
50 operational plan. And this was put together jointly

1 with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Alaska  
2 Department of Fish and Game, so it doesn't -- I don't  
3 have it right in front of me, and so I don't have an  
4 actual population figure, but what's also important is  
5 the composition counts. And so the management  
6 objective in that is to have 35 bulls to 100 cows, for  
7 that ratio, and we're considerably lower than that  
8 right now. So that operational plan would be at  
9 Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. They'd have a copy  
10 of it there, and I've got it here as well. So if the  
11 Council wants to revisit that again at their fall  
12 meeting, you could put that on your agenda and just --  
13 we could examine -- kind of comparison of where things  
14 stand with that plan. So that's just a suggestion, and  
15 I just wanted to let you know that there is a  
16 management plan for that herd.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MR. HOLMES: Mitch, this is Pat.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: All right. Go on.

23

24 MR. HOLMES: We've lost most of our  
25 public here. We're down to just two people left in the  
26 audience. I was wondering if we adjourn for lunch, and  
27 there were some folks that were interested in providing  
28 a little input to the Council, but they've gone to  
29 lunch. I wonder if we could reconvene a little later.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We only have two  
32 more items on our agenda, Pat, then we're done.

33

34 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Well, what you've  
35 got left in the audience is Bill Pyle and Harry Dodge.  
36 And all the tribal folks have left and all the Fish and  
37 Game folks have left.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. What about  
40 our quorum here. Do we still have a quorum.

41

42 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, you've still got us  
43 four.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. If you  
46 have.....

47

48 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair. This is Rick. I  
49 don't have any more questions on that. It's still --  
50 they ask for a number, they don't ask for a percentage

1 type of thing when they ask. It's hard for them to --  
2 a lot of people to understand what you're talking about  
3 when you talk about a percent of bulls to the percent  
4 of cows. So anyway maybe by next fall we can get a  
5 number or something on that deal. But I don't have any  
6 more questions on that, so we could continue on, unless  
7 somebody else has.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Yeah, we'll  
10 probably get a better report with whoever takes Lem's  
11 place after he leaves.

12

13 Our agenda calls for other business.  
14 Our charter review.

15

16 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
17 This is Michelle. I'll go over the charter renewal  
18 process.

19

20 A copy of the charter for the  
21 Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
22 starts on Page 56. The charter is an official document  
23 signed by the Secretary of the Interior which describes  
24 the name, function, size and duties of each Council.  
25 To function as a Federal advisory committee, each  
26 Council must have a charter. The charters provide a  
27 legal description of the Councils and reflect each  
28 Council's authorities and duties as outlined in Title  
29 VIII of ANILCA.

30

31 Because the Federal Advisory Committee  
32 Act, FACA, limits the terms of the Advisory Councils to  
33 two years, the Secretaries must renew Council charters  
34 by October 27th of odd numbered years.

35

36 At the winter meeting, each Council may  
37 review its existing charter and recommend changes to  
38 the Federal Subsistence Board. The Councils may  
39 request changes to the Council name, membership size  
40 and criteria for removing a member. The Federal  
41 Subsistence Board reviews the Council recommendations  
42 and the InterAgency Staff Committee's advice on the  
43 charter changes. The Board then forwards its  
44 recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior who in  
45 concurrence with the Secretary of Agriculture makes the  
46 final decision on any charter changes.

47

48 At this time the Council members can  
49 take a few minutes to review the charter and see if  
50 they would like to make any recommended changes.

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you,  
4 Michelle. Are there any changes to our charter.

5

6 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair. Rick Koso here  
7 again.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Rick.

10

11 MR. KOSO: I've just got one other  
12 change, but it's probably due to the fact we don't have  
13 the money to do this, but I'd sure like to see more of  
14 the meetings be held in the different regions so that  
15 more people can attend. I know it's been -- we've been  
16 stressed at funds here, so that's been the reason we've  
17 been having it in Kodiak and Anchorage here. But if  
18 it's possible, I'd sure like to see it happen out in  
19 our region once in while.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I sure would like  
22 to see that, too. Ever since I got on this board we've  
23 been trying to have meetings out in the Aleutians. The  
24 farthest we got was Cold Bay.

25

26 MR. KOSO: Even that's better than  
27 nothing though.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah.

30

31 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. The way  
32 things are standing right now with our budget, if there  
33 is an issue that needs to be taken up in that area, and  
34 hopefully public will attend, then if we write up a  
35 good justification, then -- and the justification is  
36 fine, then they will allow us to go out to those areas.  
37 So if we have an upcoming, say, wildlife issue or  
38 fisheries issue or something within a particular area,  
39 we can ask to go to that area. As long as the  
40 justification is fine, they'll allow us to travel to  
41 that area.

42

43 Thank you. Until then, we pretty are  
44 going to meet in Kodiak. Sorry about that.

45

46 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I'd like to  
47 continue with your rationale and I'd like to make -- I  
48 don't know if this is the place to make a motion, but  
49 I'd like to make a motion that we meet in Sand Point or  
50 King Cove or even False Pass for the next wildlife

1 session to discuss the declining caribou herd in Unit  
2 9. It's had the most catastrophic drop and the highest  
3 predation of any caribou herd in the State of Alaska,  
4 and I think that it determines the need of our Council.  
5 I really like the teleconference thing, so I don't  
6 think we need to bring the entire Federal Staff down.  
7 I think we could have the RAC go to King Cove or Sand  
8 Point and then we could teleconference from either the  
9 tribal office or if we get stuck in Cold Bay, from the  
10 Fish and Wildlife Service. But I think the facilities  
11 are there to teleconference, and I'd like to make a  
12 motion that we have our next wildlife meeting out on  
13 the -- where we've got this catastrophic decline in the  
14 population of the herd so we can hear from  
15 representatives of those communities.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The question is to  
18 have our September 10th and 11th, 2009 meeting out. Is  
19 there a specific town?

20  
21 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chairman.

22  
23 MR. HOLMES: I'd say either King Cove  
24 or Sand Point with the fall-back of Cold Bay.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Someone  
27 was.....

28  
29 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. This is  
30 Michelle. Now he's talking about the next wildlife  
31 meeting, so he's talking for 2010; am I correct?

32  
33 MR. HOLMES: Well, yeah, but whenever  
34 we could get down there would be opportune. So I think  
35 probably the March meeting on the Peninsula maybe,  
36 because that's when we do wildlife again; isn't that  
37 right?

38  
39 MS. GREFFENIUS: We're going to be  
40 doing wildlife next.....

41  
42 MR. KOSO: September, isn't it?

43  
44 MS. GREFFENIUS: September. In  
45 September.

46  
47 MR. GOLDBERG: For recommendations on  
48 the proposals.

49  
50 MR. HOLMES: Oh, it is fall of 2009.

1 Yeah. Sam just corrected me. Is in the fall. So that  
2 would be our fall meeting. Yeah, I would like to make  
3 that in the fall.

4

5 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Straighten  
8 me out here. We've got a wildlife -- Regional Advisory  
9 Council wildlife meeting, or a Kodiak/Aleutians  
10 Regional -- aren't we one and the same?

11

12 MR. HOLMES: Regional Advisory Council,  
13 and that with the catastrophic decline in the Unit 9  
14 caribou herd, that it is necessary for our council to  
15 have our next meeting on the Alaska Peninsula.

16

17 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman. This is  
18 Tom Schwantes. I'd second that motion.

19

20 MR. KOSO: And, Mr. Chair, I would like  
21 to second that motion. I think that's what you said,  
22 unless I misread you. This is Rick Koso.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: It's moved and  
25 seconded. Michelle, could you read the motion back to  
26 me, please.

27

28 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. Correct me if I'm  
29 wrong, Pat, but your motion was to have the meeting in  
30 Sand Point or King Cove, somewhere along the Peninsula,  
31 and the justification would be due to the catastrophic  
32 decline in the Unit 9D caribou herd, you would like to  
33 have a meeting out in that area to discuss the issue.

34

35 MR. HOLMES: Yes, ma'am. And we can  
36 teleconference. If transportation costs are difficult,  
37 then we can teleconference that might only need to be  
38 there for a few minutes of testimony. We can give them  
39 a call on the phone.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Everybody  
42 clear on the motion now.

43

44 MR. KOSO: I've got one more maybe just  
45 a little addition to that, Mr. Chair. Rick Koso here.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: All right. Rick.

48

49 MR. KOSO: Due to the weather and stuff  
50 that we get down there, I think that if unable to get

1 to Sand Point or King Cove, that Cold Bay be the spot  
2 to have the meeting. And I'm sure we can get the city  
3 hall down there to have it or work with the National  
4 Wildlife Refuge there. So that's just something I'd  
5 like to throw in, because a lot of times you can't get  
6 into the villages.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah. I think  
9 that was -- I heard that stated originally. Any other  
10 discussion.

11  
12 (No comments)

13  
14 MR. KOSO: Question.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. The  
17 question is called. Give me a roll call vote,  
18 Michelle.

19  
20 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. Thomas Schwantes.

21  
22 MR. SCHWANTES: I support it.

23  
24 MS. CHIVERS: Patrick Holmes.

25  
26 MR. HOLMES: Support.

27  
28 MS. CHIVERS: Sam Rohrer.

29  
30 MR. ROHRER: Support.

31  
32 MS. CHIVERS: Rick Koso.

33  
34 MR. KOSO: Support.

35  
36 MS. CHIVERS: Speridon Simeonoff.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Support.

39  
40 MS. CHIVERS: Tommy Johnson.

41  
42 MR. JOHNSON: Support it.

43  
44 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you. Mr. Chair.  
45 We have a unanimous vote here. Thank you.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you,  
48 Michelle. That took care of our fall meeting.

49  
50 We're still discussing our charter

1 review. I asked the question if anyone wanted to make  
2 changes to our charter.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If there are no  
7 changes -- well, Rick, you mentioned something earlier.

8

9 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chair. Yeah. This is  
10 Rick here again.

11

12 Yeah, the only changes I made was to  
13 have a meeting out in the region, but I think was  
14 clarified, and I think we have a proposal that we just  
15 completed on that.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. It wasn't a  
18 proposal. It was a motion that this Board would like  
19 to meet at either Sand Point, King Cove with Cold Bay  
20 as a back up. We don't have anything in the charter  
21 that says where we're going to meet.

22

23 MS. CHIVERS: Correct.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Do you have  
26 anything in the charter that says this committee can  
27 choose where we're going to meet?

28

29 MS. CHIVERS: No, Mr. Chair. The  
30 charter does not state where we meet. It just states  
31 that we usually meet twice a year. And, of course, the  
32 funding issue comes out of this office, our budget for  
33 the office.

34

35 One other thing we do need to clarify  
36 those, is see if we can confirm the date of the  
37 meeting, which we had originally set up for September  
38 10 and 11. And it's usually a one-day meeting, so if  
39 you turn to the last page in your book, which is Page  
40 59, if the week of September 10th won't work, we also  
41 have the week of the 14th or the 21st if we need to  
42 move the meeting date.

43

44 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. This is  
45 Pat. I'd suggest that we have it as early in September  
46 as we can, and maybe try for the 9th. And then that  
47 gives a couple days on either side, because usually in  
48 the Gulf of Alaska once you get to the week of  
49 September 15th, between the 15th and usually 22nd,  
50 those two middle weeks of September, we always have

1 what some of locals call the fall monsoon. And so I  
2 think we'd be best to shoot for that, sometime in the  
3 week of September 7th. So either the 9th or the 10th,  
4 and that gives us some buffer for coming and going.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The 10th and 11th  
7 is already marked off.

8  
9 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Let's go for it.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: How many of these  
12 Councils are you setting up, Michelle?

13  
14 MS. CHIVERS: I'm sorry?

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: How many of these  
17 meetings are you setting up besides Kodiak/Aleutians?

18  
19 MS. CHIVERS: No, there's no other  
20 meeting that week, so that week is fine. And I don't  
21 have any other Councils, so that works fine.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: All right.

24  
25 MR. SCHWANTES: This is Tom Schwantes.  
26 I make the motion that we shoot for the 10th of  
27 September.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Who is that?

30  
31 MR. HOLMES: Tom Schwantes.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I didn't get what  
34 you were saying.

35  
36 MR. SCHWANTES: I make a motion that we  
37 set the meeting for September 10th.

38  
39 MR. HOLMES: This is Pat. I'll second.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: All right. It's  
42 moved and seconded. Discussion.

43  
44 (No comments)

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If there's no  
47 discussion, is there any objection.

48  
49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If no objections,  
2 all those in favor say aye.

3

4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5

6 (No opposing votes)

7

8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Our next  
9 meeting is September 10th and 11th in Sand Point or  
10 King Cove. If we can't make it to either, we'll go to  
11 Cold Bay.

12

13 Anyone from the public still in the  
14 meeting at Kodiak?

15

16 MR. HOLMES: No, they left. We've had  
17 -- through the morning, we've had the Native Village of  
18 Afognak representative, and Shoonaq', two, three people  
19 came and go for Shoonaq'. We had Iver here from KNA.  
20 And I believe the representative from the Native  
21 Village of Woody Island popped in, too. I think they  
22 all had some concern over the point that Bill Pyle gave  
23 us a head's up on Buskin River, the fill at the  
24 airport. But I guess they were maybe holding kind of  
25 (breaking up) on (breaking up) but if they can't do  
26 that, then I think they'll have to write some letters  
27 to the RAC, to the FAA and other agencies about their  
28 concerns, because they've all left. But I'd like to  
29 have that on the record that that's why they came.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, I can hear  
32 you.

33

34 MR. SCHWANTES: Mr. Chairman. This is  
35 Tom Schwantes. I was wondering before we adjourn,  
36 since this is the last day for the Council to submit a  
37 proposal, if we want to consider preparing a proposal  
38 to go along with the changes that the State has made in  
39 the harvest of the caribou herd on Kodiak Island. So  
40 they'd have a C&T, if we could (breaking up).

41

42 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, what do we need to  
43 do we need to do to get the C&T developed there,  
44 Michelle. There's a process, isn't it?

45

46 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair. This is Pippa  
47 Kenner.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, go ahead.

50

1 MS. KENNER: Currently we don't have a  
2 season for caribou in Unit 8 on Kodiak Island. There  
3 hasn't been a customary and traditional use  
4 determination made by the Federal Subsistence Board.

5  
6 Thank you.

7  
8 MR. HOLMES: I guess then what we need  
9 to do from what Tom was saying is we need to maybe have  
10 a proposal come out of this Council to the Federal  
11 Board that would parallel the State's hunting season  
12 for reindeer or caribou, and then their bag limit I  
13 guess. Is that what you're saying, Tom?

14  
15 MR. SCHWANTES: Yes.

16  
17 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair. This is Pippa  
18 Kenner again.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes.

21  
22 MS. KENNER: Hi. Currently the State  
23 regulations apply on all applicable Federal land except  
24 when there's other types of restrictions, like national  
25 parks. Thank you.

26  
27 MS. GREFFENIUS: They can submit one to  
28 put in our book.

29  
30 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa Kenner  
31 again. I think I need to clarify the question I'm  
32 having. And that is, is the concern that the  
33 regulations will be different on State land than they  
34 are on Federal land? Or is the concern that you want  
35 to start having a Federal hunt and therefore propose a  
36 C&T determination for caribou in Unit 8 through the  
37 Federal system.

38  
39 MR. ROHRER: Mr. Chair. Sam Rohrer  
40 here. Being as there's no Federal for the caribou as  
41 of right now, I would think the only reason for us to  
42 have a proposal to come up with a Federal season, a  
43 subsistence season, would be if we wanted to liberalize  
44 what the Board of Game just passed. Beyond that,  
45 there's really no reason to have a redundant Federal  
46 subsistence season in my opinion.

47  
48 MR. HOLMES: I guess as long as we're  
49 just sort of discussing it, this is Pat, my mind is  
50 kind of rattling around and thinking maybe we should

1 just wait and see what happens with the populations of  
2 reindeer-slash-caribou with the State changes. And  
3 then if it is necessary to have a more liberal harvest  
4 and address it under Federal rules for more locals,  
5 then maybe we'd do that. But maybe we should just  
6 forget it for now. I think Thomas answered he'd agree  
7 with that thought. So forget it. Sorry.

8  
9 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chairman. Rick here,  
10 Koso. It seems like we were talking a little bit about  
11 maybe turning that back over to the Natives there at  
12 one time here during this meeting. I'm kind of losing  
13 you guys when you're talking about opening it up for a  
14 hunting season now. But I think maybe we ought to  
15 check with the local natives in that area to find out  
16 if they're going to take possession of that herd before  
17 we impose regulation on it. At least that would be my  
18 suggestion.

19  
20 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. This is  
21 Pat.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

24  
25 MR. HOLMES: If we need more  
26 clarification, we could ask Bill Pyle. He's the sole  
27 remaining audience here, so my hat's off to you, Bill.

28  
29  
30 I kind of think that the State has --  
31 the Attorney General past some time ago, maybe 20 years  
32 ago, declared them feral, because they had been  
33 abandoned. I think Larry's comments were is that it  
34 would be very good for Mitch to check with those folks,  
35 because if there still is a potential for them to own  
36 them, to work that out. And basically there is a State  
37 hunt, and then that would stay in place until such  
38 other determinations were made.

39  
40 And then our group here, we just  
41 decided that we just back off on any kind of Federal  
42 rules to see -- because our only ideas were if it was  
43 necessary to increase the harvest, if it could be done  
44 at a benefit for locals. But we decided to just wait  
45 and see.

46  
47 So I think there's been a State  
48 determination that they were feral and so that process  
49 I think should be reviewed in the private sector with  
50 the folks in Akhiok and the people who did own it, and

1 then just see how that shakes out. And I'm sure our  
2 Council would, you know, kind of look at that pretty  
3 broadly.

4  
5 Is there anything I missed, Bill?

6  
7 MR. BAER: No. This is Bill Pyle. I  
8 think Pat described it very well.

9  
10 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chairman. Rick.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes.

13  
14 MR. KOSO: Yeah. Just, you know, a  
15 little note here, Mitch, on that. You know, if they're  
16 considered reindeer, then they would be saleable and  
17 processable on the market. I think that's something  
18 that the tribes over there should look into as far as  
19 harvesting those. And if you need assistance, I'll be  
20 happy to help you out as far as following through on  
21 that, because we were looking at Adak as that deal,  
22 too, but since they're considered there caribou there,  
23 they're not saleable or harvestable with the public.  
24 But the way it sounds with you guys there, you'll be  
25 able to harvest those and sell them through a market.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah.

28  
29 MR. KOSO: So that's just something to  
30 think about. I thought I would throw it at you. Give  
31 me a call later if you need follow up on it.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah.

34  
35 MS. CHIVERS: You guys are cutting out  
36 really bad. Is somebody talking?

37  
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I'm starting to  
39 get bits and pieces.

40  
41 MR. KOSO: Mr. Chairman. Before you  
42 disappear, I make a motion to adjourn.

43  
44 MR. HOLMES: Amen.

45  
46 MR. SCHWANTES: I'll second it.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: It was moved and  
49 seconded -- moved and seconded. We're adjourned.

50

1 I'll call you up, Michelle to see if we  
2 got everything straightened out.

3

4 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. Thank you.

5

6 (Off record)

7

8 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

