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1 KODIAK/ALEUTIANS FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

3

4 Kodiak, Alaska
5 March 20, 2003
6 9:00 o'clock a.m.

7

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9 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

10

11 Della Trumble, Chairwoman

12 Al Cratty

13 Paul Gundersen

14 Patrick Holmes

15 Speridon Simeonoff

16 Pete Squartsoff

17 Richard Zacharof

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19 Regional Council Coordinator, Michelle Chivers

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PROCEEDINGS

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(Kodiak, Alaska - 3/20/2003)

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CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Good morning everyone. I'll call the meeting back to order. The next item on the agenda is Proposal WP03-21a and b. Introduction, Pat.

MS. PETRIVELLI: Did you want to present the whole proposal? I was just wondering because in light of the recent Board of Game actions. But the other thing is discussing the goat study. If you don't want to go through the proposal analysis.

CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Just give a review, Pat.

MS. PETRIVELLI: Oh, the proposal? Okay. 21a, the analysis begins on Page 104 and 21a was submitted by Ivan Lukin of Port Lions and he requested a customary and traditional use determination for goat in Unit 8 for the residents of Kodiak Island. This proposal was deferred to allow more information to be studied and a goat study was conducted last spring and the draft of the report was circulated to Council Members in December and then the analysis that was prepared was updated with the information from the study, so there's new information -- well, the new information is generally highlighted.

On Page 105 there's the issues that came out of the study in opposition to a positive determination for goats. Those issues are goats are transplanted species. The difficulty of goat hunts makes it inefficient. Goats provide little meat, another inefficient characteristic. Residents of villages should participate more fully in the drawing permit system.

The points in support of a positive determination of goats was goats are now part of the natural landscape and it's traditional to use what is there. Difficulty for a long-term pattern of use on -- there is difficulty for establishing a long-term pattern of use on a drawing permit or forbidden animal. All potential resources are important in light of declines in deer and commercial fish and the cost of permits, not lack of interest has hindered participation in the drawing system.

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1 Just through the various -- the other new
2 information on page 108 and 109 just compared the use of
3 goat with elk and deer meet and then just different
4 percentages of households using and then we compared the
5 use of Kodiak Island communities with other communities,
6 like in Prince William Sound and the southern Kenai
7 Peninsula. One thing that we did find from the new
8 information from the study was on page 114. Our permit
9 system, the harvest database we have in the office, shows
10 just the permits that were returned. So, when we give
11 you facts, we're showing you the people that returned the
12 permits.

13
14 What the subsistence division was able to
15 do was go through all the permits that were issued and
16 then because people could put in three applications, we
17 never knew how many real applicants there were, so we
18 actually found out the number of real applicants. I
19 think that came out to like an average of 300 applicants
20 from the Kodiak Island system, but all that new updated
21 information is on Page 114 and Tables 3A and 3B. So we
22 were able to determine, because we had the applicants,
23 the total history of applicants and we were only able to
24 determine that for the years 1993 to 2001, but it had all
25 those totals for the Unit 8 communities. Then updated
26 information about harvesting.

27
28 So that was the new information that we
29 were able to get from the study and then, in light of
30 that new information, we came up with a preliminary
31 conclusion to support the proposal with modification to
32 limit customary and traditional use determinations to
33 residents of the Kodiak Island road area, which are shown
34 in Map 1, Larsen Bay, Old Harbor and Port Lions.

35
36 Thank you.

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38 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
39 Alaska Department of Fish & Game comments.

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41 MS. WILLIAMS: Good morning, Madame Chair
42 and the Council. I'm Liz Williams from Subsistence
43 Division at the Department of Fish & Game. The
44 Department does not support the C&T finding of this
45 analysis primarily because some of the C&T factors are
46 not met clearly. This doesn't mean that people in the
47 villages and in Kodiak City itself don't see goats as a
48 food use animal or as a subsistence animal, but it
49 doesn't meet the criteria for long-term use and
50 intergenerational tradition transmission of knowledge. I

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1 interviewed people in all the four villages that wanted
2 to participate and in Kodiak City and it's very clear
3 that goats are part of the landscape and people want to
4 harvest them. It's just that they haven't specifically
5 met the eight criteria through the research that we did.
6

7 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Thank you, Liz.
8 Other Agency comments. Ida.

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10 MS. HILDABRAND: Thank you, Madame Chair.
11 Ida Hildabrand, BIA Staff Committee member. I'd just
12 remind the Council that the eight factors are guidelines
13 to the Federal Board system. They do not have to meet
14 all eight of them. In fact, the State, itself, does not
15 apply its eight criteria to every decision.

16
17 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Thank you, Ida.

18
19 MS. WILLIAMS: Madame Chair and Council.
20 I'd also like to add that the eight criteria aren't
21 applied specifically. If the Federal management would
22 occur, it would exclude communities like Akhiok, and also
23 Port Lions hunters generally hunt goats on State land.
24 So it's a matter of if the eight criteria really aren't
25 going to be applied specifically, then why not have a
26 plan where everybody who now has goats in their area has
27 access to them.

28
29 Part of the reason we don't see the C&T
30 factors being met is because -- and it's not because
31 they're an introduced species. Deer and elk were
32 introduced in the '20s and they have become C&T species.
33 They're considered subsistence species. Goats were
34 transplanted in the '50s. If you look at the migration
35 of the goats across the island, the interest in the
36 villages has occurred as the goats have arrived, which,
37 again, to me, shows that it's clear that it's an animal
38 that's on the landscape and people want to harvest it,
39 but under the proposed Federal proposal, everyone who
40 suddenly has goats on their landscape now wouldn't be
41 given access so Akhiok, Port Lions and even a little tiny
42 piece of Old Harbor is private land that is a really
43 popular goat hunting access area that wouldn't be subject
44 to the Federal regulations. Don't ask me to repeat that.

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46 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Does anybody have
47 any questions for Liz at this time?

48
49 MS. WILLIAMS: If I may add one more
50 thing. As I went through the island, it's definitely

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1 clear that Kodiak City to Akhiok and all points in
2 between, except for Ouzinkie and Karluk, who opted not to
3 participate, again, very revealing because they don't
4 have goats in their area yet, meat is the most important
5 use aspect of the resource. And throughout the island
6 there was not one place where I didn't run into many
7 people who said the primary concern they have about goats
8 is the continued health of the resource.

9

10 One thing that I learned that I didn't
11 know is that a lot of people see a huge decline in deer
12 on Kodiak Island, which is definitely a primary
13 subsistence species and they're looking to goats for sort
14 of a replacement for deer, but the biology of goats is
15 that there are 1,400 goats and even at its lowest
16 population point, there are 40,000 deer. Can goats
17 really replace deer? I don't think so. That's it.
18 Thanks.

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Liz, maybe just a
21 comment because, just being a part of these discussions
22 quite a bit, I don't think people are looking to replace
23 the deer using the goats as a subsistence source, but to
24 utilize it as a source. Other agency comments. Thank
25 you, Liz.

26

27 MR. HOLMES: I have a question for Liz if
28 I may.

29

30 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

31

32 MR. HOLMES: Liz, if the C&T were to be
33 implemented and you've said that the State doesn't feel
34 it meets the criteria, but if it did, over this period
35 that 522 goats have been harvested by Kodiak and
36 somewhere around 30 by the other villages, would one
37 assume that folks in Kodiak that had the customary
38 harvest would still get a similar portion of the
39 subsistence harvest if it did go to a C&T?

40

41 MS. WILLIAMS: Madame Chair and the
42 Council. I guess it depends on their willingness to
43 travel and register the Federal lands.

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45 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Any other questions
46 or comments.

47

48 (No comments)

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50 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Do we have Fish &

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1 Game Advisory Committee comments?

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3 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, if I might
4 respond. Our chairman did have a heart attack and our
5 vice chair is working and our past chair is at the Board
6 of Fish meeting, so if I might relate the Advisory
7 Committee's position on this. It was the operating
8 procedure right from the start, which Ivan agreed to, and
9 we set up the smallest study group that we could to get
10 representation from the villages, including the RAC
11 members of Ivan, Speridon, Al Cratty and myself, who were
12 on both committees, and then also we had Tom Dooley, who
13 is an outfitter and commercial fisherman, Roland
14 Newhouse, who is a pilot, and Paul Churnavak, who
15 represented the guide industry, then I added in Brad Agga
16 from Larsen Bay to get a broader perspective.

17

18 We discussed this proposal for two years.
19 Our operating premise, of which everyone agreed to, was
20 if we could come up with a better, more flexible locally-
21 solved solution that would be better for the villages and
22 include more villages than the Federal program would,
23 that the C&T and Ivan's proposal would be dropped. When
24 I talked to him on Monday, that was his position. I'm
25 sorry that he can't be here.

26

27 But we did go through and I believe we
28 came up with a program where we would have a surplus from
29 the drawing hunts that would be assigned to a
30 registration hunt in each village or it would be Akhiok,
31 Old Harbor, Larsen Bay and Port Lions. So we provided so
32 that folks from Karluk could participate, Akhiok would be
33 added, as well as Ouzinkie, and then we also developed a
34 program that would allow for the registration hunt to
35 take place on State land. So, with all those things in
36 mind, Larry came up with a program. There are a lot of
37 goats and he was able to tweak this proposal so that we
38 could take goats that would be surplus from the drawing
39 and it is true the drawings will increase.

40

41 I'll give you this. I think it's the
42 last table. It's a scribbled-on draft from our 28th
43 meeting, but it does show you the number of goats
44 available for registration. In some of these areas Larry
45 did shift things. Some of them are very stable, but in
46 order to provide for a hunt in Port Lions, we ended up
47 with the areas for Port Lions, 471, 472, 473 and 474.
48 Those areas would have respectively 10 goats, three
49 goats, four goats, which is four registration for Port
50 Lions, for example, and actually that would create the

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1 potential from folks in those areas to actually have
2 access to more goats than they've ever taken before.
3 This was a table that our study group did agree to and
4 here's a map.

5
6 So we came up with something that really
7 pleased the village reps. It was satisfactory to the
8 guide industry and the outfitters because they could
9 continue to do their work. I did get some input from
10 Native folks that are involved in outfitting and guiding
11 and they weren't really keen on seeing it go totally
12 Federal because then they would be out of luck
13 potentially for their occupation. So this allows that to
14 continue.

15
16 Basically, it was a win-win for
17 everything because the guides can continue with having
18 two-thirds of the island still involved in the goat
19 harvest, it provides Fish & Game and the Service. We had
20 the Service attend all of our study group meetings and be
21 in concurrence with what we arrived at. So we ended up
22 with a win-win situation all the way around. I did even
23 have one of the town's leading rednecks that was pursuing
24 with the Safari Club in the junction to back off and
25 realize that this is a politically-developed solution by
26 folks in town sitting down having coffee like we usually
27 do and that we came up with something that made everyone
28 happy.

29
30 So my impression was that the advisory
31 committee would be -- that the C&T request and the
32 proposal would be dropped and at least my last talk with
33 Ivan was go ahead and drop it and we can always bring it
34 back up. All it takes is a vote from our committee, from
35 the RAC, to re-introduce it. But we have a strong
36 commitment from the Board and a strong commitment from
37 Fish & Game and the Service that we will continue to work
38 on this and tweak it and the study group has been asked
39 to continue as an advisory panel for Fish & Game.

40
41 So, if we feel that there's a need to
42 maybe reduce the days for the registration period a bit
43 to give a better advantage to folks from the village,
44 then that would be the case. The registration period
45 would be separated five days from the hunt period. At
46 Mitch's request, we expanded the period from one month to
47 six weeks to provide a window for folks in the villages
48 to get out. Odds are that most -- I can't see anybody
49 from the mainland taking advantage of this. They'd have
50 to be stupid.

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1 I guess my final comment, which I gave to
2 the Board of Game was, even though I have good friends in
3 all of the villages I probably wouldn't avail myself the
4 opportunity of the registration hunt even if I was
5 invited because I wouldn't want to be labeled the Zobel
6 of Kodiak and cause this whole thing to fall apart. I
7 think we've done a lot of work under the spirit of trust
8 and cooperation and understanding and I think that we've
9 addressed all of Ivan's concerns, so I think that would
10 be the Advisory Committee's position and mine as well.
11 Thank you, Madame Chair.

12
13 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

14
15 MR. VanDALE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
16 Just a very brief discussion, since you're into other
17 agencies, what the Board of Game action was about six
18 days. Pat articulated it fairly well. The Board was
19 pleased to see this being a joint proposal from the RAC
20 and from the Advisory Committee. They went on the record
21 to say that this level of cooperation was unprecedented
22 in Kodiak and they really appreciated that. There were
23 several attempts, both by lobbying and by a couple
24 individual board members to tweak this even further, to
25 the point of allowing non-residents or a couple other
26 changes.

27
28 After a long bit of discussion, both on
29 the record and off the record, what the Board's final
30 decision was is they didn't want to change anything in
31 this fragile compromise. They felt that the fact that
32 the RAC and the Advisory Committee had come up with
33 something with a lot of island input was a very strong
34 statement and they wanted to continue that and this from
35 a board which has a reputation of not being real
36 subsistence friendly, I guess I should say. But they
37 felt this was important to do that.

38
39 That being said, I think that an action
40 from this Board would be viewed very strongly by the
41 Board of Game one way or the other, whatever you do. You
42 know, if you say we're going to go ahead regardless of
43 what you did, they're going to look at that one way, you
44 could say, yeah, we agree with you, we're going to push
45 ahead with the compromise, they'd view that another way.
46 If we do not have a C&T determination at this point in
47 time, what that will do for us as managers is continue to
48 keep things simplified.

49
50 C&T determination on the Federal side

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1 here is going to do a couple things. One is it's going
2 to cause the State and the Federal government to argue
3 against each other at the higher level, as you saw a
4 little bit today. Secondly, it's going to put a whole
5 another layer of bureaucracy for the management of these
6 critters. It's more than just a piece of paper. It's
7 expensive and it's bureaucratically cumbersome. So
8 that's what the Board of Game did. Those are my manager
9 comments. Any questions, I'm available.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Are there any
14 questions for Larry?

15

16 MR. SIMEONOFF: I don't know if this is
17 for you, Larry, but without the C&T determination for
18 Akhiok, would that mean we'd be excluded from a
19 registration hunt?

20

21 MR. VanDALE: Madame Chair, Mitch. As it
22 stands right now, the State is not going to change what
23 they passed last week. You will still be available to
24 hunt under the State system as a registration hunt. If
25 the Federal board determines that we are not providing
26 for subsistence under the State system, when it goes
27 under Federal management or if it did, under that, you
28 would not be allowed to hunt anymore because you're not
29 considered customary and traditional. The same with
30 Ouzinkie and the same with Karluk.

31

32 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Thank you, Larry.
33 Public testimony. Iver Malutin.

34

35 MR. MALUTIN: Thank you, Madame Chair.
36 Good morning. I think you're getting tired of seeing me
37 up here, but I'm here representing the Kodiak Area Native
38 Association and that has a membership of quite a number
39 of Natives. What I'm hearing here this morning, I'm not
40 going to really say I'm for or against the proposal, but
41 I heard some comment that didn't really sound too well.
42 Those comments being these not being traditional foods.
43 Even though it is true, and I was one of the strongest
44 proponents against getting elk, deer and goat in our
45 traditional foods, but as time is going on, I could see a
46 big change and I am making that change. I could see
47 where the Federal government really goofed up because if
48 those numbers are correct on the sea otter, if the sea
49 otter didn't move and they're dead, they're gone, I think
50 it was a big mistake on the Federal government

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1 management. Based on that, the Federal government took
2 our clams away from us by mismanagement of the sea otter.
3 Based on that, I think that these other foods that are
4 being provided should be included in the Native
5 lifestyle. How did traditional foods start? They
6 started way back whenever the animals were introduced.
7 Does that make a difference today that we can't start
8 these traditional foods today? I don't know. I don't
9 know the criteria for traditional foods. I guess it is
10 from years and years and years years ago, but maybe
11 there's other criteria that could fit in that we could
12 put in there and make it Native foods because they have
13 taken away some of our foods already because of their
14 mismanagement.

15

16 I don't like to hear the State and the
17 Federal talking about not traditional foods anymore and
18 I'm going to be testifying every place I could go and
19 wherever and saying the same thing I'm saying now because
20 I think that this is the time when the economic base in
21 the village is really low and to improve the lifestyle of
22 the Natives in the village, I think the State of Alaska,
23 the Federal government, should get their hands together
24 and hold hands and work together rather than working
25 apart.

26

27 There's not much money for subsistence
28 management. In talking to the Alaska Department of Fish
29 & Game, they have no money for subsistence salmon. I
30 don't know where the Feds get their money, but the Feds
31 in some areas are letting the State use their guidelines
32 to manage the Federal waters for subsistence salmon,
33 which I don't think is correct, but they do and they're
34 doing it. They're two separate entities. I just wish
35 that they could get together and I hoped that everybody
36 would stop talking about these not being traditional
37 foods because I think it's a supplement to taking care of
38 a problem to make the lifestyle better in all the
39 villages that are concerned.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Thank you, Iver.

44 Does anybody have any comments or questions for Iver?

45

46 (No comments)

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48 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: I'm going to ask for

49 about a five-minute break here. I have some questions

50 and need to talk to Tom for a second.

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1 (Off record)

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3 (On record)

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5 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: We'll call our
6 meeting back to order. I do have another person that
7 would like to testify from the public, Dick Rohrer.

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9 MR. ROHRER: Thank you, Madame Chair,
10 Members of the Committee. I'll be real brief. I wanted
11 to assure the committee that I'm not the redneck that Pat
12 referred to in the people in the public. I've been a
13 goat hunter on Kodiak from fairly early on, possibly as
14 early as 1970, several years there, every year when goat
15 permits were issued by registration and in more recent
16 years several times when I was successful in the drawing.
17 Anyway, I do have goat hunting experience here for quite
18 a while. I just want to speak in favor of what Pat
19 suggested and I'm not sure the best mechanics of the
20 committee either to vote down the customary and
21 traditional proposal or to table it, but my suggestion is
22 that we give this a try, what Pat has proposed, and I
23 would really like to see the Council be unanimous in your
24 decision on it. We've put a lot of effort from our
25 community. I can't say that I'm satisfied with
26 everything that is in the proposal. I think there's some
27 compromise there from my standpoint, but I'm willing to
28 do that to give this a try. So my request of the Council
29 is that you unanimously vote this C&T determination down
30 in favor of what the State has done.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 Any questions?

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Regional Council
37 deliberation, recommendation and justification. I know
38 Pat did talk to Ivan and Ivan did agree that he would
39 withdraw. To be honest with you, we did discuss this
40 amongst ourselves a little bit to where we're comfortable
41 with the decision. The majority of this Council that
42 worked on this with the State Advisory Council have put a
43 lot of time and effort into this and I think we should
44 commend them for that time and effort to try to work out
45 a solution. Ivan did agree to withdraw. He also said
46 that he would agree to accept the C&T and to defer the
47 proposal. That was my question to some degree.
48 Procedurally, where does that leave us when, to some
49 degree, if we've got an agreement between both the
50 Advisory Council and the RAC members to withdraw this

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1 proposal under those circumstances and I feel to some
2 degree it leaves us as a Council vulnerable to have to
3 make a decision if we had a lot more people that believed
4 otherwise. That was one of my big questions. And I
5 think we, amongst ourselves, have fairly well discussed
6 this and I will leave the motion by one of the members
7 from Kodiak.

8

9 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yes, Madame Chair. I'd
10 like to make a motion to reject WP03-21 a and b.

11

12 MR. CRATTY: Second.

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Motion made by Pete
15 Squartsoff, second by Al Cratty. I'd like a roll call
16 vote, please.

17

18 MS. CHIVERS: Al Cratty.

19

20 MR. CRATTY: I'm for the withdrawal.

21

22 MS. CHIVERS: Pete Squartsoff.

23

24 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yes.

25

26 MS. CHIVERS: Pat Holmes.

27

28 MR. HOLMES: Yes, for withdrawal.

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30 MS. CHIVERS: Paul Gundersen.

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32 MR. GUNDERSEN: Yes.

33

34 MS. CHIVERS: Speridon Simeonoff.

35

36 MR. SIMEONOFF: Yes.

37

38 MS. CHIVERS: Della Trumble.

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Yes.

41

42 MS. CHIVERS: Richard Zacharof.

43

44 MR. ZACHAROF: Yes.

45

46 MS. CHIVERS: We have a unanimous vote.

47

48 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Just for clarification.

49 The motion was to reject and I heard a couple Council

50 members agree to withdraw.

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1 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I would like to change
2 my comment to Peter's correction and I hope that the sky
3 isn't falling.

4
5 MR. CRATTY: Same here.

6
7 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Thank you everybody.

8
9 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Madame Chair. And I'd
10 just like to thank the two Councils, our Advisory
11 Councils that did work on it, the subcommittees. I was
12 on it from the very beginning with Larry and some other
13 people when they decided to form the subcommittees. So I
14 want to thank the subcommittees for the work they did.

15
16 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Okay. We'll move on
17 to item number eight on the agenda, which is call for
18 proposals to change Federal subsistence fishing
19 regulations. Proposals will be accepted from January 6
20 to March 28, 2003. We have (A) from the public, Agency
21 is (B) and (C) Regional Council Members.

22
23 MS. CHIVERS: We have received no
24 proposals to date, Madame Chair.

25
26 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: The next item on the
27 agenda would be number nine, Fisheries Information
28 Services Program. Steve Fried.

29
30 MR. FRIED: Good morning. My name is
31 Steve Fried. I'm a fisheries biologist with the U.S.
32 Fish & Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management
33 in Anchorage. Most of what I'd like to present to the
34 Council today is just information. There's really not
35 much you can take action on. The first item listed on
36 the agenda was strategic planning issues and issues and
37 information needs and I just wanted to bring to the
38 Council's attention that every time we put out a call for
39 study proposals we provide this list of issues and
40 information needs to all the people that are thinking of
41 applying. Usually it's posted on the web and also sent
42 out to some people in the mail. This provides a list
43 that the Councils have developed on what they think are
44 the most important issues and what information is needed
45 to help Federal subsistence fisheries management.

46
47 If you recall last fall, several members
48 of the Council met
49 with myself and some other people from OSM in Anchorage
50 to take a look at the existing list and to draft another

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1 list. I've also provided that list to the Council
2 members. Basically, it was a draft list. There wasn't
3 anything that was prioritized. What happened was we
4 never got the opportunity to get together and go over it
5 again and finalize it before the call for study proposals
6 went out. So rather than just use the old list, which
7 really only had one issue on it, which was sockeye, we
8 decided it would be better to just put the draft list in
9 there. Actually, we did get a lot of proposals that
10 spoke to these issues or it did help.

11

12 I just wanted to bring to the Council's
13 attention that as far as making any additions or
14 deletions or changes on this list, we can do that all
15 year. If the Council wanted to take that up at this
16 meeting, that would be fine. Later in the year is fine.
17 We really won't be using this list. We'll be using this
18 list to take a look when we do the investigation plans,
19 but as far as the next call for proposals go, we won't
20 really need this list until that goes out, which will be
21 in November. I don't know if any of the Members have any
22 questions or comments on this, but I'd certainly
23 entertain them at this time.

24

25 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Maybe just one
26 comment. I wanted to thank the Federal Board, our people
27 and Staff and the State on working on this issue with
28 Afognak Lake because I think getting that process started
29 and getting what needed to be done at least, people here
30 were pretty pleased with the action that was taken on
31 that.

32

33 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

34

35 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Pat.

36

37 MR. HOLMES: I heartily agree with you
38 because I know that Steve and his folks there in the
39 review committee really went out of their way. That was
40 the first time that they violated their own protocol to
41 find funds, at least to my knowledge, to implement the
42 preliminary smolt studies for this year, and then they
43 also approved a three-year program for Afognak. That's a
44 very important system for subsistence for the folks on
45 the north end. Even though through a communication gap
46 we didn't get back to prioritize things, I was quite
47 heartened to see that there's a proposal been submitted
48 by the ADF&G salmon research folks to focus a similar
49 study on the south end of the island on the systems that
50 are so important to folks from Akhiok and their relatives

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1 that live in Old Harbor for subsistence down there. Even
2 though it's sort of preliminary at this point, I think
3 that that could be a really great program that would
4 benefit the knowledge of those stocks on the south end of
5 the island and be quite complimentary to the work that's
6 done on the north end and I think, particularly with the
7 discussions we've gotten from AI, as our commercial
8 fishermen, how things are going to pot and things are
9 really tough for people in the villages, and some chats
10 I've had with Mitch, I think that that would be money
11 that will be very well spent and I'd like to see what
12 some of the other Council Members feel about the research
13 proposal for the south end.

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Okay. We'll move on
16 to 9B, which is FRMP Accomplishments and Status Report.

17

18 MR. FRIED: Thank you.

19

20 Again, this is information. Just two
21 things I'd bring to the Council's attention. Maybe first
22 is the fact that we have gone through and reviewed the
23 proposals for 2004, the Technical Review Committee has
24 made their recommendations. They are now posted on the
25 website and I printed out part of the tables from the
26 website just for the Council's information because it
27 just came out. I'm not sure if any of you have seen
28 this. We received a total of 140 proposals this year and
29 it was quite a bit more request for funding than we
30 actually have, so it was very difficult to try to make
31 decisions on which ones to recommend for investigation
32 plan. This is not a funding decision, it's just
33 advancing into the next stage.

34

35 For this area, which also includes
36 Bristol Bay Alaska Peninsula, I copied Tables 7 and 8
37 just so you can see the actual titles of proposals that
38 were listed and also Table 13 is just interregional
39 proposal that covered more than one region or the state.
40 It shows which ones the Technical Review Committee
41 decided to advance for any investigation plan development
42 and which ones didn't make that cut. As I said, we had a
43 three-day meeting and it was some pretty difficult
44 decisions and this is because they also included some
45 studies that were continuing that would end in 2003
46 without further funding to keep them going, such as
47 Buskin River weir and also some pretty good new proposals
48 for important things.

49

50 If you'll notice, for this particular

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1 area, there's Mortensens Creek, McLees Lake, as I said,
2 Buskin River and there were several proposals put through
3 that actually addressed some of the issues on the new
4 list for various places in the Aleutians. I think the
5 one that made the cut was the one for Unalaska Lake. It
6 was looked at, I think, by the TRC as this was a run that
7 was in decline, it was part of the reason there was more
8 pressure being put on sockeye in Reese Bay and so they
9 thought that of all the ones that were provided for the
10 Aleutians, this was probably going to top the list as one
11 of the more important ones.

12
13 The one that was just mentioned on Olga
14 Bay didn't make the cut. It wasn't because, you know,
15 it's not important, it's just that there's so much money.
16 They tried to advance enough to account for like 50
17 percent more funding than we actually have available so
18 there would be a selection among the investigation plans
19 when they come out. Anyway, these are the results of the
20 TRC for the stock status and also for the harvest
21 monitoring and also for the interregional ones, most of
22 which don't affect this region.

23
24 Aside from that, I also provided a status
25 report on the studies that are already funded. It's
26 called Status of the 2000-2003 Fisheries Resource
27 Monitoring Program Studies for Kodiak/Aleutians and it
28 kind of lists the -- there's been a total of 10 studies
29 that have been funded since 2000 in this area and there's
30 only been one completed so far and that was actually a
31 statewide study on the subsistence fisheries harvest
32 monitoring. Also provides little paragraphs that
33 indicate how these studies are doing, are they on time,
34 are they within budget, what have they been finding out,
35 so I think it's good that people know how these studies
36 are progressing and what information is being provided.

37
38 As you can see, I think they're doing
39 pretty well. They're pretty successful. We've had to
40 make some minor adjustments to some of these as far as
41 scheduling and sometimes shifting budgets around, but, by
42 and large, I think the program has been pretty
43 successful. So, as I said, this is just for information
44 purposes. At this point, I'll take any questions or
45 comments the Council may have.

46
47 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. One of the
48 questions that came up when we had our little meeting
49 with the staff in Anchorage after the Cold Bay session
50 was something that I know is dear to your heart. I was

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1 wondering why is Kodiak research lumped in with Bristol
2 Bay because the two areas have been in cultural and
3 commercial fishing conflict for many years and I was just
4 wondering why they're lumped in with our RAC and not in a
5 separate one, perhaps sharing things with the Kuskokwim,
6 which is more closely related geographically than the
7 Alaska Peninsula, Kodiak and the Aleutians.

8

9 MR. FRIED: It's a good question. I
10 don't really have a good answer for it. That was done
11 when the program was started. They set up various study
12 areas and I know that the Councils both for Bristol Bay
13 and for Kodiak/Aleutian have made requests to the Board
14 to change that and it hasn't been changed. Some of the
15 reasons for leaving it like that is that there isn't that
16 much money even between the two regions in general and
17 they thought that gave them more flexibility to move
18 funds around between the regions depending on where the
19 priorities were. I really don't have a good reason for
20 why it is like that and I guess if the Councils feel
21 strongly about that, they should just pursue seeing if
22 that can be changed, I guess, but it needs to be a
23 Federal Subsistence Board decision to do that. We can't
24 do that.

25

26 MR. BOYD: If I may, Madame Chair. I
27 think Steve kind of hit on the reason. It was a policy
28 call that was made early in the program in sort of
29 dividing up administrative areas. We weren't necessarily
30 focused on dividing it up by Regional Advisory Council
31 boundaries, but primarily to -- if we carved it out too
32 finitely or with too many areas, we would have minimized
33 our ability to be flexible with placing funds where the
34 priority needs were, so we tried to look at what makes
35 sense. I'm hearing from you that you don't feel like
36 this particular configuration makes sense.

37

38 At that time, we tried to look at what
39 makes sense and, obviously, Bristol Bay and the Peninsula
40 and the Kodiak area are somewhat adjacent in terms of
41 geography. If you look at other areas, we've also kind
42 of lumped some other areas. For example, the
43 Arctic/Northwest area have been configured together. All
44 of the Yukon and Kuskokwim drainages have been configured
45 together for this administrative purpose, so it's not the
46 only region that's sort of been -- Bristol Bay and the
47 Aleutians are not the only regions that have been brought
48 together for administrative purposes. I think Steve's
49 answer is as good as it gets in terms of responding to
50 that question.

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1 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Thank you, Tom. I'd
2 just make a comment. I didn't get a call the other day
3 and the idea was to change the wording instead of Bristol
4 Bay/Aleutians to Southwest and I did happen to see Dan
5 O'Hare, who is the chair for Bristol Bay, at the airport
6 the other day and his comment to me is we're still not
7 divorced. So we do recognize we have regional
8 differences and they are pretty big.

9
10 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I just have a question
11 for Tom. Is there any possibility that that could be
12 changed sometime in the future?

13
14 MR. BOYD: I shouldn't have come to the
15 table. Anything is possible. I'll just leave it at
16 that. Anything is possible. I think we would want to
17 make sure we had good rationale for doing that sort of
18 thing. Again, thinking of the larger picture of trying
19 to make sure that we create areas or administrative areas
20 that give us some flexibility within our funding.
21 Remember, we try to tie funding targets and, again,
22 they're guidelines, too. You know, amounts to each
23 region sort of based on some sense of strategic
24 importance to the program. You know, all of this helps
25 us make sure we're delivering the information that needs
26 to be delivered to the decision-makers and there's
27 nothing magical or easy about this and some from the
28 outside might view it as arbitrary, but we're trying to
29 do this in a logical way. By creating larger areas, we
30 give ourselves a little more flexibility to move funds
31 into those areas where we really need to apply funds to
32 priority projects.

33
34 I would hope that you can see from the
35 list that Steve has presented that we're doing that in
36 these two regions. We're not trying to favor one over
37 the other. We're honestly trying to look at where the
38 information needs are and do that. For example, it would
39 work against you if we split you out. It could work
40 against you if more needs were in the Aleutians/Kodiak
41 area than in the Bristol Bay area. It could work the
42 other way, too. So, I mean, you can cut both ways.

43
44 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, I think we realize
45 that there's a lot of needs in both areas, but I just
46 felt it would be better for us if we knew what we had for
47 our region without having to compete with Bristol Bay for
48 theirs in their regions.

49
50 MR. BOYD: I would hope we're not looking

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1 at this as a competition between regions because we're
2 not trying to do that. What we're trying to do is really
3 look at where the information needs are and make sure
4 that we're applying the funding to acquiring the
5 information where the high-priority needs are.
6

7 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Right. I'm not meaning
8 competing, but the priority for the systems. I don't
9 know their systems and I don't think they know ours.
10

11 MR. BOYD: Part of the funding equation
12 and we sort of realize it, but it's not in the front of
13 our minds when we're dealing with this, is there are
14 other monies that are going to projects in these regions.
15 The State is funding a lot of monitoring work all over
16 the state, so we're trying not to duplicate what they're
17 doing, we're trying to supplement what's going on. When
18 we take a look at what projects we're funding, we're also
19 taking a look at the bigger picture in the bigger world
20 of other work that's going on in these regions. It's
21 just a slice of the bigger picture.
22

23 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Maybe just to add a
24 little bit to what Tom is saying. I think in prior
25 years our funding level was low based on Bristol Bay, but
26 Bristol Bay had been more active in putting proposal and
27 submitting proposals and I think there's been a lot more
28 effort from the Kodiak/Aleutians to different agencies
29 and people to request them, but I also see more balanced
30 as far as the funding being spent, that effort being
31 looked at. I believe I've been asked to have a break at
32 this time so Item C can set up for their presentation, so
33 10 minutes, or do you have anything, Steve?
34

35 MR. FRIED: Oh, I was just going to say
36 that we've got some investigators that were funded
37 through the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program that
38 agreed to present some preliminary results about their
39 studies to the Council. We thought that was important
40 because these studies are being done for a particular
41 reason, to help the Federal Subsistence Management, and I
42 thought the Council Members would be very interested in
43 hearing about how some of these studies are going and
44 what they're finding.
45

46 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Do you have that
47 information now?
48

49 MR. FRIED: On who's going to present?
50 Mike Edwards for U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, King

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1 Salmon Fish & Wildlife Office was going to present and I
2 think Liz Williams was going to present some of the
3 studies that the State is doing.

4
5 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Maybe I've got a
6 little confused in here. I was asked to take a break so
7 someone else could set up. Is that you? And I think I
8 had him after B and then I had the presentations which
9 had Mike and Liz in that order.

10
11 MR. FRIED: It's up to the Council on how
12 they want to hear this, but they might have other issues
13 to discuss with the Council other than Fisheries Resource
14 Monitoring Program studies. So it depends on how you want
15 to do that.

16
17 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: We'll take a break.

18
19 (Off record)

20
21 (On record)

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Mike Edwards.

24
25 MR. EDWARDS: Good morning, Madame Chair
26 and Council Members. Mike Edwards, fisheries biologist
27 with King Salmon Fish & Wildlife Field Office. This
28 morning I'm just going to give you an overview of the
29 projects we've been conducting in your area. The current
30 fisheries monitoring projects we have going on last
31 summer was the estimation of sockeye and coho in the
32 Mortensens Creek, the estimation of late run sockeye,
33 coho salmon into the Clark River, carrying capacity and
34 habitats used by coho in the Kametolook and a new start-
35 up we're going to have conducted this fall is estimation
36 of coho salmon in the streams adjacent to the Perryville
37 area, and the last project was not OSM funded. This was
38 funded out of base funds, but it's in your area, so I'll
39 give you a brief rundown of the Frosty Creek weir project
40 on Izembek.

41
42 The Mortensens Creek weir, the goal there
43 was to estimate escapement of sockeye and coho into the
44 Mortensens Creek and to look at some egg retention. One
45 thing we're adding this year is we're going to try and
46 document public use there at the mouth of Mortensens
47 Creek. So we're adding basically a creel survey this
48 year that the crew will conduct.

49
50 This is the Mortensens Creek weir. Last

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1 year the weir went in the 25th of June and operated
2 through the 21st of October. Our estimate for sockeye
3 was 5,200 fish and 6,400 coho into Mortensens Creek last
4 year. The egg retention data is currently being
5 analyzed, so I don't have any information on that to
6 present to you and the public use stuff will be started
7 this fall or this summer.

8

9 The next project is the Clark River
10 sockeye. Local subsistence users had voiced some
11 concerns to our office that not enough late run sockeye
12 were being passed through the Chignik weir. So, to
13 address this issue, our office implanted 100 radio
14 transmitters in sockeye throughout the month of August to
15 try and determine what portion of the fish going through
16 the weir in August were actually Clark River fish. This
17 project was a cooperative project with ADF&G, BBNA, the
18 Chignik Lake Village Council. Here's part of ADF&G's
19 weir crew learning how to insert the radio tags on some
20 dead fish that were pulled off of the weir.

21

22 Another part of the project, we were also
23 going to attempt to estimate the overall escapement in
24 the Clark River by doing walking surveys. This was a
25 fixed receiver station set up at the mouth of the Clark
26 River so we could pick up the fish that we tagged at the
27 weir when they entered without having to actually be out
28 there on the grounds. This was just a fixed receiver
29 station at the mouth of the Clark River. Unfortunately,
30 due to the high water we had in the Clark River and the
31 whole Chignik area this year, we didn't get a complete
32 estimate walking survey for the Clark River, but we did
33 determine that 6,500 fish that passed the weir in August
34 were headed for the Clark River. We estimated 76,000
35 sockeye that passed the weir in August ended up in
36 Chignik Lake and were available to local subsistence
37 users. So we did get some good information. We're going
38 to go back this summer and try and complete the walking
39 surveys. Hopefully it won't be as wet a year as it was
40 last year.

41

42 Another project we're doing in that same
43 area is the Kametolook. As everyone here knows, the
44 Kametolook coho are severely depressed and the State's
45 been attempting to rebuild the stock with an egg block
46 project. In 2002, our office began this project where we
47 went in and we wanted to look at the habitat and see if
48 the habitat was limiting the production in the
49 Kametolook. So we went in and we measured all the
50 physical habitats of the Kametolook, the Three Star and

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1 the Longbranch and we also did the same work on Clear
2 Creek, which is about 60 miles north of the Kametolook
3 and has anywhere from three to five thousand coho run and
4 it's a much smaller system. So we're using the two
5 systems to compare.

6
7 Like I said, during the summer of 2000,
8 our crews inventoried 27 miles of the Kametolook and the
9 Clear Creek system. They measured eight miles of
10 habitat. What they're doing is they go in and they
11 measure and identify all of the habitat types, whether
12 it's a run, riffle, a glide. In Clear Creek we did the
13 same information, but then we did snorkeling counts and
14 we did density estimates per habitat type and then we
15 have a model that tells us which type of habitat, if
16 there is one, that's limiting our production. So the
17 easy way to look at this is good cop/bad cop and we
18 compare the two systems that way to try and determine
19 what type of habitat is limiting the production in the
20 Kametolook.

21
22 The new start-up we've got this fall
23 since the voluntary closure of the Kametolook that the
24 folks in Perryville imposed upon themselves, they forced
25 subsistence users to spread out elsewhere around the
26 Kametolook and we really don't have any information on
27 the escapement of the coho down there. So this fall we're
28 going to be conducting some aerial surveys on the streams
29 adjacent to the Kametolook to get an escapement estimate
30 on some of those streams just to get that baseline data
31 that's lacking. Since we know that the subsistence
32 effort has been forced to these other streams, we're
33 going to head out and get some escapement information.

34
35 Based on some preliminary data from
36 historic ADF&G info, these are the streams we've
37 identified that we're going to fly this fall. After a
38 recent meeting with the people in Perryville, the Portage
39 Creek site has been dropped. They told us one just to
40 the west of the Smokey Hollow Creek that they do utilize.
41 So these are the systems we're going to fly this fall.
42 If any of the Council Members know of any other streams
43 in the area that have coho runs, I'd appreciate any input
44 from the Council.

45
46 The last project we're conducting down on
47 Izembek is the Frosty Creek weir. Again, we're trying to
48 estimate the escapement of chum and coho into Frosty and
49 we're also doing the egg retention and the public use on
50 Frosty Creek as well. In 2002, Frosty Creek had 42,000

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1 chum go up it. It's a pretty small system and 42,000
2 fish in it is pretty impressive. The chum appear to be
3 doing very well on Frosty. We had an escapement of 733
4 coho and right around 1,200 sockeye. There were 1,200
5 pink and the dolly varden escapement into the creek was
6 4,000. It's an interesting little system.

7

8 The last project I'll talk about is the
9 Reese Bay, McLees Lake weir that's actually conducted --
10 this year will be the last year the Kenai fisheries
11 office operates it. We're changing boundaries and now
12 we're going to take over the work that they've been doing
13 out there. Here's a picture of the McLees Lake weir.
14 Went in on June 1 and through late July they had 84,000
15 sockeye going into McLees Lake. That was almost double
16 what they had in 2001 at that time. They only had
17 45,000. It was very good to get this weir put in here
18 because, historically, this was only monitored by aerial
19 surveys and those counts typically range from 300 to
20 11,000 fish. So it appears that there's been a lot more
21 fish going in than the aerial surveys have been able to
22 detect.

23

24 The list of proposals, I'll just kind of
25 rehash what Steve already mentioned. These were projects
26 that our office submitted for FY04. We wanted to
27 continue with the Mortensens Creek weir and so far this
28 project has been recommended for a full steady proposal,
29 so hopefully we can keep this going. The continuation of
30 the McLees weir. Again, this is one that the TRC
31 advanced, so hopefully we can continue the McLees weir.

32

33 One that didn't make it through the first
34 round, we put in a proposal to estimate escapement on
35 Airport, Navfac and Little Thumb Creeks on Adak and we
36 also submitted a proposal to estimate sockeye escapement
37 at Galles Point on Kagalaska and the other into Quail
38 Bay. Unfortunately, those three projects didn't make it
39 through the first round, but we will submit them again
40 next year, I'm sure.

41

42 And the last one we submitted was to
43 estimate the escapement of sockeye and pink into
44 Unalaska. As Steve already pointed out, that one the TRC
45 did recommend. That concludes my presentation. If
46 anyone has any questions.

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: I believe Pat does.

49

50 MR. HOLMES: Oh, I'm really tickled that

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1 you're doing work. That's one of my favorite places.
2 Anyway, I won't talk about past things. On Kagalaska,
3 are you going to be doing your September surveys there
4 with a helicopter or fixed wing? That's kind of a dicey
5 place.

6
7 MR. EDWARDS: You mean the ones around
8 Kametolook?

9
10 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Kametolook.

11
12 MR. EDWARDS: Helicopter.

13
14 MR. HOLMES: And on McLees Lake, those
15 have been some incredible escapements. I mean
16 astounding. I hope you're kind of looking at it from --
17 what was the highest escapement you got there? I mean it
18 was just phenomenal.

19
20 MR. EDWARDS: 84,000. That was part of
21 the reason we resubmitted this because it would be good
22 to get three more years worth of data to see if these
23 first two years are anomalies, are they really high, or
24 is that what the run typically is.

25
26 MR. HOLMES: Right. Or you might have
27 overproduction in the lake and have it go poof.

28
29 MR. EDWARDS: Yeah, exactly.

30
31 MR. HOLMES: I think that's incredible
32 because that's, as you know, the important subsistence
33 system for Unalaska and I'm really tickled that you're
34 going to be looking at Unalaska Lake. I'd like to chat
35 with you afterwards about that. I did a lot of work on
36 that one and I'm just really excited that you have funds
37 to at last do some studies and look at the escapements in
38 those systems. I think the Kagalaska, if the Aleut
39 Corporation gets a little more development out there and
40 more folks, I think that there's one system there that's
41 quite productive and it has an exciting late run in it.
42 I think that will probably become much more important to
43 the folks out there. I just really want to thank you
44 folks for doing some research out in the Aleutians
45 because not much has happened there that really needs to
46 be done.

47
48 MR. EDWARDS: I'd like to thank the
49 Council for putting together the list of needs and stuff.
50 That really helps us identify what proposals you guys

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1 would like to see us submit. Getting that list that
2 Steve talked about was really beneficial and I just
3 wanted to commend you on giving us some leads that you
4 guys did have.

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Thank you, Mike. Is
7 there any other questions for Mike?

8
9 MR. MALUTIN: Can I ask him a question?

10
11 MR. EDWARDS: Sure.

12
13 MR. MALUTIN: My name is Iver Malutin.
14 The question is, when I was growing up as a kid in the
15 '40s, Karluk was considered the largest red salmon stream
16 in Alaska and now why is it not the largest red salmon
17 stream in Alaska today?

18
19 MR. EDWARDS: That's a question I
20 personally can't answer. I'm not familiar at all with
21 that area. I can try and look into it and maybe find an
22 answer for you.

23
24 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Thank you. I guess,
25 hearing no other questions, Mike, thank you for your
26 presentation. We'll move on to Liz Williams.

27
28 MS. WILLIAMS: Madame Chair and the
29 Council. I just have a quick announcement. The
30 Department of Fish & Game, Division of Subsistence and
31 KANA have submitted a pre-proposal to the FIS program to
32 study fish harvest assessment across Kodiak Island and
33 also to document traditional knowledge to address
34 questions like Iver's. At this point, we're just at the
35 pre-proposal stage. This grew out of a meeting in May
36 2001 that some of you may have attended that included
37 tribal representatives, local fisheries managers and just
38 the general public. What they found is that subsistence
39 permit data collected by Commercial Fishery Division does
40 not always match up with the harvest surveys the Division
41 of Subsistence does and low reported numbers on the
42 subsistence permits could cause a problem maybe in the
43 future for subsistence users.

44
45 So, again, what we've done is submit this
46 proposal to FIS in conjunction with KANA and we also hope
47 to work with local tribal governments to train local
48 people to collect harvest information as well as
49 traditional knowledge. It's still in the proposal stage,
50 but if anyone has any suggestions or concerns, we'd like

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1 to hear from you and hopefully we'll get funded and we
2 can actually do this. Thanks.

3

4 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Thank you, Liz. I'm
5 glad to hear that proposal went in. Pat.

6

7 MR. HOLMES: I think that that's a really
8 exciting program that could end up being a model
9 statewide and I hope that funding does develop for them.

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Before we move on, I
12 need to do one other item for clarification, so I'm going
13 to ask that we bring Proposal WP03-21a and b back on the
14 floor so I can read into the record the justifications
15 for our decision.

16

17 The Council recognizes the solution
18 arrived at by the local planning committee and will
19 provide harvest opportunity through a State registration
20 permit system on both State and Federal lands. The
21 Council also recognized recent Board of Game decision to
22 adopt the local planning committees' solution. The
23 Council recognizes that the new State regulation will
24 provide harvest opportunity to all island communities,
25 including Akhiok, Ouzinkie and Karluk. Whereas the
26 Federal Staff C&T recommendation would not provide
27 Federal harvest opportunity to these three communities
28 that do not have as strong a harvest record as the other
29 communities. The Council also recognizes that their
30 recommendation to reject the proposal will allow the
31 local committee solution to be implemented without undue
32 bureaucratic confusion and does not prohibit the Council
33 or anyone else from resubmitting the Federal C&T proposal
34 at some future date.

35

36 I've also been asked, and I do not see
37 Larry at this time, to thank Larry VanDale for working
38 closely with both Councils. I think he's done an
39 excellent job with coordinating and communicating and I
40 think this is a good example of how in the future we can
41 try to work closely together to resolve some of these
42 issues.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 The next item on the agenda is Agency
47 Reports, Office of Subsistence Management, Draft
48 Regulatory Coordinator Protocol, Dan LaPlant.

49

50 MR. LaPLANT: Good morning, Madame Chair,

00078

1 Members of the Council. For the record, my name is Dan
2 LaPlant. I'm with the office of Subsistence Management.
3 I've got a briefing for you this morning on the Draft
4 Regulatory Coordination Protocol. You can find this in
5 your book behind Tab D on Page 141.

6
7 As you may recall back in April of 2000,
8 an Interim Memorandum of Agreement was signed between the
9 Fish & Wildlife Service, the Park Service, BLM, BIA,
10 Forest Service and the State entities involved in fish
11 and wildlife management, the Board of Game, Board of Fish
12 and Department of Fish & Game. The MOA establishes
13 guidelines to coordinate in the management of subsistence
14 uses of both fish and wildlife in Federal public lands in
15 the state.

16
17 The agencies agreed in that MOA to
18 establish specific protocols for how management would be
19 carried out in an efficient manner. So, as a result of
20 that MOA, an MOA working group was established and
21 individual protocols were identified. I think there were
22 about six or seven specific protocols that the working
23 group identified at that time. In October of 2001, the
24 working group established a committee to work on a
25 regulatory coordination protocol and that committee
26 consisted of membership of both the Federal agencies and
27 State agencies. In addition, there were Regional Council
28 members on that team. Bill Thomas from Southeast and
29 John Hanson from Y/K Delta worked on the committee to
30 develop the regulatory coordination protocol.

31
32 The Regional Advisory Councils and the
33 State fish and game committees are an integral part of
34 the process in developing these protocols and it's
35 important that we get feedback in the process of
36 developing it from these entities. You folks will be
37 affected by it and it will affect your ability to carry
38 out your duties as a council.

39
40 So, if you look on Page 142, there's a
41 draft schedule for developing this protocol. At the top
42 of the page, it identifies the contents of the protocol.
43 The protocol for regulatory coordination consists of
44 basically four parts that have been identified. One is
45 State/Federal Board Coordination to describe how the
46 boards will work together to implement management of
47 subsistence resources. The second part is Advisory
48 Committee Interaction, how the councils and advisory
49 committees will work together. The third component is
50 Integration of Regulatory Cycles and the fourth component

00079

1 is the Federal/State Interagency Workgroups, how the
2 staffs of the agencies will coordinate and cooperate to
3 carry out this assignment.

4
5 As you can see in the schedule, in
6 February and March of 2003, the Councils and the Advisory
7 Committees will get an opportunity to review the draft
8 protocol and that's where we are right now. However, we
9 don't have all four elements developed. We only have
10 three of the elements sketched out at this time, so we're
11 asking you to review what we have and we're hoping to be
12 able to complete the fourth element by this fall, the
13 next time the Councils meet. The element that we don't
14 have scoped out is the item number three, Integration of
15 Regulatory Cycles, how we can adjust both State and
16 Federal cycles to allow the consideration of proposals to
17 work a little bit more smoothly.

18
19 In this case, the one that you just
20 considered with goats, that seemed to work out quite well
21 because we had the Board of Game considering the proposal
22 just prior to your meeting here, but it often doesn't
23 work out that smoothly. The cycles are meshed properly
24 to allow that to happen. So the intent of that element
25 of the regulatory coordination protocol is to be able to
26 adjust the cycles so that this can work more frequently.

27
28 As you know, the State considers
29 proposals for certain areas every other year and the
30 Federal system takes proposals in the fall, every fall
31 for statewide. So, anyway, we hope to be able to work
32 out a protocol for coordinating the cycles by the fall
33 and allow the Councils to review that. At this time, we
34 would like you to review the other elements of the draft
35 protocol.

36
37 If you look on Page 144, that is the
38 draft protocol that we have available at this time for
39 you to review. As you can see, there's the introduction
40 statement and then there's a description of State/Federal
41 board coordination. Describes how the boards will work
42 together, have subcommittees of the boards to meet on
43 specific proposals that have relevance to both systems.

44
45 The part I would ask you to focus your
46 attention on is on the next page under advisory system
47 interaction. That describes in a little more detail how
48 the Councils and the Advisory Committees will work
49 together to consider proposals that are relevant to both
50 systems. It says there in the first bullet that the

00080

1 interagency staff will review state and federal
2 regulatory proposals to identify proposals that should be
3 considered in tandem by Regional Advisory Councils and
4 Fish and Game Advisory Committees. So the first step in
5 this process is for the Staff to look at these proposals
6 and see which ones should come before both bodies.

7
8 The second bullet says the Regional
9 Council Chairs or their designees and representatives of
10 other user advisory groups will be encouraged to attend
11 state board and advisory committee meetings to provide
12 their recommendations and information on state regulatory
13 proposals. So, to give you an opportunity to participate
14 in the state advisory committee process.

15
16 Then the reverse situation is described
17 there as well. It's how we can get Advisory Committee
18 members into participation of the Council meetings.
19 Luckily, you have this going on right now. Again, the
20 example on goats worked real well in this case, but
21 normally that doesn't happen. Not all councils have
22 advisory committee members like Pat that can bring that
23 information directly to you. The purpose of this is to
24 facilitate that and have it happen on a routine basis.

25
26 So, anyway, if I could ask you to focus
27 your attention on that part of the proposal and we're
28 asking for your comments now or any time in the near
29 future as this Regulatory Protocol Committee continues to
30 work and improve on what we have here in this draft.
31 Also, if you have any suggestions on how we might develop
32 the regulatory cycle of protocol with suggestions on how
33 to adjust the Federal cycle or the State cycle or tweak
34 both of them to make them a little more compatible to
35 facilitate the decision-making process.

36
37 So, Madame Chair, that concludes my
38 presentation. Like I said, if you have any comments now
39 or any time in the near future, please contact me or your
40 coordinator Michelle and get the comments to us at your
41 convenience.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Are there any
46 comments or questions for Dan.

47
48 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, Members of the
49 Council. I'm glad to have our study group here as an
50 example. That's the sort of thing that's been going on

00081

1 for a while and really shouldn't be pointing at me
2 because Al Cratty was the first person that had joint AC
3 and RAC membership. That might be something that the
4 administrators are looking at, the guidelines or whatever
5 for the RACs and the AC. I know in our community it
6 really helps to have folks that are on the committees
7 themselves and I'm sure that Della would not like to come
8 up here for all these goat chats. Like on our advisory
9 committee, we've got myself that kind of represents the
10 road system and we've got Al that's more rural and then
11 the same on the RAC.

12

13 I think if you were to look at the
14 guidelines or the structures for the ACs and the RAC,
15 that might be something they could develop in their own
16 guidelines, or the mysterious, whoever decides who is on
17 the RAC. I still don't understand that process. I would
18 sure like to see, if we're in the review of dropping
19 folks off our RAC by this mysterious entity, that Al will
20 continue because he does have that type of role. If you
21 had two folks on each RAC, then that really facilitates,
22 I think, communications between the communities and the
23 respective RAC or Advisory Committee and Al's always had
24 really good thoughts when the local Advisory Committee
25 goes off on a tangent and I hope that I have helped a
26 little bit with my presence here. Thank you, Madame
27 Chair.

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
30 Just another comment, too, is the integration of the
31 regulatory cycle. I think any work that can be done on
32 that will definitely help this whole process.

33

34 MR. LaPLANT: Yes, Madame Chair. That's
35 the most challenging part of this whole regulatory
36 coordination, is to find a solution to that scheduling
37 process. Once that's figured out, then some of these
38 other elements of the protocol will kind of fall into
39 place a little bit better and be clearer on how they can
40 work together, the boards and the councils and
41 everything. That's our challenge right now, is to get
42 the schedules adjusted, so we're hoping that we can do
43 that. Any suggestions as to how we can accomplish that
44 would be appreciated.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Thank you, Dan.
49 Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, Rick Poetter. Rick,
50 we'd like to welcome you to Kodiak.

00082

1 MR. POETTER: It's a pleasure to be here,
2 Madame Chair and Council. First off, I want to
3 congratulate us all as United States citizens. It's a
4 happy birthday for us all. It's the 100th anniversary of
5 National Wildlife Refuge system. To the Council Members
6 I brought some birthday presents and passed those out
7 earlier; pamphlets, maps, information, key chains and
8 some window stickers. Some minor little presents for
9 you.

10
11 Anyway, March 14th was our anniversary.
12 Pelican Island Refuge was first created back in 1903.
13 It's phenomenal for us all to be involved with that
14 because this Council assists in managing those refuge
15 lands. March 14, 2003 is a milestone in the history of
16 wildlife conservation in America. As I mentioned, it's
17 the centennial anniversary of the refuge system.

18
19 The system is America's only network of
20 Federal lands dedicated specifically to wildlife
21 conservation, so it's sort of important. Alaska contains
22 77 million acres of which this Federal Advisory Council
23 and others preside over. The refuge system began in 1903
24 when President Theodore Roosevelt set aside three-acre
25 Pelican Island. I think it was five acres back then from
26 some of the information I've seen, but it's eroded away a
27 little bit, so it's down to about three acres now.
28 They're currently doing some rehabilitation work on it to
29 improve it back up to the five acres.

30
31 The reason Pelican Island was set aside,
32 and it's located on Florida's east coast, was to protect
33 the egret and the herons and other birds from market
34 hunters. Basically, they were killing these birds in the
35 thousands to collect the feathers for the fashion demands
36 of the time.

37
38 Of course, now this great nation of ours
39 has over 535 refuges and thousands of waterfowl
40 production areas. These waterfowl production areas
41 preserve these little islands of habitat amongst the farm
42 country of the prairie pothole region farming and grazing
43 areas.

44
45 So it totals about 94 million acres
46 across the United States and its territories. The map I
47 provided you sort of gives a great representation of it.
48 As one person pointed out, Alaska finally got its just
49 reward. It is graphically proportional to what the other
50 states are. It used to be just a little insert off to

00083

1 the side. Now Hawaii is just down there.

2

3 The Arctic Refuge up to the north is our
4 northernmost refuge. Of course, you can't see it on this
5 map, but I have personal knowledge because I've been
6 there, Rose Atoll is down five degrees below the equator
7 near American Samoa. That's our southernmost national
8 wildlife refuge. Now, what we'll call the easternmost is
9 someplace that I haven't been and it's in the Virgin
10 Islands and it's called the Green Cay National Wildlife
11 Refuge. Another one that I have been to and I'll call it
12 our westernmost because to get to it, for me, I go west,
13 but it is actually in the Far East. It's Guam, Ritidian
14 Point National Wildlife Refuge. We've got refuges across
15 this great country of ours.

16

17 Again, I just want to wish everybody and
18 myself a happy birthday. We're going to be sort of
19 celebrating all year long. We had a snowy blizzard
20 celebration on March 14th in Cold Bay and the King Cove
21 Dancers were invited to come and perform. Unfortunately,
22 they couldn't make it due to the weather, but we did have
23 a pretty good turnout and I had a good time. June 7th
24 we're having another celebration and we're going to have
25 a picnic and bring in some raptors. Sort of a rehab
26 display kind of a thing where you bring in some birds and
27 people get to look at them and talk about them a little
28 bit.

29

30 Anyway, enough of that. I guess my
31 write-up starts on 147 there. We participated in
32 capturing Steller's eiders on the lagoon and this year a
33 total of 1,796 eiders were captured, 984 were new birds,
34 724 were recaptures. It was pretty common. We got a
35 late start because we weren't ready. We were ready to go
36 on the 3rd, but the weather prevented us from getting
37 out. We don't go out if the winds are high. Not due to
38 our personal concerns, it's concerns over the birds. We
39 don't want to stress the bird out. It's hard on them if
40 it's windy and wet and rainy and cold, so we hold off on
41 going out. We have a goal of about 2,500 birds, so we
42 were a little shy because of our late start.

43

44 U.S. Biological Resources Division
45 biologists began a two-year study of the wintering
46 Pacific black brant in Izembek area. This research is
47 hoped to provide critical information in understanding
48 why the wintering population of brant is increasing.
49 Last year I think we had somewhere around 18,000 birds in
50 the area remain. This year it was more like 6,000, so we

00084

1 had sort of a drop in them. The weather was nice. You
2 would have thought they'd stick around, but for some
3 reason they took off with the rest of them.

4
5 Anyway, they're still studying them
6 because there's an overall increase because back in '82
7 only 2,000 were hanging around in that area, so it's a
8 topic of concern and just trying to figure out what's
9 going on. Of course, in doing that, they've got to
10 sample some birds, collect them, do weight studies on
11 them, comparisons, and that's continuing on through this
12 spring.

13
14 On to caribou. Basically, we were
15 finally able to get a count on the caribou. We took
16 advantage of the nice weather we had this past fall, but
17 the caribou stood out against the tundra with their white
18 coats on getting ready for the snow, and used our Super
19 Cub to spend several days flying transects and doing the
20 aerial survey and came up with some good numbers.

21
22 For the Peninsula, Unit 9(D), we came up
23 with a total of 4,104 counted in 320 groups. That's
24 about 13 per group. There's some potential for overlap,
25 of course, because it was done in several days because
26 the Cub can only fly so long and so fast. It's a big
27 area to cover. Our surveyors were pretty comfortable
28 with the numbers because if there was any interchange of
29 animals over the night they would have been small. There
30 were no large groups present where they quit the count
31 and started again. We are still trying to get another
32 count throughout the winter. Of course, weather has
33 prevented us. We haven't been able to get to it yet. We
34 have until basically mid May to get another survey done.
35 Similarly, we did Unimak Island and came up with a total
36 of about 1,262 caribou in 63 groups, so that's about 20
37 per group.

38
39 So, based on those and in consultation
40 with Dick Sellers, our former State biologist, because I
41 understand he's retired as of just a few days ago, we're
42 recommending that the Unimak Island hunt be raised from
43 two animals under the Federal subsistence seasons to
44 four, and for Unit 9(D) increase it from one caribou per
45 hunter to two caribou per hunter.

46
47 Dick was okay with that based on the next
48 cycle for the State season starts in December 2004 and
49 really wouldn't be implemented until 2005, so that gives
50 us some more time to see what the herd is actually doing.

00085

1 We did have one low count noted on my paper here related
2 to the calf/cow ratio. Maybe an anomaly, might have been
3 the count, not sure, but it did show some significant
4 drop. It's a cause for concern and pause and it will be
5 replicated again this next summer or fall.

6
7 I guess I'll stop there just in case
8 there's any discussion on what I've covered so far.

9
10 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Rick, we'll go ahead
11 and go through the report. We do want to talk about the
12 caribou, bear and the moose.

13
14 MR. POETTER: Okay. I'll continue on
15 then. Brown bear. I've provided sort of a synopsis of
16 our intensive bear survey. Let me explain so everybody
17 fully understands. How we estimated the population
18 before with ADF&G was based on a study done at Black Lake
19 up near the Chigniks and it was an extrapolation of those
20 numbers down into our area, so that's how we had these
21 numbers estimating our bear density because we had never
22 done a total count study in there because it required
23 radio collaring and stuff, et cetera.

24
25 Anyway, this new system requires use of
26 about five different Super Cubs and they fly transects
27 and they count, et cetera. Very statistically valid. So
28 now we've come up with some new figures to adjust our
29 bear numbers for what we really have out there. For Unit
30 9(D), about 1,462 bears and 293 on Unimak. Previously,
31 it was 900 bears in '90 and 250 on Unimak. In talking
32 with Dick Sellers, five percent of the population is
33 considered for the sport harvest. With these new numbers
34 in looking at what the actual sport harvest is, we're
35 pretty much right at that level.

36
37 On moose, Dick Sellers submitted a
38 proposal to the State Board of Game to change the Unit
39 9(D) moose season from a drawing permit to an open
40 resident hunt and I understand that went through. With
41 that information in mind, I guess we would recommend that
42 the RAC eventually eliminate that subsistence hunt
43 because basically everybody is able to participate in it
44 now. The only provision you don't have, of course, would
45 be a designated hunter provision.

46
47 Mike has talked about fish at Mortensens,
48 so I won't go over that. Under our visitor services,
49 basically we've got a new staff member helping us out
50 with conducting a lot of different things in that arena.

00086

1 In past years, we've had students down from the Barrow
2 area. It's basically an exchange. We try to get some
3 students from our local area to go up to Barrow and do
4 nest searches for Steller's eiders and then the Barrow
5 kids that participate in that up there come down and help
6 with the banding effort down in our area. That will
7 continue on again this next fall in September.

8

9 Dr. Peter McCroix (ph), our eco team has
10 provided him funding to reassess his previous 1960s work
11 on the eel grass beds out there in Izembek. Of course,
12 eel grass beds are what drive that whole system out
13 there, waterfowl, sea otters, everything, so it's very
14 critical and very important. So knowing what's going on
15 there is going to be very helpful.

16

17 Lastly, I provided you with last year's
18 calendar. To get those calendars we have a contest every
19 year and this year we had 205 entries from our area,
20 which would be the Aleutians East Borough. It doesn't
21 include Kodiak. They have their own going on. The way
22 the contest works now is we pick three blue ribbon
23 winners and one honorable mention and the three blue
24 ribbon winners go to the statewide contest and then those
25 winners get put into the calendar that you see in front
26 of you. Congratulations to all those winners. Very
27 fantastic art and literature. It was pretty impressive.
28 That's all for my report to that point.

29

30 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rick. On
31 the contest, I know the kids get pretty involved in King
32 Cove with that and they really enjoy doing that. They
33 also enjoy seeing their art and their poems displayed in
34 the calendar.

35

36 MR. POETTER: It's really been building.
37 I think 205 is our high record now.

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: You can tell our
40 kids in our region are pretty competitive.

41

42 MR. POETTER: Yes, they are.

43

44 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: If we can go back
45 now maybe to the caribou first. First of all, in looking
46 at the issue with the caribou and the recommendation --
47 let's step back. I think first of all, for many years
48 we've been asking for this survey. I'm thankful that we
49 finally have those figures in front of us. I'm really
50 glad to see that. I think we need to thank Dick for his

00087

1 effort with this. I know he's tried many times over the
2 years to get this survey done.

3

4 And then looking at the issue of out of
5 cycle because we just missed basically, as far as the
6 Board of Game and also as far as our RAC, so we are going
7 to ask -- I think procedurally need to make a motion to
8 ask for special action to raise the caribou in Unit 10,
9 which is Unimak, to four per resident and also to
10 increase in Unit 9(D) to two caribou per resident. It's
11 good to see those numbers have rebounded. I think
12 procedurally to ask this Council to make a motion, I
13 guess, for special action on Unit 9(D) to increase to two
14 caribou and Unit 10 to four caribou.

15

16 MR. GUNDERSEN: I'll so move.

17

18 MR. HOLMES: Second.

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: A motion made and
21 second. Discussion.

22

23 MR. ZACHAROF: Question.

24

25 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: The question has
26 been called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

27

28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29

30 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Opposed same sign.

31

32 (No opposing votes)

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Thank you.

35

36 Now, to continue on to the bear and
37 looking at the caribou. This is the calf survival or
38 mortality. I think, in looking at number one going to
39 the bear, is first of all being under the assumption for
40 many years that that number was 900. I know we keep
41 saying that that number had to be low because there's
42 just a tremendous -- I mean you see them everywhere. I
43 think I flew from King Cove to Sand Point last summer and
44 just going through the Pavilof sector, you saw bears all
45 the way through that whole area. The concern being that
46 now that we actually have figures and the survival rate
47 of the calves and what pressure that is putting on the
48 caribou, and even the moose, which can speak a little
49 better as far as a moose, is a concern of whether or not
50 -- is it possible that this RAC, and someone else may

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1 have to answer this, to request from the State the
2 possibility of increasing their hunts where every two
3 years they cycle from the spring and then next year the
4 fall, whether it needs to be considered having a spring
5 and fall hunt each year for a couple years. My concern
6 is these numbers are high. Maybe, Rick, you can respond
7 to that.

8

9 MR. POETTER: I think this Council can
10 make a recommendation to the State. I don't think you
11 can go any farther than that. It's beyond me. As far as
12 the population, as I mentioned, the State tries to target
13 25 percent for sport harvest and that's where we're at.
14 DOP's are considered in there, beyond that, et cetera. I
15 think the numbers are now adjusted. They do show that
16 your suspicion was right. There is a higher number than
17 what we were using, so that's correct.

18

19 The only thing I'd caution is that bears
20 are slow to recover because their life cycle is -- they
21 don't produce as many young. If they were to be harmed
22 in a negative way, they would be a lot slower to recover
23 from anything that we did that way, so that may be a
24 consideration that the State will play into action on.

25

26 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Rick, maybe is it
27 possible to increase the amount of time that they allow
28 -- maybe request the amount of days instead of two a
29 year, as an increased amount of time each spring or fall.

30

31 MR. POETTER: You mean make the hunt
32 longer? Rather than, I think, it's 21 days, make it 30
33 days or something. Sure. I imagine that's a
34 possibility.

35

36 MR. GUNDERSEN: That may work out.
37 Usually a hunt is anywhere from five to seven days. So
38 given an additional 10 days you get a couple more people
39 per guide. What is the optimal number in bears for the
40 amount of acreage you've got there? Is there a formula
41 that you have that you work off of?

42

43 MR. POETTER: I really can't help you on
44 that one because I don't know. Usually it's the fault of
45 the State because it's their animals for managing. We
46 assist them where we can in surveys or whatever. I'm
47 sure Dick has such a formula, I just don't know it.

48

49 MR. GUNDERSEN: I spoke to him a couple
50 times, but I never did mention that. That was quite an

00089

1 extensive project going on last spring doing that hunt.

2

3 MR. POETTER: Yeah, it was very
4 intensive. We had some good weather and got a lot done.
5 They were originally just going to lump Unimak Island
6 with 9(D) and we added some extra money and got them to
7 do Unimak Island separately. For the record, I have had
8 some reports from False Pass that they are getting
9 increased bear interactions. They're indications to me
10 is they're seeing more bear in their community.

11

12 MR. GUNDERSEN: The other question I
13 have, on the Steller's, the tagging and banding you've
14 been doing, how are the numbers looking? Are they
15 holding fairly steady?

16

17 MR. POETTER: You know, I don't remember
18 to be honest with you. I could find out though and get
19 back to you.

20

21 MR. GUNDERSEN: After working on a fuel
22 depot project there at Nelson Lagoon, I've been working
23 with Eldon Lance with the endangered species people there
24 trying to put a plan together so they can move forward
25 with the project. I was just wanting to know what the
26 numbers are.

27

28 MR. POETTER: Of course, you know, the
29 Alaska population is what makes it -- most of those birds
30 are coming from Russia though, so it sort of depends on
31 what's going on over there. My indications are that they
32 are having some problems with this eastern population of
33 eiders as well. I'll give you some actual numbers.

34

35 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Rick, I was just
36 wondering if you knew the success ratio for the guided
37 bear hunters on the refuge. Are they being successful
38 100 percent or 75 percent?

39

40 MR. POETTER: I don't have actual
41 numbers, but my feeling is it's up in the 80's. They're
42 very successful, yeah.

43

44 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Do they just get so many
45 permits?

46

47 MR. POETTER: In essence, the guides that
48 operate on the refuge are allowed so many clients because
49 we don't manage the animals, the State does, but we do
50 manage clients. That process, as we're speaking, the

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1 guides have all submitted new prospectuses across the
2 state for work on refuges and panels are evaluating them
3 right now. We'll see what they decide.

4
5 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Another question I had
6 was on the guides for like duck hunting on the refuge.
7 Was there more applications than permits this year?

8
9 MR. POETTER: No. The waterfowl guides
10 sort of went from one to four or five guides, which isn't
11 too bad. Fairly low numbers of clients.

12
13 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I was just a little
14 concerned because there was a lot of applications at one
15 time.

16
17 MR. POETTER: There was. Fortunately it
18 has settled down.

19
20 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. I was
21 wondering on this cow/calf ratio, could you speculate at
22 all on the role of wolves or the density or any numbers?
23 Do you have any idea whether that's fluctuated?

24
25 MR. POETTER: That's a possibility and
26 that's what we want to keep an eye on. As the caribou
27 population comes up, obviously the wolf population will
28 as well. It cycles.

29
30 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, I would concur
31 with the service recommendation of making a
32 recommendation to the Board of Game. I sat through part
33 of their discussions on McGrath and this is probably the
34 most local user-friendly folks as far as predator control
35 that I've seen at the board in 30 years.

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Thank you. Just
38 going back a little bit, you mentioned there are a limit
39 to the amount of guides on the Federal lands. Do you
40 have a total?

41
42 MR. POETTER: Big game guides? Yes. I
43 think we're broken down into about six different units.
44 Some of them have dual use. Unimak Island was a dual
45 occupancy. We split that into just single because we
46 were having some conflicts and both guides felt that was
47 the way to go. We'll see how this next go round comes
48 out. The proposals split themselves up rather than two
49 guys, the top winners, on top of each other. We might
50 have to make it single use again.

00091

1 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: I guess leading into
2 that is I know with corporations, on their lands, which
3 are under the State basically, a lot of times they pay to
4 go into a certain area one guide for that period of time
5 and they technically do have some boundary lines within
6 those lands and I think over the years that has helped
7 with this increase as far as the bear population. In
8 listening to Pete's question on the harvest amounts, I
9 kind of get a sense that in the years when the weather is
10 good, those numbers are good and the years when the
11 weather is bad, there's a lot of wind and rain, that
12 number seems to be down.

13

14 MR. POETTER: Yeah, the weather can
15 affect success.

16

17 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Tom, what
18 procedurally can we do, I guess? Can we make a motion to
19 request that the State Board of Game extend that time
20 period for the fall and spring hunt of the bear?

21

22 MR. POETTER: It might be a better
23 question to ask someone from the State, but it's my
24 understanding that any entity can make a proposal through
25 the State process, including this Council. I guess that
26 would be my response. (Pause) Madame Chair, the next
27 time the Board of Game meets is in November in Kotzebue.
28 So your request should probably be an agenda change
29 request for them to take up this issue at that meeting.
30 If you could specifically identify in that agenda change
31 request what you're asking for, you know, a lengthening
32 of the season, whatever method you're recommending to
33 increase the harvest and a strong justification as to why
34 you want that accomplished. But that agenda change
35 request would be the procedure to the Board of Game.

36

37 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: The issue of balance
38 came up and basically I think maintaining that balance
39 for the survival of all the other species is what's
40 important. In looking at these numbers, we believe
41 they're high or they're good. Again, maybe requesting an
42 agenda change and also looking at the issue of how the
43 goats -- and I know we've done this technically with the
44 caribou, is to try to appoint maybe a couple members off
45 of this RAC. Paul or Butch is also an Advisory Council
46 member and we can check with advisory groups in our
47 communities within our region to find out their
48 perspective on this.

49

50 MR. POETTER: One additional thing to

00092

1 keep in mind is the State officially manages the Unimak
2 population as a trophy hunt area. I guess what I'm
3 saying is 9(D) is not managed as a trophy hunt area.
4 Unimak is. That's why it's a permit system. They're
5 managing them for big, big bears and they're getting
6 them.

7
8 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: I guess the goal
9 would be to hopefully increase their ability to get those
10 animals or increase the permit number. But even if you
11 increase the permit number, it's still going to be a
12 problem because most of these guides go in there and
13 they've got a certain area.

14
15 MR. POETTER: Yeah, I understand.

16
17 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Maybe to have a
18 motion at this time that we possibly, as a RAC, recognize
19 that this could be a potential problem and that maybe we
20 ask that a couple members from the RAC work with Advisory
21 Councils because we do have an Advisory Council in each
22 of the communities of King Cove, False Pass, Nelson
23 Lagoon, Sand Point, so that's a larger group of people.
24 And possibly working with those groups to have something
25 or a request for an agenda change for the November
26 meeting.

27
28 MR. POETTER: Yeah, I'd include False
29 Pass because I think you'd get big support there as well.

30
31 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, could I make
32 your comments as a motion?

33
34 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat. Do
35 I hear a second?

36
37 MR. CRATTY: Second.

38
39 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Discussion.

40
41 (No discussion)

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Question.

44
45 MR. ZACHAROF: Question.

46
47 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: The question has
48 been called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

49
50 IN UNISON: Aye.

00093

1 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Opposed same sign.

2

3 (No opposing votes)

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Motion carried.

6 Okay. Now, Rick, maybe we'll continue to the moose.

7

8 MR. POETTER: Okay.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: In looking at this,

11 you had mentioned that Dick Sellers had submitted a

12 proposal to State Board of Game to change the Unit 9(D)

13 moose season from a permit drawing to an open resident

14 hunt. The December 15 to January 20 time period for the

15 hunt would remain the same, giving local preference for

16 this hunt. Can you tell me what the definition of local

17 is?

18

19 MR. POETTER: Oh, basically, that's just

20 my term more than anything. People that are in the area

21 that have availability to get there.

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: I just questioned

24 because I know that under a lot of the State's definition

25 of local is all Alaska residents.

26

27 MR. POETTER: No, this is my term. I'm

28 sorry.

29

30 MR. SQUARTSOFF: So you're saying that

31 will read game unit residents?

32

33 MR. POETTER: I'm sorry?

34

35 MR. SQUARTSOFF: It will read game unit

36 residents?

37

38 MR. POETTER: No, I think it's for all

39 Alaska residents would be allowed in there. No non-

40 residents.

41

42 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: So, technically, the

43 reason I asked this is -- the reason we put in our

44 proposal is so that it will allow more people within Unit

45 9(D) and 10 to harvest the moose. If you look at the

46 definition of local, I feel that we should keep our

47 proposal in there of the subsistence hunt of the moose.

48 What really generated this in the beginning was those

49 permits. I think there was actually two people within

50 the region itself that actually got permits and all of

00094

1 them did go outside of the region. That was the driving
2 point of having the Federal hunt on the moose. My
3 recommendation at this point would be to keep our Federal
4 in place and to monitor this for another year.

5
6 MR. POETTER: Sure. It sounds like a
7 good idea. I know in my conversations with Dick Sellers
8 the intent was -- and I don't know that he put this in
9 the language. That probably isn't. We'd have to get the
10 actual language that he used in his proposal. The intent
11 was to have the local residents of King Cove, Sand Point,
12 Nelson Lagoon. Those were the targeted audience.

13
14 MR. GUNDERSEN: At the time that that
15 hunt is allowed, there's not enough daylight for people
16 to fly out of Anchorage and go down and get them and get
17 out of there. The weather is usually so foul at that
18 time of year that nobody wants to monkey around in that
19 area other than the locals.

20
21 MR. POETTER: And the corporations do
22 still have a lot of control because a lot of the shore
23 lands, places that are accessible, are owned by the
24 corporations as well.

25
26 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Okay. In looking at
27 fish, what is your schedule in the next couple of weeks?
28 Are you going to be in Cold Bay before March 28th?

29
30 MR. POETTER: I will be in and out next
31 week. I have some training and a project leader's
32 meeting that first week of next month. Other than that
33 I'm pretty well in there.

34
35 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: I guess what I'm
36 looking at, Rick, is it looked to me the deadline for
37 changes -- is the deadline for submitting proposals for
38 subsistence fish March 28th? I would really like some
39 help from you in trying to put some proposals together
40 for the Aleutian region. I'm looking at mainly the 9(D)
41 area and possibly 10.

42
43 MR. POETTER: Okay. I'll get with you
44 after the meeting and I can do my schedule and see when
45 you're going to be in and I can come over there.

46
47 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Okay. That would be
48 great. Other than that, I don't have anything else.
49 Does anybody have anything for Rick?

50

00095

1 (No questions)

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Thank you. I really
4 appreciate it. It's been nice having you here at this
5 winter meeting because it helps us to work with you and
6 the State and also the concerns of regions just having
7 you available in trying to make some of these decisions.

8

9 MR. POETTER: I'm just glad it's not June
10 because my daughter is having a baby in June and I won't
11 be here.

12

13 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rick.

14

15 MR. POETTER: Thank you very much for
16 having me here. Again, happy birthday.

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: The next item on the
19 agenda is Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. Leslie.

20

21 MS. KERR: Madame Chair, Council Members.

22 It is a great pleasure to be here. Thank you for the
23 delightful evening last night. That was really a special
24 treat. It gives me great pleasure also to be able to
25 introduce Tracy Fischback. Tracy is a new member of our
26 staff. She replaces Robert Stovall as our subsistence
27 wildlife biologist. She has good familiarity with this
28 entire region, having spent a couple years living in Cold
29 Bay working for the refuge out there. She then spent
30 some time working in our regional office in Anchorage, so
31 she actually knows about things like completed Staff work
32 and who to call when she has a question. She's been here
33 just a few months and already she's picking up the tasks
34 that Robert left when he moved on to his new position.
35 Just for your information I also did talk to Robert
36 actually yesterday and he is doing very well and his
37 family is doing very well in his new position in West
38 Virginia. He was very happy and he said to extend his
39 greetings to all of you.

40

41 Having introduced Tracy as our new
42 subsistence wildlife biologist, I'm going to turn the
43 microphone over to her to give our report.

44

45 MS. FISCHBACK: Thank you, Leslie, and
46 good morning, Madame Chair and Council Members. For
47 those of you who may have known me when I was at Izembek
48 Refuge, I've been married in the last year and my maiden
49 name was Schaeffer. A lot of the children especially in
50 King Cove knew me just as the bird lady.

00096

1 Our activity report is after Tab D on
2 Page 151 and I thought I'd just go over that briefly.
3 Except for March, our winter has been wonderful here.
4 We're expecting deer, mountain goats and elk to have a
5 very nice winter, be very fat and sassy and have lots of
6 young in the spring and do really well. I know that's
7 been a concern in the past how those populations are
8 going to do and we expect those populations to continue
9 to grow and do well. I will be leaving from out of the
10 office from behind my next in the next couple weeks to
11 continue Robert's mortality surveys on deer and browse
12 and hopefully by the next meeting I'll have some results
13 for you. I don't expect to see that many dead deer, I
14 really don't, because of our good weather.

15
16 On mountain goats, I'm heartened to hear
17 that the compromise decision that's come up by the work
18 group went through. I sat in on some subcommittee
19 meetings and I was impressed with how people listened to
20 each other, the concerns and came up with a wonderful
21 compromise. I really look forward to work with both of
22 these groups on any upcoming issues.

23
24 Elk, there was a Board of Game proposal
25 that did pass changing the State regs a little bit. We
26 have a small herd up on Afognak of about 40 elk. No elk
27 have been taken with subsistence permits so far, but this
28 year will be the first year that the early September hunt
29 registration will only be on the Federal subsistence
30 side. The State registration hunt will not be happening
31 then. Although, from what I understand, the area is
32 pretty remote and early September can still be somewhat
33 warm here and people have concerns about keeping their
34 meat good, so we'll see what happens.

35
36 The brown bear are doing pretty well. We
37 did complete our second year of surveys down on the
38 Aliulik. This year we will be starting surveys in the
39 Terror Bay area right after May 15th, after the bear
40 season ends. Hopefully, I will be able to join in that
41 crew and spend some really great time flying around
42 looking at our bears here.

43
44 Subsistence bear season will be starting
45 here in April. For those of you in this area, if you
46 know of people who want to hunt this spring, please ask
47 them to give us a call and we'll get permits right out to
48 them. One bear was harvested this fall out of Old
49 Harbor.
50

00097

1 Last night KANA did have a public meeting
2 on their proposal for 2004 on the spring migratory bird
3 subsistence harvest. It went very well. Issues were
4 brought up I think people had questions about. Some of
5 the big issues were just concerning the proposal to close
6 this road area. In 2003, it is unclear as to when
7 exactly the hunt is going to open. It was supposed to
8 open on April 2nd, but the Service Regulation Committee
9 has postponed their meeting until the first week of
10 April, so that is going to put that hunt off a little
11 bit. If you have any questions about that, our main
12 contact is Bill Ostrand in our regional office, but feel
13 free to give me a call, too. I talk several times a week
14 with Bill and I'll be able to get you some great
15 information. If you would like to do a proposal for 2004
16 on this migratory bird hunt, proposals are still being
17 accepted through April 30th and I have information about
18 that as well.

19
20 Sea ducks. I noticed in the minutes from
21 last meeting that there was a lot of concern about
22 harlequins. There seems to be, just looking at the data
23 that Denny has been collecting, that harlequins are in
24 decline right now. I know he is planning on continuing
25 to do surveys in May and I'm hopefully going to be able
26 to join in on that. I know my partner Tony is hoping to
27 as well just to see more of this country. It doesn't
28 look good for harlequins right now. The 2002 surveys
29 efforts, it was a bad year for both young and broods.

30
31 I realize Fish & Game will be talking
32 about the Litnik studies and since I really don't know
33 that much about fish, I am glad to see there are studies
34 going on in this area just because I know it's a really
35 depressed system, but I will leave that to them.

36
37 Sea otters. Doug Burn spoke yesterday
38 about sea otters and I will be working with him. I know
39 in the past Robert did help with the surveys. I will be
40 continuing that tradition. Next year I will be trained
41 and we'll be doing a somewhat comprehensive aerial survey
42 in June of 2004, so stay tuned for that.

43
44 We are in the throws of conservation
45 planning, trying to update our big plan that happens
46 every 15 years, so that's been taking up an amazing
47 amount of time. Hopefully, we'll have a draft plan out
48 in the fall of this year, so be looking for that.

49
50 Like Leslie said, I and my spouse are

00098

1 new. That's not a coincidence. Fischbach is a fairly
2 rare name, but that is my husband. He's doing bear work
3 and is a wonderful study planner. He's actually, I
4 think, making some of our folks crazy because he's so
5 into details and making sure it's done right. If you
6 have any questions, that concludes our report, I'd be
7 happy to field any.

8

9 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I was just wondering on
10 the migratory bird thing. I did put a proposal in for
11 the state re-opening the goose hunting on Kodiak.

12

13 MS. FISCHBACK: On the State proposal?

14

15 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yes.

16

17 MS. FISCHBACK: I believe that -- Pat, do
18 you remember?

19

20 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Peter, the Board said
21 no to that and I think the majority of the Advisory
22 Committee was sympathetic with their desires, but the
23 comments from Denny, the Fish & Wildlife bird biologist,
24 said that there were too few animals and they really
25 needed to do some population studies and see where the
26 geese that were around Kodiak were from and their
27 attempts to find nesting ones on Kodiak Island weren't
28 too good. So he had basically recommended that maybe
29 this be put off for a bit and that's my best recollection
30 of what happened.

31

32 MR. SQUARTSOFF: The reason I put in the
33 proposal was because our last meeting in Old Harbor the
34 residents were concerned about increase of the population
35 and moving out other birds. The duck hunting had slowed
36 down a lot because of the goose population increase.

37

38 MS. FISCHBACK: In which area was that?
39 Is that Canada geese that you're referring to?

40

41 MR. SQUARTSOFF: It's just around Old
42 Harbor.

43

44 MS. FISCHBACK: I'm not aware. I could
45 talk to Denny about it. He's been here forever and knows
46 quite a bit about that area.

47

48 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, those are the
49 Canada geese.

50

00099

1 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Why don't we go
2 ahead and break for lunch and then we'll finish up.

3

4 (Off record)

5

6 (On record)

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Leslie, I guess,
9 will continue on. Are there any questions for the Kodiak
10 Refuge?

11

12 MR. SQUARTSOFF: The only thing was on
13 the harlequin ducks. I sure haven't seen a decline in
14 harlequin ducks up on the north end.

15

16 MS. KERR: We talked about this a little
17 bit during the break. The north end isn't one of the
18 areas -- I don't think Denny has a study going there.
19 He's been working over down at the south end. But we
20 will take your information back to Denny.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: I guess that was it
25 then. Thank you. The next item on the agenda is Alaska
26 Department of Fish & Game proposal for FY04 project
27 funding, Donn Tracy. This is where we also have, I
28 guess, Nick and Steve.

29

30 MR. TRACY: Thank you, Madame Chair and
31 Members of the Council. My name is Donn Tracy and I'm
32 with the Sportfish Division here in Kodiak. The
33 Department will be giving three presentations this
34 afternoon. The first, which I'm giving, is on the stock
35 assessment project for the Buskin River, which is funded
36 by the Fishery Resource Monitoring Program and has been
37 since 2000 and is currently funded through the current
38 calendar year 2003. The other two presentations, which
39 will be given by Nick Sagalkin and Steve Shoaf (ph) are
40 on sockeye salmon stock assessment in the Afognak River
41 and then a proposal for stock assessment work down in
42 Alitak Bay for some of the smaller sockeye salmon systems
43 down there.

44

45 I want to thank the Council for the
46 opportunity to come and provide an update on our Buskin
47 project. I gave the Council an overview of this project
48 at their meeting here in Kodiak a year ago. Today, I
49 want to give an update on where we're at with this
50 project, what information we've been able to obtain since

00100

1 the last time the Department reported it to the Council.
2 Some of the information is the same, but hopefully I've
3 got some better pictures this time to go with it.

4
5 For the Council members that aren't
6 familiar, most of you are with the Buskin system, there
7 is a subsistence fishery that occurs off the mouth of the
8 Buskin River, which is located about two miles from the
9 city of Kodiak and that map shows the general area in
10 which the subsistence fishery occurs, which occurs
11 exclusively in marine waters.

12
13 The Buskin subsistence fishery targets
14 all species of salmon, but, as you can see from this
15 table, sockeye salmon are the predominant species
16 targeted and harvested. You can see that over the last
17 five year period the annual reported harvest for the
18 Buskin has ranged from six to over 10,000 fish and
19 averaged just about 7,000 fish during the most recent
20 five-year period. This is just another table that shows
21 those same statistics as percentage rather than just the
22 actual numbers and you can see of the total reported
23 subsistence harvest from the Buskin, about 80 percent on
24 average has been comprised of sockeye salmon.

25
26 In looking at the subsistence harvest in
27 the Buskin compared to other areas in the region in terms
28 of reported harvest and this is only reported harvest,
29 and I should also mention that the 2002 figures are
30 preliminary data. I think that we probably haven't got
31 some of our reporting yet maybe for some of the outlying
32 areas. You can see that the Buskin fishery is large in
33 terms of the sockeye harvest. One thing that's
34 interesting to note on this table is you can see in the
35 last two years the Buskin has had a couple of the highest
36 reported harvests on record and those harvests have been
37 concurrent to declines in the harvest at Afognak Bay, so
38 there's probably a link there with the diminished
39 availability of the resource to subsistence users at
40 Afognak Bay.

41
42 This pie chart just graphically
43 represents the table I just showed you and it shows that
44 of the reported harvest during the last five years the
45 Buskin River sockeye salmon harvest is comprised of 44
46 percent of the total, Afognak Bay is the next largest
47 reported harvest, so you can see the Buskin is a real
48 significant subsistence fishery within our area.

49
50 There really isn't much commercial

00101

1 harvest of Buskin River sockeye salmon, but there is a
2 significant sport fishery. On the Buskin you can see the
3 sport harvest over the last five years has ranged as high
4 as 2000 fish a year and during that time averaged about
5 1,400. So, in addition to the subsistence fishery there
6 is also a significant sport fishery that utilizes the
7 resource.

8

9 Since 1985 the Department has operated a
10 weir on the Buskin River and that weir project, in
11 conjunction with a stock assessment study, has been
12 funded by the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program since
13 2000. As I mentioned, currently the project is funded
14 through 2003. This last year we installed for the first
15 time a weir on one of the tributary streams to the Buskin
16 off of Lake Louise to capture the portion of the run in
17 that part of the drainage, which, as you'll see in a
18 minute, is fairly significant. We didn't realize that
19 before we installed the weir, but it does comprise a
20 significant portion of the stock.

21

22 The importance of the weir is that the
23 sockeye salmon escapement monitoring in season allows for
24 management of the fishery and, of course, preservation of
25 the primary harvest opportunity by subsistence users.
26 The sampling of weir escapement sampling of sockeye
27 salmon passing through the weir facilitates analysis of
28 stock composition, essentially stock assessment of that
29 sockeye salmon stock and development of an appropriate
30 escapement goal to ensure maximum productivity of the
31 population over the long term.

32

33 In addition, the weir provides an
34 educational platform for subsistence users to find out
35 about fisheries management policy and research goals.
36 Looking at the escapements through the Buskin River weir
37 over the last five years, you can see that they've been
38 in the range of 10 to 20,000, with an average of about
39 12,300. Our current escapement goal for the Buskin
40 sockeye salmon escapement goal, which is currently based
41 on historic run size, run strength, is 8,000 to 13,000
42 fish. So you can see that we're doing well on the Buskin
43 in terms of meeting that escapement goal. In fact, in a
44 couple years, 2001 in particular, we had a lot of fish
45 enter the system.

46

47 On the bottom part of the table you can
48 see the escapement that we had this year through our Lake
49 Louise weir and you can also see that that was a fairly
50 significant component of the total return. It's

00102

1 surprising because if you're familiar with this tributary
2 creek, it's just a tiny little river. Most of the summer
3 you can step right across it.

4
5 Another interesting aspect to the Buskin
6 River escapement and Lake Louise tributary is shown in
7 this graph. As you can see here in the yellow bars we
8 have the daily escapement or weir counts for the Buskin
9 River and over here in the gray we have daily escapement
10 counts for the Lake Louise tributary. I scaled these.
11 They're actually not actual numbers of fish. I scaled
12 the graphs so the bars would be equivalent in terms of
13 their representation. But you can see clearly from
14 looking at this, looking at the dates of the escapement,
15 that there's a real distinct difference in the run timing
16 of the Lake Louise return and the return to the main
17 portion of the Buskin River, so it's really interesting.
18 It's really been a fascinating investigation with this
19 additional run component.

20
21 The other aspect of the Buskin weir that
22 the Department is focused on is a stock assessment study.
23 Again, it's that portion of the project that's also
24 funded by the Fishery Resources Monitoring Program. The
25 goals of the stock assessment are to establish a
26 biological escapement goal using a population model based
27 on parent year information obtained from those annual
28 escapement counts and harvest figures and the estimated
29 age composition of those respective portions of the
30 return. Management of the fishery towards an established
31 biological escapement goal established in that manner
32 should ensure for maximum production of fish for
33 subsistence users and preserve the long-term health of
34 that sockeye salmon stock.

35
36 There are a number of components to the
37 stock assessment study and they can be subdivided into
38 data collection and data analysis. Under the data
39 collection components, there is the weir counts
40 themselves, the numeration annually of the sockeye as
41 they pass through the weir, and accounting for that
42 portion of the return along with the harvested portion to
43 actually enumerate or estimate the total return of fish
44 to the system. The other data collection component is to
45 sample both the escapement and the harvest for age, sex
46 and size composition and use those results to estimate
47 the same attributes or characteristics for the entire
48 return of adult fish.

49
50 Under the data analysis components, one

00103

1 is to trace the total return of adult fish back to their
2 brood or parent years of spawning and using that age and
3 sex composition information and then, in turn, taking the
4 results of that analysis to estimate the total number of
5 adult fish produced by each spawn or during a parent year
6 escapement. That spawner to recruit ratio, as it's
7 called, is used to estimate the appropriate spawning
8 escapement for that population that will produce the
9 greatest number of fish on an annual basis. In order to
10 conduct this stock assessment, you need to collect data
11 for a fairly long period of time, minimum of 12 years,
12 generally to include at least several generations of
13 returning adults in the population.

14

15 From the results of our data collection
16 analysis so far, we've got a pretty good representation
17 of age composition of the Buskin return. As you can see
18 here, the main Buskin age classes are shown by the yellow
19 bars and these lighter bars show the Lake Louise age
20 composition just from this last year, the initial year

16 analysis so far, we've got a pretty good representation
17 of age composition of the Buskin return. As you can see
prior to 2002. 2002 is

27 still pretty preliminary, so I just didn't include that,
28 plus the harvest was pretty minimal for subsistence this
29 year since it closed early. The vertical axis number of
30 sockeye salmon harvested and horizontal axis in years.
31 The blue bars are total harvest and the striped is
years saltwater, while the
29 Buskin mainstem has a very strong component of fish that
30 have spent not only an extra year in fresh water, but
31 also an extra year in saltwater before returning as
32 adults.

33

34 So the more we look at these two run
35 components or this Lake Louise tributary run, the more
36 interesting the results. We've got different run time
37 and we've got different aged fish that are both returning
38 to the same drainage but ultimately going up separate
39 portions of it to spawn.

40

41 Also from the results of our analysis
42 we're able to reconstruct the run to the Buskin on an
43 annual basis. This is the percentage breakdown for the
44 five year average return for the Buskin between 1997 and
45 2001. You can see that during that time on an average
46 year about 59 percent of the total adult return goes
47 through the weir as comprised of that spawning
48 escapement, about 34 percent has gone to the subsistence
49 harvest and about seven percent has gone to the sport
50 harvest and then, as I mentioned, the commercial harvest

00104

1 is very small.

2

3 Another component that we have to our
4 weir project is our capacity-building component. In the
5 past, the Buskin weir has served as a science-based
6 learning platform for young subsistence users
7 participating in the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge
8 summer salmon camp program. This coming year and
9 hopefully in the future we're starting an intern program
10 where two summer positions will be offered to high school
11 students based on academic criteria and career and/or
12 education interest. The internships will provide an
13 opportunity for some hands-on education and a potential
14 career pursuit in fishery science.

15

16 Madame Chair, that's all I have for the
17 Buskin. I'd be happy to answer any questions that
18 Council Members may have.

19

20 MR. CRATTY: I'd just like to say I think
21 you guys are doing a good job. Hope it keeps up.

22

23 MR. TRACY: Thank you, Al. The
24 Department has submitted a proposal for continued funding
25 for this project for the next three-year cycle, 2004-
26 2006, and that proposal has been forwarded by the
27 Technical Review Committee for further consideration.

28

29 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I just want to thank you
30 for the work you guys are doing there.

31

32 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Pat and then Iver.

33

34 MR. HOLMES: It would be very intriguing
35 to see if the age class difference would lead one to
36 assume that maybe the Lake Louise might be a little more
37 productive and the smolt are going out earlier and
38 perhaps a little more robust going to sea and being able
39 to come back sooner. I think this is a great program and
40 it's certainly one of the most highly-used subsistence
41 systems on the island. I certainly hope that it
42 continues. Would it help your funding if there were to
43 be a resolution from the RAC in support of that?

44

45 MR. MALUTIN: Thank you, Madame Chair and
46 the Board. Thank you for your good presentation. That's
47 the best I've heard in many, many years. Growing up as a
48 kid, we used to get silver salmon out of that stream in
49 November, December, January, the one going to Lake
50 Louise. It never did dawn on me that the weir was above

00105

1 that. I just can't believe the difference that we're
2 seeing. One of the things that bothers me is why aren't
3 the silver salmon mentioned?

4
5 MR. TRACY: Well, the Department actually
6 does have a weir and a stock assessment project on the
7 Buskin for silver salmon. That project is funded by the
8 Sportfish Division. It will be an ongoing project.
9 We're really conducting a very similar study for the
10 silver salmon. One of the differences being with the
11 silver salmon return is that we actually move the weir
12 when we finish up with the sockeye escapement each year
13 down river to a lower site and then monitor our silver
14 salmon escapement from that location. By doing that,
15 we're able to actually count both the main Buskin River
16 fish along with the Lake Louise fish because we moved the
17 weir down lower.

18
19 MR. MALUTIN: You can't separate them
20 though.

21
22 MR. TRACY: No, we can't separate them.

23
24 MR. MALUTIN: Another thing that really
25 kind of bothers be all the time and I just want to know
26 how you can accurately count the salmon that are taken
27 from Pasagshak and from Saltry when in Saltry a fisherman
28 can get five fish per day and in Pasagshak two. How do
29 you guesstimate as to what they take as far as the
30 salmon?

31
32 MR. TRACY: Actually, there are two means
33 of monitoring the sport harvest at those locations.
34 Saltry in particular is one where we rely on the
35 statewide harvest survey, which is used to try to
36 estimate the sport harvest and effort and that's actually
37 a mail-out survey. I don't know if you've ever
38 participated in that. It's conducted annually. That's
39 one means by which we estimate the sport harvest. The
40 other means that we utilize at Saltry is we go out there
41 annually and conduct a creel census on site.

42
43 MR. MALUTIN: One more question. What do
44 you attribute the size of the silver salmon in Buskin
45 versus the size of the silver salmon in other places
46 because they are so big?

47
48 MR. TRACY: You know, some of the biggest
49 producers in Kodiak Island for silver salmon are the
50 Buskin River, Pasagshak is another one, even the Olds and

00106

1 American River produce some large fish. I really don't
2 know. Pat might have some insights or another Staff
3 member. I think the State sportfish record has come out
4 of Pasagshak Lake on two prior occasions.

5
6 MR. MALUTIN: I'm really enlightened by
7 your two runs. Living here all my life I didn't know
8 that. It looks to me like after a certain day Lake
9 Louise kicks in and Buskin kind of relaxes. All the
10 years I've lived here I've never known that and I think
11 that's really commendable to you and your department. I
12 think that department is doing a hell of a job on
13 subsistence. I really do. I'm only a net fisherman and
14 a long line and to see these guys with a rod and reel
15 catching all that fish, it comes to the point where it
16 could maybe directly put some impact on the subsistence
17 fisherman kind of bothers me sometimes. That's why I
18 asked you about the five fish per day. I think this is
19 really a good program today and yesterday and I really
20 want to thank you for coming to Kodiak. I really enjoy
21 it when you come here. Thanks a lot for being here.

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Thank you, Iver. Do
24 we have any more questions? Pat.

25
26 MR. HOLMES: I have a question, a
27 comment, Madame Chair. I'd like to answer Iver's
28 question on larger fish at Pasagshak. I think all the
29 folks I've talked to was because after the earthquake it
30 became more of a semi-estuary, so there's a saltwater
31 influx in there as well as a freshwater on top and I
32 think it provides, as Donn said, better food for them and
33 I think you get a lot of marine critters and sand fleas
34 and things like that that provide very good food for
35 those fish.

36
37 I'd like to, if the Chair would agree,
38 make a motion to have a resolution of support for
39 continued funding for the Buskin because subsistence
40 harvest there probably has the greatest impact of
41 anywhere on the island. So I'd like to make that a
42 motion for continued support for funding. If I could
43 have a second.

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: A motion has been
46 made. Do I hear a second?

47
48 MR. CRATTY: Second.

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Second by Al Cratty.

00107

1 Discussion.

2

3 (No discussion)

4

5 MR. ZACHAROF: Question.

6

7 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: The question has
8 been called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

9

10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Opposed same sign.

12

13 (No opposing votes)

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Motion carried.

16 Thank you. We'll move on to Nick from Olga Bay and Steve

17 for Aleknagik. Following that I do have Herman

18 Squartsoff to talk about the migratory bird meeting last

19 night.

20

21 MR. SAGALKIN: Madame Chair and Members

22 of the Board. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to

23 speak today. My name is Nick Sagalkin and I'm a

24 biologist for the Department of Fish & Game. Today I'll

25 be presenting a proposal. The Department of Fish & Game

26 submitted to investigate subsistence concerns in Olga

27 Bay. I would mention that this proposal was not

28 recommended for funding by the OSM.

29

30 Most people present are probably familiar

31 with Olga Bay, but for those not this is a map of the

32 area. The primary thing that I'd like to point out is

33 the bay is part of the Alitak Bay district, which is a

34 management unit of the Kodiak commercial fishery. There

35 are two large sockeye salmon producing systems, Frasier

36 Lake and Upper Station, as well as three smaller systems,

37 Horse Marine Lagoon, Akalura Lake and Silver Salmon

38 Creek. The village of Akhiok is located outside of Olga

39 Narrows.

40

41 The Kodiak/Aleutian Islands Advisory

42 Council identified spawning stock assessments and

43 monitoring as their highest priority. Included on their

44 list was Akalura Lake for both sockeye and coho, Horse

45 Marine Lagoon and Lake for both sockeye and coho, Silver

46 Salmon Creek for coho. They also identified concerns for

47 small stocks and mixed stock fisheries.

48

49 In addition to these needs that were

50

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1 identified by the Advisory Council, I'd like to mention
2 that there's been weak runs to the Olga Bay systems in
3 both 2001 and 2002 and there's been forecasted weak runs
4 for this coming year in 2003. Also, while the Department
5 operates weirs on Upper Station and Frasier, the smaller
6 systems are monitored less frequently and generally by
7 aerial survey.

8

9 To put a picture on this again,
10 commercial fisheries in the Alitak Bay district are
11 directed toward surplus fish to Upper Station and Frasier
12 Lake. However, sockeye salmon bound for these other
13 systems, Horse Marine, Akalura and Silver Salmon, are
14 also harvested to some degree.

15

16 So what existing data do we have to help
17 assess these problems? There are some subsistence data;
18 however, the subsistence database considers Alitak Bay
19 district as a whole. There are good escapement data for
20 Frasier and Upper Station. However, escapement data for
21 Horse Marine and Silver Salmon is limited to aerial
22 surveys. Akalura is monitored with the weir when funds
23 are available. The escapement data we do have for these
24 systems shows poor escapement. Harvest is only estimated
25 for Frasier Lake and Upper Station.

26

27 So, to look at some of this data, from
28 1996 through 2001, there were 49 permits in Alitak Bay
29 district and the most recent population estimate that I
30 could find for Akhiok was that there were 34 housing
31 units. Therefore, based upon the number of housing units
32 and this number of permits, it looks like a significant
33 portion of the population uses subsistence. The majority
34 of this harvest is sockeye salmon and a smaller degree
35 coho salmon.

36

37 As Donn pointed out in his presentation,
38 the Buskin and Afognak systems support the majority of
39 subsistence harvest. Alitak Bay district represents six
40 percent of the total harvest. If you look at the number
41 of fish per permit, Alitak harvests more fish than the
42 Buskin. It's actually a 25-fish per permit rather than
43 18. So, again, to put this problem in context, one of
44 the main difficulties is there's five systems in the Olga
45 Bay, two of these are managed for commercial fisheries,
46 however all of them, primarily the smaller ones, are used
47 for subsistence.

48

49 In looking at the escapement data,
50 biological escapement goals have not been established for

00109

1 Akalura, Horse Marine or Silver Salmon. A sustainable
2 escapement goal is established for Akalura, but some
3 believe it may be too high. Currently, we only use
4 management targets for Horse Marine and Silver Salmon.
5 In looking at some of this data, of the three minor
6 systems, Akalura Lake has the best escapement data. As
7 you can see, these two lines represent the upper and
8 lower sustainable goal. In recent years, the escapement
9 hasn't met the lower goal for about 10 years.

10

11 Escapements to silver salmon are only
12 monitored by aerial survey and the minimum targets have
13 only been met a few times in the last several years.
14 Likewise, for Horse Marine, escapement is only monitored
15 by aerial survey and minimum goals have only been met two
16 out of the last 10 years.

17

18 As I mentioned earlier in the
19 presentation, in addition to the poor escapement data and
20 poor escapements, the runs to the larger systems, like
21 Frasier Lake shown here, have been weaker during the last
22 several years. This shows both catch and escapement and
23 this line here is the 10-year average run. You can see
24 2002 here and actually the forecast for 2003 is shown
25 right next to it.

26

27 So, under any production level, the
28 smaller systems in Olga Bay will be harvested relative to
29 the larger systems. When the larger systems are weak
30 like the last several years, the smaller systems might be
31 somewhat protected because of fishery closures.
32 Regardless of the fishing activity, there really is very
33 little known about the smaller systems. The solutions
34 are to increase the monitoring of the smaller systems and
35 try to develop models to assess the returns and estimate
36 their harvest.

37

38 Some of the projects that we proposed to
39 do was to estimate nutrient and zero plankton levels from
40 Upper Station, Akalura, Silver Salmon, Frasier and Horse
41 Marine. This would help us assess the freshwater
42 productivity. Also continue that line of work with
43 smolt. Projects on Upper Station, Akalura, Frasier and
44 Horse Marine to assess the freshwater productivity
45 individually and in total to entire bay. And then, on
46 the adult side of things, assessing the spawning habitat
47 for Akalura, Horse Marine and Silver Salmon and then also
48 implementing weirs on these smaller systems for better
49 escapement counts.

50

00110

1 So just as a review if you didn't catch
2 it, most of these projects are geared toward sockeye;
3 however, we'll attempt to evaluate coho. For example,
4 coho escapement counts obviously would be made at the
5 weirs. When spawning projects are implemented, we'd also
6 assess coho habitat. Lineology projects on Horse Marine,
7 Frasier, Akalura and Silver Salmon as well as Upper
8 Station. New weirs on Horse Marine, Akalura and Silver
9 Salmon. Smolt projects on Horse Marine, Frasier, Akalura
10 and Upper Station. Habitat projects on Horse Marine,
11 Akalura and Silver Salmon.

12
13 The goals on this project would be to
14 have better information on freshwater production,
15 particularly the smaller systems, information that's
16 currently lacking, and better assessment of escapement
17 from the smaller systems. This would also allow better
18 assessment of total escapement to Olga Bay, which would
19 hopefully lead to better overall management of Alitak Bay
20 district and another goal would estimate the total run to
21 Olga Bay and the run strength to these minor systems.

22
23 Under the proposal guidelines it lists a
24 number of ways to evaluate the proposal and I have these
25 listed out here. The first is Federal jurisdiction. Is
26 there association of the subsistence fishery to a Federal
27 conservation unit. In this case, yes. Many of these
28 systems are on the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge.
29 Another one is a conservation mandate. Is there a risk
30 to conservation for the population? As I showed, many of
31 these smaller systems haven't made minimum escapements.
32 Another evaluation point are data gaps. The amount of
33 information available to support subsistence management.
34 As I indicated, most of these smaller systems have very
35 little information, in particular no lineology or zero
36 plankton, most of them don't have weirs on them and
37 projects haven't been conducted on any of these systems
38 either.

39
40 Another point is the role of the
41 resource, importance of the species to subsistence
42 harvest. Based on the proximity of Ahkiok and Old
43 Harbor, many of these systems are important for
44 subsistence fishing. Finally, the local concern level.
45 Is there a concern? Yes, participants consider this a
46 traditional subsistence fishery and have expressed their
47 concern to both Fish & Game and the Fish & Wildlife
48 Service.

49
50 Before I finish, I'd just reiterate again

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1 that this project wasn't recommended for funding in 2004.
2 If you feel that this is an important product or elements
3 that you'd like to see done, we really need your support.
4 That's all I have. I'll entertain questions.

5

6 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Al.

7 MR. CRATTY: I'd like to see this
8 supported. Two years ago I went down to Olga Bay to try
9 and get some subsistence runs in the fall and they
10 weren't there. I'd just like to make that statement.

11

12 MR. SIMEONOFF: Madame Chair. I would
13 also like to see this supported. As a resident of
14 Akhiok, I've been to every system there and a lot of
15 times there's hardly any fish in there. Last year there
16 weren't any fish at all.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Because Olga Bay has
21 always been based on Frasier and Upper Station, not too
22 much on the smaller systems, and now, with the bigger
23 systems failing, they're looking more at the smaller
24 systems also. I'd like a lot more input from the people
25 of Akhiok when they do get their subsistence fish, is it
26 from the early run or the late run.

27

28 MR. SIMEONOFF: Madame Chair. I guess
29 people go out for subsistence fish as soon as they start
30 running in June and from then on they go out and get it
31 whenever they can. They never depended on the run. As
32 soon as they show up, they go out and get them.

33

34 MR. CRATTY: I'd like to say something,
35 too. I'd like to state that a lot of people from Old
36 Harbor depend on these runs also in the spring and the
37 fall. In Old Harbor, we don't have a red salmon run.

38

39 MR. HOLMES: Yes, Madame Chairman, I'd
40 like to agree with my colleagues at the other end of the
41 table. This is a very important project for Old Harbor,
42 particularly for Akhiok. I remember an esteemed
43 gentleman that I felt really privileged to know for many
44 years, Larry Matfay (ph), who was from Akhiok and Old
45 Harbor, and he reiterated that when he was a young
46 gentleman there was a red run in Chip Cove and that's
47 gone. I would dearly hate to see these other small
48 systems end up disappearing or further jeopardize
49 subsistence on the south end of the island. I know Al
50 had tried to get red runs for Old Harbor and it just

00112

1 hasn't worked its way through the bureaucracy to happen.
2 Lots of folks from Old Harbor go down to visit their
3 relatives and get their subsistence reds down there or
4 folks in the commercial fishery will go make an extra set
5 and bring them home. I really do think it needs our
6 support. Thank you, Madame Chair.

7
8 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
9 other questions or discussion.

10
11 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, I just had one
12 other comment. The Frasier Lake system is a man-made
13 system. Upper Station was a natural run, but Frasier was
14 man-made and a lot of management is based on that system.

15
16 MR. SAGALKIN: Yeah, I'm not sure if
17 you're looking for a particular response. This project
18 obviously -- I mean I'm not suggesting any reorganization
19 of management, but what I hope to do is increase the
20 amount of information that we can gather down there,
21 particularly on the smaller systems. If it looks like we
22 could incorporate tools to help protect some of these
23 smaller systems, it could be done at a later date.

24
25 MR. SQUARTSOFF: What I'm saying is based
26 on the way it was managed by the State in the past is for
27 the commercial fishery, not for the subsistence fishery.
28 Now the commercial is down and now they're looking at
29 subsistence to increase the runs again.

30
31 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: John Reft, did you
32 have a comment? If you do, you can come up to the mike.

33
34 MR. REFT: Madame Chair. John Reft.
35 Born and raised here on Kodiak Island, in the old days,
36 you had a bounty on the dolly varden tails. When you had
37 that, all our systems were rich with fish. We never had
38 any problem. Even the Buskin was always open
39 commercially. I mean we had no problem. We utilized
40 that river commercially and sport and home use for the
41 winter. But when you put the dolly varden in the
42 category of a sportfish, protect it, and then you put in
43 the weir and everything declined, all species for a
44 while. Everything I hear about the enhancement of the
45 fishery, I agree. I mean commercially, subsistence,
46 sport. We all need it. We all want it. But if we don't
47 stop and think, you know, why the decline is coming to us
48 like Karluk, the biggest red system on the island or
49 anywhere at one time. But you go in there in the spring
50 and you could put a 30-fathom net out and just haul that

00113

1 thing in loaded with dolly varden. I mean these are
2 predators and you put them under the category of a sport
3 fish and they're eating us up. Eggs in the fall. You
4 take the fingerlings. Right out here at Buskin, just for
5 example, I checked one dolly there last year. Ninety
6 fingerlings in one dolly when you cut them open and check
7 them.

8

9 Like I said yesterday, I don't have a
10 degree like you guys, but if you're talking enhancement
11 and all the systems around here that have a downfall or
12 are in trouble, I think you ought to look at the
13 predators. The dolly is detrimental to commercial
14 fishing, sport, subsistence and everything and you're
15 protecting it. Basically, in my opinion, you're
16 overprotecting it. There's other things, too, like pink
17 salmon in Doris Creek. Somebody complained there because
18 somebody was making too much money catching the fish.
19 All their life they caught a lot of fish there. Somebody
20 complained, so Fish & Game puts up markers.

21

22 Well, they put up markers, there's over-
23 abundance of fish, they jam that small stream, they have
24 no air, they die, then you've got no spawning. When you
25 get a system so overloaded, it seems to me you guys with
26 the expertise ought to know that you've got to thin it
27 down where they can breathe and not kill themselves off
28 right in that stream. You put all that stuff together
29 and you've got decline in systems. That's my opinion,
30 but I think the dollies are really detrimental to our
31 return on all species of the fish.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I totally agree with
36 you, John. I've been saying that for a few years now.
37 You can go up to Afognak Lake in the fall and there'd be
38 schools of dollies up there that look like a school of
39 herring. It's just unbelievable the amounts and
40 something needs to be done about it.

41

42 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. I have to
43 agree with Pete and John, particularly Afognak and I
44 think dolly varden predation out at Unalaska Island and
45 Unalaska Lake is probably a big factor there as well.
46 One question or comment I'd like some clarification from
47 the Department. Hasn't the Department modified the Olga
48 Bay management plan to try to compensate for minor
49 stocks? What did they end up doing there?

50

00114

1 MR. SAGALKIN: One of the managers might
2 be able to answer that better than me. The most recent
3 modification of plan has basically pulse openings and
4 that's to allow some protection. I guess under that
5 umbrella, yes, but I don't believe any of the smaller
6 systems are currently mentioned in the management plan
7 specifically. I might be wrong.

8
9 MR. WALLE: I'm Jeff Walle (ph). I'm
10 assistant area management biologist in Kodiak. What Nick
11 said was correct. In the Boards last year we also
12 extended the pulse fishery into September and one of the
13 Board members suggested that so we could protect some of
14 the smaller systems.

15
16 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Any other comments?
17 Before another motion is made on this particular Olga
18 Bay, could someone on the Federal side please come up and
19 explain to us what this process is? When we go through
20 this list, we're going to have this back again this fall.
21 Explain to us what that process is, please.

22
23 MR. FRIED: Steve Fried, Office of
24 Subsistence Management. What the process is that first
25 we go through a proposal phase where we call for
26 proposals. The proposals are evaluated by an interagency
27 technical review committee, which is composed of
28 scientists from the five Federal agencies that are
29 involved in the Federal subsistence fisheries, plus a
30 representative from each of the State divisions that have
31 fisheries management authority, sportfish, commercial
32 fish, also subsistence. Also, this year, we've included
33 two partners and they do a review and also the OSM staff
34 kind of does an initial review and they sit down and the
35 TRC basically decides based on several ranking factors
36 which are the most important projects and then they look
37 and see the available funding and what they try to do is
38 take -- right now we'd have about \$360,000 to spend on
39 Kodiak/Aleutians, Bristol Bay, Alaska Peninsula stock
40 status projects. We've got 16 proposals, which we'd need
41 about three or four times that amount. What the TRC did
42 was recommend enough proposals -- you know, we still
43 can't fund them all, but it's like 150 or 160 percent of
44 what we can fund and that provides hopefully the proposal
45 with the highest value strategically as far as Federal
46 subsistence fisheries go, they're done technically
47 correctly, so that when the investigation plans come in,
48 then the Council and the public can make their
49 recommendations on which of those proposals they think
50 are most important to fund and then the Federal

00115

1 Subsistence Board actually makes the final decision.

2

3 At this point, I know Councils have
4 discussed this with us in the past, I mean really it's
5 the TRC that advances these proposals through the
6 investigative plan phase. Anything that doesn't get
7 advanced is basically not going to have any further
8 consideration this year, so you won't see them anymore.
9 The decision was made not to advance them.

10

11 When they look at this suite of
12 proposals, one of the most important things is it's got
13 to support Federal subsistence fisheries management,
14 which means that the subsistence fishery needs to be
15 within Federal waters under ANILCA that the Federal
16 government has management authority over. That's why
17 Buskin and Afognak are so important. Not only are they
18 huge subsistence fisheries, they both occur within the
19 Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. So it's
20 clearly under the authority of the Federal government to
21 manage those fisheries. In other words, open and close,
22 time and area closures.

23

24 Olga Bay, not only is it a smaller
25 fishery, it also has some other programs that are already
26 supported by management, but it's not clear what
27 authority the Federal government has in managing this
28 subsistence fishery. I think most of the fishing occurs
29 in the bay and not up in the rivers, so the fishing is
30 not occurring in a national wildlife refuge. I don't
31 think those are Federal waters. It's not part of the
32 Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. There's some
33 question as to whether or not there's any Federal
34 authority just because it's surrounded by Federal lands.
35 So the management nexus there is not very clear. Given
36 all the other proposals we had, this one just didn't rank
37 up high enough because of those sorts of reasons, so
38 that's why it wasn't advanced for further consideration.
39 It doesn't mean that it's not technically sound, that
40 it's not good to do this work and the information
41 wouldn't be useful, but that's sort of some of the
42 thinking that goes into that.

43

44 I don't know if that helps clear things
45 up. I'm not sure if it's going to do any good to have
46 the Council say they want to support it now since it's
47 sort of trying to go around the process we have set up at
48 this point. Usually the Council comes in first with the
49 issues and information list, which got this in front of
50 the TRC and then the next time will be when the

00116

1 investigation plans are developed, you'll have a chance
2 to recommend to the Federal Subsistence Board which ones
3 you think should be funded. As I said, there's already
4 more projects that have been passed through to the next
5 stage than we have money to fund anyway. Even if we put
6 this one through, I'm not sure where it would have gone
7 anyway.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Thank you, Steve.

10 Then the next process that we're at. When we have our
11 fall meeting, too, to look at the list and then
12 prioritize them again based on the funding because this
13 is where we run into that funding with the Bristol Bay,
14 Aleutians and Kodiak.

15

16 MR. FRIED: Right, that's correct. This
17 fall will be the time when you make your recommendations
18 on what to fund. It's a tough decision because we've
19 talked about these continuation projects. To continue
20 all those projects and Afognak, there's probably not
21 enough money to even do all that, so there's going to be
22 some tough decisions the way it is. Obviously we don't
23 have enough money to fund all the things we really need
24 to do.

25

26 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: And then maybe
27 another question would be if the systems that the
28 spawning grounds are within the Federal systems, how does
29 that play into this in regard to subsistence?

30

31 MR. FRIED: Well, it would be my
32 understanding that if, in fact, the Federal government
33 doesn't really have management authority over the
34 subsistence fishery, but these fish spawn in a National
35 Wildlife Refuge, it's more of a land manager -- you know,
36 it would be up to the refuge to get involved. And
37 there's a way to get involved with the process. The
38 State has not only a sustainable salmon policy which has
39 been placed in the regulation, they also have the salmon
40 spawning escapement goal policy, which is regulatory and,
41 as part of that, there's a team that goes through the
42 information and sets goals and evaluates goals. I don't
43 know if it's been approved yet, but they are working on a
44 memorandum of understanding with the State and there are
45 some Federal biologists that are sitting on some of these
46 committees that evaluate the goals that at least serve as
47 an advisory capacity to help the State set the goals. I
48 mean that's one way to get involved.

49

50 MR. CRATTY: Is there a way that you

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1 could subsidize the State a little bit so they could do a
2 little more research to see what's happening to those
3 systems down there?

4
5 MR. FRIED: Well, yeah, that's exactly
6 what we do in a lot of cases. In fact, say like Buskin
7 River, the State is putting in a match. They have
8 personnel that they're using to analyze the data. Also
9 on the coho weir we don't pay for that, so we try to
10 match our funds. All I'm saying is that we have just so
11 much money and there's so many proposals and at some
12 point -- you either make some hard decisions now or we
13 pass everything through for an investigation plan and
14 then it's still a hard decision later. I don't know what
15 to say other than that.

16
17 MR. HOLMES: Steve, I was wondering,
18 obviously there's an emotional feeling and need and not
19 enough money to do what we'd like to see done. I'm
20 wondering if you could give the RAC some advice on other
21 potential Federal funding sources. I know in the past
22 that through the refuge they've done short-term studies
23 of Uganik and other things through the FAO offices there
24 and other potential pool of funds that we could appeal to
25 as an Advisory Council and solicit funds that would be
26 complementary because it sure would be important to do.
27 That's something we could do a resolution and pass it
28 over to Leslie and say wrestle with the other refuges.
29 If you could give us some advice, that would be swell.

30
31 MR. FRIED: We do try to do it. In other
32 areas it's a lot easier. Like out in Norton Sound,
33 there's a Norton Sound initiative because there's these
34 Federal disaster funds that are administered through
35 NOAA. There's just not anything like that around Kodiak
36 unless maybe you look at the Exxon Valdez. There's a
37 gulf ecosystem management program that they're doing. I
38 don't know how well this fits in with that. Like I said,
39 there's also the land manager, the State management, Fish
40 & Game. It's tough. We'd like to match our funds
41 because it just makes them go that much further. I'm not
42 sure there's all that much opportunity here right now,
43 but it's something we'd let you know. We are always
44 looking into that.

45
46 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, if you do hear, please
47 let Della know so that we might be able to find some way
48 to approach some of these other things.

49
50 Thank you.

00118

1 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Pete and then
2 Speridon.

3
4 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I was just concerned
5 about the funding for the projects because, like you
6 said, we only have so much and we have so many other
7 projects that are already going. I think we need to get
8 more information on these systems and what's happening
9 with them before we start jumping around and cutting
10 funding too short for other areas that are already going.

11
12 MR. SIMEONOFF: I was just wondering
13 would there be any Federal funds for Tribal governments
14 to pursue projects like that?

15
16 MR. FRIED: I think there's some Federal
17 wildlife funds that I just learned about and I was going
18 to get some information out on that. I think I just saw
19 something about that earlier this week and that might be
20 possible. It's a nationwide program. It says wildlife.
21 I think that might include fisheries. I wasn't sure. I
22 was going to look into that and then I was going to pass
23 that along to the Council to see if we could pass that
24 along to one of the Tribal groups. Other than that, I'm
25 not sure what there is.

26
27 MR. HOLMES: I wonder if maybe when you
28 folks -- Glen Chance is a BIA person with OSM, isn't he?
29 Maybe you could reflect Mitch's comments and inquiries
30 that direction. There might be some potential.

31
32 MR. FRIED: Yeah, we will. We kind of
33 work pretty closely with Glen and Ida. That's a good
34 point.

35
36 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Steve, I'm trying to
37 recall exactly what that notice was because I did see it,
38 too. When I get back, I'll look for it also.

39
40 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, I'm kind of
41 evolving in my thinking here. If there aren't funds from
42 existing OSM, I wonder if perhaps our thoughts on a
43 resolution on this might be just saying that it's an
44 important area, that we can't prioritize it, but that
45 we'd like to find out if there are other potential
46 funding sources for this type of project and at least
47 that would add some positive impetus to the research
48 project.

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat. Is

00119

1 that in the form of a motion?

2

3 MR. HOLMES: If I get a nod from Mitch
4 and Al, yes.

5

6 MR. SIMEONOFF: Second.

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Seconded by
9 Speridon. Discussion.

10

11 (No discussion)

12

13 MR. CRATTY: Question.

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: The question has
16 been called. All in favor signify by saying aye.

17

18 IN UNISON: Aye.

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Opposed same sign.

21

22 (No opposing votes)

23

24 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Motion carried.

25 Thank you. Next I have Steve with Aleknagik.

26

27 MR. SHOAF: Good afternoon, Madame Chair,

28 Members of the Council. My name is Steve Shroaf (ph).

29 I'm with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game Commercial

30 Fish Division. I'm here to talk briefly about the

31 sockeye salmon stock assessment and production monitoring

32 at Afognak Lake and proposed investigations regarding the

33 subsistence fishery at Afognak Bay.

34

35 As you are well aware, the Regional

36 Advisory Council determined that Afognak Lake sockeye

37 salmon stock assessment monitoring was the number one

38 priority issue for the Kodiak Aleutian region. Afognak

39 Lake is located on the southeast portion of Afognak Bay.

40 The lake which empties into Afognak Bay is shown in a

41 circle on the map. The villages of Port Lions and

42 Ouzinkie are the closest communities to Afognak Bay. As

43 has been stated previously, Afognak Bay is considered

44 part of the Alaskan Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.

45

46 Afognak Lake sockeye salmon production is

47 currently monitored by escapement counts and also by

48 harvest by the commercial subsistence and sportfish users

49 and the commercial fisheries division management section

50 monitors this production through weirs and through the

00120

1 fish ticket database. This graph I wanted to show is
2 sockeye salmon escapements back into Afognak and also the
3 total harvest attributed to Afognak Lake sockeye salmon
4 production and also show the upper and lower levels of
5 the escapement goal. As you can see on this graph, the
6 vertical axis is the number of sockeye salmon. The
7 horizontal axis is in years. The escapement numbers are
8 represented in blue, the blue bars, and the harvest is
9 noted in the striped bars. Of course, the solid line is
10 the upper escapement goal and the dashed line is the
11 lower portion and they're established at 40,000 for the
12 lower goal and 60,000 for the upper goal.

13

14 As you can see, the sockeye escapements
15 have exceeded the upper escapement goal every year from
16 1992 to 1999. The past two years, 2001 to 2002, we've
17 produced escapements below the minimum goal 40,000. In
18 2000, the desired escapement goal was achieved and 2001
19 we started seeing lower production and harvest levels.
20 In 2002, over there on the far right, commercial and
21 subsistence fishing was closed on June 13th because of a
22 run failure and also the sport fishery was reduced also.

23

24 The graph shows a subsistence harvest
25 level of Afognak sockeye salmon compared to the total
26 harvest for the last 10 years prior to 2002. 2002 is
27 still pretty preliminary, so I just didn't include that,
28 plus the harvest was pretty minimal for subsistence this
29 year since it closed early. The vertical axis number of
30 sockeye salmon harvested and horizontal axis in years.
31 The blue bars are total harvest and the striped is
32 subsistence harvest broken up. The subsistence catch of
33 Afognak sockeye salmon is average 6,000. As you can see,
34 6,049 from 1992 to 2001. The total average harvest has
35 been around 35,000 for that same time period.

36

37 These two pie charts show the proportion
38 of Afognak Lake sockeye salmon harvested by the three
39 user groups, commercial fishers in blue, subsistence in
40 red or maroon and the sport fishers in yellow. The pie
41 chart on the left shows a 10-year span from 1992 to 2001
42 when commercial harvest accounted for 80 percent of the
43 catch. In the past five years, the pie chart on the
44 right, 1997 to 2001, the commercial harvest decreased by
45 70 percent, which is depicted in the pie chart on the
46 right. Subsistence catches have increased
47 proportionately to the decrease in commercial harvest
48 from 17 percent from 10 years to -- will increase from 17
49 percent to 27 percent over a five-year period there.

50

00121

1 This pie chart I just wanted to show that
2 the average subsistence harvest of sockeye salmon and the
3 Kodiak management area for the past 10 years and 24
4 percent of Afognak Bay catches -- let me restate that.
5 Afognak Lake, sockeye accounted for 24 percent of the
6 total subsistence harvest. With this pie chart, I'd like
7 to show the proportion of subsistence caught in the inner
8 and outer bays of Afognak. Residents have harvested
9 85 percent in the bay and 15 percent in the outer
10 sections from 1992 to 2001. I guess I just wanted to
11 show that the Afognak sockeye salmon are a significant
12 contribution to the subsistence user.

13
14 This graph displays the subsistence
15 harvest of sockeye salmon and Afognak Bay by Ouzinkie and
16 Port Lions residents over a five-year period. The
17 vertical axis number of sockeye salmon harvested and
18 horizontal axis in years. Harvest by Ouzinkie residents
19 is the orange bar and Port Lions harvest is shown in
20 blue.

21
22 So, to summarize some of what's been
23 going on out at Afognak, the ADF&G has been operating a
24 weir there for the last 25 years to count returning
25 salmon to the system and also to sample a portion of the
26 sockeye escapement for age, length and sex data. The
27 Department has also been annually tracking the
28 commercial, subsistence and sportfish catch information
29 through their fish ticket database and through the
30 sportfish survey that Donn stated earlier.

31
32 Also, some other work that's been going
33 on now at Afognak Lake, there was a fertilization program
34 started in 1990 to increase the lake's food production
35 for juvenile salmon and to monitor the effects of the
36 fertilization, lineology sampling has been ongoing
37 throughout the same time period. Along with the
38 lineology sampling, the conditions of the juvenile
39 through abundance estimates using hydroacoustics
40 equipment were conducted intermittently throughout the
41 1990s and also during the smolt migrations. Not every
42 year, but in some years we were able to obtain some aging
43 condition information at the outlet of the lake there to
44 look at the overall condition of the juveniles migrating
45 out of the lake.

46
47 And this graph just kind of depicts what
48 zooplankton densities have been throughout this time
49 period and I just wanted to show that there has been a
50 decline towards the end of 2001-2002, but it doesn't

00122

1 provide any correlation between the drop off in
2 escapement because, as you know, the adults that have
3 been returning are the juveniles we were rearing back in
4 the mid 1990s. I just wanted to kind of show you that
5 there has been a fluctuation in zooplankton densities
6 too.

7

8 So, basically, what is scheduled for 2003
9 out at Afognak? Well, the commercial fish division of
10 Fish & Game will continue to stock assessment on adult
11 salmon by operating the adult weir at the outlet again,
12 as they've done in the past, and they will continue to
13 sample a portion of the sockeye salmon adult escapement
14 for the age, length, sex information and they will also
15 continue to collect that harvest information from the
16 commercial, subsistence and sport fisheries if we get a
17 return this year.

18

19 Also, as most of you probably know, work
20 in 2003 will also -- we attained funding through the
21 Office of Subsistence Management to run a smolt weir,
22 smolt trap this year on the outlet there to estimate
23 sockeye salmon migration by age and assess the condition
24 of the smolt. This should help us in assessing
25 production that is coming out of the lake.

26

27 Also, in response to the recent failure
28 of the Afognak Lake sockeye salmon run, we proposed to
29 initiate some work for the funding from 2004 to 2006 and
30 some of the work that we would like to do is consolidate
31 the historical fishery and lineology data on sockeye
32 salmon production into a report and to continue to
33 estimate the smolt migration from the lake on an annual
34 basis. Three, we'd like to evaluate the water quality
35 and nutrient status and plankton production in the lake
36 and also measure the amount of usable spawning habitat.
37 There has been some work done in the 1970s to look at the
38 habitat in the lake and we'd like to do some more work
39 and also look at the amount of rearing potential in the
40 lake and try and compare that with the old literature and
41 see if there's been a change and hopefully determine
42 sockeye salmon production potential in the lake.

43

44 As you can see, what Nick talked about
45 with Olga Bay about the strategic priorities, basically
46 the subsistence fishery out at Afognak basically met all
47 six strategic priorities established under the Federal
48 Fisheries Monitoring Program. Afognak is within the
49 Alaska Maritime National Refuge, conservation mandate.
50 The sockeye salmon run has not met minimum sustainable

00123

1 escapement goals for the last two consecutive years. As
2 an allocation priority, the subsistence fishery was
3 closed in 2001. Also, for data gaps, we'd like to
4 collect some smolt abundance data that hasn't been
5 collected previously and compare that with the adult run
6 data and also for future funding also look at the rearing
7 habitat within the lake and come up with some information
8 on that.

9

10 The role of the resource, yes, it's a
11 very important subsistence fishery on Afognak Island in
12 terms of catch and seasonal timing. It's important for
13 subsistence users in the villages of Port Lions, Ouzinkie
14 and Kodiak residents. Local concern, yes. Participants
15 consider this a traditional subsistence fishery and they
16 have expressed their concerns to the Department of Fish &
17 Game and also to the Fish & Wildlife Service.

18

19 So, to put this in perspective, the stock
20 assessment on Afognak Lake sockeye salmon run is to
21 establish a long-term strategy that will help hopefully
22 stabilize the Afognak sockeye salmon run. That's the end
23 of my presentation. Is there any questions from the
24 Council?

25

26 MR. HOLMES: Steve, you mentioned there
27 on your smolt studies that you were going to do
28 abundance. Maybe I missed something, but I assume you're
29 also going to do length and weight and condition factor
30 or robustness because that will be one of the big red
31 flags in my mind if they're going out skinny little
32 tadpoles to stay here on the Buskin.

33

34 MR. SHOAF: Madame Chair, Pat. We are
35 planning to assess the health and the condition of the
36 smolt and we will be collecting scales for ages and also
37 for length, weight, to look at the condition factor of
38 the smolt coming out.

39

40 MR. HOLMES: I think it would be very
41 interesting, at least to me, and certainly for the folks
42 from Afognak if you have some preliminary information
43 prepared by fall to share that with us.

44

45 MR. SHOAF: Madame Chair. We plan on or
46 we would like to -- we will plan on presenting the
47 results from this 2003 smolt work.

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Any other questions
50 or comments. Iver.

00124

1 MR. MALUTIN: I've got one simple one, I
2 think. First of all, I'll give you a little history of
3 Afognak. In 1972, the Alaska Native Foundation published
4 a book and in that book there was a letter written from
5 the Afognak Natives to the Secretary of Interior in 1915
6 stating that Alaska packers had their fishermen blocking
7 off the river, taking all the salmon and the Natives
8 couldn't get any subsistence fish. So, based on that,
9 Secretary of Interior closed Afognak Island for one year
10 the following year and nobody could fish the island
11 except the Afognak Natives. Just a bit of information
12 that's in the Alaska Native Foundation book. But my
13 question to you is what is the reason for the decline?
14 Do you have any clue?

15
16 MR. SHOAF: Madame Chair. No. As you
17 can see by some of the graphs, we were getting excellent
18 escapements back into the system and harvest levels were
19 quite high. I guess we don't know why it dropped off so
20 quickly and dramatically.

21
22 MR. MALUTIN: Okay. Another little bit
23 of information. In the '40s and '50s that Bay Aleknagik
24 had gill nets all over it on both sides of the bay and it
25 really surprises me that in 2003, as progressive as we
26 are, that we're letting this go and it just bothers me
27 that this has happened. That's all.

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Thank you. This is
30 the one we did get the special funding on because there
31 was a lot of concern on the system about six or seven
32 months ago. If there isn't any more discussion at this
33 point, I'd like to take about a five or 10-minute break.
34 Following that we can have Herman Squartsoff on the
35 migratory birds.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 (Off record)

40
41 (On record)

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: If we can find our
44 seats, we can conclude this meeting. Prior to us going
45 into the report for migratory birds, I want to make a
46 comment or suggestion. Prior to our fall meeting when we
47 have to go through these various proposals and having to
48 select, because that is tough, my recommendation would
49 be, since we do share the same biologist, that we set up
50 a teleconference with the Bristol Bay group to go through

00125

1 these projects so we all understand clearly what the
2 importance and significance of these are to our regions.
3 Hopefully, once we go into this process that we have a
4 little better idea what we can support together as the
5 two regions. And that will work better, I think, in the
6 future for us. Herman Squartsoff.

7

8 MR. H. SQUARTSOFF: Thank you, Madame
9 Chair and Council and also Michelle that I was introduced
10 to last night as the coordinator. The recommendation
11 that I gave to you guys has 2004 on it. This is the same
12 one that we did last year that will be opening and
13 closing the season for the Kodiak Island Region. I'm
14 also the representative of the Alaska Migratory Bird
15 Co-management Council for the Kodiak Region. What I want
16 to do is a slight correction. I'm not briefing on the
17 meeting we had last night. We had a public hearing.
18 It's going to be just on this recommendation, opening and
19 closing for 2003 and then the conservation concern of a
20 few birds that are on our list that was published in the
21 Federal Register on February 10th.

22

23 This is exactly the same recommendation
24 that we put in last year and the reason I have on there
25 2004 now is we're resubmitting it this year to cover a
26 clause that we found in there in the treaty. It was only
27 supposed to be 400 days of the subsistence hunt and we
28 had it March 11th official opening. We changed that from
29 March 11th to April 2nd to June 20th. For the 2003
30 season in the Kodiak area, our opening season goes -- and
31 this I got corrected again last night. It will not open
32 April 2nd because of the Service Regulation Committee is
33 not going to meet until around the first part of next
34 month, so this is not the official opening, but we are
35 opened under the closed season policy, which was
36 published in the Federal Register in 1988.

37

38 Paul might know about some of this. He
39 was with us on the Migratory Bird Council there. Under
40 that policy, they will not basically stop you from
41 hunting. The only thing they're enforcing is to check to
42 see if you're using lead shot and any of the endangered
43 species and I have them here. The spectacled eiders,
44 steller's eiders, emperor geese and that was published
45 under the closed season policy. That's what we're
46 officially going to open under. I shouldn't say
47 officially, but we're going to be open under that. As
48 soon as the Service Regulation Committee has their
49 meeting, then it will be published again in the Federal
50 Register when the opening actually will be. We thought

00126

1 it was going to be April 2nd. It's actually open now
2 under the closed policy there as of March 11th.

3

4 What we propose for down in this area
5 under the Migratory Bird Co-Management Council , the
6 spectacled eider, steller's eider, emperor geese and the
7 Aleutian Canada geese, the Semidi Islands only. That's
8 out in the Semidi Islands. There's not that many people
9 that go out there, so we don't need to worry about it.
10 Then there's only like about 100 geese out there or
11 something. And then closed for egg gathering is the
12 cackling Canada goose and the black brant only in the
13 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and North Slope area.

14

15 The other thing on the bird list, we did
16 a slight survey. We got this information about a week
17 and a half or two weeks ago when we got this to go over
18 it and get it out to our people and everything else in
19 the Kodiak region down here to respond to the proposed
20 rules in the Federal Register. I have a letter drafted
21 up that will be going out and one of our staff will
22 attach that to some of the comments that did go in on
23 that. What we found from the majority of our people that
24 responded back in our area, we used the black
25 oystercatcher for egg gathering only and then the Arctic
26 tern, are the only two that we utilized the most that
27 we've heard so far on this concerned list. It's a
28 possibility these birds could be taken off our list, so
29 we're submitting a letter in saying that we do use these
30 just for egg gathering only.

31

32 Another thing that we're going to try and
33 work on, we had a meeting at the refuge last week with
34 some of the staff, we're going to try to do an
35 educational. They're going to help me on it to try to
36 educate the people on the birds on the endangered list.
37 That should happen this spring. We also ran into a
38 problem. It sounds like you have the same problem.
39 Funding. Funding is always a big issue. We want to do a
40 survey and for the whole state there's only \$300,000
41 allotted for surveying. I've been pushing it pretty hard
42 that we should do it this year. We're inches away from a
43 legal and official season that's going to happen and
44 that's history in the making since 1918. We've been
45 looking forward to this to happen to where we didn't have
46 to hide and everything else. We're just inches away from
47 it. We've been working hard on this to make it happen in
48 the whole state. I'm working with Leslie and them.
49 They're going to also try to educate people on the
50 migratory bird at the same time.

00127

1 That's basically all I have. I just
2 wanted to bring you up to par on where we're at down here
3 in the Kodiak Region. Hopefully we're going to get
4 started here shortly. We can, but unofficially right
5 now. Do we have any questions from the Council? I know
6 Pat had one last night and I cut him off because it was
7 something we weren't discussing last night.

8

9 MR. HOLMES: I was thinking on your
10 education program. You had one sheet with some of the
11 different ducks and some of the birds. I'm an avid
12 birder, but some of the females of those critters are
13 tough to distinguish, so you probably want to put that in
14 your thing and then you might even want to tease the
15 Audibon into helping you with that and perhaps some of
16 their funds. And maybe an egg guide, too. As long as
17 they want to comment, make them part of the solution.

18

19 MR. H. SQUARTSOFF: That's a very good
20 idea there, Pat. We appreciate anything we can get to
21 help us with this. We've been going through some tough
22 times on it.

23

24 MR. HOLMES: And then maybe even like
25 those plastic field guides that a guy or lady could stuff
26 in their coat. That sort of thing is quite handy as
27 well. Anyway, good luck and I appreciate all the hard
28 work you're doing.

29

30 MR. H. SQUARTSOFF: Thank you, Pat.

31

32 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I just have one quick
33 question on identification of who can hunt and who can't
34 hunt.

35

36 MR. H. SQUARTSOFF: We don't have that
37 set in place this year right now. We do have it in the
38 proposal for next year to go through and register in the
39 Tribal Councils and show customary and traditional use
40 and all that. We tried to work to get something in
41 there, but it was just too hard to do everything at once.
42 There's a lot of differences in the different regions how
43 they want to do things. Everything we do up there in the
44 council, we try to come to a consensus on it as to
45 whether we agree on everything instead of having to go
46 into a vote.

47

48 MR. GUNDERSEN: Have the dates for egg
49 gathering been established by all the different
50 geographic areas yet? I see you've got from May 1 to

00128

1 June 20th here. From past discussions, we know there can
2 be as much as 30 days difference between two areas. Have
3 those dates been established by each region?

4
5 MR. H. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, each region has
6 its own proposal in. It was submitted, so they have
7 their own dates for everything. We realized on the board
8 there it would be different in different areas. One of
9 things I allowed for us down here putting on egg
10 gathering dates was kind of a slight enforcement issue we
11 had on it to how they were going to enforce it. So I
12 gave us a couple of weeks on both sides to where actually
13 we do take the eggs. I gave us a little more time in
14 here.

15
16 MR. GUNDERSEN: Okay.

17
18 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Any other comments
19 or questions for Herman?

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Thank you, Herman.

24
25 MR. H. SQUARTSOFF: Thank you. You're
26 doing a great job.

27
28 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: The last two items
29 on the agenda. We had an addition and I guess this will
30 be a request to Tom Boyd. I probably need to do this in
31 the formal letter, but I'd like to get a motion of
32 support. I'd like to request funding to allow two of the
33 councils, one from the Eastern Interior and Harry Wildes
34 from Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, to come out to our region
35 possibly two times. One would be during the June fishery
36 for one of the openings and go out in a boat so they get
37 a better idea of what our region does as far as
38 commercial fishing and exactly what that entails.
39 Another time I think we talked about from our meetings
40 with them that I attended with them with the North
41 Pacific Management Council on trying to understand the
42 high seas by-catch issues, as to possibly do that from
43 one of the communities farther out west.

44
45 So, if I can, I really would appreciate a
46 motion supporting us getting a letter to Tom in regard to
47 that. I also say this because I know that Dan O'Hare
48 from Bristol Bay had gone to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Region
49 and looked at a lot of the communities and how they were
50 surviving. But it helps us all better understand our

00129

1 regions and I think there's been a lot of good, positive
2 effort in the last two years that I can see that we've
3 gained in trying to work together. I think a lot of this
4 may have really blown apart and started with the
5 resolution of wanting to shut down the north side all
6 the way through the Shelikof Straits for commercial
7 fishing for a period of one year, that we all come to
8 understand that. We need to better educate ourselves
9 about each other's regions and what our lifestyles are
10 about.

11
12 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I so move.

13
14 MR. HOLMES: Second.

15
16 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Motion made and
17 second. Discussion.

18
19 MR. HOLMES: I think that's very
20 important, Madame Chair, and I know that sort of thing
21 has helped in other places. I think particularly since a
22 fair number of folks on the peninsula do get their
23 subsistence from their commercial catch and I think it
24 would be a great idea.

25
26 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
27 other discussion.

28
29 (No discussion)

30
31 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Question. All in
32 favor signify by saying aye.

33
34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35
36 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Opposed same sign.

37
38 (No opposing votes)

39
40 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Motion carried. One
41 other item. I think we recognized Larry VanDale's
42 efforts earlier today, but he was not here and I think we
43 should send him a letter from our Council for his work
44 with the two Advisory Councils in regard to the issue of
45 the goats. For the record, maybe we should follow up
46 with a letter.

47
48 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I make a motion.

49
50 MR. SIMEONOFF: Second.

00130

1 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: The motion has been
2 made and seconded. Discussion.

3

4 MR. HOLMES: Do you need a volunteer to
5 write the letter? Oh, you have that for Michelle. Okay.

6

7 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: She may call you,
8 Pat. All in favor signify by saying aye.

9

10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Opposed same sign.

13

14 (No opposing votes)

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Motion carried. The
17 other item is our meeting in Cold Bay we did discuss our
18 location of our meetings and the cost and the question of
19 how much of it is under Federal jurisdiction and where we
20 can have our meetings and we did at that meeting send a
21 letter to Tom in regard to our concerns and our issues.
22 Pat had brought to my attention that Council did not see
23 the response from Tom to me which basically outlined --
24 maybe if I ask Tom to come up and just verbally express
25 what those opinions were.

26

27 MR. BOYD: Madame Chair. Before I left
28 the office, I made sure I had copies of the letters,
29 thinking this may come up. Last August we did send a
30 letter to all Council Members expressing concerns about
31 travel scheduling and travel locations and it was
32 primarily an attempt by me to just lay out our concerns
33 and engage in a friendly conversation about it. However,
34 I understand how concerns in this Council may have come
35 up as a result of that. After hearing your response, I
36 certainly had felt a bit of regret about sending the
37 letter at all, thinking I should have shown up with a
38 smile on my face and had a friendly conversation.

39

40 As a result of listening to what you had
41 to say or reading your letter, basically, and that was
42 the only letter I didn't bring with me, I did respond. I
43 don't have all of your points laid out, but I think I
44 tried to address most of them, if not all of them. I'll
45 just read part of this. I reviewed your viewpoints in
46 the counter-proposal in your letter and I found myself
47 agreeing with most of what you said, so I'm hoping that
48 came across as being positively received by this Council.
49 But this also led me to develop some guidelines that
50 hopefully will lead to agreement on the discussion of our

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1 Council meeting locations and schedules.

2

3 I wanted to lay out some guidelines for
4 consideration. I'm not coming in here saying this is an
5 ultimatum or this is what I want you to do or anything
6 like that. I want to have a dialogue about this. So the
7 first one is that my staff would work closely in
8 consultation with the Regional Advisory Council in
9 selecting meeting locations. This is how we always have
10 done things anyway. Our meeting locations should be
11 selected to maximize participation by rural residents
12 directly affected by the regulatory proposals and issues
13 currently in front of the Council and meeting location
14 should provide adequate lodging and eating accommodations
15 for Council Members and Agency Staff. Those are things
16 that I would like us to consider as we select meeting
17 locations.

18

19 You also raised concerns about minimizing
20 the cost of travel from my staff and I agree with you.
21 As a matter of fact, I've asked my staff to think hard
22 about their need to be at Council meetings. This is not
23 just your Council meeting, but all the Councils. So I've
24 done that. I've said the cost of conducting Council
25 meetings in the Kodiak/Aleutian regions will be minimized
26 by limiting Staff attendance from my office to only
27 members of the regional and leadership teams within my
28 office who have a direct role in that particular meeting.
29 So, at a minimum, what you're going to get, and maybe at
30 a maximum, is the regional team that's assigned to your
31 Council and that's who was here today, plus any other
32 members of my team that have a direct role in the
33 meeting. I just wanted to point out also that Staff
34 travel from other Federal agencies or the State are
35 outside of our control, so you'll see a lot of
36 bureaucrats here, but many of them are not from the
37 Office of Subsistence Management.

38

39 The third item was back-up meeting
40 locations. I would ask that they be in the regional hubs
41 and I said such as Cold Bay and Kodiak when bad weather
42 or other unforeseen difficulties force a change in
43 meeting locations just prior to the meeting occurring.
44 That just seems natural to me that we do that instead of
45 trying to go into another more remote location. You may
46 disagree with that and I'm only suggesting that we do
47 that as a back up and not as the primary. And that the
48 Council Chair would be consulted prior to making any
49 changes regardless of the situation.

50

00132

1 The fourth point was meetings will be
2 scheduled within the planning window established by my
3 office and that's normally done anyway because we have
4 the time frame that we work within. And in consultation
5 with you, the Council, to allow adequate planning and
6 preparation for logistics and avoid conflicts with
7 community and cultural events, subsistence harvest or
8 other events of importance to the region or community.
9 With concurrence of the Council, tentative meeting dates
10 will be scheduled up to one year in advance and finalized
11 in the preceding Council meeting.

12
13 That's an issue that you took exception
14 to in the last meeting. I'll just make another appeal to
15 you on that point. I think our intent here is not to try
16 to overdirect this, but more try to plan well enough in
17 advance so that we can see conflicts coming. We have to
18 manage 10 Council meeting schedules and a lot of times
19 several Councils want to meet at the same time frame and
20 it creates problems for us in trying to meet all of the
21 needs of the Councils where we have regional team staff
22 members that may participate on more than one regional
23 team for example. Then they have to divide themselves up
24 to go to different Council meetings and you may not get
25 the support you need or some other Council might not get
26 the support they need.

27
28 So we just want to be able to look far
29 enough ahead and plan. We can still make adjustments in
30 the meeting six months prior to that meeting, but we'd
31 like to look at least a year out and make suggestions at
32 that point. They're not cast in stone at that point.
33 They're just there as a planning horizon and we can make
34 changes as we get closer to the meeting date.

35
36 Here's a point that I did not want to
37 address in an argumentative way. I think what I really
38 want to do is work with the Councils on establishing the
39 meeting times and locations. It's very rarely I want to
40 intervene, to override those decisions. When we do, what
41 I want to do is consult with the Chair at a minimum and
42 maybe with other Council Members that may be directly
43 affected by those decisions. So it's our desire to work
44 with the Council on this. Anyway, those were the main
45 points in my response and I'll just say it was written in
46 a spirit of hopefully wanting to work cooperatively with
47 you and I heard you loud and clear.

48
49 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Thank you, Tom.
50 Pat, do you have anything in regard to the response?

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1 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Madame Chair, I have
2 three points if I don't forget the third one when I get
3 to it. I think that particularly traveling to some of
4 the very rural locations, we don't have to do it all the
5 time, but we make decisions for folks that don't have
6 interaction with us and I notice at the Advisory
7 Committee we try to teleconference and Al thought that
8 was a good idea and we've included Mitch in our regular
9 meetings even though Al is the representative for his
10 village and I can't help but think that that might be
11 something you might want to look into where you're going
12 to have Staff conflicts because it's sort of a shame for
13 a person to come, spend the day travel to, travel home
14 and two days of meetings, four days, when they just need
15 to make a 10 or 15-minute pitch. Quite often either the
16 team supervisor might be able to field it or the
17 assistant or maybe we just pop on the speakerphone and we
18 get the dope and if we've got a question, then we could
19 do that.

20
21 The reason I'm talking about that is like
22 places that are expensive to get to, but we do make a lot
23 of decisions about the Aleutians, and a trip to Unalaska,
24 maybe that's one where we wouldn't take the whole circus,
25 but just a minimum number of people in order to allow
26 those folks to have a chance for interaction because, as
27 you know, in the village situation a lot of folks aren't
28 really comfortable with speaking out or writing letters
29 or whatnot and just being there.

30
31 That takes me to my second thought on
32 adequate housing and eating. Is it necessary to stay in
33 an established commercial facility? I know sometimes
34 I've met some of the grandest folks and ended up sleeping
35 at their house and sharing dinner with them. I know a
36 lot of the RAC members have relatives and friends
37 everywhere that we could divvy up and then maybe the
38 Federal folks could have the soft beds in the lodge. But
39 there's all sorts of things to explore in housing and I
40 hate to see our potential of reaching out and getting to
41 some remote locations and talking with those folks if
42 it's just a matter of housing or feeding.

43
44 And I forgot the third point, but I talk
45 too much anyway.

46
47 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat. Are
48 there any other comments?

49
50 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I just want to make a

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1 quick comment to Tom. Like I talked with you about
2 yesterday, going to these other locations just to meet
3 the people that we're making decisions for, seeing their
4 different culture than what we have and the way they do
5 things, to me it would be really interesting and we could
6 learn a lot from these other rural areas and giving them
7 a chance to be involved in the process.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Just from personal
10 experience, Tom and I have had a couple heart-to-heart
11 conversations in regard to this issue and I'd like to
12 thank him for trying to work with us. Unfortunately, the
13 letter came across fairly strong. Like I say, these guys
14 give me the direction and I just have to carry it.

15

16 MR. BOYD: I think the points made are
17 well taken. The idea of teleconferences, we have done it
18 and we can do more of it. We've also provided
19 teleconference available upon request for members of the
20 public that want to testify. We don't set it up in
21 advance. We wait for the people to express an interest
22 in doing so.

23

24 With regard to is it necessary to stay at
25 an established facility, the answer is no. We've stayed
26 in schools, people's homes. I think the key is we don't
27 want to overwhelm a community and we don't want to go
28 where we're not wanted and often we don't know what we're
29 going into and we need someone on the inside sort of
30 helping guide us in that regard.

31

32 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Thank you, Tom.
33 Appreciate it. The next item on the agenda will be our
34 dates and location for next meeting. You might want to
35 look in the back of your book. It has the winter 2004
36 schedule.

37

38 MS. CHIVERS: Madame Chair, I did hand
39 out a new calendar because the calendar that's shown in
40 there, there was a meeting change for Northwest Arctic.
41 The new sheet that was provided is loose. It does show
42 the week that's open.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: And that's the fall
47 2003, right?

48

49 MS. CHIVERS: Yes. The week of September
50 14 to 20th is completely open.

00135

1 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Is there any problem
2 with 17th, 18th and 19th in King Cove? Are we going to
3 do this alternate site? It's going to end up being Cold
4 Bay because of weather.

5
6 MR. CRATTY: We don't have a choice.

7
8 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: You don't have a
9 choice.

10
11 MR. SQUARTSOFF: We only need two days
12 for the meeting. Leave on the 19th.

13
14 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Michelle, can you
15 answer that? His question is if a travel day is on a
16 Saturday, does that run into a problem with people
17 getting paid?

18
19 MS. CHIVERS: I've heard in the past that
20 it's not a problem, it's just that a lot of Councils
21 don't like to travel on weekends, so they want to have
22 time with their families. If that's the Council's wish,
23 that's fine.

24
25 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Okay. We'll go
26 ahead with the travel days September 17th, the meetings
27 18th and 19th, and the travel day on the 20th. I need a
28 location.

29
30 MS. CHIVERS: Madame Chair, there are
31 some complications with this schedule because they have
32 recently changed -- some Staff members are now taking
33 over some extra regions, so there's quite a bit of
34 overlap. The two weeks that look like they would be the
35 least amount of overlap would be the week of March 7th
36 through the 13th or March 14th through 20th.

37
38 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: The suggestion is
39 March 17th as a travel day, meeting days 18th and 19th,
40 March 20th is a travel day. Location would be Larsen Bay
41 or Old Harbor and, of course, our alternate site is going
42 to be Kodiak. Depending on the availability of housing
43 and food, we can look at the two locations. Is there any
44 other items?

45
46 MR. HOLMES: Could I ask a clarification
47 on these dates with the new coordination program that's
48 coming about. I assume these are hopefully points to
49 shoot for, but I do appreciate the Council adjusting a
50 couple of days when it looked like I was going to have to

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1 be in Anchorage for the Board of Game. So, if it ends up
2 that the Board of Fish or Board of Game is overlapping,
3 maybe things could shift a couple days one way or the
4 other.

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Pat, we kind of do
7 that anyway because we've changed our dates by a day or
8 two almost every time. I don't believe there's anything
9 else at this time. I'd like to thank everyone for their
10 participation. Oh, we do have one item. John Foster. I
11 did send him a letter in regard to him not attending
12 meetings and I did not receive a response. That was about
13 a month ago. In discussing this with you yesterday, you
14 had not received a response from him.

15
16 MS. CHIVERS: That is correct.

17
18 MR. HOLMES: I had one more question,
19 Madame Chair. I was wondering if you received any
20 response on our letter discussing the structure of the
21 RAC, being that we probably have one of the most
22 diversified RACs in the state, whether we would meet new
23 criteria. Are we looking at big changes? I hope not.

24
25 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: I will defer that to
26 Tom Boyd.

27
28 MR. BOYD: I'm going to look at Michelle
29 to see if -- we did provide a response to this Council.
30 There were a number of Councils or a number of people
31 that wrote us letters regarding the changes that are
32 occurring, so it's hard for me to sort out your
33 particular letter and whether or not we responded, but I
34 believe we did respond. I don't know the concerns off
35 the top of my head as expressed in the letter.

36
37 In addressing your point, Mr. Holmes,
38 about whether there will be big changes in your Council,
39 the Council is changing the number of seats and I believe
40 it's from nine to 10, is that right, Michelle?

41
42 MS. CHIVERS: Yes.

43
44 MR. BOYD: So that will be one change.
45 Of course, the second change is the change in the
46 composition, which would be over the next three years
47 we're trying to phase this in of attaining the 70/30
48 percent, sort of the diversity goal, if you will, of
49 having interests representing commercial and sport
50 interest represent 30 percent of the Council, i.e. three

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1 members. We've instituted a process this year in this
2 round during the application process we've asked for the
3 applicants to indicate on the application which interest
4 they represent and that's sort of a way of ensuring that
5 we get people that honestly will come forward and say
6 this is the interest I represent. That doesn't mean
7 you're tied of voting one way or the other. Vote your
8 conscious on any issue, no matter which way it leans.
9

10 MR. HOLMES: That's what I was fishing
11 for because we do have a very diverse group here. I
12 would really like to see most of the folks continue
13 because we work together quite nicely. I guess a
14 question we had in framing the letter was if you have
15 someone, like Al is local subsistence, he's a commercial
16 fisherman, he's an outfitter, sport fisherman and he's
17 also on the Fish & Game Advisory Committee, so that's
18 really handy having all that joint perspective.
19 Subsistence is important to me, but I'm a sport
20 fisherman. I'm retired, so I guess I'm a token biologist
21 if you want one of those. I guess the question we had
22 was with new membership. My mind gets foggy with ANILCA,
23 but by that provision in itself, don't they have to be
24 familiar with subsistence? So I'd feel really
25 uncomfortable with someone that's a sportsfish guide
26 that's only in Kodiak for the coho season sitting on this
27 Board and making judgments about subsistence priority.
28 That's a concern, I think.
29

30 MR. BOYD: Madame Chair. The requirement
31 in ANILCA and our regulations, I'll sort of combine the
32 two, are really simple. That they be first and foremost
33 a resident of the region. So you're not going to get an
34 outsider coming in to the region to be on the Council.
35 The second is, as you said, to be knowledgeable of
36 subsistence uses in the region. Of course, knowledge
37 sort of ranges from a little bit to a lot if you want to
38 use a spectrum, but we are looking for people that are
39 interested in working for the direct purposes of Title
40 VIII to be on the Council, not necessarily to have a
41 divergent viewpoint. So that's what we're looking for,
42 but we're looking for folks also that have another view
43 because FACA requires a diversity of interest to be
44 represented in the deliberations of the Council. In our
45 view, that promotes sort of healthy dialogue. The
46 Council may overlook an impact on commercial or sport
47 use. It doesn't mean you have to make decisions for that
48 purpose, but you need to be aware of what you're doing
49 and why. I think that's sort of the spirit behind this
50 shift and change. It's been the feeling amongst the

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1 attorneys that guide our program for some time that we've
2 been on the edge of violating the Federal Advisory
3 Committee Act in this regard, so that's kind of another
4 thing that's sort of behind this. We don't want that to
5 dilute or diverge from the main purpose of protecting and
6 providing the subsistence priority.

7
8 MR. HOLMES: I have one more comment or
9 question. Let's say Peter's term is up, but on hunting
10 things, he's often the person that we would call to say
11 how about this deer hunting issue or elk hunting issue or
12 ducks. If a person who, if their time is up, could they
13 elect to develop another criteria or say this is more
14 important to me, duck hunting, than subsistence? Just a
15 hypothetical approach, I guess.

16
17 MR. BOYD: This Council is not unusual in
18 its make-up of members that sort of represent many
19 interests. Again, I can't answer for each and every one
20 of you, but it's possible that Pete or Paul or Al or
21 anybody that has another interest, when they re-apply for
22 their seat, can indicate that that's their primary
23 interest. It's possible if that's what you're asking.

24
25 MR. HOLMES: Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: All right. I know
28 there's a couple items I need to get done before we all
29 break up here after this meeting. Thank you, Tom. I'd
30 like to thank everybody for a really good meeting and
31 everybody's help and support. Al.

32
33 MR. CRATTY: I just want to say a lot of
34 us put our input into this. I like John Foster, but it
35 upsets me that he's missed three meetings. What are we
36 going to do about it?

37
38 MS. CHIVERS: Normally we ask for a
39 letter of resignation and we have not been able to
40 contact him, so I'm not quite sure how we would handle it
41 otherwise. But, to cover ourselves, it's best to have a
42 letter of resignation.

43
44 MR. SQUARTSOFF: What does he have left
45 on his term?

46
47 MS. CHIVERS: His term expires at the end
48 of 2004.

49
50 MR. BOYD: Madame Chair. I am hearing

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1 your expressions of dismay. The charter does have a
2 provision for removing members of Councils for cause and
3 missing meetings, obviously not performing on the
4 Council, is certainly one of those reasons. Generally,
5 appointing authorities are the ones that have to remove
6 them. We've very seldom done this. Generally we forward
7 recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior. They
8 go through the Federal Subsistence Board. If this is a
9 matter the Council wants us to forward on, we can do
10 that. If you want to just discuss it with your Council
11 Members and then have a discussion with me about it, I
12 would be happy to forward whatever your recommendation is
13 to the Board.

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: We'll discuss this
16 after this meeting.

17

18 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Motion to adjourn.

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Motion made by Pete.

21

22 MR. CRATTY: Second.

23

24 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: All in favor signify
25 by saying aye.

26

27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Opposed same sign.

30

31 (No opposing votes)

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN TRUMBLE: Thank you,
34 everybody.

35

36 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for
the state of Alaska and reporter of Computer Matrix Court
Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 53 through 139
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KODIAK/ALEUTIANS FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY
COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I, taken electronically by
Nathaniel Hile on the 20th day of March 2003, beginning
at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. at the Best Western Inn,
Kodiak, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct
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THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party
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DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 28th day of
March 2003.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 4/17/04