

1 KODIAK/ALEUTIANS FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6
7
8 Kodiak, Alaska
9 September 20, 2007
10 9:00 o'clock a.m.
11

12
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

14
15 Speridon Simeonoff, Sr., Chairman
16 Pete Squartsoff
17 Patrick Holmes
18 Alfred B. Cratty, Jr.
19 Jim J. Hamilton
20
21
22 Regional Council Coordinator, Michelle Chivers
23

24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43

44 Recorded and transcribed by:
45
46 Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
47 700 W. 2nd Avenue
48 Anchorage, AK 99501
49 907-243-0668
50 jpk@gci.net/sahile@gci.net

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Kodiak, Alaska - 9/20/2007)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, let's call the meeting to order. It's 9:10. Can we have our coordinator do a roll call, please.

MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Pete Squartsoff.

MR. SQUARTSOFF: Here.

MS. CHIVERS: Pat Holmes.

MR. HOLMES: Here.

MS. CHIVERS: Sam Rohrer.

(No comments)

MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. I did talk to Sam Rohrer, he is out working at this time and we would have had to fly him in, it's kind of a complicated thing to get him to make it to the meeting so -- but I told him we would have a quorum without him and I had already let you know that.

Al Cratty.

MR. CRATTY: Here.

MS. CHIVERS: Jim Hamilton.

(No comments)

MS. CHIVERS: Jim will be a little late this morning. He had a family issue he had to take care of but he will be a little bit later.

Speridon Simeonoff.

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I'm here.

MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, we have a quorum. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Good morning to

1 everyone and thank you. I think we'll do a round of
2 introductions before we get into our agenda.

3
4 I think we'll start with our court
5 recorder and come around this way.

6
7 REPORTER: My name is Tina and I'm the
8 court reporter for the meeting.

9
10 MR. HOLMES: I am Pat Holmes. I
11 represent the Kodiak road system.

12
13 MR. CRATTY: Al Cratty, Old Harbor.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I'm Mitch
16 Simeonoff from Akhiok.

17
18 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Pete Squartsoff, Port
19 Lions.

20
21 MS. CHIVERS: Michelle Chivers, Council
22 coordinator.

23
24 MR. PAPPAS: George Pappas, Fish and
25 Game, Subsistence liaison team.

26
27 MR. DIMNOCENZO: Joe Dimnocenzo, Fish
28 and Game, CommFish, salmon and herring in Kodiak.

29
30 MR. STERRITT: Dave Sterritt,
31 Commercial Fish, Department of Fish and Game.

32
33 MR. MURPHY: Bob Murphy, ADF&G,
34 Commercial Fisheries Division, Port Moller.

35
36 MS. RUSS: Elisa Russ, Fish and Game,
37 Commercial Fisheries in Cold Bay.

38
39 MR. DANN: My name is Tyler Dann, Fish
40 and Game, Commercial Fisheries, Chignik.

41
42 MS. KATELNIKOF: Wanda Katelnikof,
43 Natural Resources, environmental coordinator for Sun'ag
44 Tribe of Kodiak.

45
46 MS. PETRIVELLI: Pat Petrivelli, BIA
47 anthropologist out of Anchorage.

48
49 MR. STICHERT: Mark Stichert, Fish and
50 Game, Commercial Fisheries in Chignik.

1 MS. ELLIS: Sheri Ellis, SWCA
2 Environmental Consultants assisting FAA.
3
4 MS. PATTERSON: Mike Patterson, Woody
5 Island Tribal Council, environmental director.
6
7 MS. GREFFENIUS: I'm Laura Greffenius.
8 I'm a wildlife biologist with the Office of Subsistence
9 Management.
10
11 MR. KLEIN: Steve Klein with the
12 Fisheries Division, OSM.
13
14 MR. GLASPELL: Brian Glaspell, Kodiak
15 Refuge.
16
17 MS. HYER: I'm Karen Hyer with the
18 Fisheries Division, OSM.
19
20 MR. SAITO: I'm Brandon Saito, Kodiak
21 National Wildlife Refuge, subsistence biologist.
22
23 MR. WHEELER: Gary Wheeler, Refuge
24 Manager, Kodiak National Wildlife Refute.
25
26 MR. PYLE: Bill Pyle, supervisor
27 wildlife biologist, Kodiak Refuge.
28
29 MS. CHIVERS: And, Mr. Chair, on line
30 we do have Sandra Siekaniec Refuge Manager from Cold
31 Bay and Liz Williams, anthropologist for Office of
32 Subsistence Management.
33
34 And I'll just remind everybody to make
35 sure to sign in so we have a record of who's attended.
36
37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you,
38 everyone. I just wanted to remind everyone that when
39 you come in you could just sign up over there and
40 there's some forms back there to fill out if you want
41 to testify on any agenda topic. And, once, again,
42 welcome, and we'll get started on our agenda.
43
44 The first item would be the review and
45 adoption of the agenda.
46
47 Is there any additions or anyone wish
48 to make additions at this time.
49
50 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. We will have

1 a couple additions on the agenda under new business.
2 We do have, I believe Pat Holmes was going to give a
3 brief report to the Council with regard to the FAA --
4 there was an issue coming up regarding the FAA, you can
5 kind of describe what it is but that's what we're going
6 to add under new items.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

9

10 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. Wanda
11 Katelnikof is here from Sun'aq and they had asked me to
12 give you folks a head's up so she'll give you some
13 input on that.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Is there anything
16 else we need to add to the agenda, Michelle.

17

18 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. There was
19 also an item -- there's a proposal that's going to be
20 proposed to the Board of Fish and Steve Klein will be
21 covering that later this morning, and that will also be
22 under new items. So either one can.....

23

24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

25

26 MS. CHIVERS:it doesn't matter
27 what order they'll be in, but Steve Klein will cover
28 that topic when we get there.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. It'll be
33 under new business also?

34

35 MS. CHIVERS: What's that?

36

37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Would that be
38 under new business also?

39

40 MS. CHIVERS: Yes.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, Pat Holmes,
43 A; Board of Fish Proposal B. Is there anything else.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Do we want to make
48 note that the hearing was moved to 1:30, it's listed
49 here as Item 7, Unit 9D.

50

1 MS. CHIVERS: Yeah.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. If there's
4 nothing else then a motion is in order to accept the
5 agenda as presented.
6
7 MR. SQUARTSOFF: So moved.
8
9 MR. HOLMES: Second.
10
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and
12 seconded. Any discussion.
13
14 (No comments)
15
16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
17 discussion, is there any objections.
18
19 (No objections)
20
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
22 objections then the motion carries.
23
24 The minutes of our February 27th, '07
25 meeting in Kodiak, has the Board had a chance to review
26 those minutes.
27
28 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I'll move to adopt.
29
30 MR. CRATTY: Second.
31
32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and
33 seconded. Any corrections.
34
35 (No comments)
36
37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Discussion.
38
39 (No comments)
40
41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
42 discussion is there any objections to the motion to
43 accept the minutes of our February 27th meeting.
44
45 (No objections)
46
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
48 objections the motion carries.
49
50 Chair's report. The only thing I have

1 is I attended the last Federal Subsistence Board
2 meeting in Anchorage and that was my first meeting,
3 first meeting I ever attended and it was a -- it's a
4 pretty interesting meeting for, you know, someone
5 coming from a small village and see how they make
6 regulations and I -- I was kind of, you know, taken
7 aback because there was a lot of people there, I didn't
8 expect a full room the way it was and they kind of run
9 the meeting the way we do, you know, a place in the
10 middle for people to testify and we did have a couple
11 of proposals from Kodiak and I did a little -- I read
12 the statements provided. Like I said it was my first
13 meeting, I'll go to others and I got nothing to report
14 back from that meeting.

15

16 So Michelle, would you like to make a
17 comment, you were there.

18

19 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. I just wanted
20 to direct the Council members to Page 15 of your
21 Council book and it does have the letter in there,
22 which is called the .805(c) letter, which is the
23 actions that the Federal Subsistence Board took on each
24 of the proposals.

25

26 And I can imagine you've already read
27 it but, you know, just be aware that it's there. But
28 it goes through each proposal and what each of the
29 Councils, what type of motion they -- whether they
30 supported the proposal or not. And then what the final
31 outcome would be, what the Board actually did. But for
32 the most part the Board did follow what the Councils
33 recommended, mostly for this Council too as well, too,
34 so you can go over that if you haven't already.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes.

37

38 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: So we noted that
41 Unit 9D is postponed until 1:30 p.m. this afternoon so
42 we'll go on to Item 8.

43

44 Michelle.

45

46 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. At this point
47 we're just asking that if the Council or members from
48 the public or agencies would like to present a
49 proposal, we do have a deadline of October 19th for
50 proposals. And I don't know if there's any issues at

1 this point or any wildlife issues that the Council
2 wants to bring forward in terms of a proposal. I
3 haven't heard anything and whether there's something
4 coming from the public, I'm not sure. We can open it
5 up at this point and if there is nobody presenting a
6 proposal then we can move on to the fish proposals.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. If there
11 are no proposals then we'll move on to Item 9,
12 Fisheries Proposals, reviews crossover.

13

14 Michelle.

15

16 MS. CHIVERS: And, Mr. Chair, Liz
17 Williams will be covering this portion of that proposal
18 and she's on line so we'll go ahead and have her speak.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

21

22 MS. CHIVERS: Okay, Liz.

23

24 MS. WILLIAMS: Good morning. Can you
25 hear me clearly, Michelle?

26

27 MS. CHIVERS: Yes.

28

29 MS. WILLIAMS: Good morning. This
30 proposal, it begins on Page 35 in your Council book.
31 And as Michelle mentioned it's a crossover proposal
32 from the Bristol Bay RAC that would include or affect
33 the Eastern Aleutian communities of Sand Point, Port
34 Moller, Nelson Lagon, False Pass, Cold Bay and King
35 Cove.

36

37 Proposal FP08-11 was submitted by the
38 Aniakchak Subsistence Resource Commission and it
39 requests the addition of snagging to the legal methods
40 of harvesting salmon for the Alaska Peninsula and
41 Chignik area.

42

43 According to the Aniakchak SRC,
44 snagging provides an efficient and selective method for
45 the harvest of individual salmon. The practice of
46 harvesting just one salmon at varying spawning stages
47 for immediate use is a customary and traditional
48 practice throughout the rural areas of Southcoastal
49 Alaska. Last year a similar proposal FP07-06 was
50 approved with modification by the Federal Subsistence

1 Board in January of 2007. And that proposal that was
2 approved last year requested the legalization of
3 snagging by handline or rod and reel as well as spear
4 or arrow and hand capture as legal methods and gear
5 types used to harvest salmon in tributaries of Lake
6 Clark by Federally-qualified subsistence users.

7
8 The proposal of -- the intent of the
9 proposal from the Aniakchak SRC is similar to the one I
10 just described and that is to legalize a traditional
11 method of harvesting an individual salmon as described
12 by the proponent. It's not standard procedure when we
13 do analysis at OSM to include an expansion of gear
14 types in the proposal request but what I decided to do
15 is since the other gear types were approved for Lake
16 Clark last year, I talked with Virginia Aleck of the
17 Aniakchak SRC and she's also a member of the Bristol
18 Bay RAC, and I talked to one of the writers of the
19 proposal and asked them if you want snagging, do you
20 also want the same stuff that Lake Clark had in their
21 proposal last year which would be the spear and the
22 arrow and the hand harvest and they said, yes. So I
23 added some stuff to this analysis.

24
25 This modification that I added will be
26 reviewed by the whole Aniakchak SRC at their meeting on
27 September 24th.

28
29 The areas that are affected by this
30 proposal include the Federal public waters within the
31 Alaska Peninsula and the Chignik areas and Federal
32 jurisdiction includes all navigable and non-navigable
33 waters within the exterior boundaries of the Aniakchak
34 National Monument Preserve and the Alaska Peninsula
35 National Wildlife Refuge and inland waters adjacent to
36 the exterior boundaries of those Refuges.

37
38 Residents of the Alaska Peninsula have
39 a positive customary and traditional use determination
40 for salmon in the Alaska Peninsula and Chignik areas
41 and all of the communities that would be affected by
42 this proposal include Chignik, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik
43 Lake, Port Heiden, Perryville, Ivanof Bay, Meshik, Sand
44 Point, Port Moller, Nelson Lagoon, False Pass, Cold Bay
45 and King Cove.

46
47 If this proposal is adopted, Federally-
48 qualified subsistence users in these areas could
49 legally engage in snagging using spear or arrow or hand
50 capture to harvest salmon in a more efficient and

1 selective manner.

2

3 New gear types sometimes affect the
4 efficiency of harvest but they don't necessarily
5 increase the total harvest.

6

7 When the Board approved the Lake Clark
8 proposal that I mentioned earlier about snagging, hand
9 capture, spear, ADF&G said that it couldn't allow
10 harvest by these methods to be reported on the State
11 subsistence fishing permit because these methods of
12 harvest are illegal under State law. So what the Board
13 did is they added language to say that salmon may be
14 taken without a subsistence permit from the State in
15 Lake Clark at its tributaries by snagging, by handline,
16 or rod and reel, using spear, bow and arrow or
17 capturing by bare hands and what we've done is added
18 the same without a permit clause to this modified
19 proposal.

20

21 So as I mentioned earlier, the Eastern
22 Aleutian communities of Sand Point, Port Moller, Nelson
23 Lagoon, False Pass, Cold Bay, King Cove are included
24 under your RAC and as well as under this proposal, and
25 so they would fall under the regulations if this
26 proposal's adopted. These communities haven't
27 requested these regulations as the Alaska Peninsula
28 communities did and I don't think there's a
29 representative currently on the RAC right now from
30 those communities, but if this proposal is passed those
31 communities wouldn't have to participate in the type of
32 fisheries proposed if they didn't like it.

33

34 So the current OSM preliminary
35 conclusion is to support the Proposal FP08-11 with
36 modification to allow harvest of salmon without a
37 permit by snagging with a handline or rod and reel, or
38 using a spear, bow and arrow or capturing by hand.

39

40 And the regulation would read:

41

42 You may also take salmon without a
43 permit by snagging, by handline or rod
44 and reel using a spear, bow and arrow
45 or capturing by bare hand.

46

47 That's the end of the analysis.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Liz.
50 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, comments.

1 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning, Mr.
2 Chairman. For the record my name is George Pappas,
3 Department of Fish and Game, Subsistence Liaison
4 Program representing the Commercial Fisheries and
5 Sportfisheries Division.

6
7 And basically I'll read into the record
8 the Department comments that are located on Page 45 of
9 your book.

10
11 For introduction. If adopted this
12 proposal would add snagging with a hook and line as
13 legal means to harvest all salmon species in the
14 freshwaters of the Alaska Peninsula and Chignik
15 Fisheries Management areas. The Federal Staff
16 recommends the proposal be expanded to include other
17 methods and means recently adopted in Lake Clark.

18
19 The Department opposes this proposal.
20 The Alaska Board of Fisheries recently considered and
21 decided not to allow snagging as a means of harvest in
22 the freshwaters of Alaska.

23
24 How will this proposal impact
25 subsistence users. Federally-qualified subsistence
26 users would be required to use a separate Federal
27 permit to use this method because it cannot be
28 authorized by the State permit. Rod and reel, bow and
29 arrow, spear, bare hand capture and snagging are not
30 legal methods on State or private lands so Federally-
31 qualified subsistence users would have to be sure that
32 they're on Federal lands or in a boat if they use these
33 methods.

34
35 If you go to Page 47 in your book
36 here's a map and you'll notice it's basically a land
37 ownership map. The stripes are State land, the solid
38 colors are Native allotments or Native Corporation
39 lands and you'll see the north side of the Peninsula,
40 there's a 100, almost 200 miles of contiguous non-
41 Federal property or non-Federal public lands and if you
42 look on the next page, which will be Page 48, it's a
43 map of the Chignik watershed and pretty much the entire
44 watershed is Native Corporation lands so these
45 practices, if adopted, would have to take place from a
46 boat or from in the river itself, actually not from the
47 shore. There is accessible areas in the Chignik area
48 -- excuse me, the Chignik watershed to actually snag or
49 use a bow and arrow or spear and that would be, and it
50 looks like the closest one would be up Choctaw (ph)

1 Creek, which is just downstream from Black Lake and
2 that's not an easy trip in jet boat. The proponent of
3 this proposal can easily get up there with a jet boat
4 but it takes a lot of skill. I've replaced a lot of
5 lower end units with the Staff when I worked out there
6 trying to get up there.

7
8 So moving on. Yeah, once again, travel
9 to use this method on Federal lands in this area, which
10 are generally remote unless accessible would be costly.
11 Liberal State subsistence fisheries are allowed on all
12 lands so this method is not needed for meaningful
13 subsistence harvest and would be confusing for the
14 users and complicate enforcement -- complicate issues
15 for enforcement personnel.

16
17 Salmon -- for opportunity provided by
18 the State salmon may be harvested under the Alaska
19 Board of Fisheries regulations using gillnets and purse
20 seines. The State provides a subsistence preference on
21 all lands and liberal State subsistence fisheries for
22 salmon are provided on the Alaska Peninsula.

23
24 For example, subsistence fisheries in
25 Chignik and the Alaska Peninsula areas including Sand
26 Point, Port Moller, and Cold Bay have a liberal
27 household limit of 250 fish. A subsistence fisherman
28 can be authorized to take more fish if they need it.

29
30 Legal gear types allowed for Chignik
31 and Alaska Peninsula area subsistence fisheries include
32 gillnets, seines, except in the Chignik Lake where
33 purse seines may not be used. Additional gear types
34 can be specified and added to the State subsistence
35 permit by State regulation.

36
37 Each management area has specific
38 stipulations on the respective areas of subsistence
39 permits. For example, timing restrictions to separate
40 subsistence and commercial fishermen -- or fisheries.
41 Gillnet length limits in areas open to commercial
42 fishing and also closed waters.

43
44 A commercial salmon license holder on a
45 -- or a commercial fisheries limited entry salmon
46 permitholder may not subsistence fish for salmon during
47 a commercial salmon period in the Chignik area but --
48 excuse me -- but may not subsistence fish 12 hours
49 before and 12 hours after each commercial fishing
50 period. If a commercial salmon license holder or

1 commercial fisheries limited entry salmon permit holder
2 in the Chignik management area goes fishing in the
3 Chignik Lagoon, Lake or River they're required to
4 contact Department Staff at the Chignik weir in order
5 to separate subsistence and commercial harvest. And
6 that's actually not very complicated, it's just usually
7 a telephone call or VHF call or single-sideband call
8 and it's common practice, they've been doing it for
9 years.

10
11 Additional State subsistence fishery
12 restrictions exist on the Alaska Peninsula to conserve
13 small and accessible streams. These restrictions
14 include reduced annual limits of harvest in particular
15 areas and reduce net length restrictions.

16
17 The Alaska Board of Fisheries has made
18 -- has determined the combined amounts necessary for
19 subsistence for the communities in the Alaska Peninsula
20 area is 34,000 to 56,000 salmon annually. The amounts
21 necessary for subsistence in the Chignik area, which
22 include Chignik Bay, Central and Eastern Districts of
23 the Chignik management area is 5,900 to 14,250 salmon
24 annually.

25
26 As for conservation issues. No salmon
27 runs on the Alaska Peninsula are currently listed as a
28 stock of concern by the Alaska Board of Fisheries. The
29 use of snagging as a legal method may increase harvest
30 of salmon throughout these ranges on the Alaska
31 Peninsula by some unknown amount. It is not known
32 whether such harvest would be large enough to raise any
33 conservation issues on individual tributaries or creeks
34 and streams with small salmon numbers and specific
35 stocks.

36
37 The Department agrees with the Bristol
38 Bay Regional Advisory Council's comments of the October
39 2 through 3, 2nd and 3rd of 2006 on this subject. The
40 comments were:

41
42 The proposed use of snagging with rod
43 and reel as a means of harvest is a
44 cause for concern given the likelihood
45 that not all fish hooked by snagging
46 will be landed. This method will
47 potentially result in the number of
48 fish being injured and depending on the
49 severity of the injury they may not
50 successfully spawn. Additionally, the

1 injury rate could be very high as there
2 is a potential fishers to continue
3 snagging until successful. Therefore,
4 snagging with a rod and reel in Lake
5 Clark or its tributaries should not be
6 considered a biologically sound method
7 of harvest.

8
9 And that came from the Bristol Bay RAC.

10
11 As for jurisdiction issues. Under
12 Sections .102 and .103(c) of ANILCA, Federal
13 regulations do not apply for State and private lands
14 and do not apply for validly selected but not conveyed
15 lands. Detailed maps of where Federal jurisdiction is
16 claimed and the basis for each claim needs to be
17 provided.

18
19 Other comments. If the Federal
20 Subsistence Board allows snagging the Federal agencies
21 will be responsible for permitting, reporting and
22 monitoring the fishery. Issuing multiple permits and
23 requiring separate reporting that would confusing and
24 cumbersome for Federally-qualified subsistence users.

25
26 The proposed usage of snagging as a
27 means of harvest will increase social and enforcement
28 problems. Snagging in freshwater is not consistent
29 with the principles of sound management of conservation
30 of fish and wildlife resources. Current State
31 regulations and subsistence permits stipulations do not
32 allow the use of rod and reel as a legal gear type but
33 Federal subsistence regulations instruct Federal
34 subsistence fisheries participant to use a State issued
35 subsistence permit to record their harvest. If this
36 proposal's adopted Federally-qualified subsistence
37 users participating in Federal subsistence rod and reel
38 fishery would not be able to use the State permit.

39
40 The Department requests clarification
41 regarding which methods of snagging are being requested
42 by the proposal. Is the proposal requesting to provide
43 Federally-qualified subsistence anglers of the
44 opportunity to use rod and reel to snag salmon or would
45 the subsistence users utilize a handline with a treble
46 hook attached or both?

47
48 That concludes my presentation.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Does anyone have

1 any questions.

2

3

Pete.

4

5 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I just had one on this
6 opportunities provided by State, on the bottom it says
7 additional gear types can be specified and added to the
8 State subsistence permit. Was that requested to the
9 State?

10

11 MR. PAPPAS: I don't recall of any
12 requests for additional gear.

13

14 MR. DIMNOCENZO: There has been.

15

16 MR. PAPPAS: Excuse me.

17

18 MR. DIMNOCENZO: I'm sorry, I'm Joe
19 Dimnocenzo and I have issued additional gear types
20 before. We can't issue rod and reel but people, for
21 example, have asked for Hawaiian throw nets out on the
22 Alaska Peninsula and I've issued permits, just
23 handwritten it on the permit to do that.

24

25 We've been kind of flexible. I mean
26 there is a statute that says you can't use rod and reel
27 but we can consider other gear types and we do as long
28 as there's no big threat to the resource. Okay, so
29 there is a history of this.

30

31 MR. PAPPAS: In State regulation there
32 is a list of what is legal and what is not legal for
33 gear.

34

35 Mr. Holmes.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, Pat.

38

39 MR. PAPPAS: Sorry.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

42

43 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Pappas
44 and Mr. Dimnocenzo. I think that in your discussion
45 there, Mr. Pappas, it would have been good to -- I'd
46 like to point out to the Council on Page 48, if you
47 look at the chart, the one area that's being talked
48 about Choctaw Creek; is that right?

49

50 MR. PAPPAS: Yes.

1 MR. HOLMES: Is up in the north and
2 western most portion of Chignik Lake. There's a part
3 of a section of land there with a couple of dots on it
4 in white and so that's the one spot in the management
5 area. So that's a comment.

6
7 The question I would have to both of
8 you, coming off of Mr. Dimnocenzo's comment, it would
9 seem that a specification for a throw net or even a
10 hand dipnet would be less harmful for the fish.

11
12 I don't know any of you that have had a
13 pageant life, what they're like when you go in at the
14 wrong time and get them upset, you know, the same thing
15 applies to the fish and so snagging, while it might
16 physically cut them, you know, you get a high bacterial
17 load and high stress load. So even though the numbers
18 of fish are quite small it's a bit of a motherhood
19 issue. And, myself, I kind of liked the thought that
20 Joe presented of having ability on the permit to
21 specify a gear type that wouldn't cause difficulties to
22 the spawning fish.

23
24 I think the question of not having a
25 permit report isn't -- you need to know who catches
26 what and how. But anyway I could -- could there be
27 something that you could specify that would not be as
28 harmful to the fish than snagging or the other gear
29 types, spears, bows and arrows because any of those
30 things you're really chasing the fish around.

31
32 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. Mr. Holmes.
33 My experience shows that dipnets do work well. My most
34 recent position was managing the Kenai River for
35 sportsfish and hundreds of thousands of fish are cut
36 with the dipnets every year.

37
38 I'd also like to bring two things to
39 your attention. The area you're talking about that
40 stipulates on this map, that looks like an error, and
41 Choctaw Creek is between Black Lake and Chignik Lake,
42 about half way in between. I can't remember exactly
43 what the common name of the creek is but I believe
44 that's an error. And I also see another error on the
45 actual spit itself, that's supposed to be private
46 property and it actually is stipulated as Corporation
47 property.

48
49 If somebody came -- well, is the area
50 manager here from Chignik? We have the most recent

1 area manager here for Chignik that could probably talk
2 to you about, what would you do if somebody came to you
3 and asked you to use a dipnet, which is legal means the
4 State regulations.

5
6 MR. STICHERT: For the record my name
7 is Mark Stichert. I'm the area biologist for salmon
8 and herring in Chignik. We haven't had any past
9 requests for adding different gear types to permits,
10 but to my knowledge and recollection we do have the
11 flexibility to add gear types provided they are a
12 legally recognized means within the State.

13
14 MR. HOLMES: And, again.....

15
16 MR. STICHERT: And I don't think
17 there's a restriction in terms of whether or not we can
18 add them, that opportunity just hasn't -- that occasion
19 hasn't really arisen yet. And through my experience,
20 you know, given the proximity and size of Chignik River
21 to where most people do choose to subsistence fish, I
22 think dipnetting would be an inefficient means to try
23 and catch fish but it's certainly possible.

24
25 MR. HOLMES: I missed your last
26 sentence, I'm a little deaf.

27
28 MR. STICHERT: I think that, you know,
29 given the size of the Chignik River where most people
30 prefer to subsistence fish for salmon which is in close
31 proximity to all the villages, you know, I think
32 dipnetting is probably not the most efficient means of
33 catching fish.

34
35 MR. HOLMES: But it would provide an
36 opportunity for this gentleman that wanted a low tech
37 way of getting some fish.....

38
39 MR. STICHERT: That is correct, yes.

40
41 MR. HOLMES:in the creek because
42 I assume for dried fish or something.

43
44 MR. PAPPAS: I'd like to make one point
45 of clarification on the State subsistence permit, 5 AAC
46 1.475 waters closed to subsistence fishing, this is for
47 the State fishery:

48
49 Salmon may not be taken in Black Lake
50 or any of the tributaries of Black or

1 Chignik Lake.

2

3 So the tributaries are closed to
4 subsistence fishing, it's only the lake or the main
5 river itself. And there's also a clause in there for
6 safety to close it above the weirs so people don't wash
7 up on the weir.

8

9 MR. HOLMES: One more question for you
10 gentlemen. Do you feel that there's adequate
11 opportunity for folks to get the subsistence fish they
12 need in Chignik and what methods do they use at this
13 time?

14

15 MR. STICHERT: For the most part most
16 everyone uses gillnets. Although hand purse seines and
17 seines are also legal. My experience most people use a
18 gillnet right in the river. We do have a closure up
19 stream from the weir to the mouth of Chignik Lake
20 mostly to protect spawning king salmon. That's the
21 bulk of the spawning grounds for king salmon.

22

23 As to whether or not people feel they
24 have adequate opportunity to catch subsistence fish,
25 that's a personal judgment call but in my opinion, both
26 as a manager and as an individual, I feel there is.

27

28 MR. HOLMES: Thank you.

29

30 MR. PAPPAS: And to add to that, I was
31 the area manager during the years that the cooperative
32 fishery was in existence and some folks did have a
33 challenge adjusting to the new cooperative style of
34 fishery where the escapement was metered, almost on a
35 daily basis of the same amount of fish. Historically
36 the subsistence users developed their habits for
37 subsistence fishing based on the management plan which
38 would allow large pulses of fish through the weir, and
39 a person could go out and set their net during one of
40 these large pulses of 20 or 40,000 fish through the
41 weir which is actually a large number of fish for that
42 river and fill their nets up and get all their fish at
43 once. When the cooperative fishery came in, they were
44 fishing on limits on a daily basis, so many fish went
45 through the weir and it wasn't large pulses so the
46 folks that were fishing came and talked to me and said,
47 hey, I have to go fishing four or times now to get the
48 same number of fish, it's less efficient, I have to
49 make four or five batches of brine, the timing's
50 difficult, they're used to putting up their 250 fish

1 for family in one shot, that was a challenge. And --
2 but if I remember correctly we did some adjustments to
3 get a few pulses of fish through, we liberalized the
4 area where you could fish down in front, all the way
5 down within 100 yards of the weir. A few changes were
6 installed to assist folks catch their fish, to improve
7 their oppor -- or possibility of success and
8 efficiency.

9

10 And I believe the cooperative fishery
11 is no longer in existence and I assume we're back to
12 the pulses where early in the season, a large of pulse
13 of fish, people put their fish up before the blue flies
14 show up, and I haven't -- I've been out of the Chignik
15 area for several years but I assume they're satisfied.

16

17 MR. STICHERT: That's my understanding.

18

19 MR. HOLMES: Why does this gentleman
20 want a fish from the creek, is that for a special
21 subsistence use?

22

23 MR. PAPPAS: The proponent is Harry
24 Kamelkoff (ph) who actually provided the proposal. I
25 haven't seen in the analysis or any of the comments
26 from -- for the definition of what he was looking for.
27 But I personally know Virginia and Nick Aleck, they
28 have a cabin up at Black Lake, on the way up to Black
29 Lake you'll pass -- some of the creek mouths will have
30 10, 20,000, 30,000 salmon stacked up and I guess it
31 would be easily accessible since they're stacked up in
32 real shallow water for access instead of hauling -- and
33 -- and also the area is closed by State regulations, so
34 I don't fully understand what is being asked here,
35 except for maybe not going out and catching 150 fish
36 with a gillnet, maybe just going and catch one or two
37 as the analysis states.

38

39 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. Would there
40 be some way that you would be able to do a limited
41 fishery to accommodate that type of need by -- that
42 would allow them to take fish in those areas without
43 snagging?

44

45 MR. PAPPAS: I don't believe that would
46 be an allocative decision but since it is in regulation
47 you would have to go to the Board of Fish for a
48 decision, if they wanted to open up some other areas,
49 some tributaries what have you, there could be some
50 concerns for -- what's the creek right next to the

1 Chignik Lake Village?

2

3 MR. STICHERT: Clark River.

4

5 MR. PAPPAS: Yeah, Clark River might be
6 a concern because it's the vicinity next to Chignik
7 Lake community there. There might be some challenges
8 with -- if there's a low escapement year in large
9 number -- or not even a large number, a few folks that
10 want to go up there and harvest all their salmon from
11 that tributary, that might be a concern.

12

13 I believe that's one of the reasons it
14 was initially closed to subsistence fishing, though
15 folks do fish off the mouth of that creek.

16

17 But to go up 30, 40, 50 miles, very few
18 folks get up there. The Fish and Game crew gets up
19 there to sample and a few of the local folks get up
20 there every year but going up to Black Lake and some of
21 those tributaries. it's very rarely visited to my
22 recollection.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, thank you,
25 Pat. Is there other questions for -- Pete.

26

27 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. I don't
28 have a question but I have a comment on it. The way
29 I'm reading this is you're saying the guy has a cabin
30 up there and when he goes up hunting or camping or
31 whatever, he -- it sounds to me like he just wants to
32 catch one or two fish and he wants to make it legal.
33 That's the impression I'm getting, not trying to get a
34 bunch of fish to put for the winter just to -- and I
35 love to do the same thing, is get a fresh salmon
36 wherever I'm at to eat it while it's real fresh. So I
37 don't see it as wanting to take a bunch of salmon.

38

39 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. Mr.
40 Squartsoff. My personal opinion is if you want to
41 catch your 250 fish at Black Lake you'd never make it
42 back down because the water's too -- you know, I don't
43 know actually Virginia and Nick could make it down
44 there, they're the only ones in the state that can get
45 a jet boat across a wet kitchen floor, but long story
46 short, maybe along that same lines, yes, sir.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Other questions,
49 comments.

50

1 MS. WILLIAMS: This is Liz, I have a
2 comment.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead Liz.

5
6 MS. WILLIAMS: I just wanted to say
7 that Pete's absolutely correct, and I didn't go into it
8 a lot in my speech there.

9
10 But in the analysis I tried to make it
11 very clear that this is one or two fish and it's
12 incidental and it's not about getting 250 fish at all.
13 In the past when there wasn't electricity a lot of
14 people preferred fish out of freshwater to dry because
15 they didn't have as much fat. They also would get
16 fresh fish in what we would maybe say in spawning
17 colors but if you're from the north end of the island
18 there's like kinowuk fish for boiling where you catch
19 one fish with certain markings and people read the
20 markings like a label and you throw it in the water,
21 within two hours and you often cook it with pushke or
22 potatoes. People in the north end call it tumuluk
23 fish, I think. On the south end people like to get a
24 specific pink salmon with the blackest hump and they
25 often say qazuk and they chop the top off, the hump and
26 eat that raw also with pushke. And so this is a very,
27 very specific cultural, traditional fishery that people
28 have done for years. Fish taste different at different
29 times of their lives. People like white meat salmon
30 and using a rod and reel for this is just leaving in
31 modern times but also using modern gear for traditional
32 methods. And that's why you see all the methods that
33 are listed there.

34
35 Pete said exactly what was going on, if
36 people are out hunting or our commercial fishing and
37 maybe camp somewhere, who knows, I don't know, it's
38 just one or two fish, incidental, and I've had elders
39 yell at me, like, why can't I have my one kinowuk fish
40 or my tumuluk fish or my qazuk, well, how can that be
41 not legal. So that's where this, I believe, is coming
42 from.

43
44 I haven't been able to reach Harry
45 Kamelkoff, but just talking to other people this is
46 what I'm getting from them.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Liz.

49
50 Other questions, comments.

1 MS. RUSS: Mr. Chair.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes.
4
5 MS. RUSS: Elisa Russ from Cold Bay.
6 And I have talked to Joe about handwriting on permits
7 and have done that for subsistence permits for a
8 specific gear types, including that Hawaiian throw net.
9
10 My concern -- I understand what Liz is
11 saying but I guess the concern would be that people
12 might take advantage of that and use that in a
13 situation as Pat described where a lot of fish could
14 get injured so that would be my concern in putting that
15 regulation in across the board.
16
17 Thank you.
18
19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you.
20 Others.
21
22 (No comments)
23
24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If there's no
25 others then we'll move to the Federal, State and tribal
26 agencies.
27
28 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
29
30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Fish and
31 Game Advisory Committee.
32
33 (No comments)
34
35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any written public
36 comments.
37
38 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 There are no written public comments.
40
41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Public
42 testimony. We have Iver Malutin.
43
44 MR. MALUTIN: Okay, good morning. And
45 it's really nice to see you here again. And I wish all
46 the Board members were here to get the representation
47 that we need but I know you're going to get them the
48 information somehow. I'm glad you're here.
49
50 I fished in Chignik for seven years and

1 I married a girl from Chignik. And basically their
2 lifestyle is the same as ours. And the people that I
3 talked to in Chignik and all the times that I've been
4 there they absolutely don't want any snagging in the
5 rivers in Chignik. The people that I talk to and I
6 just talked to a couple on the phone just now.

7
8 But saying that I don't think we should
9 at all speak against any other area that wants to snag
10 fish in the area if they had that opportunity, if they
11 did that, if it's their traditional, I think we should
12 somehow make some kind of exception to take care of
13 those people. I don't think that should change.

14
15 And one of the things that's happening
16 in Chignik right now is there's a large number of
17 people moving into Chignik, and Chignik had a
18 relatively low run of salmon this year. And one of the
19 things they don't want to see anyway is that the salmon
20 be jeopardized, hurt, just like Lake Clark said they
21 don't want any damaged fish, it could even kill fish
22 and if you have a low run and you're killing fish
23 inadvertently, I think that's wrong. That's not the
24 Native's lifestyle even though it is in some places.
25 I'm not saying it isn't in other places because I
26 wasn't there. But being in Kodiak it's just not a
27 lifestyle.

28
29 And another thing that -- there's a
30 large, large influx of people moving into Chignik
31 right now according to the people that I just talked to
32 that came from Chignik and it's the number of people
33 that are residents and non-residents using the
34 resources in Chignik, big numbers. Just to give you an
35 example, they can't even get a dungeness crab out in
36 the bay anymore, we missed the boat, we didn't get the
37 regulations there in time and now the people are
38 suffering in Chignik because they can't get any
39 dungeness like they used to all the time.

40
41 And for whatever the reasons are, I'm
42 not saying that ADF&G didn't do a good job because I
43 believe that ADF&G is doing a good job and in just
44 about every place they go they're doing a hell of a
45 good job but we missed the boat by not getting the
46 information to them earlier and we're going to miss the
47 boat again by not getting this information to the
48 people earlier and disallow snagging in those rivers if
49 they don't want it. And if there's some way that the
50 State or even on Federal waters, Federal land, if they

1 could get special -- special allocation at a certain
2 time that would be fine. Because for sure I would hate
3 to see any traditions disappear.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Iver.
8 Any other public comments.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Regional Council
13 deliberations and recommendations.

14
15 Pete you have something, or Pat.

16
17 MR. HOLMES: I'll let Pete go first.

18
19 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, just in response
20 to what Iver said there, you know, it sounds to me like
21 you're talking -- there's a big difference between
22 commercial and subsistence. And what this man was
23 proposing is to snag a fish or two instead of putting
24 out a net and getting a whole bunch of fish. I don't
25 know, I just see it as a total different thing, and I
26 personally don't see it as killing off the stocks
27 because more people are moving into the area but most
28 -- the people living down the lower part of Chignik, I
29 think, are all commercial fishermen. So I think
30 there's a big difference there.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Iver, you going to
33 respond to that.

34
35 MR. MALUTIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I am.
36 And Pete is exactly right but if you're making State
37 law it's not going to stop any State resident from
38 going in there and snagging, anybody that is a State --
39 resident can do the same thing as anybody that lived
40 there all their life.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

45
46 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I kind of
47 listening to Iver's words of wisdom there because his
48 wife is Bertha Esconberg and that's one of the big
49 clans out there. And, you know, it's worrisome, I
50 understand -- and it'd be real nice to be able to go

1 out and get one fish or two and then -- but snagging,
2 as Iver pointed out, isn't particularly a traditional
3 way.

4
5 What I'm wondering is if solution on
6 this might be to -- the Department has those areas
7 closed, but I'm wondering if you might be able to -- I
8 wonder if an action might be for us to table this for a
9 recommendation that OSM and the Department get together
10 and find some way that you know what -- which way the
11 fish were caught because I think when we had the
12 hearings for Kodiak we found out how important it is to
13 report your catch and know what's caught where and to
14 minimize breeding stocks.

15
16 I guess my thought is, or asking for
17 maybe some input from the Department is, could you
18 folks figure out a way because you said that some of
19 the lakes are closed for subsistence but could you
20 open, let's say, and granted it would take a proposal,
21 but could you, say, the area where this fellow wants to
22 go that it could be taken with dipnet because the guy
23 could have a net and get a couple of fish when he's up
24 hunting because he's -- he'd probably be doing that
25 every year without having such an abusive situation
26 with the spawners. I know you're in kind of a pinch
27 there with the regulations you got but I'm just
28 wondering if there might be some logic of using a --
29 not quite so difficult a way of -- anyway, I'm losing
30 my talk, is there a way you guys could explore an
31 option, call a time out and talk to OSM and try to meet
32 these fellow's needs without snagging and be able to
33 get a report on what's caught.

34
35 MR. STICHERT: The Department has
36 submitted two proposals for this upcoming Board cycle
37 in Chignik to open up the Clark River which -- it's
38 probably the biggest tributary to Clark or to Chignik
39 Lake, which is in really close proximity and four-
40 wheeler access to the village of Chignik Lake, to open
41 that area to subsistence fishing. We do believe there
42 is people -- do believe people -- people do go there
43 and fish and our intent was to -- if people are going
44 there and fishing and not reporting that, we might as
45 well open up that lower section of the river below the
46 spawning grounds and make that legal and give people a
47 means to actually report that on the current
48 subsistence permits they have now.

49
50 So we are taking steps towards opening

1 up and providing more local opportunity for people to
2 get small amounts of fish that are easily accessible,
3 meaning Clark River's a small tributary, would be easy
4 to take a small hand seine or something and pull out a
5 few fish rather than going and putting a gillnet in the
6 river and catching 200 fish.

7

8 And that also then increases the
9 chances of us getting some reporting of what is
10 probably in reality is happening.

11

12 MR. PAPPAS: And one other addition to
13 that if you look on Page 48 of your books, the Clark
14 River, you'll see it's the very southern of Chignik
15 Lake and I believe you can get there with a four-
16 wheeler from Chignik Lake so -- and also another
17 interesting point is that's an extremely long run.
18 There are a lot of fish, I think through January,
19 sometimes even in February. I'm not aware of anybody's
20 who's gone up and caught 250 fish in February but
21 rumor, in talking to folks, fish are available late,
22 you know, long after some of the lake is frozen up,
23 what have you, off the mouth, et cetera. So this
24 proposal that he's talking about would allow for such.

25

26 MR. STICHERT: And, again, I think it
27 provides an opportunity for catching some of those late
28 run fish or those red fish, or, you know, some of
29 those, I don't know the proper terms for it, but people
30 want basically fish off the spawning grounds and this
31 is where that'd be a good place for them to get fish
32 from.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Pat.

35

36 MR. HOLMES: Part of my question was,
37 is, could you get something that was -- obviously
38 you're trying to address that and I think that's a
39 really excellent solution. But I'm wondering if on
40 this subsistence permit you could have something where
41 you would allow for dipnetting with the permission of
42 the area biologist, is there a way to -- because you've
43 got a proposal in for subsistence fishing off the Clark
44 River so when you went to the Board you could go in and
45 modify part of that and say we'd like to consider this
46 other option, too, can you do that?

47

48 All I'm trying to get at is that fellow
49 goes farther up the lake for where he's at and I know
50 it's tough to make a regulation for one people --

1 person, but as Liz is pointing out, that there are some
2 folks that do do that so I'm just hoping that there
3 might be some way to provide for that.

4
5 MR. PAPPAS: My assumption at this time
6 -- through the Chair, would be the Board of Fish, if
7 public testimony came forth at the Board of Fisheries
8 of what the needs were, what methods and means and
9 areas that were currently legal under the State
10 regulation, to review the closed areas, that there -- I
11 would assume that they would take that into serious
12 consideration. As you know we can't negotiate the
13 close and open but it would come down to biological --
14 also biological concern from the man on the ground, our
15 area manager, if there's an issue. A lot of float
16 planes start showing up in one of the fishing
17 tributaries because they're the only fish available at
18 the time, I guess that can be controlled with the
19 permits and emergency order if there's an issue, was
20 concern about over-exploitation. But as everybody here
21 knows it's a long ways away from any big towns and
22 large numbers of people.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Al, do you have
25 anything.

26
27 MR. CRATTY: Yeah, I agree with Iver
28 there, I think you're opening a can of worms. But I
29 also believe what Pete's saying, if the people are
30 hungry they're going to use that, if that's their only
31 method and way of getting fish they're going to use it
32 so this, you know.....

33
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other Council
35 recommendation.

36
37 Pete.

38
39 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. I think we
40 should table this and have further discussion and get
41 more information and work with the Alaska Department of
42 Fish and Game on trying to maybe limit it to one or two
43 salmon or something, just minimal amounts and maybe
44 late season's or -- I don't know, I think it can be
45 worked out.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

48
49 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I'm in
50 agreement with Mr. Squartsoff and I think I'd be

1 inclined to table and it looks like the Department's
2 trying to do that and if you could maybe try and
3 address some way for very limited harvest, if a person
4 wants to do that with a dipnet or something, that
5 wouldn't be getting all the fish all riled up and
6 injured. You know, I'd sure like to see folks approach
7 that. But, anyway, I think I would -- if Pete makes a
8 motion to table I'll second it.

9

10 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I so move.

11

12 MR. HOLMES: Second.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The motion is to
15 table -- what's the proposal number?

16

17 MR. HOLMES: 08-11.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: FP08-11. Tabled
20 to when, Pete, do you know?

21

22 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I won't be here.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Michelle.

25

26 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. The Bristol
27 Bay Council has not met yet, they will actually be
28 meeting October 1st and 2nd. I believe if we table
29 this, and I could just pass the information on to Cliff
30 so when they do meet they'll have the information that
31 was given by this Council to present to that Council.
32 And then once they make their motion I could probably
33 get back with the Council and let you guys know exactly
34 what happened from their meeting.

35

36 And by us tabling it, it's still going
37 to go to the Board in December. So by us tabling it,
38 it'll just kind of make it null and void from our
39 Council. So if you'd like I can just go ahead and
40 relay the information to Cliff and he can pass it on to
41 their Council there. And I believe you guys will be at
42 that meeting or somebody from.....

43

44 MR. PAPPAS: (Nods affirmatively)

45

46 MS. CHIVERS: Yeah. So they can also
47 talk about that at that meeting as well.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Motion to
2 table is.....
3
4 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman.
5
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.
7
8 MR. HOLMES: Going along that line
9 then, basically our comments will be summarized and
10 forwarded to them as well as to the Board on our
11 reluctance to deal with this and the reasons why?
12
13 MS. CHIVERS: And, Mr. Chair, somebody
14 from this Council will be attending the Board meeting
15 so they can also bring up the comments at that time to
16 the Board. But we'll be sure that the Bristol Bay
17 Council gets the comments from this Council as well.
18
19 Thank you.
20
21 MR. HOLMES: Thank you.
22
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.
24
25 MR. HOLMES: One more question for Fish
26 and Game. Is there.....
27
28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat, we're in a
29 motion.
30
31 MR. HOLMES: I'm sorry.
32
33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: It's been
34 seconded.
35
36 MR. HOLMES: Yep.
37
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If there's no
39 further discussion then we'll deal with the motion and
40 then you can pose your question to Fish and Game.
41
42 (No comments)
43
44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no further
45 discussion, is there any objections to the motion.
46
47 (No objections)
48
49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
50 objection then the motion carries.

1 And, Pat, do you have another question.
2
3 MR. HOLMES: Oh, I was wondering is
4 there still a Chignik Advisory Committee? At one time
5 I think there was one at the lake and the lagoon.
6
7 MR. STICHERT: Yes, there still is an
8 Advisory Committee.
9
10 MR. HOLMES: Have you folks heard from
11 them or they haven't met yet?
12
13 MR. STICHERT: They have not met. I
14 contacted them a couple weeks ago with regards to
15 upcoming Board cycle and they were in the process of
16 scheduling a meeting.
17
18 MR. HOLMES: Thank you, very much.
19 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I apologize for my faux-
20 faux.
21
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.
23 We'll take a 10 minute break.
24
25 MR. HOLMES: For those of you that
26 aren't of indigenous origin, there's some ecrow (ph) in
27 the back and that is Walter Metrokin of Kodiak's recipe
28 and it's from some silvers from the Buskin that frank,
29 the sea lion didn't eat.
30
31 (Off record)
32
33 (On record)
34
35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Could we have Pat
36 and Al back up here.
37
38 (Pause)
39
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Can everyone be
41 seated, we'll call the meeting back to order. Al and
42 Pat please come back.
43
44 (Pause)
45
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: They're eating.
47
48 REPORTER: Do you want me to turn it up
49 louder.
50

1 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 (Pause)

6

7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: At this time our
8 next agenda item is the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
9 Program, Karen Hyer.

10

11 MS. HYER: Good morning. For the
12 record my name is Karen Hyer and I work for the Office
13 of Subsistence Management, the Fisheries Division. And
14 today I'm going to present to you the draft 2008
15 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan, and it starts on
16 Page 51. And it starts with some background material,
17 so 51 and all the way through 53 is just background
18 material to our process and the initial process is with
19 the Technical Review Committee and that process has
20 been completed and they review these proposals for
21 strategic priority, technical and scientific merit, the
22 investigator's ability to perform the project and
23 partnership and capacity building. And so through that
24 process we have proposals that are submitted, we have
25 two data types. The first is the stock, status and
26 trend data type and the second is the harvest
27 monitoring and traditional ecological knowledge data
28 type.

29

30 And if you turn to Table 1 on Page 54
31 you'll see the total of investigation plans that were
32 submitted for consideration. We had 30 investigation
33 plans total and 21 of these were SST and nine were
34 HMTEK. And in Table 1 if you go down to Southwest you
35 see that for this region four SST were submitted and
36 one HMTEK, so there were a total of five. And the
37 Technical Review Committee chose to recommend three of
38 those and they were all SST projects.

39

40 And the total funding for 2008 for our
41 whole monitoring plan is \$2.1 million and of that this
42 region has a portion of that.

43

44 So if you continue on to Page 56 and 57
45 you'll see an overview for this region and it talks
46 about some of the priorities that were listed in the
47 strategic plans for this region. There are two
48 strategic plans for this region, there's Bristol
49 Bay/Chignik plan and the Kodiak/Aleutian plan.

50

1 And so on Page 57, Table 1, lists all
2 the projects that have been done in this area since the
3 inception of the program in 2000. And at this point
4 for the Kodiak/Aleutians there have been 10 projects
5 and you can see those at the bottom of Table 1, and
6 those are completed projects.

7
8 Then if you flip the page, you get to
9 Table 2 and these are the ongoing projects in this
10 region so these projects are funded -- they were funded
11 in '07 and so these will be continuing projects. And
12 at the bottom you see that there are three projects.

13
14 There's an Afognak Lake sockeye salmon
15 smolt assessment project. And on Page 109 is a summary
16 of that project and it's at the back of the book for
17 your information.

18
19 And then the second one on the list is
20 the Buskin River Sockeye Weir Project and that's also
21 on the agenda, today the State is going to be doing an
22 overview of that project and there's a write up on Page
23 97 of the book.

24
25 And the final one is McLees Lake
26 Sockeye Salmon Weir, that's out in Unalaska and that's
27 an ongoing project also.

28
29 And so then if you skip down, that was
30 Table 1 and if you skip down to Table 5 that brings us
31 to what the TRC has recommended for funding for this
32 year. And those projects are:

33
34 Big Creek Coho Salmon Weir in Kodiak.
35 And that's a weir project that will monitor the
36 escapement of coho salmon and at this point there's
37 little known about that population.

38
39 The second one is the Togiak River
40 Chinook Salmon Radiotelemetry Project. And this is a
41 project that will monitor chinook salmon using
42 mark/recapture techniques with radiotelemetry to get
43 that population.

44
45 The fourth [sic] one is the Lake Clark
46 Sockeye Salmon Counting Tower Project. This is a
47 continuation project the OSM has funded since 2000 and
48 it's a tower that monitors the Lake Clark escapement
49 which is a subset of the whole Kvichak escapement.

50

1 And then the fourth [sic] one is the
2 Buskin River Coho Salmon Weir Project. And that was a
3 project that was proposed to -- that's -- it's a
4 continuation project. Fish and Game at this point,
5 Sportfish, runs that project and it was -- their
6 funding has been in question so it was -- they were
7 submitting that project to us and so it was a proposal
8 to take over -- or actually supply funding to run that
9 project.

10
11 And the last one that was submitted was
12 Lake Clark Whitefish TEK Project. And that was a
13 project to collect information on the biology,
14 conservation practices, and harvest locations of
15 whitefish at the communities of NonDalton and Lime
16 Village, actually.

17
18 And so if you turn to Page 60 and you
19 go down to the top one-third of the page you can see
20 the recommendation for funding and the five
21 investigations are listed and they're listed in
22 descending order and this is the Technical Review
23 Committee's recommendation and everything above the
24 line is recommended for funding, and everything below
25 the line is not recommended for funding.

26
27 And as things fell out in this region,
28 and as is very common in our program, these projects
29 are technically sound and they're a high priority, we
30 just don't have enough money to fund everything that is
31 submitted to us so this is the TRCs best recommendation
32 for this area. And then the rest of the book has just
33 an overview of the projects and then you can actually
34 -- Page 62 through 71 has the Technical Review
35 Committee reviews of the projects.

36
37 So that concludes my overview, do you
38 have any questions.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

41
42 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. It's really
43 good to see the continued funding there on the Buskin
44 and they've done really great work on Afognak and I'm
45 quite tickled that work will be done on Big Creek.
46 Many years ago Walter Matfae suggested I go over there
47 to sportfish when I was down for a project and as I was
48 rolling over there a coho jumped right into my skiff
49 and I thought, wow, this is great.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. HOLMES: But I do have a comment
4 that's meant to be constructive that I've made at other
5 meetings. We get tremendous reports from ADF&G on the
6 Buskin and Afognak. Whenever our Council meeting comes
7 up they put together a preliminary draft for the
8 year.....

9

10 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.

11

12 MR. HOLMES:it's not their final
13 report. We haven't heard diddly-squat about McLees
14 Lake or any Federally cooperative projects, we never
15 get a good report. And I think with all the millions
16 of dollars that go into these things and the passion
17 that went into our recommendations for McLees Lake that
18 we should at least someone from their project come and
19 that we should get a report at least equivalent to the
20 reports that are coming from Sportfish and CommFish
21 with ADF&G.

22

23 It's deplorable to see so much money
24 spent and get no detail on what's happening. The crash
25 in the population in my mind, having worked in the
26 Aleutians for many years, was well foreseen and yet the
27 public was not given any kind of notice of what was
28 going on, no real information as to what the age class
29 composition was when the fish were over-escaping into
30 the lake and I think it's deplorable that a quality --
31 a lack of report, you know, they probably do a final
32 one that takes four years to go through the system and
33 you can find it on the internet when it's many years
34 after the fact, but we should at least get a
35 preliminary report each fall at our fisheries meeting
36 as to what happens and it should be, I think, of an
37 equivalent professional quality.

38

39 One time we got a report on the
40 Mortenson's Sonar, it was interesting, you know, but
41 the way it was presented it was like a junior high
42 science project and we never got any results, nothing
43 on species composition, nothing on age composition, so
44 I would like you to, if you could, in a most
45 professional way, put a little stick in the pot and
46 stir it up because they need to, at least in my mind,
47 to show our Council what they're doing.

48

49 Thank you, Miss.

50

1 MS. HYER: Mr. Chair. Mr. Holmes. I
2 appreciate your comment and I will carry that back to
3 the investigator. I would, though, like to state that
4 the last report was '06, they are current on their
5 reports and they've been a very good investigator that
6 way and it is on our web site. Which, you know.....

7
8 MR. HOLMES: yeah, but some of our
9 members don't have computers.

10
11 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.

12
13 MR. HOLMES: Mine chokes up half the
14 time when I get on Fish and Wildlife.

15
16 And my point is, is that we have
17 professional biologists.....

18
19 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.

20
21 MR. HOLMES:that are funded for
22 similar levels or even less that come to us and say,
23 here's what we do.

24
25 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.

26
27 MR. HOLMES: And we as a Council
28 shouldn't have to go to the web or make a request to
29 Anchorage or Washington, D.C., for publication for
30 something in our region. That's my point. It's sort
31 of a lack of respect to our Council.

32
33 MS. HYER: Yeah, absolutely. And I
34 will carry that back to the investigator and it is
35 really well appreciated that Fish and Game is actually
36 coming, they haven't even completed their season and
37 they're coming with a preliminary report and that
38 really is well appreciated.

39
40 MR. HOLMES: Thank you, Miss. And I
41 didn't mean to be mean, it's just.....

42
43 MS. HYER: No, I understand.

44
45 MR. HOLMES:it would help a lot.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
48 questions for Karen.

49
50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Karen.
2
3 MS. HYER: Okay.
4
5 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair.
6
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead,
8 Michelle.
9
10 MR. MALUTIN: Mr. Chair. Can I ask a
11 her or get one topic that's related to what she's
12 talking about or should I wait until public comment.
13
14 MS. CHIVERS: The office is in need of
15 a recommendation from the Council as to whether they
16 support what the TRC has recommended. So if somebody
17 wants to make a motion as to what the Council would
18 like to do and then maybe get a second, that would be
19 wonderful.
20
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Okay, you
22 want Council on this proposal. Okay. Pat.
23
24 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I would
25 suggest that we strongly endorse their proposals.
26 These are tremendous projects that have really given a
27 lot of knowledge to local communities, tribal folks and
28 also to the various management agencies. And I think
29 their selection is very excellent and so I would
30 strongly endorse their proposal.
31
32 They do really good work.
33
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Was that your
35 motion, Pat.
36
37 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I'm sorry, I made a
38 statement.
39
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.
41
42 MR. HOLMES: My motion is to endorse
43 the proposals for funding.
44
45 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Second.
46
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, moved and
48 seconded. Any discussion.
49
50 MR. CRATTY: What about Iver.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Under discussion
2 of the motion, Iver, do you have something you wanted
3 to discuss in this project.

4
5 MR. MALUTIN: I do, yes.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

8
9 MR. MALUTIN: Thank you. And this is
10 something that's new and I think that it's something
11 that we should get the ball rolling. Excuse me, my
12 name is Iver Malutin. And I represent KANA and
13 subsistence and an elder from Kodiak and I have some
14 concerns.

15
16 Pasagshak is an area that needs to be
17 -- at least you should start thinking about it. I
18 understand the ADF&G doesn't have any money, I know
19 that. But still the efforts are getting more and more
20 and more out there, especially when Aletnik (ph) is
21 really down, Pasagshak is getting hit harder. And I
22 think we have to start thinking about putting a weir
23 out at Pasagshak. I'm not sure when that will happen
24 or how it will happen but I think we should get it in
25 the minutes and we should get it in discussion so that
26 for future references we can say, hey, we did talk
27 about this, we do have to do it.

28
29 And the large number of people that are
30 getting the coho out there, it's really being hit hard.
31 Probably the second biggest area for subsistence of all
32 the places is Pasagshak after the Buskin. So I just
33 thought I would bring that up and give her something to
34 think about when she goes to bed at night and maybe she
35 could find a solution for funding.

36
37 (Laughter)

38
39 MR. MALUTIN: And thank you very much.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Iver.
42 Pete.

43
44 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Isn't that on State
45 lands instead of Federal?

46
47 MR. MALUTIN: You have to check with
48 the people that know that, I don't know, but I think it
49 is State land, I think it is. I don't know. And I
50 apologize, I get my State and Federal mixed up because

1 that's not in my book but you're right it probably is
2 State land. And even if it is State land, the Feds and
3 the State work hand in hand in many, many projects. In
4 fact, at Buskin River that's on Federal land, how are
5 they doing that, can't they hold hands out at Pasagshak
6 if that's the case. I think there is a way.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Iver.
11 Any other discussion.

12

13 Pat, you have something.

14

15 MR. HOLMES: Well, I guess in answering
16 Iver, if I may, I think that is State lands but I think
17 our Council could make our thoughts known to the ADF&G
18 just as a matter of correspondence from one advisory
19 council to another agency. We can't make demands or
20 requests of them to do that but I think your suggestion
21 has a lot of merit.

22

23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any further
26 discussion.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no further
31 discussion, is there any objection to the motion.

32

33 (No objections)

34

35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Seeing no
36 objections then the motion carries.

37

38 Thank you, Karen.

39

40 Steve Klein, Customary and Traditional
41 Use Policy for Council recommendation.

42

43 MR. KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
44 Steve Klein, Fisheries Chief within the Office of
45 Subsistence Management and I'll be covering Topic 10,
46 the Draft Customary and Traditional Use Policy. And
47 we're looking for any Council views on this draft
48 policy.

49

50 So if you look in your books on Page 73

1 there's a copy of the draft policy. And I'll describe
2 the high points and kind of the history of the policy
3 and we'll open it up for Council discussion.

4
5 This is a draft policy that we've been
6 working on for several years and your Council has been
7 -- and the rest of the Councils have been working on it
8 as well. It began back in January 2005. And the State
9 had concerns about how we -- the process we use for
10 customary and traditional use determinations and how
11 that policy is applied and any written description of
12 how we implement the policy. And the State also wanted
13 a more rigorous process and that got us -- OSM moving
14 to draft a policy, and that is what is before you
15 today.

16
17 There has been a recent development
18 while we've been working on the policy, and that's a
19 Court decision back in June of this year in the U.S.
20 District Court and it was regarding Chistochina moose
21 in Unit 12 where the Board was looking at the C&T
22 finding for moose and they were actually considering
23 expanding C&T use for Chistochina for the entire Unit
24 12. The Court, in their decision in June, affirmed the
25 Board's approach of how we're doing C&T policies, and
26 they provided clarification to the Board regarding our
27 determinations.

28
29 The Court decision, it kind of
30 highlighted the role of C&T determinations in our
31 Federal Subsistence Management Program and really the
32 Court was instructing us that we need to identify uses
33 needing protection under ANILCA. And the decision also
34 clarified the role of C&T determinations is not to
35 limit the pool of users to the smallest possible group,
36 but rather to identify which uses need protection under
37 ANILCA.

38
39 So along with this we were developing
40 this program and have a draft out for your review.

41
42 In terms of this draft policy that's
43 before you it lays out the process that we use for C&T
44 determinations. There really is no change from how
45 we've been implementing the policy, it's just putting
46 it in writing so it's clear to everyone how we
47 implement the policy under ANILCA.

48
49 And you'll notice the eight factors
50 that we've been using since we began C&T

1 determinations, those are still our guidance for making
2 recommendations and approving C&T use determinations.
3 And as instructed by the Court we're looking at this
4 kind of -- looking at all eight factors holistically so
5 we're looking at all of them but we're not -- the Court
6 really said, C&T, it's not where you have a checklist
7 and check a couple boxes and say, yes, this area does
8 have C&T use for this resource, it's a more broad and
9 sweeping analysis where you look at each use
10 determination on a case by case basis and that was
11 affirmed by the Court.

12

13 Another important part of the policy is
14 the role of Councils and any C&T use determination, the
15 Councils have input into that process and before any
16 Board decision, the Councils are consulted for their
17 knowledge and recommendations on a C&T use
18 determination. And then, of course, the State and the
19 public is part of that process, too, and they have the
20 opportunity to weigh in and provide their views before
21 the Board acts.

22

23 So this is the current draft policy, it
24 was largely developed by the solicitor and Dr. Polly
25 Wheeler with our anthropology division, it's open for
26 comments both by the Councils and the public and we're
27 taking comments through December 1st. And hopefully by
28 next year this policy -- it still has a lot of hoops to
29 go through all the way to the Secretary's office but
30 once we get Council comments, public comments, the
31 State comments the Board will be looking at all that
32 and making a final policy for approval by the
33 Secretary.

34

35 So, again, there's really no radical
36 changes, it's just putting in writing what ANILCA is
37 guiding us to do, how the eight factors are applied and
38 it's open for any comment the Council wishes to
39 provide, and you can do that here today or through a
40 subsequent letter, you can say thumb's up, thumb's down
41 or.....

42

43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

44

45 MR. KLEIN: Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Steve.

48 Any Board comments.

49

50 Pat.

1 MR. HOLMES: I was wondering, it would
2 seem that having this policy down would help in some of
3 the discussions of rural determination.

4
5 I know that your lawyer loves things
6 that are demographics and pure solid numbers like
7 people, counts and things on defining rural but
8 customary and traditional use is certainly a really big
9 part of what defines a community and their relationship
10 to subsistence. So I think it's a really good idea to
11 get this down as a defined policy.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other Board
14 comments.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Do we wish to make
19 a recommendation now or provide a letter of support at
20 a different date?

21
22 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I guess I
23 could move that we just have a motion to support the
24 continued development and implementation of this
25 policy, it's a good start.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: A motion has been
28 made, do I hear a second.

29
30 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Second.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and second.
33 Any discussion.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
38 discussion, is there any objection.

39
40 (No objections)

41
42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
43 objections, then the motion passes. Do you have
44 something further, Steve.

45
46 MR. KLEIN: No, that's all I had on
47 this draft policy, and I'm sure the Board will
48 appreciate your motion as they further deliberate. And
49 you, as the Chair representative, will be at the table
50 when the Board finally takes this up.

1 I think the next topic is Michelle's
2 topic.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Michelle.

5
6 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 The next topic is the annual report. Each year
8 Regional Councils will submit a regional status report
9 to the Chair of the Federal Subsistence Board, this is
10 referred to as the annual report.

11
12 This is the Council's opportunity to
13 discuss subsistence needs and subsistence-related
14 policies and issues that they think the Board should
15 address. In this report the Councils should also
16 recommend specific actions needed to resolve the issues
17 that they present to the Board. Regional Councils will
18 discuss what will be in the annual report at their fall
19 meetings, if they would like to submit items to bring
20 in front of the Board. If the Council decides not to
21 submit an annual report then a letter would be written
22 to the Board stating that the Council will not be
23 submitting an annual report for that year.

24
25 So at this time what we are asking is
26 if the Council has any topics that they would like to
27 bring in front of the Board at this time and we'll put
28 together a letter and review it at our winter meeting.

29
30 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you,
33 Michelle. Do we have anything from the Board.

34
35 Pat.

36
37 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I think a
38 little later on the Sun'aq folks were going to have
39 some questions on concerns that they had on subsistence
40 at the Buskin and I would wonder with this Council's
41 permission, if we'd maybe want to table any
42 recommendations or -- or I think we should make a
43 report but maybe we should wait and decide what we
44 might have in it until later in the meeting.

45
46 So I guess I'm asking if perhaps we
47 could postpone an action on this until after we hear
48 from the public on what their concerns are.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Do you know when

1 they'll be here Pat?

2

3 MR. HOLMES: She was here.

4

5 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. The other
6 option is, since she's not here, you also have the
7 opportunity to call me and let me know what the items
8 are that you would like in the annual report, just give
9 me like a brief summary of what is -- what the Council
10 would recommend that the action be and then I can just
11 kind of put together a draft and we'll cover that again
12 at the winter meeting, that's if you submit any items
13 but if we don't submit any items then we'll just do a
14 letter stating that we don't have any.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Pat.

19

20 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
21 Chairman. Yeah, I guess then we can wait. I would
22 like to, maybe, after we see what comes up in public
23 comments for concerns then we could -- if you like I
24 could call -- well, we could just send those thoughts
25 to Michelle.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Moving on
30 then. Agency reports, OSM, Steve Klein.

31

32 MR. KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
33 Under OSM there's six topics, they're all for
34 information only. The first four I'll cover with a
35 briefing. The last two I would just ask that you refer
36 to your Council books and if you had any questions on
37 those I'd gladly try to answer those.

38

39 So the first topic is the Closure
40 Policy. And I have handouts of the policy. There is a
41 short briefing in your book on Page 78. However since
42 this book was -- your Council book was published the
43 Secretary has actually approved this policy and this
44 clarifies how we implement closures and the processes
45 we follow. And much like the C&T use determinations
46 policy, what you just received is kind of a write up
47 that identifies the legal and administrative process we
48 use to close or restrict takings of fish and wildlife
49 on Federal public lands. And, again, our guidance is
50 ANILCA and the case of closures it's Sections .815 and

1 .816.

2

3

4 You reviewed a draft of this policy
5 last winter and since that time we've made revisions
6 based upon your comments, public comments, State
7 comments and counsel from our solicitor's office.

7

8

9 This is not a draft policy, this is, as
10 I mentioned, just last month the Secretary approved it
11 and this is a final policy that we'll be using to
12 implement closures. And much like the C&T policy,
13 Councils are at the heart of our process. Any closure
14 is taken to the Councils for their recommendations and
15 so that when the Board does make a decision we have
16 your local knowledge in that decision-making. This
17 clarifies our existing practices under both statute and
18 regulations.

18

19

20 In terms of the policy it's done on a
21 case by case basis using the best available
22 information. When making decisions regarding closures
23 or restrictions the Board considers Council
24 recommendations and gives deference to those
25 recommendations under Section .805(c) of ANILCA. The
26 State is consulted as well as the public in that
27 decision-making process.

27

28

29 And then in terms of criteria, and this
30 is in the policy, when a fish or wildlife population is
31 insufficient to sustain takings for all uses, takings
32 for non-subsistence uses may be reduced or prohibited
33 so there you would look at commercial or sport uses
34 before you would look at restricting or closing to
35 subsistence uses. When a fish or wildlife population
36 is insufficient to sustain takings for all subsistence
37 uses, then we use ANILCA, Section .804 to apportion
38 harvest between Federally-qualified subsistence users.
39 And in the worst case situation, which we try to
40 avoid, if there this -- if a population is insufficient
41 to sustain takings for any use all takings would be
42 prohibited, including subsistence uses.

42

43

44 One of the new things in the policy is
45 to review closures once they're implemented and
46 sometimes there's a tendency to, once you take an
47 action, unless you deliberately look at it, it stays on
48 the books forever, so at least every three years the
49 Board must look at closures and see if it's still
50 necessary and if it's no longer necessary remove the
51 closure or restriction. And that includes current

1 closures on the books and the Board will be looking at
2 those over the next three years so there's a deliberate
3 review process to review each closure every three years
4 and either keep it, modify it or cancel it if
5 appropriate.

6

7 So that's kind of a summary of what you
8 have in the policy there. Again that was approved in
9 August and that's an update of what's happened since
10 your last Council meeting.

11

12 Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, thanks,
15 Steve. I have one question, you said that reviewed in
16 three years, does that mean if you make a determination
17 to close an area it's automatically closed for three
18 years?

19

20 MR. KLEIN: Mr. Chair. No, it is
21 automatically closed for three years. Anybody, the
22 Council, the State, the public could submit a proposal
23 to remove it after one year, after two years, after
24 three years, but at least every three years the Board
25 will look at it and see if it will remain in place.
26 But anybody could submit a proposal to have it reviewed
27 sooner and if it came.....

28

29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, thank you.

30

31 MR. KLEIN:yeah, the Council
32 would be a part of that process.

33

34 Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you.

37 Questions. Pat.

38

39 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I'm glad you
40 clarified it. I think when we first started looking at
41 this you didn't. I believe, really having a review of
42 closures built into it and I like this phrase that you
43 put in the first paragraph, first two sentences there:

44

45 Closure will be removed as soon as
46 practical when conditions that
47 originally justify the closure change
48 to such extent the closure is no longer
49 necessary.

50

1 And then as you mentioned the Council,
2 State, Federal agency or member of public could request
3 an appeal and review.

4
5 I think that's really good and good
6 insight to put that into your policy statement.

7
8 I did have one question and I would
9 assume that it'd be just like the Unit 9D caribou and
10 that you said earlier the closures for other user
11 groups, commercial -- or sport, commercial, et cetera,
12 down the line in a step-wise approach in relation to
13 the abundance of whatever we're talking about but I
14 assume that you would be -- Fish and Wildlife Service
15 would be dealing with other agencies in a similar
16 parallel to what you've done on the caribou, where
17 you're having consultation with all the players.
18 Because I like the process that we've been approaching
19 on Peninsula caribou, you know, where everybody is part
20 of the action because not everyone has all answers.
21 Anyway, I think this is a big improvement over the
22 earlier draft that I saw.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 And I appreciate you coming all the
27 time to be able to be the point man on some of these
28 hot items.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.
31 Any other questions.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Moving on.

36
37 MR. KLEIN: Okay. The next topic is
38 status of Council composition.

39
40 This is also informational, we don't
41 need a Council recommendation. But this has been
42 discussed over the past couple of years and your
43 Council has been very vocal on the composition of
44 Regional Advisory Councils. I did not make your last
45 meeting but I reviewed the minutes there and in terms
46 of Council composition, this Council, it looked to me
47 like your opinion was, well, if it's not broke don't
48 try to fix it.

49
50 The status of the composition of

1 Councils, in 2003 Council charters were changed to
2 stipulate that members would represent either
3 subsistence or commercial or sport users with a goal of
4 30 percent representation by commercial and sport
5 users, 70 percent subsistence.

6

7 I'm on Page 79 of your book where we
8 have a briefing, a short summary of what's happened in
9 Council composition.

10

11 In August 2006 the court concluded that
12 the Board had not provided sufficient administrative
13 record showing the rationale for this 70/30 composition
14 and the court ordered us to stop using 70/30 after the
15 2006 appointment process and instructed the Board to
16 consider other ways to achieve balanced membership of
17 the Councils. So this is the Court saying you got to
18 go back to the drawing board and look at other options
19 and provide us a rationale for your decision.

20

21 So that's what we've been doing since
22 2006 to address the court order. We published a 30 day
23 notice in the fall of 2006 explaining the current 70/30
24 rule and asking for alternatives to 70/30. And at your
25 winter 2007 meetings we brought this issue to the
26 Councils for the input and your advice was it seems to
27 be working, let's not mess with it. That generally was
28 the views of other Councils.

29

30 So in May of 2007 the Board, from that
31 Federal Register notice we got many comments, the Board
32 took those comments and the Council recommendations,
33 looked at possible alternatives and adopted a 70/30
34 goal for Council composition. The difference is they
35 identified the rationale for using 70/30 as the court
36 had requested.

37

38 So the next step is to do a Federal
39 Register notice describing the process we just went
40 through, what I just summarized, the Federal Register
41 notice should be coming out in the next month or two
42 and then we'll go back to the court and tell them what
43 we've done. The court will say it looks good or send
44 us back to the drawing board. I think we've done our
45 homework well this time and the court should affirm it
46 and if we satisfy the court then we'll submit the
47 recommendation to the Secretary for the Secretary's
48 approval. So this is like probably several months
49 behind the closure policy. Our goal is to have the
50 policy completed by March of next year before we begin

1 the appointment process.

2

3 So that kind of summarizes what's
4 happened since your last meeting on Council
5 composition.

6

7 Mr. Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Steve.
10 Is there any questions.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, no questions
15 then moving on.

16

17 MR. KLEIN: Okay. Two more
18 informational updates. This one is on the Final Rule
19 and request for reconsideration of the rural and non-
20 rural determinations. This is summarized on Page 80 of
21 your book. This is also an informational update to
22 keep you informed, no action by the Council is needed.

23

24 Since your last meeting we've published
25 a Final Rule on the rural/non-rural determinations. As
26 you know Kodiak was part of that review and the
27 determination was that Kodiak is rural, there was many
28 other areas of the state that was looked at. So the
29 Final Rule -- summarize the Board decisions.

30

31 Since that time we've received six
32 requests for reconsideration. The regulations allow
33 for challenges to the Board determinations within 60
34 days of publication so we have these six requests for
35 reconsideration on the table. The guidance we have is
36 that we accept a request for reconsideration only if
37 it's based upon information not previously considered
38 by the Board; it demonstrates that existing information
39 used by the Board was incorrect; or demonstrates that
40 the Board's interpretation of information, applicable
41 law or regulation is in error or contrary to existing
42 law. So that's what we need to look at for each of
43 these six requests for reconsideration.

44

45 In terms of your area, the Kodiak,
46 Adak, those really are not addressed by any of the six
47 requests for reconsideration. For the six, where they
48 are, they're summarized at the bottom of Page 183.
49 Most of them are focused on the Kenai Peninsula,
50 Ketchikan and Saxman. So we have Staff looking at each

1 of those requests for reconsideration, they're doing a
2 threshold analysis to see if it meets any of the three
3 criteria and should be -- the claims have merit and
4 should be looked at further. If any of the claims are
5 accepted by the Board they'll do a -- complete a
6 threshold consideration process and the Councils would
7 be consulted in that review and decision-making step.
8 So any of them that meet the threshold, there'll be an
9 opportunity for the Councils to express their views.

10

11 But, again, for your Council, I don't
12 see -- we don't see any impact to the determinations
13 that were made back in May and that's what's happened
14 since your last Council meeting.

15

16 Any questions.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any questions.

19 Pat.

20

21 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. Steve, I
22 did read through this whole puppy and I thought there
23 was one of the sport groups that raised a question
24 critical about Adak or is my memory misleading me and
25 that was just part of the general input that AD&G had
26 basically criticizing the whole process, I have a
27 recollection somewhere there about something critical
28 about the Adak thing, but maybe it was more of a
29 process question.

30

31 MR. KLEIN: Mr. Chair. Mr. Holmes. I
32 will have Pat address that.

33

34 MS. PETRIVELLI: Yeah, Pat, you're
35 correct, they did raise questions about Adak.

36

37 But the Staff at OSM are going through
38 all of those claims and looking at the claim, I mean
39 with a population drop from a couple of thousand to a
40 couple of hundred, you know, just numerically, but I
41 think their criticism was that the characteristics.
42 But they were confusing customary and traditional
43 characteristics with rural characteristics but they
44 were trying to -- they're just making an argument about
45 the nature of the characteristics of the people or
46 something. And so as they analyze the claim, whether
47 -- and it's just a matter of interpretation of what
48 you're measuring and how you're measuring it.

49

50 So the threshold analysis will be

1 completed, there's a schedule and they're going through
2 each of the claims because it's so complicated to make
3 sure that all the claims are addressed.

4

5 And then as they evaluate whether each
6 of those claims meet any of those criteria then the
7 Board will accept those claims and do a thorough
8 analysis of the validity of them. But Adak is 130
9 people, would have a hard time meeting, you know, those
10 non-rural characteristics, I would think.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

13

14 MR. HOLMES: Pat, yeah, I agree. And I
15 am probably one of the few folks that have been there
16 and I know a good number of the folks that are at Adak
17 now and it's kind of like a transfer of folks from
18 Unalaska, the Pribes, and Atka and I think if any group
19 is following along for subsistence lifestyle wherever
20 they can, even though they're getting paid wages there,
21 they're still wanting to eat the way they always have.
22 Would it be of any help for us to make any comments
23 that Adak should remain rural or would the Board simply
24 just go back to our original comments last year on the
25 recommendations that -- this is just more information
26 for us and we don't have much input, do we, I guess
27 that's what I'm asking.

28

29 MS. PETRIVELLI: Yeah.

30

31 MR. KLEIN: Mr. Chair. Mr. Holmes.
32 The Staff will be looking at the claims and if they
33 have merit and if it's looked at further, the Councils
34 will have a future opportunity for input. I think it's
35 very doubtful for Adak but we still will look at the
36 claims and if the claims have merit and the Board needs
37 to look at the rural/non-rural determination, the
38 Councils will definitely have an opportunity for input.

39

40 Mr. Chair.

41

42 MR. HOLMES: Thank you very much Pat
43 and Steve.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
46 questions.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No questions, then

1 we'll move on.

2

3 MR. KLEIN: Okay, Mr. Chair. Council
4 members. The last item I wanted to provide a briefing
5 on was the two year cycle and OSM budget and
6 reorganization.

7

8 For the past couple of years OSM, which
9 represents all the Federal agencies, and our budget is
10 in the Fish and Wildlife Service, between budget cuts
11 and inflation we have about 10 fewer people than we did
12 even two years ago. So we're down from 50 people, down
13 to 40 people, which seems like a lot but we have 10
14 Councils we work with, five Federal agencies, the
15 State, it is a huge work load and with the budget
16 decreasing through cuts and inflation we really are
17 doing more with less.

18

19 And in the last two years, especially,
20 there's been a lot of challenges, we've dealt with some
21 very controversial issues. The Kenai Peninsula is a
22 new area that's consuming a lot of Staff. So we've
23 taken a very hard look at what are our priorities and
24 how can we best implement this program. Councils are a
25 big part of the process, the State and the public have
26 input and we base the decisions on the best available
27 science and local knowledge as possible.

28

29 Where we finally ended up was to move
30 to two year regulatory and monitoring program cycle.
31 So really we have two choices, we could fill our
32 positions and reload subsistence which would require us
33 to really cut back on the Monitoring Program. And
34 Karen Hyer just briefed you on three projects that
35 you're recommending for 2008. If we filled those
36 positions certainly that Big Creek coho project that
37 would have definitely been a no for that project, we
38 wouldn't have the funding to look at that. Our
39 assessment was we ought to get more efficient and more
40 streamlined within the Subsistence Office and implement
41 things on a regulatory and monitoring program on a two
42 year basis rather than an annual basis and use the
43 special action process or out of cycle Monitoring
44 Program requests to address those priority issues where
45 every two years is not timely. And we realize there'll
46 be instances where we need to do that.

47

48 So in 2008 we still will have a
49 fisheries cycle and a wildlife cycle. After that it'll
50 be every two years where we look at fishery proposals

1 and wildlife proposals. So the Councils you'll look at
2 fish proposals one year, you'll look at wildlife
3 proposals and the Monitoring Program the other year.
4 And that's kind of summarized in the briefing there.

5
6 I think I want to convey to you that
7 the Councils, in all of our decisions, you're still
8 going to be a big part of the process. I think by
9 shifting to a two year cycle we are more efficient. We
10 can still address the necessary regulatory changes that
11 need to be made and use the special action process for
12 those issues that can't wait for the next regulatory
13 cycle. I think we can still be responsive to
14 subsistence users and this is the decision we've made.

15
16 Along with that there have been some
17 changes in the organization of the subsistence office,
18 and I think that's made us more streamlined. The
19 Fisheries Division now will be doing both the
20 Monitoring Program and the regulatory program where,
21 before it was really spread across three different
22 divisions, so that's made us more efficient. It's tied
23 the regulatory program closer to the Monitoring
24 Program, which, I think is a big benefit. And it's
25 still allowing us to continue the Monitoring Program so
26 we can do new projects like the Big Creek coho salmon
27 study and continue, for example, the Buskin and Afognak
28 Lake and McLees.

29
30 So, Mr. Chair, that's a summary of what
31 we've done to reorganize to try to meet the highest
32 priorities for both the regulatory and Monitoring
33 Program in a more efficient manner and that's my report
34 on that topic.

35
36 Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Questions.
39 Comments.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing none, then
44 we'll move on.

45
46 MR. KLEIN: Okay, Mr. Chair, that
47 finishes the briefings that I had. There's two
48 briefings on a letter from the Secretary to the Board
49 that's in your book on Page 83. And Council
50 compensation on Page 84. And unless there's questions

1 that would conclude the OSM topics for keeping you
2 fully informed.

3

4 Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any questions.

7 Comments.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing none. In
12 light that we have a hearing at 1:30 do you think we
13 can take an early lunch so we can get back in ample
14 time for that, or is that okay, we have -- it's a
15 quarter after 11:00 now.

16

17 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Michelle.

20

21 MS. CHIVERS: We still do have a couple
22 of agency reports and I'm not sure if they're actually
23 lengthy reports or not and if the Council just wants to
24 hear those otherwise what we could do is after the
25 public hearing is over, we can resume the Council
26 meeting.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, we can
29 finish this and then if we get done before we'll just
30 break.

31

32 MS. CHIVERS: It's up to the Council.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Item B, Izembek.
35 Who's on the line for Izembek.

36

37 MS. CHIVERS: Sandra are you there.

38

39 MS. SIEKANIEC: Yes, I'm here.
40 Chairman and Council Members. This is Sandra Siekaniec
41 at the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. And I'm going
42 to go over my Refuge report which is on Page 86.

43

44 And our top priority right now is
45 caribou as the numbers are decreasing. We did hold
46 meetings with local communities concerning the Southern
47 Peninsula Caribou Herd, 9D Draft Management Plan. And
48 we also discussed with them the fact that the caribou
49 were declining and there may be a need to close the
50 season if our numbers on our research and surveys

1 turned out poor. And they did.

2

3 So in August -- actually in July, the
4 State Game and Fish did have an emergency order closure
5 for the hunt in 9D to close the entire hunting season.
6 The Federal Subsistence Board had emergency closures
7 just to close caribou from August 1st to September
8 30th. So the public hearing this afternoon will be
9 working towards the closure of the winter season which
10 starts -- goes from November to March and my suggestion
11 is either the Board or I submit a proposal to close the
12 season until the population recovers to resume
13 subsistence harvest.

14

15 We're also seeing decreases in the Unit
16 10 caribou population and even the composition that was
17 last done in 2005 showed only, I believe, it was six
18 calves per 100 cows. The last count that we did of the
19 population in April, we noticed the population dropped
20 again. So I would also suggest that the Council
21 consider a proposal for reducing the bag limits for
22 subsistence users at this time. The bag limits are set
23 at four caribou per permittee and I have noticed an
24 increase in number of permittees for Unit 10 since Unit
25 9D has been closed. So I would recommend dropping the
26 four caribou to two. It still provides subsistence use
27 it would just reduce the impacts to the lowering
28 population numbers.

29

30 Any questions on the caribou.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

33

34 MR. HOLMES: You talked about the --
35 excuse me, Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.

38

39 MR. HOLMES: You talked about the herd
40 as a whole, how are the two components, the Peninsula
41 and the Unimak one, is there any difference there in
42 survival or mortality?

43

44 MS. SIEKANIEC: At this time we don't
45 have enough information on the Unimak herd to determine
46 but like I said we are noticing a drop in the
47 population and a drop in the calf/cow ratios.

48

49 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I think you having
50 only four calves survive in your survey to four weeks

1 of age and then having the majority of the bulls in the
2 population reaching end of their life span, that's all
3 pretty alarming information.

4
5 MS. SIEKANIEC: Yes, definitely.
6 That's why I would strongly encourage a proposal to
7 close the season until we have sufficient numbers to
8 open it up again.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
11 questions.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no other
16 questions, thank you, Sandra.

17
18 MS. SIEKANIEC: Oh, I have the rest of
19 the report, do you want me to go through that.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, continue.

22
23 MS. SIEKANIEC: I'll just hit the
24 highlights. We did have a ceremonial bear taken by a
25 Native Cold Bay resident this May and then we do have a
26 bear season opening this fall and spring. We do have
27 an unusual number of bears in the area at this time so
28 we're hoping that that will also improve the caribou
29 survival if we take out a few more bear.

30
31 Brandt numbers, we had a record number
32 of brandt in the February count at Izembek, 40,000
33 brandt were found, normally we have about 10,000 brandt
34 wintering over winter but we think that some of the
35 global climate change may have been affecting having
36 more birds not migrating they're staying in the area.

37
38 I did check on nest production
39 information and certain colonies were doing good this
40 year, other colonies were not as good.

41
42 As always I know you have questions
43 about emperor geese. While numbers are increasing they
44 still are not sufficient enough to open any season. We
45 are doing Avian Influenza testing and we have tested 63
46 swans and right now we're doing eiders, we've probably
47 taken about 100 samples from the eiders and we're
48 working on pintails and brandt as well.

49
50 If you have any questions about Avian

1 Influenza or anything else in my report, just let me
2 know.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pete.

5

6 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Sandra, this is
7 Pete. I have -- about the emperor geese and I still
8 feel that we should reduce the average number for
9 subsistence hunts for an all statewide hunt. I really
10 -- looking at the numbers and I've been watching them
11 for quite some time and the average for our 2005 to
12 2007 has been 69,000, why can't we go with like a
13 65,000 average for a subsistence hunt?

14

15 MS. SIEKANIEC: That would have to be
16 brought before the Migratory Bird Council for the
17 Western Flyway. They are the ones that did the
18 management plan and make the determination when they
19 will start considering a hunt.

20

21 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

24

25 MR. HOLMES: Can we provide input into
26 that process there on the waterfowl flyways -- Council?

27

28 MR. CRATTY: She didn't hear you Pat.

29

30 MR. HOLMES: Oh, I'm sorry, Tonya, I
31 guess I was wondering, can our Council provide the
32 input to the flyway council as Pete was suggesting on
33 emperor geese?

34

35 MS. SIEKANIEC: Are you asking me, Pat,
36 or someone else?

37

38 MR. HOLMES: No, I'm asking you, sorry.

39

40 MS. SIEKANIEC: Okay. Yes, at any time
41 you can provide information either to the flyway
42 council or to the Subsistence Migratory Bird Committee
43 as well.

44

45 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Thanks, Sandra.

46

47 MS. SIEKANIEC: You're welcome.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Other questions.

50 Yes.

1 MS. GREFFENIUS: Yes, Mr. Chair, this
2 is Laura Greffenius, wildlife biologist with the Office
3 of Subsistence Management. I just wanted to let you
4 know that Sandra had mentioned about the wildlife
5 proposals as far as closing Unit 9D or lowering the
6 harvest limits for Unit 10 and if the Council chooses
7 and wants to submit a proposal, I would be glad -- part
8 of me being here is I would be glad to help write up
9 that proposal while I'm here, we can do it. After the
10 public hearing you'll be getting much more information,
11 I'll present the analysis for the special action or if
12 there's any questions you can come to me during the
13 lunch break but I'll be happy to write up -- if the
14 Council chooses, I'll be happy to help write up a
15 proposal. It's just the window for doing that is
16 through October 19th but while I'm here we can do that
17 or it can be done at a later time but that was just
18 something that Sandra had mentioned in her report.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, I
23 appreciate that. Other questions, comments.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No questions or
28 comments. Do you have more Sandra?

29
30 MS. SIEKANIEC: No, other than if we do
31 discuss the reduced bag limit in Unit 10, it should be
32 Unit 10, Unimak only.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Does that
35 conclude your report then?

36
37 MS. SIEKANIEC: Yes, thank you, Mr.
38 Chairman.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Sandra.
41 Kodiak.

42
43 MR. WHEELER: Mr. Chairman. Members of
44 the Committee. I'm Gary Wheeler, Refuge Manager of
45 Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge and I'm just going to
46 turn it over to Brandon Saito, our subsistence
47 biologist to present our report.

48
49 MR. SAITO: Mr. Chair. Just a brief
50 review, our Kodiak report is on Page 89.

1 For the fisheries overview we had the
2 Big Creek Weir, which is still -- the coordination for
3 the project is still ongoing.

4
5 We had Ayakulik Steelhead project that
6 was canceled due to cold temperatures.

7
8 The report for the salmon season, for
9 sockeye, the Karluk exceeded its escapement goal and
10 the Alitak and Ayakulik runs were weak and did not meet
11 their escapement goals. Buskin River exceeded.

12
13 For king salmon the Ayakulik and Karluk
14 Rivers were low and they were closed for a five day
15 period.

16
17 On Page 90 of the sea otter reports,
18 Marine Mammals Management is currently -- in August
19 they finished live capture in Kachemak Bay studying the
20 health and disease of the sea otters and looking for
21 different problems such as immunosuppression due to
22 viral disease contaminants or viral pathogens leading
23 to the understanding of why these otters are dying and
24 the unusual mortality event they had back in 2006.

25
26 Sitka black-tailed deer. Surveys were
27 conducted in April and May and three sites were
28 surveyed; Chief Cove, Sitkalidak and Olga Bay. And
29 surveys revealed a similar mortality rate to last year,
30 we had 49 carcasses this year but a little less area
31 was surveyed than last year so we believe the numbers
32 were pretty similar. We saw a smaller number of
33 yearling deer in the mortality age composition which
34 was 80 percent fawns and 20 percent adult probably due
35 to the large number of die-offs of fawns last year and
36 smaller recruitment for this year.

37
38 For brown bears the Refuge did a bear
39 density survey in May and the Sturgeon River indicated
40 a stable density. And on Page 91 it continues with the
41 Karluk River is currently being studied for a multi-
42 bear use study. And William Leacock, our Refuge
43 wildlife biologist has attended an international
44 workshop hosted by the Northern Forums Brown Bear
45 Working Group.

46
47 Other Corporation. Refuge surveyors
48 Denny Zwiefelhofer and Jeff Lewis along with National
49 Marine Mammal Laboratory researcher Sally Mizroch
50 sampled whale populations in coordination with our

1 winter seabird survey and they confirmed that there was
2 consistent use of Kodiak waters in winter and summer
3 range of the same individual whales.

4
5 Tribal wildlife grants. Tribal
6 Wildlife Grant is a competitive program funded by the
7 Service and available for Federally-recognized tribes.

8
9
10 The Refuge continues to support two
11 tribal wildlife grants, Natives of Larsen Bay and Port
12 Lions Traditional Council. And Port Lions which was
13 using their funds to erect a bear proof fence around
14 the village landfill recently was just completed and
15 the Refuge along with Fish and Game attended a village
16 council meeting to provide technical assistance in
17 educating school age children on bear safety practices.

18
19 Migratory Bird Harvest Survey. The
20 survey was completed for 2006/2007 season in Akhiok,
21 Karluk, Larsen Bay, Old Harbor, Ouzinkie and Kodiak.
22 And the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council
23 will release the data later this fall.

24
25 Kodiak National Wildlife Visitor's
26 Center. Did you want to say anything about that Gary.

27
28 MR. WHEELER: I might mention the
29 Visitor Center is nearing completion and we're planning
30 on local opening Saturday, November 17th, so that's
31 coming up here shortly and we're excited about the
32 facility being completed and it should be a nice asset
33 for the community and our visitors.

34
35 MR. SAITO: And then on Page 92 the
36 Kodiak Summer Science Salmon Camp completed its 12th
37 year in August having over 200 kids participate in the
38 camp through week long day camps and multiple sessions
39 in Kodiak's remote villages.

40
41 And I'd also like to introduce new
42 staff member Brian Glaspell, our supervisor ranger,
43 going to be in charge of public use.

44
45 Brian.

46
47 MR. GLASPELL: (Raises hand)

48
49 MR. SAITO: And that's it, thank you.

50

1 MR. WHEELER: We'd entertain any
2 questions.

3
4 MR. CRATTY: I have one question on the
5 migratory bird harvest survey. We had reports recently
6 in the last couple years that harlequins were on the
7 decrease on the west side of the island. My concern
8 is, is that still a problem because in the future we
9 subsistence hunt them in Old Harbor and I just wonder
10 if that's going to affect us in the future.

11
12 MR. WHEELER: Bill Pyle will address
13 that question.

14
15 MR. PYLE: Bill Pyle, Kodiak Refuge.
16 In response to your question, it looks like the problem
17 is one that is very localized and right now our survey
18 results indicate that it's exclusively Uyak Bay. And
19 we do have a basis for a comparison in other areas.
20 Specifically over the last few years we've been looking
21 at Uyak, Uganik and then an area on Afognak, Blue Fox
22 Bay up on the northeast side. And the numbers in
23 Uganik and Blue Fox are, you know, just straight line,
24 very similar and they offer a good basis for a
25 comparison and considered pretty normal representative
26 populations in contrast Uyak, we're talking about a
27 quarter of the number of birds. And there's just been
28 kind of this slight decline going on for this last
29 five, six years.

30
31 In response to that decline, the Refuge
32 and specifically, Denny, prepared a little bit of a
33 handout and has been in contact with the guides,
34 waterfowl hunting guides in Uyak and lodges to advise
35 them of the concern and the problem. And it's
36 something that we just need to keep up with on a yearly
37 basis to apprise people of here's the status because I
38 think as Council members know, with respect to
39 waterfowl management regulations it's usually done on a
40 large scale basis, in terms of change, they don't get
41 involved with very, very local issues.

42
43 And in response to the concern about
44 Old Harbor, there's no indication and we do survey that
45 area, we go back and forth, you know, west side and
46 east side, with the east side coming up for its turn
47 again and -- but the indications, at least, you know,
48 last time we did three years of surveys is that there
49 were no issues associated with that area of Sitkalidak
50 Strait and the abundance of harlequin. However, I

1 would just mention that, you know, we do these surveys
2 at three year intervals. There's periods where we miss
3 -- if you do -- if any of the community members or the
4 hunters note any waterfowl declines, including
5 harlequin, we would appreciate -- and if there's any
6 concerns, we would appreciate knowing about them.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MR. CRATTY: Thank you.

11

12 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

15

16 MR. HOLMES: Following up on Al's
17 question there, drop in numbers of harlequins was
18 brought up. We had some of the folks here on the
19 Council had suggested a log book program and I realized
20 that waterfowl are only managed on a broad basis, but
21 isn't it part of the purview of the Refuge to look at
22 things, where you're having problems, because
23 harlequins, by their very nature have a very strong
24 residency tendency for their group and so it would seem
25 to me that, you know, talking to guides is a great
26 thing and saying you're concerned, but it would seem to
27 me that if you're actively working as a management
28 agency you'd want to know what's being removed every
29 year from each respected place. And obviously when you
30 get to a small sample size you can't rely on a
31 statewide survey and the most easy thing to have is a
32 log book for each of the guides there and they report
33 what they're taking. And, you know, I think it's great
34 that folks in Larsen Bay have found a way to make
35 income but if -- as I've said many times at our
36 Council, a lot of the elders have expressed opinions to
37 me that bird soup, harlequin soup is a whole lot more
38 important to them than some hunter from Germany getting
39 a nice taxidermy mount.

40

41 And so I think it sort of behooves you
42 folks to really find out who's taking the birds and
43 where are they going. If the other places aren't
44 hunting them as actively you really need to find out
45 what's going on.

46

47 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.

50

1 Pete.

2

3 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, I just had one
4 comment on the tribal wildlife grants. Since that
5 fence was been closed in, there has been two bears shot
6 in the town of Port Lions.

7

8 MR. PYLE: Commenting on a separate
9 thing, kind of a little bit of extra information on
10 Sitka black-tail deer. We've run these mortality
11 surveys as Brandon mentioned, and then we have other
12 observations that are contributed by Fish and Game,
13 essentially anecdotal information, field observations
14 from folks out bear hunting in the spring when
15 conditions are such where you see a level of, you know,
16 what's gone on with over winter mortality. Fish and
17 Game gets those reports by virtue of sealing, they
18 share that information with us, then we have our
19 experience of being out in the field during the summer
20 season and getting a sense of what you see for deer,
21 just as many of you have been out in the field and
22 you've seen what's out there and what potential
23 subsistence or recreational harvest opportunities are
24 available based on the population.

25

26 And I would just kind of reinforce what
27 Brandon was saying about, we have three regional areas
28 that we monitor and over the past couple of years there
29 has been strong differences between regions and the
30 level of mortality, with the greatest and most
31 consistent being up on the west side. Our survey area
32 is specifically Chief Cove, Spirit and Peninsula. And
33 our observations tend to correspond with what's later
34 seen by guides and others for, you know, specifically
35 that area. And the impression that we have,
36 essentially is that we've -- the fawns for the last --
37 born over the last couple of years just didn't make it,
38 that there was very, very little recruitment over the
39 last couple years so it's likely looking at the bigger
40 picture, in that region, that probably there has been a
41 population decline with continued regular adult
42 mortality coupled with the absence of really any
43 recruitment by the last couple years of fawn crops.
44 Okay.

45

46 So that's where the deer population has
47 probably gone down in my professional judgment. And
48 last year, here in Kodiak certainly, it was the same
49 experience, very high mortality. Not unusual for the
50 conditions. Contrast that with the Old Harbor vicinity

1 where it's kind of the middle ground where, you know,
2 there is moderate level of fawn mortality as evidenced
3 by our survey, a higher level than we saw the previous
4 year of 2006. And then the big contrast is with, say,
5 between the west side and the south end. Now our
6 survey area is in west Olga Bay and that pulls in a lot
7 of deer, you know, that winter in that surrounding
8 region. And we haven't seen -- we haven't had any
9 evidence of any significant mortality, over-winter
10 mortality since the winter of '98/99. And despite the
11 harsh conditions on the west side and at this north end
12 of the island, that area for whatever factor, the deer
13 have been able to make it and it probably got related
14 to snowfall, among other reasons.

15

16 In any case there is a very large
17 difference in the -- the population there is increasing
18 in contrast to a decline on the west side. So I just
19 wanted to kind of highlight the regional differences
20 because i think, you know, overall I think that, you
21 know, some harvest opportunities have declined in
22 contrast to say what it was two years ago on the west
23 side versus the south end where, you know, in your back
24 yard, Mr. Simeonoff and that larger area along the
25 south end and probably if I were to draw a line would
26 be like from between Uyak Bay and Dead Man going south
27 with the further south you go the larger the
28 population. We spent a lot of time on the ground in
29 the Sturgeon River watershed this year, for example. I
30 was amazed at the number of deer. And a real contrast
31 to other areas. Now, granted the country is pretty
32 open, it's easier to see deer but, you know, it kind of
33 corresponds to what we're seeing with our surveys and
34 that a minimum the subsistence opportunities in that
35 region appear to be sustained and increasing in
36 contrast to other areas.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Bill.

41

42 Pat.

43

44 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Bill, constructive
45 comment. It would, I think, enhance your report to
46 have some historic tables five, 10 year means and, you
47 know, some graphics because like my wife told me when
48 she was a teacher, folks learn in different ways and
49 having visual information and data to look at would
50 help stress those points you have.

1 I do have a question for you. A few
2 years back you came to us with a request for the RAC to
3 increase the harvest, subsistence harvest of deer limit
4 on the island and then when Mr. VanDaele was available,
5 we had a discussion the following day, and our Council
6 resolved not to change the bag limit but to try to
7 encourage more harvest on the Refuge by increasing the
8 -- I always get them confused.....

9

10 MR. PYLE: Possession.

11

12 MR. HOLMES: Proxy permits or.....

13

14 MR. PYLE: Designated.

15

16 MR. HOLMES:or whatever the right
17 word is. And I was wondering what you folks have --
18 what has happened with the proxy permits and have you
19 loosened that up so folks in town could, you know, call
20 somebody in Larsen Bay if they're out of sorts and have
21 them take a deer for them, has that relaxed a bit or
22 what have you folks done as far as the proxy hunts?

23

24 MR. SAITO: The designated deer hunter
25 program.

26

27 MR. HOLMES: There we go, that's the
28 magic word, yeah.

29

30 MR. SAITO: We've been working with
31 Tonya Lee and we've been working with the different
32 villages and trying to promote the program more, just
33 get more usage out of it. So this year we're going to
34 be -- when this -- for this season, we're going to be
35 trying to get more involvement from the villages and
36 try to make it a little more streamlined so permits can
37 get used more.

38

39 MR. HOLMES: I guess the reason I ask,
40 I had a geezer that was interested in that that lived
41 in town and -- but he had to have the other person
42 either come in or the hunter and the hunter [sic] have
43 to come to the Refuge and sign it or fax and exchange
44 things, or is that still the case?

45

46 MR. SAITO: Just the hunter would need
47 to get the permit and then they would get the
48 information from the other person so we would only be
49 involved with working with the hunter.

50

1 MR. HOLMES: Thank you. Mr. Chairman.
2 I had one other question that one of our colleagues
3 that's not with us had asked me at the end of the
4 meeting, and in your report you have quite a lengthy
5 discussion on salmon but there is -- he said is Fish
6 and Wildlife managing salmon on Kodiak Island because
7 you really don't, you know, acknowledge the source of
8 the data, so I think that's probably an important thing
9 to do in future reports as to, you know, where this
10 information is coming from. Because the implication is
11 you folks are doing it rather than the State.

12
13 Sorry, but just a constructive comment.

14
15 MR. VANHATTEN: Good morning. Kevin
16 VanHatten, fisheries biologist, Fish and Wildlife.
17 Most of the information -- well, actually all the
18 information that deals with the salmon comes from Fish
19 and Game and their weir reports. I do a lot of
20 communication with the biologists so I'm basically just
21 kind of like -- a lot of the stuff is the weir reports
22 and the escapement goals that they have already
23 adjusted.

24
25 We feel that there's really no point in
26 trying to, so to speak, reinvent the wheel and trying
27 to butt heads with them. They've got a really good
28 handle on a lot of the systems within the Refuge and
29 what they're doing, as far as collecting the
30 information, for the salmon, is pretty good from our
31 standpoint.

32
33 MR. HOLMES: I was just on that
34 section, I just -- you know, the format style of your
35 report on Ayakulik steelhead you report cooperative
36 work with Sportfish on game issues and deer,
37 cooperative work with Game Division and it just sort
38 of, I think, would be professionally nice to have, you
39 know, acknowledgement in there or information based on
40 Alaska Department of Fish and Game things.

41
42 But, anyway, you folks all do a good
43 job of keeping each other on their toes so, anyway, my
44 hat's off to you and I'd like to, like every year,
45 commend the Refuge on the salmon camp program. I think
46 it's a really marvelous thing with the villages and
47 also for folks in town, and I think that that's a real
48 credit to the Service.

49
50 So thank you very much gentlemen. And

1 I guess we don't have Tonya here today so anyway, thank
2 you.

3

4 MR. SAITO: Thank you.

5

6 MR. WHEELER: Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: All right, we'll
9 break for lunch. We have just two more items before we
10 break and then get into the -- well, actually three.
11 But, anyway, ADF&G, Buskin River.

12

13 Michelle.

14

15 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. I did talk to
16 both the biologists for the Buskin River project and
17 the Afognak Lake update and if you've already read the
18 reports they are here to answer questions. So if you
19 want to go ahead and cover those, I don't know how long
20 it's going to take on the FAA thing and on the Board of
21 Fish proposal that will be coming forth. And then we
22 do need to set up our meeting dates, or confirm our
23 meeting dates and set up for the fall. We could kind
24 of walk through those pretty quick we can actually
25 finish before lunch and then just have the public
26 hearing this afternoon or we can have the public
27 hearing and then continue with the meeting afterwards.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Uh-huh.

30

31 MS. CHIVERS: It's up to the Council
32 but, you know.....

33

34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Take a break.

35

36 MS. CHIVERS: Okay, so we'll just take
37 up.....

38

39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Break time.

40

41 MS. CHIVERS: I don't know what time
42 we're going to pick back up after the public hearing,
43 it's.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah.

46

47 MS. CHIVERS:kind of hard to
48 gauge how long the public hearing's going to take so I
49 guess if everybody just shows up then we'll continue
50 when we're finished with that.

1 Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. We'll break
4 for lunch and be back before 1:30.
5
6 (Off record)
7
8 (On record)
9
10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Is everybody
11 seated, let's call the meeting back to order.
12
13 (Pause)
14
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I guess I'll just
16 open this meeting up for -- I lost it, what are we
17 calling it, Unit 9D caribou. Yes, go ahead.
18
19 MS. GREFFENIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 My name is Laura Greffenius and I'm a wildlife
21 biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management.
22 And I'll be presenting the Staff analysis for the
23 special action request WSA07-04, which begins on Page
24 22 in your Council books. And also there's some copies
25 on the back table if there's anybody in this room that
26 would like to look at some copies and hopefully those
27 of you in Cold Bay have some copies available as well.
28
29 I'd like to take about 10 minutes just
30 to go through some of the main points and some details
31 of this one just so for purposes of discussion so that
32 everyone can be familiar with some of the background,
33 we can't certainly go through everything but I'd like
34 to go through it thoroughly and then we can have some
35 questions afterwards.
36
37 This is a special action -- special
38 actions are submitted when there are extenuating
39 circumstances which necessitate a regulatory change
40 before the next annual wildlife regulatory proposal
41 cycle. And this temporary special action was submitted
42 by the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge manager and it
43 requests that the Federal season in Unit 9D be closed
44 during the winter season from November 15th to March 31
45 to the taking of caribou under the Federal Subsistence
46 Management Program.
47
48 And I'll be presenting the Staff
49 analysis for the special action request WSA07-04, which
50 begins on Page 22 in your Council books. And also

1 there's some copies on the back table if there's
2 anybody in this room that would like to look at some
3 copies and hopefully those of you in via delegated
4 authority approved a previous special action and this
5 was WSA07-03 to close only the fall season which is
6 from August 1st to September 30th for caribou in Unit
7 9D.

8
9 Current surveys of the Southern Alaska
10 Peninsula Caribou Herd in Unit 9D have shown a marked
11 decrease in both the population and calf recruitment.
12 And the intent of this special action request is to
13 eliminate additional mortality of this caribou herd
14 caused by human harvest.

15
16 On July 17th, the Alaska Department of
17 Fish and Game issued an emergency order to announce the
18 closure of the State's resident hunting seasons, both
19 fall and winter, for caribou in Unit 9D. And on July
20 30th of this past summer, 2007, the Office of
21 Subsistence Management via delegated authority approved
22 a previous special action and this was WSA07-03 to
23 close only the fall season which is from August 1st to
24 September 30th for caribou in Unit 9D. So this one
25 that we're discussing now is for the wintertime.

26
27 Both Federal and State managers concur
28 that the Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd
29 population decline poses a potentially significant
30 conservation concern that warrants these actions.
31 Ultimately the intent of the proposed closure is to
32 stop the population decline of the herd and to provide
33 for future long-term subsistence use of this resource.
34 And I'll refer you to your Council books again. The
35 current existing Federal regulation found on Page 22 in
36 your book indicates the fall season closure that went
37 into effect with the previous special action. The
38 proposed Federal closure which is this special action
39 closes the winter season and the existing State
40 regulation indicates that all seasons have already been
41 closed by emergency order.

42
43 The special action would affect Federal
44 public lands in Unit 9D, which comprise approximately
45 40 percent of this subunit, all of which are part of
46 Izembek or Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuges.

47
48 The regulatory history section of this
49 analysis provides detailed information on the past
50 proposals as well as special actions pertaining to this

1 herd and their outcomes regarding Federal Subsistence
2 Board actions. Past regulatory changes primarily
3 reflect the increases and decreases of the population
4 following threshold levels for carrying out management
5 objectives based on a management plan that was in place
6 at that time. Also just to note that the Alaska
7 Department of Fish and Game now recognizes that the
8 Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd on the Alaska
9 Peninsula in Unit 9D and the Unimak Caribou Herd on
10 Unimak Island in Unit 10, they're now recognized as two
11 separate herds but previously they were managed as one
12 caribou herd.

13

14 To sustain (ph) the population decline
15 in Unit 9D back in 1993 both the State hunt and Federal
16 seasons were closed to all caribou hunting. And based
17 on caribou surveys conducted in 1997 it was determined
18 that there were enough bulls in the herd to allow a
19 subsistence harvest to resume on Federal public lands
20 in Unit 9D. The Alaska Board of Game reopened the Unit
21 9D season in 1999 and it allowed hunting by Alaska
22 residents and non-residents.

23

24 From regulatory year 2000 to 2001 to
25 the present Federal public lands in Unit 9D have been
26 open to non-Federally-qualified subsistence users for
27 caribou hunting providing a split season during the
28 fall and winter. And most recently, in 2006, Proposal
29 WP06-20 adopted into regulation a two bull harvest
30 limit instead of two caribou under the Federal
31 Subsistence management regulations and the change
32 allowed for the continued harvest within the Southern
33 Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd and eliminated the cow
34 hunt at a time when the population was continuing to
35 decline yet the bull/cow ratio was still within State
36 management objectives.

37

38 Prior to July 1st, 2007 the State
39 regulation for caribou in Unit 9D specified non-
40 residents could harvest one bull from October 1st to
41 October 10, so there had been a non-resident season.
42 And just to provide some background on this particular
43 Council's position on this issue, going back into the
44 transcripts at the September 2005 meeting of the
45 Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council,
46 members expressed concerns about the Southern Alaska
47 Peninsula Caribou Herd decline and harvest by non-
48 resident hunters. Council members requested the State
49 to initiate restrictions for non-resident seasons as
50 they felt the subsistence hunts were in jeopardy, and

1 discussions focused on the preference of non-local
2 hunters for bulls whereas subsistence users stated a
3 preference for cows and young bulls. Recognizing the
4 continued decline of the herd, in March 2007 the Alaska
5 Board of Game restricted the State harvest to one bull
6 only by registration permit and closed the non-resident
7 season. The State regulation for Unit 9D caribou
8 became effective July 1st, 2007. On July 17th,
9 however, the ADF&G issued an emergency order to close
10 the State's caribou seasons in Unit 9D. And as was
11 mentioned, in late July approval of the special action
12 put forth by OSM closed the Federal season from August
13 1st to September 30th for caribou in Unit 9D.

14
15 And if you have your books right in
16 front of you or if you're referring to the paper copy
17 there's a Table 1 on Page 26, and that summarizes,
18 there's a summary of population estimates and
19 composition counts for the Southern Alaska Peninsula
20 Caribou Herd. The caribou population in Unit 9D began
21 to decline during the early 1980s, declining from
22 approximately 10,000 animals in 1983 and continuing to
23 fall until it reached an estimated 1,400 animals in
24 1996. And poor nutrition appeared to be the primary
25 factor causing the decline although human harvest and
26 predation by wolves and bears also are considered
27 factor in the decline. The population in Unit 9D
28 rebounded by 2002 to approximately 4,100 caribou,
29 however, the herd has declined since then to 770
30 caribou were observed in November of 2006 and a minimum
31 population estimate of approximately 600 caribou during
32 a count in July of 2007.

33
34 Surveys conducted by State and Refuge
35 biologists in recent years showed a marked decrease in
36 both total population numbers and calf recruitment.
37 Composition counts completed by ADF&G in October of
38 2006 showed a calf/cow ratio to one calf to 100 cows,
39 which is the lowest recorded to date. And this series
40 of low calf/cow ratios observed over the last five
41 years indicated that the population decline is still
42 occurring resulting in an age structure that is skewed
43 towards older age classes. In addition, the bull/cow
44 ratio in the fall 2006 counts dropped to 16 bulls to
45 100 cows, about 47 percent lower than the ratio
46 observed the previous year.

47
48 Calf recruitment is not sufficient to
49 offset the adult mortality and under normal
50 circumstances in the caribou population approximately

1 25 cows per 100 cows are necessary to offset adult
2 mortality. It is apparent that current population
3 demographics do not appear to be sufficient to
4 maintaining the health and productivity of the caribou
5 herd.

6

7 A draft of an updated cooperative
8 management plan, the Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou
9 Herd operational plan is currently under review and is
10 anticipated to be finalized in the fall of 2007 and
11 Sandra made mention in her report that there had been
12 some input from some of the villages in the area
13 because they had taken the draft to some community
14 meetings. The draft plan identifies threshold levels
15 for carrying out management objectives and assist local
16 wildlife managers in making timely recommendations for
17 seasons and harvest limits. And the following are the
18 primary population and management objectives outlined
19 in the 2007 Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd
20 operational draft plan:

21

22 To sustain a total population of 3,000
23 to 3,500 animals;

24

25 Maintain a fall bull/cow ratio of
26 between 20 to 40 bulls per 100 cows;

27

28 And discontinue the harvest when the
29 herd falls below approximately 875
30 caribou and has been in a period of
31 decline for three years.

32

33 And this is the current situation.

34

35 On Page 27 in your Council book, Table
36 2 lists by year the total reported caribou harvest from
37 1999 to 2006 for Federal Subsistence and State hunters
38 in Unit 9D. In prior years harvest of this herd was
39 fairly high from 1980 to 1986. For example, in 1983
40 the reported harvest in Unit 9D was about 262 caribou
41 and beginning in 1986 more restrictive regulations
42 reduced harvest as the population declined, and by 1993
43 hunting was closed.

44

45 Based on surveys conducted in 1997 a
46 surplus of bulls allowed a subsistence caribou harvest
47 on Federal public lands in Unit 9D by special action.

48

49 Historically caribou are the most
50 important land mammal used for subsistence in the lower

1 Alaska Peninsula communities. And most of the reported
2 subsistence harvest in Unit 9D occurs along the Cold
3 Bay road system during November and December when the
4 herd is in the vicinity of Cold Bay.

5
6 The following information are some
7 current events involving the Southern Alaska Peninsula
8 Caribou Herd that are relevant pertaining to the
9 circumstances for this special action. Just some of
10 the more recent biological information from this
11 summer. During early July, July 7th through 9th, 2007,
12 a post-calving count of the herd was conducted by ADF&G
13 and the post-calving population count resulted in a
14 minimum count population estimate of 600 caribou and
15 only four calves were observed during the population
16 survey which is less than one percent of calves. The
17 calf survival to four weeks of age was estimated to be
18 less than one percent. And these observations indicate
19 that early calf survival is limiting recruitment and no
20 calf recruitment is expected in 2007.

21
22 Also because of concerns regarding the
23 herd's condition it's important to note there have been
24 studies funded specifically for this herd. The ADF&G
25 received \$25,000 through a 2006 ANILCA .809 agreement
26 to put radio collars on adult female caribou during the
27 fall of 2006 ,and the telemetry study is designed to
28 provide data on reproduction and survival and blood and
29 fecal samples were collected to monitor the presence of
30 disease and parasites. And monitoring efforts will
31 contribute to understanding the herd's population
32 dynamics and provide biologists with information needed
33 to manage the Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd.
34 An additional 17,000 was provided to continue the
35 research in 2007. Also based on the July 2007 caribou
36 counts as well as past population declines, poor
37 recruitment and low bull/cow ratios -- as I mentioned
38 ADF&G announced its emergency order closing resident
39 hunting in Unit 9D for caribou and no State
40 registration permits will be issued for this upcoming
41 2007 to 2008 regulatory year, so that's for the fall
42 and winter seasons. And as I mentioned, previously,
43 the emergency special action on the Federal side
44 approved in the past closed the Federal season in Unit
45 9D during the fall season only from August to September
46 30th.

47
48 If this special action is adopted, the
49 Federal caribou hunting season within Unit 9D would be
50 closed during the upcoming winter season starting

1 November 15th through March 31st. Following the public
2 hearing being held this afternoon, procedurally
3 there'll be a recommendation to the Federal Subsistence
4 Board and the Board is allowed to issue a temporary
5 closure within this regulatory year, and it would only
6 be in effect until June 30th of 2008.

7

8 Closure of the Unit 9D caribou winter
9 season will align the Federal and State closures for
10 the winter season reducing overall total harvest
11 mortality providing the herd an opportunity to recover.

12

13 The low number of aging bulls in the
14 population means that taking even a limited number of
15 animals could have detrimental consequences for the
16 population.

17

18 Furthermore, another effect of this
19 special action is that there will be a loss of
20 opportunity for Federally-qualified subsistence users
21 to harvest caribou in Unit 9D in the short-term, which
22 will cause hardship for local communities. However by
23 conserving the herd now, the herd's long-term viability
24 and productivity will be maintained as well as harvest
25 opportunities in the future.

26

27 Based on the information presented in
28 the analysis, the Office of Subsistence Management
29 preliminary conclusion is to support this special
30 action request and the justifications for this
31 recommendation to support include the following
32 reasons, just in summary:

33

34 Closure of the Unit 9D caribou season
35 for the winter season will align the
36 Federal and State regulations during
37 this 2007/08 regulatory year.

38

39 The population trend and composition
40 counts for this caribou herd has been
41 in decline for the past several years,
42 and it's a very carefully monitored
43 population and using radiotelemetry
44 data and the changing age structure of
45 the herd's population, it supports the
46 conclusion that herd productivity is
47 continuing to decline.

48

49 And the July 2007 recruitment survey
50 which indicated that no calves are

1 expected to survive is definitely a
2 cause for concern.

3
4 In addition, because the number of
5 bulls in the population is decreasing,
6 closure of the bull harvest is also
7 wise management strategy to aid the
8 recovery of this caribou population.

9
10 So that concludes my presentation of
11 the analysis for this special action and I'll be glad
12 to answer any questions you might have. And as you
13 know, on the phone, we do have Sandra Siekaniec, the
14 Refuge Manager at Izembek National Wildlife Refuge and
15 Lem Butler, who's the ADF&G area biologist in King
16 Salmon is here, so they can answer questions as well
17 concerning this.

18
19 So thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you.
22 Sandra, do you have anyone from the public present over
23 there?

24
25 MS. SIEKANIEC: Yes, we do, Chairman.
26 We have a couple of Cold Bay residents that would like
27 to make comments.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.

30
31 MR. CRATTY: Have them state their
32 name.

33
34 MR. COCHRAN: I guess for the most part
35 -- my name is Sean Cochran. And as far as the long-
36 term conservation of the herd, you know, I'm definitely
37 in support of the emergency closure. And I did have a
38 question as far as I was wondering what we would have
39 to do in order for Cold Bay residents to qualify for a
40 subsistence on Unimak Island?

41
42 MS. GREFFENIUS: All right, let me
43 restate your question. You're wondering what you would
44 need to do to qualify for hunting on Unimak Island and
45 you're a Cold Bay resident?

46
47 MR. COCHRAN: Yes, ma'am.

48
49 MS. GREFFENIUS: You can hunt under the
50 subsistence regulations for Unit 10 since you're a Cold

1 Bay resident. And right now for Unimak Island it's
2 four caribou by Federal registration permit only. So
3 that's something that is available at the Izembek
4 Refuge office, or my understanding is it's available
5 there. And the season's are August 1 to September 30th
6 and then there's a season from November 15th to March
7 31.

8

9 Does that answer your question?

10

11 MS. SIEKANIEC: Well, yeah, actually,
12 Laura.....

13

14 REPORTER: Michelle, mic, please,
15 thanks.

16

17 MS. SIEKANIEC:there is no
18 customary and traditional use for Cold Bay that's why
19 they're not listed in Unit 10 for subsistence.

20

21 MS. GREFFENIUS: Okay, I'm sorry, I see
22 what you're.....

23

24 MS. SIEKANIEC: Yes.

25

26 MS. GREFFENIUS: Okay. All right,
27 yeah, I see what you're saying, so residents of False
28 Pass, King Cove, Akutan and Sand Point, sorry for the
29 oversight. You're right, Cold Bay's not listed. And
30 so it would need to be -- submit a proposal to have
31 Cold Bay be included for the Unit 10 Unimak Island
32 subsistence hunt, or there's also a State season. If a
33 Cold Bay resident wanted to hunt under the State season
34 in Unit 10 it's one caribou from August 10 to September
35 30th or one caribou harvest limit, November 15th to
36 March 31st for residents. So right now that would be
37 the option for Cold Bay residents is to hunt under the
38 State regulations.

39

40 MR. COCHRAN: All right, thank you.

41

42 MR. SMITH: Okay. My name is James
43 Smith, again, I'm a resident here at Cold Bay. And I
44 am in full agreement on keeping the subsistence caribou
45 season closed to give the herd a chance to rebound.
46 And, again, I echo what Mr. Cochran was saying about
47 the availability of us being able to go down to Unimak
48 Island and, again, do some type of hunting down that
49 way and that's my comment.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Was that a
2 question or.....
3
4 MR. SMITH: No a statement.
5
6 MS. SIEKANIEC: No, that was a
7 statement.
8
9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.
10
11 MS. SIEKANIEC: And that is all the
12 folks here that wanted to make comment.
13
14 MS. CHIVERS: Sandra, did you have any
15 additional information that you want to present to the
16 Council or to the public?
17
18 MS. SIEKANIEC: No. Other than if
19 anybody had questions on any of the information they're
20 welcome to ask me questions.
21
22 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you.
23
24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pete.
25
26 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Sandra, this is
27 Pete. I just have a -- do you guys have any idea why
28 the cow/calf ratio has been staying so low?
29
30 MS. SIEKANIEC: Well, you know, at this
31 point it's kind of supposition, you probably need to
32 ask Lem as well but this is the end of the caribou's
33 range. There is some concern that the current food
34 source may or may not be sufficient for them. We do
35 have an increase in our bear population so we are
36 certain that with this low of numbers predation is
37 definitely playing a part.
38
39 Also winters can have an affect on
40 caribou, not only the health of the females with
41 fetuses but also the males.
42
43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, thank you,
44 Sandra. Any other questions, comments.
45
46 Pete.
47
48 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, I'm not too
49 familiar with that area, Sandra, this is Pete again,
50 but is it possible that any of those caribou could be

1 migrating to Unimak Island?

2

3 MS. SIEKANIEC: Well, it's somewhat
4 possible. Usually it doesn't occur unless there's high
5 numbers of caribou. I believe Lem has additional
6 information on that. But the only time that they've
7 noticed animals passing back and forth is when one
8 population overexceeds its range and it'll go into
9 another area.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
12 questions.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: What action do we
17 need to take here -- I find it -- if we need to take
18 action, I find it hard to go forward with action with
19 very little input from the Cold Bay area.

20

21 I wish there could have been more
22 people there.

23

24 Yes, go ahead.

25

26 MS. GREFFENIUS: It's up to the Council
27 on what action. You can pass a motion to support the
28 closure through the special action, as you so choose,
29 it's not required that you take action or pass a
30 motion, it's just valuable information that -- we'll
31 write up a summary of comments, public comments,
32 Council comments provided to the Staff Committee which
33 in turn makes its recommendation to the Federal
34 Subsistence Board, and they'll need to be making a
35 decision most likely during October or by early
36 November because the season begins November 15th.

37

38 So it's up to the Council if you make a
39 -- what you decide to do, it's just information that
40 will be passed on. Just to let you know the
41 procedures.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, thank you.
46 Pete.

47

48 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I
49 definitely support the proposal based on the numbers.
50 So if there's not going to be any further discussion,

1 I'll make a motion to support the proposal.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Al.

4

5 MR. CRATTY: Mr. Chair. I'll second
6 and I also support the proposal. And the numbers this
7 low, it's -- we've been there before and had to close
8 it down, it's just, you know, tough on the people but
9 you got to do something.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. It's been
12 moved and seconded. Under discussion, Pat, do you have
13 something.

14

15 MR. HOLMES: I agree with the
16 information that's been presented. And if I could add
17 a couple words to the motion, I'll be supporting it in
18 any case, but I'd like to suggest that we include:

19

20 Based on low population levels;

21

22 Changing age structure;

23

24 No calf expected to survive; and

25

26 The disproportionate number of old
27 bulls, which is also decreasing;

28

29 that we support Special Action WSA07-

30 04.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, I would ask
33 the motion maker if he was comfortable with that.

34

35 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I think that was
36 already in there in the original proposal, because of
37 that.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

40

41 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. For
42 clarification, I was going to ask if Pat was seconding
43 the motion, the original motion, did you.....

44

45 MR. HOLMES: No, the motion was
46 seconded.

47

48 REPORTER: Al seconded the motion.

49

50 MS. CHIVERS: Okay.

1 MR. HOLMES: I was offering a friendly
2 amendment to provide documentation that our position
3 parallels that of the other folks, given the
4 information that we got. It's just sort of a tidy
5 thing to do regulatory-wise, Pete, so -- so.....

6
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. He
8 suggested other words for the motion, I have to bring
9 it back to you since you're the motion maker, see if
10 you're comfortable with that.

11
12 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Well, I suppose but I
13 don't see no reason for it.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Who was the
16 second?

17
18 REPORTER: Al.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Do you have
21 anything.

22
23 MR. HAMILTON: No comments. I would
24 just generally support the most restrictive
25 measurements possible.

26
27 (Power outage)

28
29 MR. HAMILTON: It's me. It's my day.
30 Sorry.

31
32 REPORTER: It's not you, it was a power
33 surge. There we go.

34
35 MR. HAMILTON: Here we go, thank you.
36 I wasn't here for the first part of the day, I was just
37 curious, did Lem speak to this at all today?

38
39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: (Shakes head
40 negatively)

41
42 MR. HAMILTON: All right. Are we going
43 to have an opportunity to ask questions or.....

44
45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, we can.

46
47 MR. HAMILTON: Yes, just in general I
48 support.

49
50 So I had one question for Lem, if I

1 could just kind of -- Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes.

4

5 MR. HAMILTON: Lem, thanks. You know
6 usually if you're talking about a situation where food
7 isn't available or the quality of the food is poor
8 nutritionally, it seems like -- my understanding of
9 like being in the Mulchatna Caribou Herd or observing
10 things there, it usually involves over-grazing or it
11 involves a surplus of animals so I'm just trying to
12 understand how -- I'm trying to understand the concept
13 of poor nutrition or overgrazing in the context where
14 there isn't a lot of caribou around to begin with.

15

16 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. Members of the
17 Council. My name is Lem Butler. I'm the area wildlife
18 biologist for Fish and Game in King Salmon.

19

20 Being the one that's handling the
21 caribou and doing a lot of the work I'm not really
22 seeing any strong signs that nutritional issues are
23 playing into this right now. The body condition of the
24 caribou are generally, relatively good, particularly
25 compared to the Northern Alaska Peninsula Herd, which
26 has been experiencing quite a few chronic problems with
27 nutrition, parasites related. If you look at the
28 pregnancy rates in this herd, we're just at about 80
29 percent pregnancy which is a sign that nutrition isn't
30 all that bad really.

31

32 I really feel strongly that the big
33 problem here is a predator issue, not a nutrition
34 issue. Although we can't completely discount the idea
35 that nutrition may be involved to some degree. These
36 animals weigh about 100 pounds on average compared to
37 other caribou in the state, that's a small body weight,
38 and we do associate this with being kind of the fringe
39 end of the range for caribou. So certainly there's
40 potential for exposure to disease, there's potential
41 for nutrition to being complicating matters. But,
42 again, you just can't get down to one calf or under cow
43 with nutritional issues. I don't know of any case in
44 the state where that's ever been the case. It's always
45 there's a predator component playing a stronger role.

46

47 MR. HAMILTON: Okay, all right, thanks.

48

49 MR. BUTLER: Yeah.

50

1 MR. HAMILTON: Yeah, I misunderstood, I
2 thought the case was that it was partially nutritional
3 and predatory as well. Thanks.
4
5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, Pete.
6
7 MS. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, this is
8 Sandra.
9
10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Oh, go ahead,
11 Sandra.
12
13 MS. SIEKANIEC: Yeah, I did make some
14 contact with folks in King Cove and I don't know if
15 they're on the line but I did give them the
16 teleconference number.
17
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, thank you.
19 Pete, did you have something.
20
21 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, just, you know,
22 I do support the proposal but I'd just like to make a
23 comment. I started mentioning back in 2002 or 2003
24 about the cow/calf ratio and it just went on and
25 nothing was done and look at Table 2 in the book and it
26 just shows the difference, the subsistence harvest
27 comparing to the State harvest, you know, and the State
28 kept it open right up to the very end, too. That's one
29 thing I do have a concern about, where the State
30 harvest far exceeds -- well, except for 2006 was the
31 only time the subsistence harvest took more than the
32 State harvest.
33
34 MS. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chairman, this is
35 Sandra.
36
37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Sandra.
38
39 MS. SIEKANIEC: What's interesting
40 about this 9D area is that only 40 percent of it is
41 Federal lands and that's the regulations that the
42 subsistence deals with. For the rest of the land it's
43 State lands and in order for Nelson Lagoon to get
44 caribou the State season must be open. So you're
45 seeing a little bit of disparity here but a lot of it
46 is because Nelson Lagoon needs the State season to be
47 open in order for them to hunt in their area.
48
49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any further
50 discussion.

1 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Okay, thanks, Sandra.
2 That makes me feel a little better.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If there's no
5 further discussion, is there any objections to the
6 motion.

7
8 (No objections)

9
10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Seeing no
11 objections then the motion carries.

12
13 Does this end the hearing?

14
15 Yes, go ahead.

16
17 MS. GREFFENIUS: Just to review, again,
18 the procedural matter.

19
20 So you've passed a motion to support
21 this special action and that will go forward to the
22 Board for its decision and that will apply to this
23 winter season, November through March 2007/2008. And
24 then that's it. So this special action just is
25 applicable to this upcoming winter season. And as the
26 Council wishes, it's the wildlife proposal regulatory
27 window, it's open right now for submitting wildlife
28 proposals which will go through the cycle that is the
29 normal regulatory cycle, so if there's a desire to have
30 -- to close the Federal season, if the Council wants to
31 put forth their -- a proposal on that, that would go
32 into effect July 1, 2008 and after that, just to let
33 you know that there would need to be a separate
34 proposal put in by the Council, whoever wishes to do
35 so, whether it's an individual or whatever. Just
36 wanted to make, procedurally, we're clear, that this
37 special action is just a short-term.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Maybe
42 you could work with Sandra since she has more contact
43 with people in Cold Bay or in that area, if somebody in
44 the public wishes to submit a proposal, you guys could
45 work together and get in contact with those people.

46
47 MS. GREFFENIUS: Okay, yeah, there's
48 several avenues. Somebody individual could submit one,
49 if the Council wants to do one and you passed a motion
50 now to do so then I would just work, like with the

1 Chair, I could write something up and you could -- when
2 I get back to the office and you sign off on it. If
3 you prefer that somebody, you know, the Refuge or
4 whatever, however you want to proceed with it, there's
5 several options.

6

7 So, thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, thank you.

10 Can we move on -- Pete.

11

12 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Lem, some discussion I
13 heard mentioned earlier, somebody talked about Unit 10
14 getting more pressure, Unimak Island, maybe Sandra can
15 give us some information on that.

16

17 MR. BUTLER: Uh-huh.

18

19 MS. SIEKANIEC: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I
20 have had an increase in requests for subsistence
21 permits for Unimak Island. The permits at this time
22 allow for harvest of four caribou person, and that
23 population -- those numbers are also dropping and my
24 concern is there may be excessive impacts to that
25 population since the
26 9D herd is closed.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I think that was
29 in our minutes, wasn't it, we made a motion last time
30 that had something to do with Unit 10 and Unimak Island
31 was going to be heavily impacted because of that.

32

33 I think if we look at our minutes it'll
34 show it. It's Board of Game Proposal 81, it's on Page
35 8. There was a motion made by this Board to recommend
36 to support the proposal with modification, but the
37 motion was to support the proposal. It didn't include
38 with modification to limit the impact on Unimak Island.

39

40 MR. CRATTY: Adak. That was Adak.

41

42 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. Yeah, that was
43 Adak that that proposal was dealing with, not Unimak.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Proposal 81 was
46 for Unit 10.

47

48 MR. BUTLER: That was a misprint that
49 was corrected prior to the Board of Game meeting, that
50 proposal.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Adak Island -- oh,
2 Adak Island, yeah.

3
4 MR. BUTLER: That proposal just dealt
5 with Adak as written by the person who submitted it.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah.

8
9 MR. BUTLER: But just by way of
10 comment, you know, I'd agree certainly that population
11 does appear to be declining. We know little about that
12 herd. It's very difficult to access, we don't even
13 have calf ratios for recent years but the 2005 calf
14 ratio obviously was low. The Refuge Staff has been
15 conducting these winter surveys that indicate a
16 declining trend. And while it's a smaller island, we
17 want to keep that population below a thousand caribou.
18 There is certainly some concern that, again, similar
19 processes are affecting the population on Unimak and
20 increased pressure, particularly of a four caribou bag
21 limit could be extreme if a lot of people decide to go
22 over there and hunt, so some amount of caution, I
23 think, is within reason for that population.

24
25 Thanks.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Pat.

28
29 MR. HOLMES: Lem, do you feel that it
30 would be appropriate to -- and Laura, to consider
31 reducing the harvest levels for subsistence at Unimak
32 at this point. I know when I was out there in the '80s
33 that's, you know, two decades back, there were wolves
34 all over the place and -- but I'm just wondering should
35 we be preemptive or just wait?

36
37 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. Members of the
38 Council. You know it's always hard to say, you know,
39 certainly with the Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou
40 Herd, as Pete would point out to you, you know, we kind
41 of got caught off guard, things happened down there a
42 lot quicker than we had anticipated, so certainly
43 there's a concern for Unimak as well. Currently all
44 the caribou populations throughout Southwest Alaska are
45 declining.

46
47 Predators, like you mentioned, are an
48 issue, with the Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd,
49 the low calf/cow ratio in 2005 would indicate that
50 Unimak may be suffering from similar issues associated

1 with predation as well.

2

3 We're going to go out there and try to
4 get more data this fall, of course, we'll try to get
5 our composition ratio. We've also been in the process
6 of trying to get enough monies together to do a calf
7 mortality study, one of the Southern Alaska Peninsula
8 Caribou Herd. If that comes to fruition we'll be able
9 to monitor Unimak during the summer of 2008 as well to
10 branch out.

11

12 But all that being said, you know, we
13 can always wait for more information to come in but I
14 think given the current state of caribou in the general
15 region and associated concerns, it would likely be --
16 it would be my recommendation to reduce that to two
17 caribou at least at this point.

18

19 Thanks.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pete.

22

23 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Lem, have you folks
24 been in touch with any people from the community at
25 False Pass?

26

27 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. Members of the
28 Council. I haven't. Maybe Sandra could answer that as
29 well, though, she spends more time in that area.

30

31 MS. SIEKANIEC: Yeah, Mr. Chairman,
32 this is Sandra. I did try to reach them by phone
33 yesterday and tried to get the information out that
34 they should also call in and provide us with some
35 information and I did not get a response at all.

36

37 MR. HAMILTON: Mr. Chair. Lem. I mean
38 I could see how a lot of sporthunting pressure could
39 get transferred down the Peninsula to Unimak. I mean
40 as trophy caribou become more difficult to come by
41 throughout the state, I could see that becoming a more
42 popular area. It's tough logistically to work there, I
43 mean there's a very limited amount of air taxi or
44 service providers that can help people access, both
45 residents and non-residents but, you know, I could see
46 that happening so I would be concern at the
47 sporthunting regulation level, you know, just having
48 some checks in place.

49

50 I don't know logistically what's

1 involved in getting from Cold Bay to a caribou hunt on
2 Unimak Island, I would think it would be somewhat
3 challenging. I mean I'm trying to figure out in my
4 mind how many people would realistically, if they can't
5 hunt caribou on a subsistence level in King Cove or
6 Cold Bay, that are going to actually move down there.

7
8 I mean in philosophy I'm in support of
9 some pretty restrictive measures right now and I would
10 go so far as we make our own proposals to this process,
11 maybe with some help from, you know, whoever can help
12 draft the wording on this.

13
14 But, yeah, I guess that question still
15 is up in my mind, too, is like how feasible is it for
16 subsistence users to go to Unimak and, you know, would
17 that actually take place. I could see it in
18 sporthunting, I'm not sure about Cold Bay or King Cove
19 residents.

20
21 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. Members of the
22 Council. Yeah, certainly it's much more logistically
23 difficult to get to Unimak and then travel around
24 Unimak is also very difficult. Again, it's always
25 tough to anticipate, caribou are funny creatures
26 though, they move around in groups and, you know, if
27 they get into the wrong spot they could be very
28 vulnerable, I guess that's the big concern since they
29 do move around in such tight clusters.

30
31 MR. HAMILTON: Mr. Chair. But you
32 would be in support of going from four to two, that
33 would be your recommendation?

34
35 MR. BUTLER: Yeah, I think that would
36 be prudent. Two caribou is a lot of meat for a lot of
37 people and, you know, again if there is going to be
38 increased pressure it can be spread around better with
39 two. Sandra's surveys indicate that there are 800
40 caribou currently on Unimak or just over 800 and, you
41 know, that's getting down there really. And especially
42 if we start taking cows with a winter hunt.

43
44 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, I guess, Jim,
45 you know, I agree with Jim, I think a lot of the
46 subsistence people aren't going to go down there from
47 King Cove and Cold Bay but increase in the sporthunters
48 and if we drop the subsistence harvest for the people
49 living there in False Pass and then the sport harvest
50 really increases, I don't know if the subsistence

1 people there are going to be very happy. It's not a
2 very big community, not that many people.

3

4 MR. BUTLER: Well, you know, Unimak is
5 difficult to get to. We've got 12 caribou being taken
6 currently on Unimak by non-local hunters and there
7 really hasn't been a change in that, no trends to
8 indicate that that's going to increase at any time
9 soon. Of course the State bag limit's one caribou so
10 much restricted over the current Federal regulations
11 and the Federal regs would still be more liberal even
12 if it was reduced to a two caribou bag limit.

13

14 So, you know, that's certainly that
15 we'd want to pay attention to. You're right caribou
16 opportunities to hunt in the state of Alaska have
17 declined significantly. We get a lot of traffic going
18 out to Adak so people are certainly willing to travel
19 to areas that have good caribou hunting. But, again,
20 so far Unimak hasn't been on the radar for most of the
21 sporthunters.

22

23 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, I would like to,
24 I guess, I thought about a proposal, too, to lower the
25 bag limit for subsistence out there but before I did
26 that I think I would at least like to talk to Gilda
27 Shelikof that lives there that used to be on this
28 Board.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead Sandra.

31

32 MS. SIEKANIEC: Yeah, last year I had
33 no one request a subsistence permit from False Pass or
34 any other community for Unimak, everybody was coming to
35 9D. This year I have one applicant from False Pass and
36 three from King Cove. Most of the individuals from
37 King Cove are commercial fishermen and they use their
38 boats to go wherever they need to harvest their
39 caribou. So I believe King Cove will be using Unimak
40 Island.

41

42 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Pat.

45

46 MR. HOLMES: I think the herd there at
47 Unimak has declined to some really low levels from the
48 information we've got. I used to work out there quite
49 a bit and when the salmon fishery was up, you know, the
50 folks in False Pass could afford to be there all winter

1 and, you know, did do a fair amount of hunting. But I
2 think at this point it isn't a question of who's
3 getting what, the State's dropped their limit from four
4 to one and I would go along with Jim on dropping the
5 subsistence harvest to two.

6

7 MR. HAMILTON: Yeah, Mr. Chair, that
8 wasn't a proposal that was more of a clarification on
9 Lem's recommendation.

10

11 One point of clarification from Lem
12 there, did you say 12 annual has been a pretty steady
13 harvest level for guided use on Unimak?

14

15 MR. BUTLER: That's correct. Seems
16 like 12, 14 are the numbers.....

17

18 MR. HAMILTON: Uh-huh.

19

20 MR. BUTLER:that I've been seeing
21 when I look at this.

22

23 MR. HAMILTON: It's a Federal land --
24 it's largely Federal lands with a Federal exclusive
25 guide use area, it's primarily one guide operating in
26 the area and he's taking a consistent number of hunts,
27 is that pretty much the scenario there?

28

29 MR. BUTLER: One person that's actively
30 taken. I think there are two.....

31

32 MR. HAMILTON: Rod Shue and one other
33 guy.

34

35 MR. BUTLER:that are authorized
36 but only one's really active in taking hunters.

37

38 MR. HAMILTON: Right. Thank you.
39 Thanks.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pete.

42

43 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I have one. I guess,
44 you know, hearing what Sandra said on the number of
45 subsistence permits applied for, there was three out of
46 King Cove or four, and if we knock it down to two then,
47 you know, I think those three or four people that go
48 out there get four caribou each they'll share with the
49 other people back in King Cove.

50

1 MR. HOLMES: Good point.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Do you want Sandra
4 to reply to that -- any other discussion before we move
5 on. Pat, do you have something.

6

7 MR. HOLMES: Well, I'll toss it out as
8 a motion and you can defeat it. If I may make a
9 comment before my motion.

10

11 If we're looking at 9D, it dropped 100
12 percent from -- more than 100 percent, half the
13 population in D in one year, and my point is if we're
14 down to 600 animals on Unimak and there are plenty of
15 predators there regardless of human harvest, we could
16 potentially end up with 400 animals there and then
17 you're getting down to -- what is the threshold for
18 Unimak for -- do you think for reproductive success, is
19 600 going to keep the herd there or no idea at all?

20

21 MR. BUTLER: Well, typically with these
22 island populations of caribous what we're more
23 concerned about is the population growing out of
24 control, similar to what Unimak did in the early '70s
25 when it reached 5,000 caribou and subsequently declined
26 dramatically to 300 caribou. Very common to the island
27 populations. It's the same thing that we're worried
28 about on Adak right now. Saw it on St. Matthews
29 Island, several others through time. So, you know,
30 really it's the bull/cow ratio is important when you
31 get the low numbers.

32

33 To some degree you worry about having
34 sufficient calves on the ground to swamp the predators
35 so we wouldn't want it to get below 300 by any means.
36 It's a slow recovery from 300.

37

38 So realistically you're looking at 500
39 to 1,000 caribou is the goal for Unimak.

40

41 MR. HOLMES: Okay. So we're at the
42 goal and maybe this isn't the point for me to totally
43 panic but if you get your information coming in that
44 the cow to calf is off or whatever I would hope you'd
45 call up Laura [sic] and do what you guys have to do.

46

47 I won't make a motion, Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pete.

50

1 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Lem. I was just
2 thinking more about it with the number of people that
3 applied to go out there and subsistence hunt, the
4 numbers are so low that there's going to be 20, 24
5 caribou if they're 100 percent successful out of the
6 total herd. So I mean I don't think I'd panic right
7 now either.

8
9 MR. BUTLER: Yeah, it's, you know,
10 tough to say. Like you say, we don't know what the
11 calves have been doing, if we're getting into
12 increasingly older age composition like similar to what
13 we're getting into the Southern Alaska Peninsula Herd,
14 our bulls may be dropping off already down there and we
15 don't know, you know, if we're going to start losing
16 cows to old age at some point we're going to be in
17 worst straights. A lot of information isn't known at
18 this point and it's a tough decision to make when you
19 don't have all the information you'd like to have.

20
21 All's I can do is recommend what I, you
22 know, feel is appropriate based on the information we
23 do have.

24
25 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, well, Unit 10
26 definitely does not have the pressure that 9D does, the
27 hunting pressure.

28
29 MR. BUTLER: True. That's true. But,
30 again, if the population hasn't been producing calves,
31 you know, if we're looking at similarly low number of
32 bulls, could have a less than a hundred bulls on Unimak
33 right now if it's followed the same trends as the
34 Southern Alaska Peninsula Herd has followed in which
35 case you'd really start to losing any more bulls at
36 that point. Do you have a harvestable surplus, we
37 don't really know that, you know, it's speculation.

38
39 But, again, right now you have a four
40 caribou bag limit, people can go over there, they can
41 shoot four cows, which may be crucial to the
42 population, you know, four bulls may be just
43 detrimental if they take four bulls, if enough people
44 take four bulls. Don't really know.

45
46 Again, it's just based on what we're
47 seeing throughout the region. I hoped to have more
48 information for you but, again, at the rate at which
49 the Southern Alaska Peninsula Herd declined in recent
50 years the information we have about Unimak says that

1 it's following a similar course. I'd certainly be
2 concerned about Unimak as well.

3

4 MS. GREFFENIUS: Yes, just a brief
5 question for Lem.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Laura.

8

9 MS. GREFFENIUS:and just to
10 provide some information to the Council and to Sandra.
11 I believe you said that there'd be composition counts
12 at Unimak this fall and I was just wondering if you
13 anticipate doing those prior to the window, October
14 19th, that is the deadline for submitting proposals,
15 just having that information available and then the
16 Council or whoever could decide about, you know, a
17 proposal on Unimak.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Lem.

20

21 MR. BUTLER: Unfortunately that
22 information won't be available by October 19th. We
23 have a bear hunt on the Alaska Peninsula and we can't
24 use helicopters until October 22nd, and then it's going
25 to be weather dependent at that point. So with luck
26 we'll have information. But, again, you know, we tried
27 to get the information in 2006 as well. Unimak is just
28 a real challenge to get to, the weather just doesn't
29 cooperate and we can only keep a helicopter in the area
30 for so long before we have to send it home. And that's
31 unfortunately going to be -- could be the very same
32 position we're in the next time we get together, is
33 looking at the same information, and trying to make a
34 similar decision.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Al.

37

38 MR. CRATTY: Yeah, I was wondering is
39 there a way we could put in a proposal or do you have
40 the authority to have emergency closure, or drop the
41 limit if there is something that happens. I know how
42 much the people depend on the caribou out there, just
43 listening to them in '95 and '96 when they closed it.

44

45 MR. BUTLER: Is that a question about
46 the State.....

47

48 MR. CRATTY: Yeah, for the.....

49

50 MR. BUTLER:or the Federal?

1 MR. CRATTY:Federal and the State
2 hunt.

3
4 MR. BUTLER: I have EO authority. If I
5 feel that there is a biological concern, I can close
6 the season or make the adjustments that I feel are
7 appropriate. And I'll let the Federal Staff answer for
8 the Federal regs.

9
10 MS. GREFFENIUS: Yeah, the procedures
11 for the closing something, shortened notice, is the
12 special actions. The emergency special actions is up
13 to a 60 day period so that's what we did for this fall
14 season. And then the temporary special action, which
15 is the one that we've just gone through here now for
16 the winter season requires a notice of a public hearing
17 so that's what we're doing right here this afternoon.
18 And then that can be going up through the regulatory
19 year but not beyond that so it would take place through
20 June 30th of 2008 but it wouldn't be effective for the
21 following regulatory year.

22
23 MR. CRATTY: So you're saying you
24 wouldn't be able to do it this year if you had to,
25 you'd have to wait until 2008?

26
27 MS. GREFFENIUS: Well, if there was a
28 special action, for example, that was this winter,
29 maybe for the last 60 days of the winter season on
30 Unimak. I'm just -- I mean theoretically I'm just
31 saying that a special action could be done and it could
32 cover that time period, a closure. Or it would end up
33 being a special action -- or it would be putting in a
34 proposal for, you know, changing the wildlife regs, or
35 a proposal could be put in and then if they get some
36 information that might counter that, the proposal could
37 always be withdrawn. So that's an option as well.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

40
41 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I'd kind of
42 like to ask the rest of the Council what they would
43 think about making a suggestion for a proposal that
44 could be withdrawn if the information shows that
45 there's not a problem but could be implemented if it
46 looks like there is a problem. Can we do something
47 like that guys, I don't know.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Michelle.

50

1 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. That's
2 actually just what Laura suggested. She didn't suggest
3 that, but that was.....

4
5 MS. GREFFENIUS: Options.

6
7 MS. CHIVERS:one of the options
8 that you have. And so she's correct if the Council did
9 submit a proposal right now Laura would be writing up
10 the analysis and you would take this up at the winter
11 meeting, our next meeting. And then -- but in the mean
12 time, after Lem does his composition counts and gets
13 all the information for you, if it shows that there is
14 no need for the proposal, then the Council can withdraw
15 it.

16
17 But if it looks like it is a good idea
18 to keep that proposal, then it will just continue
19 through the whole process and get to the Board level.
20 So it would be a good idea to go ahead and submit one
21 now because you have that option of withdrawing it if
22 it shows that there's no need for it.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, thank you.

25
26 Pete.

27
28 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, I have no
29 problem with that because I believe at the next spring
30 meeting Ricky Kosol (ph) will be on board from out
31 there, he's with Adak and King Cove, both, so he stays
32 in both places. So -- and then also, Lem, on your
33 worried about a bunch -- the harvest of cows from 1999
34 to 2006, on the Federal registration, it was only five
35 total, in those seven years so.....

36
37 MR. BUTLER: Yeah, that's what was
38 reported and that's what, you know, I've cautioned
39 about in the past, that's reported harvest. I know
40 Sandra's been making big efforts in the recent years to
41 increase reporting rates but, you know, it's always
42 been felt that people haven't reported everything with
43 the Federal permits in the past and, again, people
44 working to correct that. But it's reported harvest,
45 you know, you got to remember that when you look at
46 these tables.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Jim.

49
50 MR. HAMILTON: Mr. Chair. I would

1 support that we just kind of work with Laura on having
2 something in place. I mean we have emergency
3 capabilities, emergency tools to kind of deal with
4 things. That's some comfort to me. And it's hard for
5 me to go much further than that and, you know, I think
6 we're probably at a tipping point, we're probably at a
7 really crux right now, where we go from being in a
8 tough situation to a very drast -- you know, much more
9 severe than that situation. But it's hard to move
10 forward without having more information. I would like
11 to have this in place and, you know, hopefully if -- if
12 necessary, hopefully it's not, but if necessary then at
13 the next meeting we can start going down that road.

14

15 So I'd like to draft something, have
16 something, some measure ready to kick in place if
17 there's some triggering mechanism based on what Lem
18 sees this fall or, you know, more definitive
19 information, then we can move forward.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

22

23 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. If that
24 would be a motion, I would second it, Jim.

25

26 MR. HAMILTON: If somebody could help
27 me with the wording that would be a motion.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Can you get the
30 wording straight and make the motion so that it's clear
31 and we'll go from there.

32

33 Did you get most of that, Michelle.

34

35 MS. CHIVERS: Was what Jim just stated
36 going to be the motion, that he would like to -- that
37 he's in support of a proposal being drafted?

38

39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes.

40

41 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. And did you
42 discuss numbers at all so there's clarification for
43 when Laura's going to be writing the.....

44

45 MR. HAMILTON: I guess based on.....

46

47 REPORTER: Jim.

48

49 MR. HAMILTON: I'm sorry. Mr. Chair.
50 Michelle. Based on Lem's numbers unless Laura has a

1 different suggestion going from four to two.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, Pete.

4

5 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Was that seconded
6 already or does it need a second.

7

8 MR. HAMILTON: We're drafting something
9 right now and I'll read it or propose it here in a
10 minute.

11

12 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I was wondering what
13 Sandra thought about that.

14

15 MS. SIEKANIEC: Yes, I guess I would
16 encourage you to put a proposal forward to reduce the
17 limits from four to two. And also recognize that many
18 of the King Cove individuals do do designated hunter
19 hunts so, you know, a boat may be going over to get 40
20 caribou if they've got 10 people's permits.

21

22 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Well, thanks Sandra, I
23 didn't know that either.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, can we take
26 a quick break while these two gentlemen are working on
27 the wordage of their motion, come back in about 10
28 minutes.

29

30 (Off record)

31

32 (On record)

33

34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Let's call the
35 meeting back to order. Do we want to wait on this.

36

37 (Pause)

38

39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The next item on
40 our agenda was the ADF&G. Okay, moving on, ADF&G,
41 Buskin River and Afognak Lake.

42

43 MR. TRACY: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair,
44 members of the Council, I'm Donn Tracy with the
45 Department of Fish and Game here in Kodiak. And this
46 afternoon I just want to give you a very brief status
47 report on the Buskin River sockeye stock assessment
48 study.

49

50 2007 is the seventh year that that

1 study has been funded by the Office of Subsistence
2 Management. This year the contract for the Buskin
3 study was renewed so we've got funding for another
4 three year period which will expire in 2009.

5
6 As far as this years study results, we
7 had another successful project with attaining the study
8 objectives and monitoring the sockeye salmon escapement
9 at the Buskin. We had a weir in at Buskin Lake this
10 year from May 20th through August 1st and as I'm sure
11 you gentlemen are aware we moved the weir at that time
12 down to a lower site so we can start also counting coho
13 salmon escapement, and we still have the weir in at
14 that lower site. To-date we've counted about 16,500
15 sockeye into the Buskin, which is a little below our
16 long-term average escapement. I think now it's up to
17 about 19,000 but it's still above the upper end of our
18 current escapement goal of eight to 13,000 fish so we
19 still had a very good run of sockeye this year at the
20 Buskin.

21
22 Our Lake Louise weir count, when I
23 wrote the written report, which by the way is on Page
24 93 of your booklet, when I wrote that we had only had
25 about 300 fish through our Lake Louise weir. And as
26 you recall from my past reports on the project, the run
27 timing in that lake, the Louise Creek is highly
28 variable. It seems like it's driven more by
29 environmental factors than any natural migration of the
30 fish into that portion of the drainage. And, in
31 essence, what we found over the years is that the fish
32 really don't move into that creek unless we have
33 precipitation and a subsequent flood that brings enough
34 water for the fish to -- that draws the fish up into
35 the creek and into that tributary. Since I wrote the
36 report we've had more fish migrate through that weir.
37 Our current count is up to about 1,600. That's below
38 our five year average for the Lake Louise tributary but
39 our run size in that creek has been variable as well.
40 We've had as few as 2,000 fish over the past five years
41 and as many as almost 5,000, which was our count last
42 year. So below average this year, a little bit below
43 we've seen in there before, but because of that
44 variable run timing we're actually leaving that weir in
45 this year. We normally take it and keep it in through
46 the end of August to try to capture all of the
47 escapement in case there are fish that aren't coming up
48 due to the dry weather conditions or some other factor.
49 This year we're keeping it in through the end of
50 September. It's operational right now and we're still

1 counting a few, very small numbers, just a couple fish
2 each day. But we are going to keep that Lake Louise
3 weir operational until the end of this month to really
4 try and capture the entire escapement so that we do
5 know exactly what that portion of the Buskin run is.

6
7 Other study objectives this year were
8 achieved. We were successful in sampling both the
9 sockeye salmon escapement and the subsistence harvest
10 this year. We did meet those objectives.

11
12 We had our high school intern program
13 going again this year. We had two fine kids that
14 worked for us this summer.

15
16 One thing that we did do a little bit
17 differently this year, one different project component,
18 was that during June we conducted interviews with
19 subsistence users out in front of the Buskin for two
20 primary pieces of information. One, to obtain the
21 residency of those users, whether they were Kodiak
22 Island residents or whether there were also some State
23 subsistence users coming in from other parts of Alaska,
24 Anchorage, perhaps, to fish at the Buskin. And then
25 also the second piece of information we were looking
26 for was where those users were -- where they
27 traditionally fish in Kodiak, whether they primarily
28 fish at the Buskin and always have, or if they also
29 fish other drainages, Afognak River, for example,
30 Pasagshak and then also utilize the Buskin as well.

31
32 What we found, I put a table in your
33 report that shows the results, but what we found,
34 during June, and I believe we interviewed about a
35 hundred, a little over a hundred subsistence users
36 during that time period, was that all the folks that
37 were interviewed were Kodiak Island residents. Most of
38 them fished, primarily fished at the Buskin and don't
39 frequent other locations so much. There were a few
40 that did fish places like Afognak and Pasagshak. And
41 I'll look to the table here just a minute to make sure
42 I get my figures straight but, yeah, as I said about
43 90, 95, there were 103 folks interviewed, about 95 said
44 that they primarily fished or their traditional
45 location of subsistence use was the Buskin, but when we
46 asked a third question of how many of those folks have
47 occasionally fished other areas, which included
48 Pasagshak, Afognak, Port Lions, Chignik, Alitak, and
49 the west side of Kodiak, about 58 of the 103 folks
50 interviewed said they did fish other areas, at least

1 occasionally, but most of them said they primarily
2 fished at the Buskin.

3
4 So that was very interesting
5 information and hopefully it will be useful to the
6 Council and other entities in the future when assessing
7 patterns of subsistence use for the Buskin and some
8 other Federal subsistence areas in Kodiak.

9
10 That's really all I had.

11
12 To keep this short, one other that I
13 did want to add, or note that I wanted to add is that
14 at the last meeting I reported to the Council that we
15 had also submitted a proposal for the upcoming funding
16 cycle to fund our coho weir on the Buskin, which is in
17 operation right now, that proposal was not advanced to
18 the Technical Review Committee. I don't think the
19 determination was based on a lack of merit, I think it
20 was based primarily on funding priorities for the
21 Kodiak/Aleutians region. So for the time being that
22 coho salmon proposal has not been advanced for
23 consideration by the Federal Subsistence Board.
24 Otherwise that was all I had.

25
26 Thanks for your time gentlemen, and
27 thanks for your continuing support of the Buskin
28 project, and I'd be happy to answer any questions that
29 you may have at this time.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Pete.

32
33 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Donn, do you
34 have any idea of the Dolly Varden numbers in the
35 Buskin?

36
37 MR. TRACY: You know we count Dollys,
38 Pete, at the weir, but it's really kind of a
39 qualitative number because there are fish coming out
40 prior to insulation of the weir and as you know the
41 size of some of those fish is small enough that they
42 can slip through the weir panels without being counted
43 and so we do count them. We counted, oh, boy, I think
44 we counted over 20,000 fish out of the Buskin this year
45 down river through the weir. But the only quantitative
46 escapement information that we have is from the 1990s
47 when there actually was a Dolly Varden weir on the
48 Buskin for several years. There was a graduate student
49 here that was doing her thesis work on Buskin River
50 Dolly Varden, on the Buskin Dolly population. And I

1 believe that during some of the years that that weir
2 was in operation the counts were as high as 90,000 out
3 migrant Dolly Varden in the spring time. We get a lot
4 of incoming fish, you know, our Dolly counts now are
5 fairly high on a daily basis but, again, they're really
6 kind of qualitative because smaller fish through the
7 weir panels and they don't -- I think the counts that
8 we get, wouldn't really give you a good idea of total
9 abundance.

10

Pat.

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. HOLMES: Going on Pete's

question.....

REPORTER: Pat.

MR. HOLMES: Going off Pete's question,
and I know this is a sockeye project, but we'll have a
little chat with the -- the Sun'ag folks are going to
have some discussions on the airport improvements, but
where do these fish go because after they spawn in
other tributaries they come back and winter in Buskin
Lake, where did -- remember Pete Murray did his tagging
study and what kind of distribution did you get on
those fish as far as where they traveled.

MR. TRACY: My recollection is that it
-- both based on the studies that were done earlier and
then the graduate work done by a young woman in the
'90s it was -- and she tagged a large number of fish as
well during her study, those fish were found to be
spawning all throughout the Kodiak road system in
places like the American River, the Olds and I think
they even found some at Pasagshak, probably would have
found Dollys in farther flung locations had they been
able to look. But I do know that a lot of the fish
that over wintered in the Buskin were actually spawning
in other drainages on this side of the island.

MR. HOLMES: Thank you. And I'm glad
that you're monitoring sockeye longer. It was about
nine days ago I was out and I still caught a couple and
I talked to a fellow that was out yesterday that got
four reds that were still toodling up there.

MR. CRATTY: Toodling.

MR. HOLMES: Toodling.

1 MR. CRATTY: They swim.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. HOLMES: Toodling.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Pete.

8

9 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Donn, the only
10 reason I ask that is, you know, we still have a very
11 healthy run of sockeye coming back through the Buskin
12 even with that number of Dollys and people harvest
13 them, fish them, sportfish them and everything in the
14 spring and over on Afognak Lake they're not touched, so
15 I mean I just -- I really believe there's a lot higher
16 numbers over at Afognak Lake of Dolly Varden.

17

18 MR. TRACY: Well, I can say, Pete, that
19 the over wintering Dollys are not -- which is -- and I
20 bet there's some research literature that you could
21 look at that might reveal some insights, I just don't
22 unfortunately have that knowledge, but I do know that
23 those fish, those over wintering fish, aren't actively
24 feeding. I've fished Dollys every year that we have a
25 mild winter in Kodiak and the Buskin Lake stays open
26 for all or part of the winter, it's a favorite place
27 for myself and some other local folks to go up and fly
28 fish and I've caught lots of Dollys in the winter time
29 on the Buskin and I've yet to catch one that has
30 anything in its stomach at all during that time. Why
31 they even strike at flies and lures at that time of
32 year I have no idea because they're clearly not feeding
33 and, of course, when you see those fish come out in the
34 springtime the large ones, in particular, are emaciated
35 from essentially a winter of starvation and so -- so
36 there very well could be many more fish in Afognak but
37 it is interesting with the abundance of both rearing
38 sockeye salmon, coho salmon and other juvenile sonomids
39 in those drainages, both Buskin and Afognak that during
40 the winter time, at least, those Dollys don't feed,
41 they're probably, you know, their metabolism is
42 probably affected by water temperature or some other
43 variable but it's always puzzled me that they would
44 seemingly have a food supply available in the winter
45 time but they don't utilize it.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Other questions.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No other
2 questions, thank you, Donn.

3
4 MR. BAER: Mr. Chairman. Members of
5 the Council. Rob Baer with Fish and Game and I'm here
6 to briefly recap the report I submitted to Michelle and
7 to the Council. It's, I believe, on Page 109 of your
8 binder there and if you wish I can briefly go over
9 what's presented there or address questions.

10
11 As you're aware this is the fourth year
12 of this project funding and there's an additional two
13 more years to do on the Afognak Lake system and the
14 data that we have so far is in this report.

15
16 We still have one more limnology study
17 to do that will occur, I believe, later this month.
18 And we'll be summarizing the rest of the age
19 composition data and that limnology data for a final
20 report for this year and then two more years of study.

21
22 But it's your wish, what you would wish
23 me to do. I can go through the tables very quickly or
24 address questions.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead and go
27 through it.

28
29 MR. BAER: Okay. Well, why don't we
30 just skip right ahead to Table 1, I believe that's
31 several pages past the text there, I don't have that
32 number right in front of me but somewhere after 109.

33
34 Table 1 contains escapement and harvest
35 information, historical since '78. And the 2007 year
36 here which we had low escapement, 21,070 fish escaped
37 into the system and there was the data for commercial,
38 sport and subsistence harvest is not in yet but I can
39 tell you that if there is any at all it will be very
40 minimal. The commercial fishery was not open and the
41 sport and subsistence fishery were closed for
42 approximately the same time period. So that was in an
43 effort to achieve that lower end of the escapement
44 goal, which was eventually met but we were concerned.
45 It was about June 30th that it appeared that that goal
46 would not be met and the closures occurred.

47
48 We can move on to Table 2. And this
49 Table 2 is depicting the out migration trap catches
50 that we did there with the smolt testing and it's

1 showing you the break down of trap efficiencies and
2 that table bleeds over to the next page. There were
3 five different trap efficiencies that occurred and they
4 averaged approximately 21.8 percent, which is
5 consistent with the previous years we've been doing
6 this study. The trap stayed in its same place. We did
7 have one high water even where we had to remove a wing
8 for a period of three days, the wing on the front
9 portion of the trap, but other than that everything was
10 fairly consistent with other years. And these trap
11 efficiencies are applied to each timeframe and that, in
12 turn, gives us an estimate of the total out migration
13 that occurs. And you'll see that on the following page
14 there, where those timeframes are set and then there's
15 -- to break this down into simplest terms, we're
16 basically determining how many fish came out for that
17 period and then summing that up for 264,000 fish total
18 estimate out, which is -- it is a small amount that we
19 determined, but it's also fairly consistent with what
20 you would assumed to come out based on prior year,
21 brood years, and that's on Table 4.

22

23 These estimates are using some
24 assumptions that one to one sex ratio and then as
25 Council members Holmes had pointed out to me, we may
26 not want to always use a one to one ratio, which makes
27 sense, there's a lot of years with jacks. But this
28 table here is just to kind of get a ballpark and make
29 sure that our smolt out migration studies are within
30 reason of what you would assume from brood years. And
31 showing that it was fairly close -- it wasn't quite as
32 high as we'd like but if you were to take some of those
33 jacks out of there and also adjust some of the egg
34 percentages it would have most likely been closer. But
35 even still you can move ahead to Figure -- which is
36 several pages in after the maps, Figure 4, I believe,
37 shows the proximately of brood estimates to trap
38 estimates. And if you go back to Figure 3, I'm sorry
39 for jumping around, but Figure 3 is just showing you
40 the daily out migrations and then a total cumulative
41 out migration.

42

43 And once we finalize the limnology for
44 this year we'll be able to take a look at the health of
45 the system for the forage (ph) base. I can tell you
46 that just today I got some of the information back for
47 smolt numbers, we, after aging those we came up with
48 about 88 percent age ones which we like to see that, we
49 like to see those age ones coming out and we're still
50 finalizing the condition factor of those fish, I have

1 not seen that data come back yet but I expect to have
2 that prepared for you in the spring meeting and submit
3 that information.

4
5 If you have any other questions I'd be
6 glad to address them.

7
8 And I'd also mention that we greatly
9 appreciate your support on the Afognak Lake project.

10
11 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

14
15 MR. HOLMES: Your condition factors or
16 your fatness of the out migrating smolt, that's been
17 fairly good, hasn't it?

18
19 MR. BAER: Yes, Pat, it -- excuse me,
20 Council member, I think that they have been good, yes,
21 those age ones have had good condition factors although
22 I have not seen it for this year, that hasn't come back
23 yet.

24
25 MR. HOLMES: And what's the predominate
26 age group for the Buskin, two/two's or.....

27
28 MR. BAER: For Afognak Lake?

29
30 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, for Afognak, beg
31 your pardon, pardon me.

32
33 MR. BAER: One-two's and one-three's.

34
35 MR. HOLMES: One-two's and one-three's.
36 So maybe given year smolt timing out migration for
37 2005/2006, do you have any kind of a gut feeling or
38 preliminary estimate of what the return might be?
39 Because we had one chat and you were thinking that
40 things aren't coming back the way that you were hoping,
41 so can you make a ball park guess of, you know, next
42 season, will we potentially have a harvest or.....

43
44 MR. BAER: Based on the 2005 out
45 migration?

46
47 MR. HOLMES: Right.

48
49 MR. BAER: I would hope so, yes. I
50 would hope so. 2005 did have -- I don't have that

1 number right in front of me but I do know that it was
2 more than last year and more than this year and under
3 those assumptions, yes, we would expect it to be larger
4 than the last three years of escapements, yes.

5
6 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, because that's
7 probably the big question, particularly folks in Port
8 Lions and Ouzinkie would want to know, is there any
9 chance for things to improve and it looks like you're
10 getting, like I said, some nice fat smolt going out and
11 then some years it doesn't quite show up, do you --
12 have you had any guess that that's marine survival or
13 the hand of God or what?

14
15 MR. BAER: It's a difficult question to
16 answer. We're seeing good quality of fish going out,
17 not very large numbers and we also have to remember
18 that we're just now getting out of those years of the
19 fertilization and stocking. We're just now beginning
20 to see returns that don't have those fish included in
21 them. So right now we're looking at a system that is
22 not impacted with those stocking numbers and
23 fertilization -- fish.

24
25 MR. HOLMES: So we're sort of at a
26 point where it's restabilizing, would that be a fair
27 comment?

28
29 MR. BAER: That would be a difficult
30 one to answer. I don't -- to restabilize, how long do
31 you wait, how long do you hope that -- and what is a
32 stabilizing timeframe. I -- like I say, I think we're
33 getting fish now, just now returning that are not
34 included in that group.....

35
36 MR. HOLMES: Uh-huh.

37
38 MR. BAER:so my opinion it would
39 be several years before a stabilization would occur.

40
41 MR. HOLMES: I lost my next question,
42 excuse me.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pete.

45
46 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Correct me if I'm
47 wrong, those smolts stay in the lake for two years and
48 then they emerge and then they're in the saltwater for
49 two years, is that what it is?

50

1 MR. BAER: Well, I think most of the
2 fish in a healthy system will come out as age one's and
3 that's what's occurring. That occurred this year, we
4 had a lot of one one's migrate out this year. They
5 stay in freshwater for one year and then they'll be in
6 two to three years in the salt water, and that's
7 typical. I think this year, 2007, 54 percent of the
8 returns of the escapements this year were one-three's,
9 which to put that into -- back calculate, those would
10 have been brood year 2002, a one-three.

11
12 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Right, that's what I
13 was getting at. Looking at the brood years, you know,
14 from 2002 or 2001/2002 all the way down has been very,
15 very close and the last three years have, you know,
16 only a thousand dollar -- or 1,000 fish difference.

17
18 MR. BAER: Correct.

19
20 MR. SQUARTSOFF: So it's basically
21 going to stay the same for awhile.

22
23 MR. BAER: You would hope that your
24 return per spawners would be greater than one to one
25 and until we can develop brood tables that don't
26 include those years of fertilization and stocking,
27 we're not going to really know until we get several
28 more years of a brood table that doesn't include that
29 group of fish. But you would hope that with larger --
30 with these escapements you would get return per
31 spawners of greater than one to one and have it be an
32 increase in your total run.

33
34 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, I just have one
35 other thing, I guess, since this is my last meeting. I
36 want to bring up again the Dolly Varden population and
37 that Afognak Lake is just unbelievable. And if you
38 look back at the escapement goals, when KRAA was
39 enhancing it, 117, 140, you know, that was all due to
40 enhancement, and I really believe at that same time the
41 Dolly populations increased because of the amount of
42 food and then they quit enhancing it and that's why we
43 took this drastic drop and the Dollys are still there.

44
45 MR. BAER: I can understand that
46 belief. And one of the reasons that we do this -- that
47 figure, that compares the estimate from the trap to the
48 brood estimate is looking at fish that returned from
49 those prior brood years and applying those assumptions,
50 which are assumptions from other studies and other

1 reports, that you would get this kind of survival with
2 this fry to smolt and then see that coming out of the
3 system and because they're so close I can't see any
4 real reason to assume that there's massive predation.
5 I'm sure that there is predation and what -- what do
6 you do, I don't know that you can exactly go in and
7 exterminate a Native species.

8
9 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Well, I just wanted to
10 mention it because I know that's what -- all the local
11 people that live over there will tell you the same
12 thing, that those Dolly numbers, we used to hunt up in
13 there and there'll be like herring schools of Dollys up
14 in that lake.

15
16 MR. BAER: And I can't disagree. I
17 know that the crew this year, there was one period of
18 time that there were several large schools that came
19 through the weir and it was difficult to even see the
20 sockeye in between the Dollys and I do know that
21 there's a lot of fish -- Dolly Varden going into the
22 system.

23
24 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, and with the low
25 numbers of fish coming back to Port Lions now and
26 Afognak, you just don't see no smokehouses going in
27 Port Lions the last couple years.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

30
31 MR. HOLMES: Going to your out migrants
32 here, 2004/2005 brood years, it sort of looks to me
33 where you've got an increase there of about three and a
34 half times that we probably should see, like you
35 mentioned before, some significant change coming up, is
36 that a reasonable -- am I using reasonable logic?

37
38 MR. BAER: I'm sorry the out migration
39 in 2004/2005 you're looking at?

40
41 MR. HOLMES: Yeah.

42
43 MR. BAER: And an increase from.....

44
45 MR. HOLMES: From 80,000 to 280,000.
46 Am I reading the table wrong?

47
48 MR. BAER: I'm sorry, which table?

49
50 MR. HOLMES: Table 4.

1 MR. BAER: What we have there is the --
2 we applied the 71 percent age ones to that brood year
3 of 2004 so that's -- oh, I'm sorry Chairman and members
4 of the Council, I'm not exactly sure how to address
5 that question.

6
7 MR. HOLMES: Okay, I'm sorry. And then
8 I was wondering on Dollys overall, I know there's been
9 lots of studies on them and it's a touchy thing and I
10 know folks have a lot of passion about them,
11 particularly in Port Lions and folks that go up there a
12 lot, I guess a question to Jeff Wadle, is there any
13 provisions for subsistence Dolly harvest? Could Pete
14 go and smoke Dollys and go and beach seine them? It's
15 a silly question but.....

16
17 MR. WADLE: Mr. Chair.

18
19 REPORTER: Come on up.

20
21 MR. WADLE: Oh, sorry.

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 MR. WADLE: I didn't bring my
26 subsistence book with me, sorry, I'm not aware of any
27 provisions, but I would probably need to talk to
28 subsistence people and ask the question, too.

29
30 MR. HOLMES: Sorry to put you on the
31 spot.

32
33 MR. WADLE: It's okay.

34
35 MR. BAER: I'm sorry, to address Pat's
36 question, I think with a little help from Staff, we --
37 what we had there is the total -- the 2006, for Table
38 4, the total was those two brood years combined, the
39 age one's and two's.

40
41 MR. HOLMES: Okay. It wasn't year to
42 year.....

43
44 REPORTER: Pat. Pat.

45
46 MR. HOLMES:but a combination of
47 brood years, not a split but what it's doing is it's
48 saying that those years combined produced a total of
49 362,000 smolt. How does that compare to some previous
50 years, I guess that's where I'm trying to look at, are

1 the numbers picking up on out migrating smolt.
2
3 MR. BAER: I don't have that right in
4 front of me. But I know that 2005 was similar to this.
5
6 MR. HOLMES: Okay, thank you. Mr.
7 Chairman. I guess I'll be done with my questions. But
8 I'd like to say that at least we're starting to get
9 some signs of the possibility of some improving returns
10 there and I think without this program we wouldn't have
11 even a guess as to what's happening or what might
12 happen.
13
14 Thank you very much.
15
16 MR. BAER: Thank you for your support.
17
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
19 questions for Bob.
20
21 (No comments)
22
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, thank you,
24 Bob.
25
26 MR. BAER: Thank you.
27
28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Then we'll come
29 back to.....
30
31 MR. HOLMES: We'll see what Laura had
32 on our writing.
33
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: She has it?
35
36 MR. CRATTY: Yeah, she's writing it.
37
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Is it ready?
39
40 MR. CRATTY: Don't get excited.
41
42 (Laughter)
43
44 (Pause)
45
46 MR. HAMILTON: We should just move
47 forward, and just keep going.
48
49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah.
50

1 MR. HAMILTON: If she can't get it done
2 then, I mean.....
3
4 MR. CRATTY: Get Pat back up here.
5
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat, will you come
7 back up here and we'll just move forward while we
8 continue to wait on that, I guess.
9
10 (Pause)
11
12 MR. CRATTY: He's coming.
13
14 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, go ahead.
15
16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: You're needed for
17 this next item on the agenda.
18
19 MR. CRATTY: He can't hear.
20
21 (Laughter)
22
23 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Just go ahead with it.
24 Wanda's going to say something anyway.
25
26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The next item on
27 the agenda was the FAA deal.
28
29 MR. HOLMES: Oh.
30
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I had put your
32 name on there, Pat.
33
34 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Mr. Chairman. We
35 have in the audience Wanda Katelnikof from Sun'ag,
36 she's their environmental person, and also John Reft,
37 one of the senior council members. I won't say elder
38 because our ages are pretty close. So, anyway, would
39 you like to give us what you folks have been thinking
40 about.
41
42 MS. KATELNIKOF: Good afternoon. My
43 name is Wanda Katelnikof. I'm the natural resources
44 and environmental coordinator for the Sun'ag Tribe of
45 Kodiak. I'm going to be really, really brief here
46 today, I know you guys have been here a long time.
47
48 But I just want to make you aware of
49 the EIS, the Environmental Impact Statement that FAA is
50 preparing for the runway safety area improvement

1 project at the Kodiak Airport. Our runway safety area
2 at the Kodiak Airport currently do not meet Federal
3 Safety Standards. I'd like to note that the FAA is in
4 the very early stages and have met with several State
5 agencies here in Kodiak and Anchorage as well and have
6 conducted scoping meetings here in Kodiak in March of
7 this year.

8

9 They've also held meetings with the
10 elders of the Sun'aq Tribe, the Sun'aq Tribal Council
11 and a meeting for the membership and the general public
12 at the Sun'aq's Tribal Center yesterday. They had
13 representatives from the Department of Transportation,
14 who is the sponsoring agency, biologists and
15 consultants from the Barnard Dunkelberg Consulting
16 Firm.

17

18 If you've had a moment to take a look
19 at the information I've provided you'll see that the
20 proposed action would have a significant impact on the
21 subsistence and sportsfishing activities at the Buskin
22 River. As part of the EIS they'll be considering
23 different alternatives as well as a very thorough list
24 of environmental consequences, including coastal
25 resources, construction impacts, fish, wildlife and
26 plants, et cetera.

27

28 And generally speaking subsistence is
29 normally a part of the socio-economic impact
30 evaluations but because of the huge amount of concerns
31 voiced by Kodiak residents they have decided to give it
32 a separate category. This shows the importance of
33 subsistence to the Kodiak people, and FAA's willingness
34 to listen.

35

36 In my dealings with the FAA and their
37 consulting teams I've found them to be very receptive
38 to the concerns of the people of Kodiak and ready and
39 forthright in providing information when requested.

40

41 While this is very early in the EIS
42 process and they don't expect to have the Draft EIS
43 ready for public comment or review for probably 20
44 months or so, when the time comes the Sun'aq Tribal
45 Council, or the Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak would ask for
46 your support in helping to protect the Buskin River
47 area for subsistence and sportsfishing use by perhaps a
48 letter or I don't know if you do resolutions or what,
49 but we're looking for support and other ways you may
50 deem appropriate.

1 We have Sheri Ellis here, who is the
2 cultural resource lead for the project, and if you have
3 any questions she's here to answer any of those or you
4 can also contact Leslie Grey, who is the project
5 manager for FAA. There's contact information in your
6 packets. You can also go to the Kodiakairporteis.com
7 web site for more information and updates. That's for
8 you folks as well as the people in the audience.

9
10 And Sun'aq will also be passing on any
11 information to you, you know, any updates that we
12 receive as they become available.

13
14 We all know how important the Buskin
15 River area is to the residents of Kodiak and even some
16 of the other villages close to Kodiak so we're looking
17 for, you know, people to share their concerns and
18 questions and Leslie Grey and the folks at FAA, they're
19 very, very open to receiving comments and questions.
20 So, you know, just feel free to contact her or me or
21 any of those folks listed in the information section of
22 your packet.

23
24 Any questions.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Wanda,
27 do we have any questions.

28
29 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I'd like to
30 add a few points that came out during the hearings and
31 elder's conference and Council meeting and the public
32 meeting and if you're looking at this illustration here
33 with the runways, the area that's marked would be just
34 the surface of the extensions and not necessarily the
35 total width of fill. And so this is important locally
36 because on the main runway, the east/west one, that
37 extension out there, the area that's there if you put
38 your thumb on that, probably accounts for half of the
39 harvest at the mouth of the Buskin and it's kind of an
40 area where a lot of the old-timers tend to congregate
41 and, you know, there'll be anywheres from three to 15
42 boats that can fish there simultaneously. And the
43 thoughts amongst the folks at Sun'aq and the ones that
44 testified is that this would seriously displace the
45 existing fishery. There'd be a few folks that could
46 fish off the end but the way the marker goes it would
47 be a significant change.

48
49 And then also there's some thought that
50 that would block the easterly currents that come in

1 there and winds, and that the beach would tend to move
2 out along that outer extrusion and basically change the
3 whole perspective of fishing on that side of the
4 fishing.

5
6 On the other runway, on the north/south
7 one, or the Coast Guard one, as folks call it, would go
8 across the spit, and several old-timers pointed out how
9 the mouth of the river moves from side to side on about
10 a 10 year cycle, sometimes more, sometimes less, and as
11 a former fish guy, this estuary in there is really
12 important for the overall productivity of salmon
13 because the fry and smolt, the babies, per se, it gives
14 them a holding area, do a little bit of feeding before
15 they go out to sea and it's also an area for the adults
16 to stabilize before they go into fresh water.

17
18 And so I checked with Ann Wilkerson,
19 she's kind of the admin person for the coordinators for
20 the RACs and she said that there's Title VIII, Section
21 18 and a couple other sections she quoted me, that our
22 Council can provide support for local folks when we
23 feel that subsistence might be impacted and that we
24 could write a brief letter or a brief statement to the
25 FAA expressing our concerns.

26
27 And so I will stop at that point and
28 leave some questions out and then I have a very brief
29 one sentence statement that I'd like to put a motion
30 on.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
33 questions, comments.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

38
39 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I guess on
40 behalf of Sun'aq and the Kodiak community I'd like to
41 put forth a statement to the FAA from Kodiak/Aleutians
42 RAC and request that any change in the Kodiak Airport
43 not impact subsistence harvest at the Buskin.

44
45 And I think that's short and sweet, do
46 you think that would cover it John, and our FAA lady,
47 that kind of conveys the message, short and sweet.

48
49 MR. REFT: (Nods affirmatively)

50

1 MR. HOLMES: So I guess I'd like to
2 place that as a motion and humbly request a second.
3
4 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: It's been moved,
5 do I hear a second.
6
7 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I'll second.
8
9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and
10 seconded. Any further.....
11
12 MR. HAMILTON: Can I ask Pat.....
13
14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF:discussion.
15
16 MR. HAMILTON: I'm sorry. Can I ask
17 Pat to read it one more time.
18
19 MR. HOLMES: Oh, okay. The Kodiak.....
20
21 REPORTER: Pat. Pat.
22
23 MR. HOLMES: Can't see, can't hear, put
24 me in a wheelchair and tape me down with duct tape.
25
26 The Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory
27 Council would request that any changes
28 in the Kodiak Airport not impact
29 subsistence harvest.
30
31 Period.
32
33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any further
34 discussion.
35
36 (No comments)
37
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no further
39 discussion, is there any objection to the motion.
40
41 (No objections)
42
43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
44 objections, then the motion carries. Wanda.
45
46 MS. KATELNIKOF: I just wanted to say
47 thank you very much for your time and your generous
48 support.
49
50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Board of Fish

1 Proposal. We'll just keep going until they're ready.

2

3 MR. KLEIN: Mr. Chair. Council
4 members.

5

6 We wanted to bring to your attention a
7 Board of Fish proposal that affects your area and
8 that's Proposal No. 45, and that requests that
9 regulations be amended to eliminate the harvest limits
10 on subsistence fishing permits in a portion of the
11 Kodiak Management Area, which is basically the villages
12 and excludes the Kodiak proper area.

13

14 The Board of Fish will be taking this
15 up at their January 14 to 18 meeting here in Kodiak.
16 They currently have an open public comment period
17 through December 27th, so the Council could provide
18 their recommendation to the Board of Fish on how they
19 might deal with that proposal.

20

21 In terms of the subsistence fishing
22 permits, currently a permit allows the holder to take
23 25 salmon plus an additional 25 per household member
24 and then they can go back and get a second permit.

25

26 I think -- we've been funding, through
27 the Monitoring Program, you've been funding this study
28 to look at harvest in the Kodiak area, and one of the
29 things that we found and it was Subsistence Division
30 with ADF&G that did the research was that the harvests
31 are being under reported and by lifting the harvest
32 limits that probably goes away. I think that what
33 they're reporting as a harvest is what they get on
34 their first permit and then they may get subsequent
35 permits and then those aren't added into the total.

36

37 So that proposal does relieve some
38 burdens from subsistence users and then secondly it'll
39 probably result in more accurate harvest reporting.

40

41 So the Department has submitted that
42 proposal and you're welcome to submit a letter to the
43 Board of Fish regarding your views on the topic.

44

45 And then, secondly, it's -- and this
46 would just apply to State management, you could take
47 special action -- could request special action down the
48 road, probably after the Board of Fish action and do
49 the same for Federal waters.

50

1 And I would invite the State, George,
2 anybody if they had any further comment on the Board of
3 Fish proposal.

4
5 MR. PAPPAS: For the record, George
6 Pappas, again. Looking through some of the regulations
7 here, I believe there are State subsistence fisheries
8 in different parts of the state do not have upper
9 limits, you catch the fish you need.

10
11 MR. KLEIN: I'm seeing some confused
12 looks here.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes.

15
16 MR. KLEIN: If you have any questions I
17 would gladly try to answer those.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pete.

20
21 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, I didn't get the
22 very beginning of it, I was reading something else
23 here. Could you -- I mean what.....

24
25 MR. KLEIN: What the State is
26 requesting is that they just remove harvest limits from
27 the permit. It's open-ended, you're just issued a
28 permit and you would record the number of fish you
29 harvested that day and subsequent days and what you
30 would -- what will be reported on the permit would be
31 the total number of fish you took that season and that
32 would -- there's no confusion on -- uh-oh, I got a
33 family of two and I got 50 and -- I guess there's
34 confusion on -- the permit says you're authorized 50
35 but you can go back and get a second permit and get
36 another 50 and it seems to be causing confusion in the
37 reporting so we're commenting on the proposal from the
38 Subsistence Management Office and supporting the
39 Department's proposal.

40
41 I think that's likely -- we're
42 currently going through that process now but we would
43 support this both because it relieves a harvest limit
44 on subsistence users, they can go and catch what they
45 need and just write it down on the permit, and secondly
46 it will result in more accurate harvest reporting.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pete.

49
50 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. I

1 definitely have no problem supporting that proposal, if
2 we want to do a motion or whatever to go ahead and
3 support it.

4

5 MR. HOLMES: Mr. -- Mr.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We should follow
8 the guideline of this -- oh, it doesn't require that,
9 okay.

10

11 MR. SQUARTSOFF: It's not our proposal.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes.

14

15 MR. KLEIN: So, Mr. Chair, I think if
16 you did make a motion and passed the proposal then
17 Michelle would draft a letter for you to the Board of
18 Fish describing your action and that would go into the
19 record.

20

21 Also, as I mentioned, the Board of Fish
22 meeting will be in January here in Kodiak and the Chair
23 or a Council member could also attend that and read it
24 into the record and I think if this is what the Council
25 wants, that would probably be -- both of those steps
26 would be good steps to proceed with.

27

28 Mr. Chair.

29

30 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I'll go ahead and make
31 that motion to support.

32

33 MR. CRATTY: Second.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and
36 seconded. Any discussion.

37

38 MR. HOLMES: I think that that would be
39 a good idea. You probably need some words in there as
40 to what proposal we're supporting and why and I'm not
41 trying to be a bureaucratic pain in the butt it just
42 makes it work better for the different agencies to do
43 that.

44

45 But that's up to you. I'll go along
46 with this. I think it's a good concept. It's part of
47 the long-term attempt to resolve subsistence reporting.
48 I know the folks that worked on the subsistence
49 roundtable here in town, the tribes and everyone, we
50 found that when we -- some of the most information that

1 we had was our harvest information. And I think the
2 feeling's been for a long time that it's way under
3 reported and a lot of folks, you know, might go out and
4 have a permit for 100 fish and they get a big couple of
5 schools in there and they've got 200 so they go home
6 and pass them out to everybody down the street and --
7 but there's sort of a bit of a reluctance to, you know,
8 because most folks don't realize that there really
9 isn't a hard and fast limit, it's kind of a guideline
10 and you just report what you have and if you need more --
11 I know they've given extensions. There's only one
12 person I ever recall that was ever denied that and that
13 was after they got up to 400 fish and they heard rumors
14 the guy was sending them to California, that's kind of
15 pushing the mark.

16

17 So I think this is really good.

18

19 We had a meeting about nine years ago,
20 when I was first on the RAC, with the villages and Jim
21 Fall came to town and talked to the representatives
22 from all the villages as to what problems did they have
23 on salmon subsistence and salmon reporting and the
24 permit was one of the things they talked about, and the
25 ability to get the permit because at that time you had
26 to come town or request it.

27

28 But Iver was there, I don't -- did you
29 go John -- anyway, what came out of this was basically
30 the Department worked with the village tribal councils
31 to distribute permits for Kodiak Island. And so that
32 ability's been there but I believe there's been a
33 reticence sometimes to completely fill out the permit,
34 and I know Jeff Wadle and his staff have spent a
35 considerable amount of time trying to resolve this and
36 I think that it really merits our support.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any further
41 discussion.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no further
46 discussion, is there any objections to the motion.

47

48 (No objections)

49

50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Seeing no

1 objections then the motion carries.
2
3 Next.
4
5 We're at the end of our agenda,
6 Michelle, we just need to.....
7
8 MR. SQUARTSOFF: What about ADF&G, did
9 they go.
10
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes. They did
12 that.
13
14 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Okay.
15
16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah.
17
18 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I put it down there,
19 ADF&G something.
20
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: For?
22
23 MR. SQUARTSOFF: New business.
24
25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: That was these
26 guys. We just need to set the date for our next
27 meeting or confirm the Old Harbor meeting.
28
29 Jim.
30
31 MR. HAMILTON: Mr. Chair. Do we want
32 to make this final motion here, I'd like to make it.
33
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Oh, yes, I'm
35 sorry.
36
37 MR. HAMILTON: I'm sorry it took so
38 long, it got condensed down to one sentence here, it
39 should be pretty short and sweet.
40
41 I'd like to make a motion that:
42
43 KRAC supports the reduction of GMU 10
44 Unimak Island subsistence caribou
45 harvest from four caribou to two.
46
47 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Second.
48
49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and
50 seconded. Any discussion.

1 MR. HOLMES: I think with the
2 information that will be coming in later and the timing
3 of the various meetings, having this motion on the
4 floor will provide guidance as to where we would like
5 to go with this management plan if there are further
6 difficulties with the herd.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.
11 Any other discussion.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No other
16 discussion, any objections.

17
18 (No objections)

19
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No objections,
21 motion carries.

22
23 Confirmation of our Old Harbor meeting.

24
25 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. If the
26 Council would turn to Page 132 of your book, we do have
27 a calendar there that shows that we had selected, at
28 our last meeting, March 18th and 19th, a meeting in Old
29 Harbor, and so we just need to confirm that those dates
30 will work and the location will work and then after
31 that we need to set up our fall meeting.

32
33 So we'll work on the winter meeting
34 first and just checking to see if those dates are still
35 going to work with the Council and if that's the case
36 then we'll just leave that be. We can just check and
37 see what the wish of the Council is.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Is that good for
40 you Al.

41
42 MR. CRATTY: Yeah, I'll be there.

43
44 (Laughter)

45
46 MR. HAMILTON: It's at your house.

47
48 (Laughter)

49
50 MR. HOLMES: I'm really looking forward

1 to going to Old Harbor, I haven't been there since I
2 retired and that's a really special place. I'd like to
3 go over and talk with Larry Matfae (ph) where's he
4 resting.

5
6 MS. CHIVERS: So we're staying with
7 that location and date, okay.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, we'll stay
10 with those dates. On the table I placed a calendar
11 that looks like this, if you would pull that out and
12 take a look at it, it's the fall calendar and we have
13 three meetings that have already met and selected their
14 dates.

15
16 We need to select a date for the fall
17 Council meeting and location but we just need to make
18 sure that it's not going to overlap with the meetings
19 that have already selected their dates.

20
21 So if the Council wants to look at the
22 dates that are available and make a selection and
23 location, that would be great.

24
25 Thanks.

26
27 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I guess
28 this one might be out at the Peninsula if we can do it.

29
30 MR. CRATTY: No, King Cove.

31
32 MR. HOLMES: Pardon me. King Cove,
33 okay. I would suggest that being, heaven knows what
34 the weather be like, but most years the fall monsoon
35 hits the Peninsula between the 15th and the 24th or so,
36 maybe we might want to shoot towards the early part of
37 September but that'll be bad for you, won't it.

38
39 How about the 23rd and 24th or 24th and
40 25th -- let's go for the 24th and 25th.

41
42 MR. CRATTY: You couldn't make that
43 Pete, go duck hunting.

44
45 (Laughter)

46
47 MR. HOLMES: I guess it's time for me
48 to give up on trying to go to Atka or St. George.

49
50 MR. CRATTY: St. Paul.

1 MR. HOLMES: St. Paul. Yeah, St.
2 Paul's better than St. George. That's kind of a done
3 argument, isn't it, Steve, trying to get farther with
4 budget cuts for our meetings.
5
6 MR. KLEIN: I suspect so.
7
8 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I'd like to move for
9 Cold Bay because we got a better chance of getting
10 there than King Cove.
11
12 MR. CRATTY: I make a motion to go to
13 King Cove the 24th and 25th, they have that Hovercraft
14 down there.
15
16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Is there a second.
17
18 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Move to adjourn.
19
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Wait a minute. He
21 made a motion to select the 24th and 25th at King Cove
22 and Cold Bay as back up.
23
24 MR. HOLMES: Yeah.
25
26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If he made the
27 motion I need a second.
28
29 MR. HOLMES: Okay, second.
30
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, moved and
32 seconded. Discussion.
33
34 (No comments)
35
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
37 discussion -- oh, Al.
38
39 MR. CRATTY: Yes, I'd just like to say
40 something, to Steve or whoever else is going back to
41 the office and let them know, that our decision to go
42 to King Cove, you know, them people have a big
43 subsistence life out there and we need more support
44 from them. I feel with all this being from Kodiak, we
45 aren't doing -- you know we try and do good for them
46 but we need their voice also and I hope we can really
47 look at getting there next year.
48
49 Thank you.
50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Michelle.
2
3 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. I'm not sure
4 what the budget's going to look like but I think
5 because of the Unit 9D caribou issue that my be a
6 justification for us to get to King Cove this time, so,
7 of course, I'll have to work on logistics and stuff and
8 with the hotel and everything but we'll work on it.
9
10 Thank you.
11
12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
13 discussion.
14
15 (No comments)
16
17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no other
18 discussion, is there any objection.
19
20 (No objections)
21
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
23 objection, the motion carries.
24
25 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Now I can move to
26 adjourn.
27
28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: A motion to
29 adjourn has been made.
30
31 If there is no further business, then
32 we're adjourned.
33
34 (No comments)
35
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: It's 3:47. Thank
37 you everyone for coming, we'll see you in Old Harbor in
38 March.
39
40 (Off record)
41
42 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

