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KODIAK/ALEUTIANS FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

Sand Point, Alaska
March 21, 2006
9:02 o'clock a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Vincent Tutiakoff, Chair
- Peter Squartsoff
- Patrick Holmes
- Samuel Rohrer
- Alfred B. Cratty, Jr.
- Jim Hamilton, Kodiak
- Paul Gundersen

- Regional Council Coordinator, Michelle Chivers

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Sand Point, Alaska - 3/21/2006)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: We'll call to order the Kodiak/ Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council in Sand Point, Alaska. 9:00 a.m. or 9:02 We'll have roll call.

MR. SQUARTSOFF: Richard Koso. Speridon Simeonoff.

MS. CHIVERS: Pete, will you use the microphone, please.

MR. SQUARTSOFF: Oh.

CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Oh, turn it on.

MR. SQUARTSOFF: Sorry. Richard Koso. Speridon Simeonoff. Paul Gundersen.

MR. GUNDERSEN: Here.

MR. SQUARTSOFF: Vince Tutiakoff.

CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Here.

MR. SQUARTSOFF: Jim Hamilton.

MR. HAMILTON: Here.

MR. SQUARTSOFF: Al Cratty.

MR. CRATTY: Here.

MR. SQUARTSOFF: Sam Rohrer.

MR. ROHRER: Here.

MR. SQUARTSOFF: Richard Zacharof. Patrick Holmes.

MR. HOLMES: Here.

MR. SQUARTSOFF: Pete Squartsoff, here.

CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. For the

1 record, Rick Koso and Mitch Simeonoff are excused.
2 Richard Zacharof we had no contact with in regards to
3 whether he was going to be here. He supposedly was,
4 but didn't show up, so the record will show him as
5 absent.

6
7 Mr. Secretary, do we have a quorum?

8
9 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yes, we have a quorum.

10
11 MS. CHIVERS: We have quorum, Mr.
12 Chair.

13
14 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.
15 At this time I'd like to make a few announcements and
16 welcome the public that's in attendance.

17
18 We have -- at this time we have these
19 forms sitting out there on the back table. They're the
20 green forms, is the Regional Advisory testimony request
21 forms. If the public is going to make any comments or
22 would like to, we'd like to have them filled out and
23 turned into the coordinator.

24
25 We also have a call for proposals for
26 2007 and 8 on fisheries issues, the purple form. Fill
27 that out and drop it off with the coordinator.

28
29 We have with us some visitors from
30 Washington, D.C. and I'd ask Jennifer Thompson, maybe
31 you can introduce your co-partner there and tell us --
32 give us a review of what you're traveling around the
33 Aleutians.

34
35 MS. THOMPSON: Sure. Mr. Chairman.
36 Council members. And the public. My name is Jennifer
37 Thompson, and I have with me Amy McGlodgic, and we're
38 from Washington, D.C. I'm in the Secretary's office
39 and I do Alaska affairs.

40
41 And we came to Alaska, we went to the
42 Iditarod, and then we've been out in the Aleutians. We
43 went over to Cold Bay to do a tour of the Cold Bay/King
44 Cove road, and Izembek. And we came here to attend the
45 RAC meeting to hear in person some of the issues and
46 concerns, and just to be part of a RAC meeting while
47 we're in Alaska.

48
49 So thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you
2 very much, and welcome.
3
4 And maybe we'll go quickly through the
5 public here and introduce yourselves, please. Laura.
6
7 MS. GREFFENIUS: My name is Laura
8 Greffenius, and I'm a wildlife biologist in the Office
9 of Subsistence Management with the U.S. Fish and
10 Wildlife Service out of Anchorage.
11
12 Thank you.
13
14 MR. FRIED: Steve Fried. Can you hear
15 me from here?
16
17 REPORTER: Yeah. That's why I left it
18 on.
19
20 MR. FRIED: I'm a fisheries biologist
21 from the Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage.
22
23 MR. BAER: Good morning. My name is
24 Rob Baer with Fish and Game in fisheries, their
25 biologist, and I'll be discussing the Afognak stock
26 assessment.
27
28 Thank you.
29
30 MR. BUTLER: Lem Butler, area wildlife
31 biologist for Fish and Game for Game Management Units 9
32 and 10.
33
34 MS. SIEKANIEC: Sandra Siekaniec, the
35 refuge manager at the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge.
36
37 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Oh, yes, start up
38 there, Council. Paul.
39
40 MS. CHIVERS: Microphone.
41
42 MR. GUNDERSEN: Paul Gundersen, Nelson
43 Lagoon.
44
45 MR. HOLMES: Pat Holmes, Kodiak road
46 system.
47
48 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Pete Squartsoff, Port
49 Lions.
50

1 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Vince Tutiakoff,
2 Adak.
3
4 MR. CRATTY: Al Cratty, Old Harbor.
5
6 MR. ROHRER: Sam Rohrer, Kodiak road
7 system.
8
9 MR. HAMILTON: Jim Hamilton, Kodiak
10 road system.
11
12 MS. CHIVERS: Michelle Chivers, Council
13 coordinator.
14
15 REPORTER: Nathan Hile. I'm the court
16 reporter.
17
18 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you
19 very much.
20
21 At this time we'll go on to item 4,
22 election of officers, and ask the coordinator to get us
23 started on this.
24
25 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
26
27
28 I'd like to open the floor for election
29 of officers. And the first seat that we will be
30 covering is the chair. And the chair will be chairing
31 the meeting for the term of one year. So I'd open the
32 floor for nominations.
33
34 Thank you.
35
36 MR. GUNDERSEN: I'll nominate Vince
37 Tutiakoff.
38
39 MS. CHIVERS: Is there a second. Or
40 are there any other nominations, excuse me.
41
42 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I'd like to make a
43 nomination after there's a second on Vince.
44
45 MR. GUNDERSEN: A nomination don't need
46 a second.
47
48 MR. HOLMES: Oh, okay. I would like to
49 nominate Speridon Mitch Simeonoff from Akhiok. And
50 after a lot discussions with the Kodiak tribal folks,

1 and fish and game advisory committee and the Kodiak RAC
2 members, I think those folks feel it would be
3 important, with no negative disregard for Vincent.
4 He's probably the dynamite chair. But we were thinking
5 that maybe for a period of one year with Kodiak rural
6 determination being such an important issue, that it
7 would be advantageous to have someone from the Island,
8 particularly someone from the native community chair
9 the RAC for the next year. I think it would be
10 politically opportune for the objectives of our Council
11 at this time to nominate Vince. Vince, I beg your
12 pardon, to nominate Mitch. Either I have too much
13 coffee and talk too much or don't have enough and my
14 brain stops. But to nominate Speridon Simeonoff for
15 chair.

16
17 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I move nominations be
18 closed.

19
20 MR. CRATTY: Second.

21
22 MS. CHIVERS: So there were two
23 nominations, correct? One was for Vince, and one was
24 for Mitch. So at this point, I think what we'll do is
25 if everybody will pick up a yellow slip of paper and
26 write down who you nominate for the chair for the
27 Council and then pass them all this direction. I'll do
28 a tally and see what we come up with.

29
30 (Pause)

31
32 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, at this point
33 we have nominations for Vince and two nominations for
34 Mitch. So it looks like Vince is the standing chair.
35 And so at this point I'll turn the nominations over to
36 you for vice chair.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Thank you very
41 much.

42 I understand what you're saying, Pat,
43 and I think we'll be able to work it out and keep
44 things moving ahead here.

45
46 MR. HOLMES: Just make sure I've got
47 your phone number.

48
49 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: We have
50 nominations now open for vice chair.

1 MR. GUNDERSEN: I'll nominate Pete
2 Squartsoff.
3
4 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I decline. I nominate
5 Mitch Simeonoff.
6
7 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Any further
8 nominations.
9
10 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Second.
11
12 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Is there a motion
13 to close nominations.
14
15 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, seeing we have
16 two nominations for vice chair, we could go through the
17 same process. Everybody fill out a.....
18
19 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Pete declined the
20 nomination for the record.
21
22 MS. CHIVERS: Oh, okay. Okay. So then
23 it's Mitch, correct?
24
25 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Yes.
26
27 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you.
28
29 MR. HOLMES: And I think that will work
30 out swell from the Kodiak Island perspective, because
31 then if folks in town can't get ahold of Vincent, we
32 can bounce things off of Mitch, and vice versa, so I
33 think that will be a really swell way of our
34 administration.
35
36 Thank you.
37
38 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Nominations are
39 now open for secretary.
40
41 MR. HOLMES: I'd like to nominate Dr.
42 Squartsoff.
43
44 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Is there any
45 further nominations. Hearing none, nominations are
46 closed, and Mr. Squartsoff, you're the secretary.
47
48 Okay. Well, I appreciate the comments,
49 and hopefully I will be able to lead this Council on
50 the issue regarding Kodiak and the rural issue. Of

1 course, Adak is basically a non-issue and should be
2 taken in as a rural determination. But I will support
3 comments that -- Mitch will do a good job for the
4 community of Adak. If I'm not able to attend any
5 meetings, public or otherwise with the community, then
6 Mitch will do a great job.

7
8 At this time we'll review the -- and
9 adoption of the agenda. I've got a couple here I'd
10 like to add under 8.B., add the letter of February 2nd
11 from Mitch Demientieff. It was handed out earlier.
12 You should have it. Add that to the agenda.

13
14 On item 14, agency reports, under item
15 4, I understand there will be a teleconference patch in
16 possibly with Pete Probasco. And if he's not
17 available, I under Laura will fill in when we get to
18 that one.

19
20 Any more items, additions to the
21 agenda. Changes.

22
23 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. I make a
24 motion to approve as amended.

25
26 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: It's been moved to
27 approve as amended. Do I hear a second.

28
29 MR. HOLMES: I'll second, and I believe
30 that you'll be able to -- you mentioned you'd take up
31 the Kodiak ruralness under that 14.A.1.?

32
33 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Yes, that's
34 correct.

35
36 MR. HOLMES: Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Information
39 regarding Kodiak rural determination will be taken
40 under item 1 -- or A.1. under 14.

41
42 MR. HOLMES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43
44 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Hearing no further
45 objections, I'd ask for a motion to adopt.

46
47 MR. HOLMES: Move to adopt.

48
49 MR. CRATTY: Second.

50

1 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Those in favor say
2 aye.
3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.
5
6 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Opposed.
7
8 (No opposing votes)
9
10 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: For the record,
11 Pete made a motion earlier and should have been.....
12
13 MR. SQUARTSOFF: To adopt as amended.
14
15 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: As amended. And
16 Pat, you'll be seconding.
17
18 MR. HOLMES: That's fine.
19
20 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Thanks. Okay.
21 The next item we have is review and adoption of the
22 minutes of September 22nd. Are there any changes or
23 amendments. I have a question. Jim, you were not at
24 this meeting?
25
26 MR. HAMILTON: No. No, I wasn't.
27
28 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. I'm sorry,
29 I should have welcomed you to the Council then. I
30 thought you were at this meeting here after reading the
31 minutes.
32
33 MR. HAMILTON: Yeah, I'm not sure when
34 my official inauguration began, but as far as I know,
35 this is my first meeting, yeah. I wasn't here.
36
37 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Well, welcome.
38
39 MR. HAMILTON: Thank you.
40
41 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: All right. Back
42 to the minutes of September 22nd and 23rd. Any
43 changes, amendments.
44
45 MR. HOLMES: I have some comments, and
46 it's a reflection on our success at the December Board
47 meeting on the rural issues, and reflects from the
48 minutes. In talking with the folks from Southeast RAC
49 and Tom Boyd, I think that our Council, the minutes are
50 a little bit light on detail and passion of the

1 meeting. And part of that I feel is the RAC's Kodiak
2 members, we dropped the ball, and thought that at that
3 meeting that having representatives of the native
4 corporations and then having Al speak for the advisory
5 committee, that that would be good enough information.
6 But in reality, a lot of the people reviewing this,
7 including the Board, don't know the players on our
8 tribal councils and don't really know what the advisory
9 committee does in representing the community. I think
10 the Kodiak folks felt that we probably had most of the
11 people in town represented in their comments in our
12 last meeting.

13
14 And so I'll move to adopt the minutes,
15 but with that note, that they didn't quite have the
16 detail, but that was our fault, because we need to as
17 Council members when we're commenting on something say,
18 for example, I make this resolution, and I would like
19 to have these points in the resolution. And that we
20 need to be very specific on information that we need to
21 have in the record, because, you know, quite frankly
22 Michelle is snowed under with tons of detail, and when
23 you do minutes, you just try to get pertinent points.
24 And so I think it's kind of up to our Council when
25 we're making comments to make sure if we're, not
26 telling stories, but to get to the point. And that's
27 probably what I need to do myself, is get to the point.

28
29
30 And so I would move that we adopt these
31 minutes, and some of the shortcomings will come up in
32 some of the resolutions from the Kodiak folks later in
33 the meeting.

34
35 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

36
37 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.
38 There's a motion to adopt. Is there a second.

39
40 MR. ROHRER: Second.

41
42 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Seconded Sam. All
43 those in favor say aye.

44
45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46
47 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Opposed.

48
49 (No opposing votes)

50

1 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Motion carries.
2 The next item is the review of the Kodiak/Aleutians
3 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council charter, and I'd
4 ask Michelle to.....
5

6 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If
7 everybody would turn to Page 22 in your books, there's
8 a copy of our latest charter which was signed back in
9 October of 2005.

10
11 And this Council had submitted a
12 request to make a few changes to the charter. And one
13 was with regard to membership, and the Council had
14 asked that we add in -- there was already the goal to
15 have seven members -- the 70/30 split, to have seven
16 members be subsistence users, and then three members be
17 commercial/sport users. What the Council had added was
18 we have four members residing on Kodiak Island, three
19 members residing on the Alaska Peninsula or
20 Aleutian/Pribilof Islands, and then three would
21 represent the commercial/sport. And so that was one of
22 the changes that was made.
23

24 And then the other change that we made
25 was I believe to the removal of members. If the
26 Council member appointed under paragraph 9 has two
27 consecutive unexcused absences of regularly scheduled
28 meetings, the chair may recommend that the Secretary of
29 Interior remove that individual, and a member may also
30 be removed due to misconduct.
31

32 And so those are the two new changes to
33 the charter. But this charter is good for another two
34 years to keep the Council in operation. And this was
35 just -- I just wanted to highlight the changes that was
36 made.
37

38 Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.
41 I think one of the big issues that we all are
42 confronted with is missing, unexcused, two meetings.
43 And we have that situation right now in front of us
44 with one of our members.
45

46 And my problem is the appointment by
47 the Secretary is like 9 to 10 months, and sometimes we
48 -- in fact, this has happened before to us in the past
49 where we've gone to a Council member and we didn't have
50 a quorum because for some reason or another, other

1 members could not make it because of personal reasons
2 that made it necessary for them not to be available. I
3 still have that concern, but this at least we're
4 starting to open the door a little bit on how we can
5 appoint administratively through the Federal Board.

6
7 I think that was our original goal is
8 to have the Federal Board -- we notify them of the
9 vacancy. We cannot wait for nine months in our case.
10 We're spread 2500 miles in area, and a lot times
11 members can't make the meetings. And hopefully in our
12 next round again we will go before the Federal Board
13 and ask them to give the Chair of the Federal Board the
14 opportunity to have administrative appointment
15 authority until such time as that individual's actually
16 appointed to the Council by the Secretary. That way we
17 keep, you know, the Board intact.

18
19 I mean, at some point one or all of us
20 are going to miss two meetings, just because of the
21 weather or whatever. I mean, we're very fortunate we
22 made it in yesterday. And it doesn't look very good
23 for us tomorrow or the next day. So kind of draw this
24 meeting out. Everybody's looking outside.

25
26 But are there any comments from the
27 Council members regarding this charter, and then we'll
28 adopt it.

29
30 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. Being as we
31 are being given this to review, I guess I would ask
32 Staff, is if we could not draft some specific verbiage
33 to illustrate just what you Pointed out, and move that
34 it be amended to allow that, because you expressed very
35 eloquently I think the feelings of the Council. And to
36 me this whole process is rather bizarre to be
37 interviewed by someone that doesn't even know where we
38 live much less where we've been and who we are, and
39 have somebody in Washington, D.C. say, yeah, it's okay.
40 At least with Mitch, he can delegate and find out what
41 the community's opinions are of us.

42
43 And so I'd like to know if we can amend
44 this charter or at least put in a resolution for what
45 you were pointing us out.

46
47 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. I think
48 we've gone through that process, and this is the result
49 of the Federal Board's recommendation that they're not
50 going that direction until such time as they get the

1 direction from the Secretary of Interior. I think
2 that's probably their next meeting item, because all
3 the other RACs are being confronted with this
4 situation. They need to have some kind of executive
5 authority, and I think it will be coming, it's just got
6 -- we've got keep pounding on the door and say we need
7 this issue resolved. We can't wait 9 to 12 months for
8 an answer.

9
10 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I
11 also agree. It disturbs me very much when we're
12 discussing proposals for an area and there's no
13 representation from that area. So I think it
14 definitely needs to be changed to where Mr. Demientieff
15 can make the appointment just to fill that seat for its
16 term.

17
18 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.

19
20 MR. HOLMES: May I ask one more thing?
21 I was wondering, having been a career bureaucrat I kind
22 of know how systems work, and I can't help but feel
23 that a supplemental letter from our Council expressing
24 the points that you've raised wouldn't help to keep
25 that thought flowing, because all too often wishes of
26 groups like ours get lost in the shuffle. And it would
27 just be nice for at least Mitch to know that we'd
28 really like to see them continue to pursue that
29 philosophy of more representative appointments.

30
31 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you
34 very much.

35
36 MR. HAMILTON: May I be excused for a
37 minute?

38
39 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Sure. I'd like to
40 welcome his honorable Mayor Stanley Mack, borough
41 mayor.

42
43 MR. MACK: Good morning.

44
45 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Good morning.

46
47 (Applause)

48
49 (Off record conversation)

50

1 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. We have --
2 at this time I would like to ask for a motion to adopt
3 with comments and ask that the coordinator prepare a
4 letter from the Council to Mitch and also to the
5 Secretary, requesting this type of action that we
6 talked about, or to give the authority, the
7 administrative authority to the Chair of the Federal
8 Board for appointments.

9
10 MR. SQUARTSOFF: So move.

11
12 MR. GUNDERSEN: Second.

13
14 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: It's been moved
15 and seconded. All those in favor say aye.

16
17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18
19 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Opposed.

20
21 (No opposing votes)

22
23 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Motion carries.
24 That adopts our charter for another two more years.

25
26 Okay. We'll take a couple minute break
27 here and wait for Jim to get back. And maybe get some
28 coffee and go over and see if we can get any money out
29 of the mayor.

30
31 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah, he just got
32 back from Washington, D.C.

33
34 (Off record)

35
36 (On record)

37
38 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Call the meeting
39 back to order. Okay. We're back in session at 9:41.

40
41
42 At this time we'll do item number 8.
43 It's the Chair's report. There's a letter of January
44 6th, the 805(c) letter. And I'll ask Michelle to walk
45 us through these.

46
47 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. At that
48 Federal Subsistence Board meeting you were unable to
49 attend. You were in D.C. at the time, and Mitch
50 Simeonoff was scheduled the meeting. However, he got

1 weathered out.

2

3 So what we have provided for the
4 Council, and I put a copy in everybody's blue packets
5 there, it's a copy of the 805(c) letter. And what it
6 is, it's the actions that the Council took at that
7 meeting regarding the statewide proposals.

8

9 And the only other proposal that this
10 region had was Proposal No. 6, which was a cross over
11 with the Alaska Peninsula. And if the Council would
12 like to take a few minutes, they can actually take a
13 look at what actions the Board took at that meeting.
14 Unless you would like me to read it out loud. It's up
15 to the Chair how you want to handle that, if you'd like
16 to just read it. It just shows what our Council
17 recommended and then what action that the Board took
18 and their justification as to why they did it.

19

20 Do you want to just take a few minutes
21 to read it, or do you want me to go ahead and read it?

22

23 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, we'll take a
24 couple minutes to review it and get updated in regards
25 to the actions of 06.

26

27 (Pause)

28

29 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Hearing no
30 comments or changes, we'll move on to the next item,
31 which was B, the February 2nd letter from Mitch to the
32 Council. It's the response from Mitch in regards to a
33 standing committee. The purpose of the subcommittee
34 would be to discuss the coordinated wildlife management
35 plans and proposed changes to wildlife regulations.

36

37 The Federal Subsistence Board approved
38 the Council's request with the following stipulations.
39 And this goes to the request to have a standing
40 committee.

41

42 Keeping the Federal Advisory Committee
43 Act and long-standing protocols, the subcommittee will
44 report its finding and recommendations, including a
45 proposal of regulatory changes to the Council only.
46 The Council will consider whether to evaluate these
47 findings and recommendations to the Federal Subsistence
48 Board or Alaska Board of Game.

49

50 Subcommittee members who speak to

1 agencies or organizations other than the Councils
2 regarding matters under consideration by the
3 subcommittee do so as individuals, not as
4 representatives of the subcommittee or Council.
5

6 The Council Chair will appoint the
7 subcommittee members and its chair.
8

9 And Michelle Chivers as her capacity as
10 the designated Federal officer has authority to veto
11 proposed subcommittee members.
12

13 The Council requested that all seven
14 Council members residing in Kodiak be members of the
15 subcommittee. However, seven members constitute a
16 Council quorum and a significant majority of the
17 Council to which this as a subcommittee will report.
18 Therefore, no more than four Council members shall be
19 appointed to the subcommittee.
20

21 The subcommittee will also include no
22 more than four Kodiak Fish and Game Advisory members.
23

24 Ms. Chivers will provide administrative
25 support and be responsible for keeping records of all
26 the meetings. The subcommittee chair and the
27 coordinator will work together to arrange the meetings.
28 I understand that these meetings will be conducted by
29 teleconference. While subcommittee meetings do not
30 need to be advertised, the Board encourages open
31 meetings.
32

33 Mitch Demientieff.
34

35 Maybe you can give us a brief of how
36 this all came about, a request for a subcommittee.
37

38 MR. HOLMES: Well, Mr. Chairman, for, I
39 don't know, 10, 12 years, Al? Probably longer. Well,
40 actually since statehood I believe, there's been
41 village seats on the fish and game advisory committee.
42 And we kind of found that it worked good to talk with
43 whoever's involved once a problem came up.
44

45 And so through the years we've had lots
46 of discussions when deer populations went up to
47 increase the bag limit I think one time to seven. Did
48 it make it that high, Al?
49

50 MR. CRATTY: I don't think so.

1 MR. HOLMES: Five? Anyway, up and
2 down. And I was on both committees. What we did was
3 try to start -- well, we've always talked to people in
4 the villages on things that relate to them. And also
5 as RAC members, we all try to get the word out.

6
7 And so some members of our Council at
8 the time we got a little more formal, Al and myself,
9 and then I think Pete was off of the advisory committee
10 at the time and on the RAC. And Ivan Lukin had a goat
11 proposal, and so we all got together and talked about
12 and actually figured out we could do better options for
13 the whole island's community, and more of the villages
14 through the State side.

15
16 And so this subcommittee is kind of a
17 State one and a Federal one combined. And depending on
18 who's involved, we'd call Roy Jones at Larson Bay or
19 folks all around the island, regardless of their
20 background, to try to get their input. And so we'd
21 have people come into the meeting off of the street or
22 that were concerned, guides, sport fish folks, the
23 tribal council people, and everybody would sit down.

24
25 And I think the wording of this assumes
26 that we make hard and fast decisions that directly
27 change things. Every single recommendation that we put
28 together for the advisory committee or the Council has
29 been done by consensus. And there's no voting.

30
31 And so, you know, if you specify this
32 approach, how do people that have joint seats
33 participate? Is Al counted as a tribal person, a
34 village corporation person, or as an advisory committee
35 guy or the RAC person?

36
37 And really it's just community problem
38 solving. And so we ended up being informed after doing
39 this for many years that we need to ask permission, and
40 so we did ask permission. But our RAC before had
41 naively just said, okay, guys, it worked before, go
42 ahead and continue. And so then we had to -- even
43 though we had voted on having a standing subcommittee
44 to talk these things out, then we found out we had to
45 go to the Federal Board to have it formalized, and
46 hence the letter. And so it's perhaps getting a little
47 more formal than the, you know, relaxed way that we
48 have on developing consensus.

49
50 I was wondering if Al or Pete would

1 want to put some input, because you guys have been
2 involved on these things for years.

3

4 MR. CRATTY: Yeah, I'd just like to say
5 like, I don't know, a month ago we had a meeting and we
6 were going to get an extension. You know, all this was
7 brought up at the subcommittee meeting with me and with
8 Pete and our old timer over there as part of the
9 committee, and then the rest of the people in Kodiak
10 Fish and Game Advisory Committee. And through this we
11 were going to get our goat season extended from
12 December 15th to the end of February for registration
13 hunt, and a possible goose hunt next fall on the
14 Canadian honkers that are around Kodiak.

15

16 So it works, you know, everybody
17 getting together and talking and saying their feelings
18 of what the people needs. That's what I've got to say.

19

20 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, I'd just like to
21 comment that I think the Councils and our committees
22 work very well together in compromising and working
23 things out for the resource and for the subsistence
24 users.

25

26 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: So my
27 understanding of this letter is that the Council, which
28 is the Federal Subsistence Board, right, appoints? Or
29 is it this Council that appoints the subcommittee?

30

31 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, it would be
32 this Council that would appoint members to the
33 subcommittee. And actually you would chair -- you
34 would select who would chair that subcommittee, unless
35 it's yourself. But there would be four members from
36 this Council and then four members from the advisory
37 committee. And I believe you amongst all of yourselves
38 would make the decision as to who would be on both
39 those -- from both those committees.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Maybe we'll
44 take this under advisement during the lunch hour, and
45 those that are interested that want to be on this
46 subcommittee would submit their names to the
47 coordinator, and since she has the final say anyway,
48 all I'll do it report it to the public.

49

50 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. For the

1 record, I'd like to point out, Pete reminded me, that
2 really this committee has been a state one, and they
3 invited the RAC to participate with them. And usually
4 the way it's done is that there isn't a chairman.
5 Usually there will be one person to help put it
6 together from the RAC and one person from the advisory
7 committee.

8

9 I did include in that one information
10 packet about half way through is a report from the
11 joint ADF&G advisory committee and K/A RAC study group,
12 March 21. And it goes into detail on what Al Cratty
13 had mentioned. And just kind of -- Paul Chervenak kind
14 of coordinated the State side, and I did the RAC side.
15 And, you know, we had past -- again, sometimes we end
16 up with a rather clunky bureaucracy, and we had
17 approved this I don't know how many meetings ago, and
18 so we are in a bit of a catch 22 because the committee
19 went ahead and talked and came up with their
20 recommendations. And that's all they are is
21 recommendations back to their respective parties, this
22 is what happened.

23

24 And I suspect it would be good as far
25 as the RAC paper trail to, you know, just leave it
26 standing. But I don't know the RAC can appoint State
27 people. And so it needs to be a joint effort, because
28 that's -- I don't know.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. My
33 understanding is that this Council would determine
34 which four Council members would be on the subcommittee
35 as well as the four Kodiak Advisory Committee members.
36 And the State would be on invitation, and they would
37 also attend the meeting via teleconference, unless if
38 we had a specific meeting some place. But that was my
39 understanding from the letter.

40

41 MR. HOLMES: Well, that's what I read
42 from the letter, too. But the point is, is that it was
43 a State group to start with, and, you know, so I think
44 the advisory committee coordinator needs to coordinate
45 with the RAC coordinator. And we'll do whatever works,
46 but, you know, folks are going to chat informally
47 anyway, and I guess the point is that sometimes it
48 takes so long to get it adopted, the problem's already
49 solved by the time we get everything, paperwork done.
50 Anyway, whatever needs to be done.

1 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Paul.

2

3 MR. GUNDERSEN: Yeah. I think that
4 we're duplicating something that we don't need to do.
5 I there's already -- there's things in place already
6 that do address on these issues. If we'd spend our
7 energy going and talking to those, like the migratory
8 bird thing, and through the local advisory committees,
9 through the State, I think a lot of these things are
10 addressed already. You know, I don't know why should
11 we spend the time and energy to go and duplicate it.

12

13 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Thanks, Paul. I
14 think that's where I'm kind of a little bit maybe
15 concerned more than anything else. And I see what the
16 Federal Subsistence Board is trying to say to us. As
17 individual members of this RAC, you attend community
18 meetings, you attend advisory fishery meetings. You do
19 that as an individual. You do not speak as a RAC
20 member, stand up, I'm a RAC member. That is not
21 allowed. And I think what this letter is trying to do
22 is give that avenue for you to do that, because you're
23 appointed by the Chair of this RAC to speak on behalf
24 of this RAC.

25

26 Now, we don't have to do anything at
27 this point. If it works the way it is right now, let's
28 leave it as it is. I understand there's a little bit
29 of heartache over the process, but that is the process.
30 And if you want to speak individually, you do that
31 individually. Authority to speak on behalf of this RAC
32 is not given to you as a member, because you are a
33 member. Your only authority to speak as a RAC is when
34 you're sitting at this Council meeting. I think that's
35 what the Federal Board is trying to say. If I'm
36 mistaken on that issue, then -- that's the way I read
37 this letter is basically to say that this is your
38 authority, and if you do speak on behalf of RAC, then
39 you do so as a subcommittee member, and that's the only
40 authority you have.

41

42 But I know there's a process in works,
43 and it's worked before. We requested a subcommittee
44 authority because the process, we were told by Tom Boyd
45 three years ago or two and a half years ago, the same
46 thing I'm saying right now. You cannot speak outside
47 of this Council as -- with the authority of the RAC.
48 You speak as an individual, a member of the RAC.

49

50 This gives us a way to, you know,

1 formally communicate back on, you know, what's been
2 discussed as individuals, and that's peachy. You know,
3 I don't know all the appointing of State advisory
4 committee folks, but, you know, I think you could
5 probably do it in such a way where you have -- you
6 know, do what needs to be done, and then just like at
7 all our meetings, people call in. And we had some good
8 comments from Ralph Christianson at Old Harbor, and
9 people just toss in their thoughts and everybody chews
10 it over and comes out with a compromise. So if, you
11 know, some formality is needed in order for us to
12 comment back to the committee, that's fine. Whatever
13 works, you know, but we -- it does work really swell,
14 and -- anyway, that's all I had to say.

15
16 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I
17 just feel, you know, that this committee is just more
18 or less a workshop, and working on State and Federal
19 proposals to adjust them or amend them or whatever, you
20 know, for the people in the area, in Kodiak area is
21 what this subcommittee was formed for.

22
23 So I don't feel there -- there is no
24 action taken at this. It's just informational and come
25 to consensus on what we should do as far as bag limits
26 and whatever on the resources or like the goose and the
27 goat.

28
29 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. You also need
30 to keep in mind that when this subcommittee is formed,
31 it is formed to come up with ideas to present to the
32 Council. They would not be making an individual
33 recommendation. It would actually be ideas brought
34 forward to the Council, and then the Council at that
35 point would make a recommendation.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MR. HOLMES: So does that make it more
40 difficult? Maybe we'd be better not to be formal,
41 because a lot of times, you know, this community
42 problem solving approach, you know, the community sits
43 down and looks at things, and, let's say the designated
44 hunter, and, hey, that works really good on the Federal
45 side. On the deer, it's really good to have those
46 things coordinated so that we don't have different
47 approaches to it. And on goats, that was a thing that
48 we found we could solve better on the State side.

49
50 And when it came to geese, you know,

1 the level removed from our Council of Federal flyway
2 biologists had -- you know, they didn't even want us to
3 take it up. We can't take it up as a RAC thing,
4 because it's a Migratory Council issue. But the
5 Migratory Council issue doesn't formally address sport
6 hunting. And so we just talked and said, how can we
7 solve this? And we found out the State closed the
8 goose season to do a plant. It looks like the plant
9 works, and so the State can open it, and probably just
10 with a cursory advisory information the Flyway Council,
11 and cursory information to the Board of Game, and, you
12 know, we may have the thing opened up this fall,
13 probably five years quicker than it would have happened
14 on the other side.

15
16 So it's an informal community process.
17 And I guess I would ask Pete and Al, should we go
18 forward with a formal structure? Because if we have to
19 -- like when I had a joint seat on the RAC as Al does,
20 does Al have to stop in this meeting and then call you
21 up and say, okay, here's the position we've got.
22 Here's what I think. Is it okay to say it's okay on
23 the compromise? I don't know. I guess this is really
24 a philosophical issue. Should we get more formal or
25 not? And can we exist in an informal way, because
26 we're not making commitments for either group, but, you
27 know, we're kind of figuring out the best way for the
28 community to solve problems.

29
30 I guess I'd put it to Pete and Al.

31
32 MR. CRATTY: Yeah. I'd just like to
33 say all the committees that I've been on in Kodiak, the
34 Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge have been involved.
35 We've had a couple people in there, and the Kodiak
36 State Fish and Game. And the committees have worked
37 really good. I don't see that we've got to be formal
38 or whatever, you know. I never was in there as part of
39 the RAC. I was in there as part of my people in Old
40 Harbor, you know, but I still sit on the RAC and the
41 Kodiak Fish and Game Advisory Council. So I just
42 wanted to state that.

43
44 MR. GUNDERSEN: This conversation I
45 don't really quite understand I guess. It's almost
46 like Mr. Holmes is asking that he get permission to
47 have a talk about wildlife over the coffee table. And
48 then it's -- there are things in place that we have
49 used for numbers of years, and have seemed to have
50 worked fairly well. And to -- to get the regulations

1 done that we have to do. Why should we burden
2 ourselves with asking somebody permission to talk about
3 your old girlfriend or something, you know.

4
5 You know, there's a number of avenues
6 that we've got access to to do these kind of things,
7 like Al's on the, you know, he's on the advisory
8 committee, and he's also on the RAC. I think -- and I
9 think we direct the energy that we need to do to the
10 right people, it goes -- you know, things get done.
11 But I can't really see overburdening ourselves with all
12 these different chores that we don't really need to do,
13 because they're already taken care of.

14
15 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I
16 just feel it's a volunteer thing, and I go from Port
17 Lions more representing the resource, making sure that
18 the resource is well taken care of before we do change
19 our bag limits or whatever. So it's just a get
20 together between State and Federal people that are on
21 these boards, but I go -- actually I'm representing
22 Port Lions or the resource more than anything else.

23
24 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, I understand
25 what everybody's saying here, and I think, you know,
26 I'm happy the way it's going right now. If we move to
27 adopt a subcommittee formal policy regarding committee,
28 like our member Paul has mentioned, we're just adding
29 another layer of bureaucracy to get to this level.

30
31 And I'm -- you know, if for any reason
32 there's a need to have representation from this RAC, we
33 have a coordinator who's available who can sit in on
34 teleconference with myself as the Chair, or the Vice
35 Chair can be in attendance to take this information and
36 bring it back before this RAC, this Board, this
37 Council, for a decision.

38
39 And that's where we are. I mean,
40 gathering amongst the communities is our primary job as
41 individuals anyway, and listening to the public as to
42 what is recommended for hunting and fishing within our
43 lands, or the State and -- the Federal waters and
44 Federal lands. What happens within State lands is -- I
45 know we're trying to bring these two regulations to
46 work together, and we're being -- we're putting another
47 level that I think is not necessary. I think what we
48 have in place is working and everybody would like to
49 have a committee and have 10 of them standing around
50 doing nothing, but say we have a committee addressing

1 that issue, is -- it still comes back to this level.

2

3 So my recommendation is that we thank
4 Mitch for the letter and authority to do so, and when
5 we need to, we will put it in place. And we'll move
6 on.

7

8 Michelle.

9

10 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. My
11 understanding was that this letter came out of a letter
12 that came from the Council, specifically from Mr.
13 Holmes asking for a standing committee. And the
14 Federal Subsistence Board was not willing to do a
15 standing committee for every single issue. They wanted
16 to make sure it was issue specific, and so that's where
17 this letter is coming from. You can form a
18 subcommittee on an as-needed basis depending on the
19 issue. And then depending on what the issue and where
20 it's located, then you would appoint those members that
21 are within that area to be on that committee.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Paul.

26

27 MR. GUNDERSEN: I think, yeah, a
28 subcommittee at that point would be -- it would be
29 warranted. But it's not something I don't think we
30 should put into play, because it's kind of like I'll
31 tell Mommy -- I'll ask Mommy or I'll ask Daddy type
32 thing, you know. I could see where it could happen
33 that way. And I think that it would be under the
34 discretion of this Board if there's one to be formed to
35 look at a specific issue. I could see where that could
36 be abused real quick like.

37

38 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Thanks, Paul. I
39 think when we get down to the rural, where it's the
40 main crux of all this discussion is leading, the rural
41 issue regarding Kodiak, maybe at that time this Council
42 will have the time between now and then to decide if a
43 standing committee is needed to even address this
44 issue. As a Council we're going to support Kodiak in
45 trying to retain it's rural designation, but -- or non-
46 rural.

47

48 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, when I worked on
49 writing that letter, it was because I thought that's
50 what we had to do to do what we had been doing. And

1 I'm sorry, that sounds silly, but what I probably will
2 do is take this report and I'll just re-edit it, and
3 then I'll send it to Michelle and just send it in as a
4 Kodiak Community prospectus. How's that? And I'll
5 just insert down there where our group included members
6 of the Kodiak RAC, Fish and Game Advisory Committee,
7 I'll just put down in there, parenthesis, as
8 individuals, village folks, town folks, et cetera, were
9 on the committee, and then just give the report on what
10 people thought was the best solution to things, because
11 it all does come back to the respective State or
12 Federal sides. And because, you know, we aren't
13 really talking for the RAC, we're not really talking
14 for the advisory committee, we're talking for the
15 community. And so we'll just call this a community
16 study group or I don't know, whatever. Give me the
17 right buzz word, Michelle, that doesn't mean committee.

18
19 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. Those would
20 be officially submitted as comments. And then, you
21 know, you have public comments.

22
23 MR. HOLMES: Community comments, how's
24 that?

25
26 MS. CHIVERS: Community comments, there
27 you go.

28
29 MR. HOLMES: Community comments. We'll
30 just -- everybody, if you want to make your thing, just
31 scratch out ADF&G Joint Study Group and put community
32 comments.

33
34 MR. SQUARTSOFF: You put too many years
35 in there, Pat.

36
37 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Whatever. But
38 whatever the correct word that lets us do what we've
39 been doing. That would be just fine.

40
41 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay.

42
43 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: It's called coffee
44 shop bullshit.

45
46 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Roger that.

47
48 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: I think that as we
49 -- let's move on here, because we're getting into
50 another item on the agenda when you start marking up

1 your pages over there, Pat. And we'll address it when
2 we get to the rural designation. And as a Board and as
3 a Council, we can adopt any information brought before
4 us and say we support these ideas, these entities,
5 whatever, but we're doing so as a RAC.

6
7 Hearing no further comments, we'll move
8 on. Thank you.

9
10 That takes care at this point. Item
11 number 9 is Council member reports, and these are
12 reports from within your area that you have specific
13 concerns regarding a proposal, or any future proposals
14 that you may have in the works. Except for rural
15 determination, Pat, we'll keep that one, because it's
16 already on the agenda.

17
18 And we'll start with Paul. Do you have
19 any comments as a Council regarding any issue?

20
21 MR. GUNDERSEN: The only one that I was
22 hot and passionate about was the caribou issue last
23 fall at our meeting in Kodiak. I don't know exactly
24 how the Board of Fish and Game had ruled on it, or if
25 there were anybody that pursued the matter after our
26 meeting. But that was about the only issue that was
27 before me at that time. I don't know exactly what the
28 outcome is at this point.

29
30 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: I think we have a
31 proposal that's going to come before us or we're going
32 to discuss, 20 and 21.

33
34 Pat, comments for Council.

35
36 MR. HOLMES: The caribou issue was
37 important to me, and the -- we do have the game
38 biologist here that took Dick Sellers' spot. Forgive
39 me, I forgot your name. And, you know, I looked at the
40 harvest data, and most of the caribou in 9(D) are taken
41 by King Cove folks, but also the ones that live at
42 False Pass. You know, originally this spun off of a
43 suggestion to have a split management area, and that
44 didn't pass. But, you know, folks there in False Pass
45 kind of go out in a skiff, whereas the larger number
46 are taken by King Cove folks that go down in a bigger
47 boat. Anyway, that's kind of out of the way.

48
49 I guess as comments as -- I will go and
50 touch on a few things from community comments from

1 Kodiak as my personal concerns, and that's the report
2 from now community comments.

3

4 We did discuss goats. There was a
5 concern from the refuge that there are getting to be
6 too many goats. The area biologist is going to
7 increase the harvest for this upcoming year. And it's
8 not going to affect the RAC at all, but if you want
9 further information on these points that I've laid out,
10 there are ways to increase the harvest to both
11 villages, folks in town, and hunters as a broad area.

12

13 Back on things that do affect the RAC,
14 we talked about the deer populations. Some of the
15 refuge staff would like to see them reduced. Folks in
16 our little community group felt that parts of the
17 island there, they are up, but not to the levels that
18 the Service people do. their biologist has only been
19 in Kodiak a few years. But we do feel that there's
20 warranted in some areas to increase harvest. The State
21 chap mentioned and with the Federal biologist there,
22 that the doe to buck ratios are high on the island, and
23 that's of concern, because some of the females are not
24 being bred or bred late.

25

26 And so our community group would
27 suggest encouraging the refuge to increase opportunity
28 for hunting through the designated hunter program.
29 That would provide more local opportunity, and that's
30 kind of part of our job on the RAC.

31

32 And then they felt that they agreed
33 with the Federal proposal that we wrote at the last
34 meeting to line up the antlerless season. That would
35 allow Federal subsistence hunters to take does or deer
36 without antlers, fawns, earlier and we'll be dealing
37 with that proposal. And so there was endorsement for
38 that.

39

40 As far as increasing the over-all bag
41 limit on either side, the community group thought that
42 it would be better to wait and see how this winter
43 goes, because we've had some terrible cold weather.

44

45 The goose situation is basically State
46 and Flyway Council advice, so I'll just leave that out,
47 because the RAC doesn't directly address that, but it
48 does solve an issue that was raised by RAC members in
49 desiring to provide more opportunity for food with
50 opening a Canadian goose season.

1 So those are kind of my concerns and
2 comments, Mr. Chair. Is that kind of the best way to
3 bring that in?
4
5 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Very good. Pete.
6
7 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. I have no
8 comments.
9
10 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Thank you. Al.
11
12 MR. CRATTY: Mr. Chair. No comments.
13
14 MR. ROHRER: Mr. Chair. No comments at
15 this time.
16
17 MR. HAMILTON: No comments.
18
19 MS. CHIVERS: No comments.
20
21 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.
22 I guess we move on here then. I have no comments at
23 this time. I'll bring them up as we move into the
24 subjects of our agenda.
25
26 At this time we'll ask if there are
27 public testimony been received.
28
29 (No comments)
30
31 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: I think for the
32 purpose, and I think we kind of follow, is that
33 whenever the public does arrive, we give them an
34 opportunity to speak and just ask them to fill out a
35 form when they do show up later in the day possibly.
36 If there's no objection, we'll follow that same
37 procedure.
38
39 (No comments)
40
41 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: All right. Thank
42 you. The public testimony period is open until we
43 adjourn.
44
45 Does the Council want to take a couple
46 minute break before we get into the proposals?
47
48 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes.
49
50 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. We'll take

1 a few minute break and then come back for the
2 proposals.

3

4 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I think at
5 the break here being as we're coming up, I think we
6 should make the meeting ceremonial presentation of
7 blood sugar and chocolate to Michelle.

8

9 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: At this time, Pat?

10

11 MR. HOLMES: Yeah.

12

13 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. This is --
14 it says, to Michelle from Pat, and from the Council.

15

16 MR. HOLMES: From the RAC. We've got
17 to keep you going. We gave her vitamins to keep her
18 going during the day.

19

20 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: We're on break.

21 Thank you.

22

23 (Off record)

24

25 (On record)

26

27 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Call the Council
28 back into order here, please. Okay. We're back in
29 session.

30

31 At this time we're on wildlife proposal
32 review and Regional Council recommendations.

33

34 Prior to getting on with that, I'll go
35 briefly through the meeting protocol sheet, which is in
36 your book. The first item is introduction of the
37 proposal and analysis. We have Alaska Department of
38 Fish and Game comments. Number 3, other agencies,
39 Federal, State, tribal agency comments. Number 4,
40 InterAgency Staff Committee comments. Number 5, fish
41 and game advisory committee comments. Number 6,
42 summary of written comments, and, number 7, public
43 testimony on the proposal. And number Regional
44 Advisory Council deliberation, recommendation, and
45 justification of the proposal.

46

47 And we'll stay on that type of order.
48 And at this time we'll have the statewide wildlife
49 proposals, WP06-01, restrict the commercial sales and
50 purchase of handicrafts made from bear claws. And it's

1 on Page 25 of your workbook. And we'll have Laura
2 Greffenius.

3

4 MS. GREFFENIUS: Greffenius.

5

6 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Greffenius, sorry.

7 I should know that by now after all these years in

8 Adak. But, okay, we'll have Laura go through the

9 proposal and introduction and analysis.

10

11 MS. GREFFENIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12 Members of the Council. I'm Laura Greffenius, wildlife

13 biologist in the Office of Subsistence Management.

14

15 And these first two ones, as you
16 mentioned, 1 and 2, are statewide proposals. So that
17 means all of the Councils will be having these
18 presented to them and making recommendations.

19

20 It's not working?

21

22 (Pause)

23

24 MS. GREFFENIUS: Okay. So last year
25 there was a proposal before the Board that relates to
26 WP06-01. And so this is addressing another element of
27 that.

28

29 So No. 1 before you, this proposal
30 addresses the commercial sales of handicrafts made from
31 bear claws.

32

33 Last year we had a proposal that
34 addressed several elements of the bear handicraft
35 regulations. The Federal Subsistence Board adopted
36 most elements of that proposal. The definition of
37 handicraft, for example, definition of skin, hide, pelt
38 and fur, and language that clarified that claws can be
39 used in handicrafts for sale.

40

41 However, the Federal Subsistence Board
42 deferred the part of the proposal that addressed
43 commercial sales, and they wanted the Councils -- this
44 allowed the Councils to review the Board's modified
45 language. So right now we're addressing that portion
46 of the proposal that you might recall was discussed
47 last year.

48

49 Handicrafts made from black bears
50 harvested on Federal lands statewide can be sold.

1 Handicrafts made from brown bear can only be sold if
2 the bears were harvested on Federal lands in Eastern
3 Interior, Bristol Bay and Southeast Regions.

4
5 The Board is considering a regulation
6 that limits commercial sales of bear claw handicrafts,
7 because an opportunity to sell large quantities of bear
8 claw products may create an incentive for poaching.

9
10 State regulations allow the sale of
11 handicraft made from brown and black bear fur, not
12 claws. Therefore handicrafts with claws can only be
13 sold under Federal regulations.

14
15 The Board's proposed language would not
16 prohibit a subsistence user with a business license
17 from selling their handicrafts to individuals, such as
18 a craft show; however, it would not allow these
19 handicrafts to be sold to a business. And it does not
20 allow a business to buy the bear claw handicrafts. So
21 this is an important one that distinguishes that, so
22 the handicrafts would not be sold to a business and
23 does not allow a business to buy the bear claw
24 handicrafts.

25
26 And the Solicitor's Office
27 interpretation also mentions that a gift shop selling
28 handicrafts under consignment would also be prohibited
29 if the gift shop is generating a profit from the
30 activity. So it's the profit element that's being
31 limited, but not to hinder the individual.

32
33 This regulation would remove commercial
34 incentives for harvesting bears, thereby providing
35 additional protection from overharvest of bear
36 populations.

37
38 And the Board's intent in allowing the
39 sale of bear handicrafts is to provide for the
40 customary and traditional making and selling of
41 handicrafts from bears taken for subsistence, and not
42 to provide a commercial incentive to harvest bears.

43
44 The State has recently adopted
45 regulations to provide a commercial incentive to
46 harvest bears in specific areas on a regulation adopted
47 by the State Board of Game in January, will allow bear
48 hides with claws attached from bears harvested in an
49 active brown bear predator control areas, this is in
50 Unit 20(E) and Unit 12, to be sold through the use of a

1 permit. And this is not a handicraft regulation. It
2 applies to raw and tanned bear hides with claws
3 attached.

4

5 On Page 30 in your book is the Staff
6 recommendation for WP06-01. The recommendation is to
7 support after -- with modification after removing the
8 proposed exemption for Southeast Alaska.

9

10 The proposed Southeast exemption will
11 result in difficulty with enforcement of the
12 regulation. And allowing commercial sales of
13 handicrafts made from bear claws taken in any part of
14 the State without a tracking system will have a
15 significantly detrimental effect on the ability of
16 enforcement officers to differentiate between
17 legitimate sales and the commercial sale of products
18 from poached bears, and bears harvested under State
19 regulations and brown bears harvested under Federal
20 regulations in Eastern Interior and Bristol Bay
21 Regions.

22

23 Subsistence users in Southeast Alaska
24 should be able to carry out their customary and
25 traditional making and selling of bear claw handicrafts
26 from bear taken for subsistence uses without selling to
27 businesses or becoming a significant commercial
28 enterprise.

29

30 And that concludes my presentation for
31 Proposal WP06-01. Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Does that include
34 all the Federal, tribal comments, InterAgency Committee
35 comments, also in your review?

36

37 MS. GREFFENIUS: My presentation
38 focused on the analysis and the comments generated from
39 public or other Councils will be addressed at another
40 time.

41

42 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thanks.

43

44 MR. ROHRER: Mr. Chair, can I ask
45 Barbara (sic) a question. You said if -- did I hear
46 you correct, did you say that you -- under -- if this
47 regulation passed, that you would be able to sell
48 handicrafts made from the claws of black or brown at a
49 -- you said at a fair or something like that, but the
50 very first thing here says that you cannot sell them

1 while operating as a -- with a business license?

2

3 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Prior to answering
4 that, can we have a motion to adopt WP06-01 for
5 discussion so we have it on the record?

6

7 MR. GUNDERSEN: I'll so move.

8

9 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Second.

10

11 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. It's been
12 moved and seconded to adopt WP06-01. And now for
13 discussion and we'll move on. Laura.

14

15 MS. GREFFENIUS: Go ahead and repeat
16 your question, please?

17

18 MR. ROHRER: Would you be able to sell
19 handicrafts made from the claws of black or brown bear,
20 you said at a fair or something like that. But
21 wouldn't you -- you would need a business license to do
22 so, and under this proposed regulation, you would not
23 be able to do that, am I correct?

24

25 MS. GREFFENIUS: That's correct. For
26 like a craft show, for example, somebody who maybe
27 would do it around the holidays or once a year. It's
28 different than a business that in operation and open,
29 like a gift store that's a profit-making business.

30

31 MR. ROHRER: Even for craft shows
32 though, don't you have to have a business license? I
33 guess that's more of a State question, but.....

34

35 MS. GREFFENIUS: Yeah, I suppose -- I
36 would imagine that some people do and some people
37 don't. I don't know if for a craft show if somebody
38 would be required to have a business license if it was
39 just a one-time deal. That's a very question, and I
40 don't know if just a one-time craft show requires a
41 business license. My inkling is not, but I don't know
42 the specifics on that. It's a good question.

43

44 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Maybe the Fish and
45 Game people can answer that when we get to them for
46 their review.

47

48 Paul.

49

50 MR. GUNDERSEN: I've got the Big

1 Sister/Big Brother on this one, and just they're
2 meddling in places where the indigenous people of the
3 State has done this for years and years. I don't
4 understand why they have to get permitted, or to be
5 given an answer by State or Feds to be able to do
6 something they traditionally did all their lives. And
7 it gives me a whole bunch of heartburn to think about
8 the whole thing.

9

10 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Michelle.

11

12 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. Under this
13 proposal, what they are stating is you as an
14 individual, a Federal subsistence user, if you made
15 handicrafts from claws from a brown bear, you as an
16 individual can sell them, but you cannot do it if you
17 have your own business and you sell it under your
18 business license to make a profit for your business.
19 But as an individual, you can do it.

20

21 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: That kind of
22 relieves our concern. I think using for traditional
23 or, you know, potlucks or whatever, those kinds of
24 things, it is okay to do that. I think what we're
25 addressing here is the issue of commercial sales across
26 the counter by non-Federal recognized users.

27

28 MR. CRATTY: I have one question for
29 Laura. Laura, when -- they're going to track the sales
30 of these? I mean, they're going to know where the bear
31 claws are coming from? Like say Pat's got a cousin
32 down in Southeast, and he's going to be getting bear
33 claws from Kodiak and shipping them down there. Are
34 they going to track where the bear claws are coming
35 from?

36

37 MS. GREFFENIUS: That's a really good
38 questions, because it's come up at other Council
39 meetings, the law enforcement aspect of it, and I'm not
40 really -- I'm not involved in the law enforcement
41 arena, and it is a pertinent question, but I don't have
42 a definitive answer on how it would be tracked. And,
43 you know, the system that the law enforcement folks
44 would be using. But that is one element that, you
45 know, has been brought up as a concern with this
46 particular proposal.

47

48 MR. CRATTY: Yeah, because I see Kodiak
49 area as having a subsistence bear hunt. I don't know,
50 I see where there could be possible problems in the

1 future with this or something. I just wanted to bring
2 it up to be on the record.

3

4 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. Laura, can you
5 reflect on this in a bigger perspective, because, you
6 know, I don't have any problem with people bartering
7 and trading and things like that, but when it comes to
8 selling bear claws, teeth, skulls, et cetera, you know,
9 there's so many of our folks that are outfitters and
10 guides, both of native and non-native background, that
11 -- you know, internationally there's a great demand for
12 these things, and particularly bear galls, bladders,
13 you know, is that an edible or non-edible thing.
14 That's question 1. Because this also deals with claws,
15 but it also allows for handicrafts made from non-edible
16 byproducts. Could a person take a brown bear gall
17 bladder, dry it and put it on an amulet and sell it to
18 a Korean? That's a question.

19

20 MS. GREFFENIUS: Just to clarify, this
21 is -- WP06-01, this specifically pertains to the
22 commercial sale of bear claw handicrafts. The non-
23 edible byproducts proposal is WP06-02, so I'll just
24 wait until we go that one.

25

26 MR. HOLMES: Okay.

27

28 MS. GREFFENIUS: And so this particular
29 one, No. 1, doesn't deal with the non-edible byproducts
30 as a whole. We're specifically referring to the bear
31 claw handicrafts.

32

33 And you mentioned a concerned about,
34 you know, the sales. And just to reiterate, this
35 regulation, this proposal that removes the commercial
36 incentives for harvesting bears. And so providing
37 additional protection for overharvest of bear
38 populations. So the main gist of this one is just to
39 avoid the commercialization of the bear claw sales, but
40 not to restrict, as Mr. Gundersen brought up, people
41 doing it as their traditional ways and selling or
42 passing it on. So that's the summary of that again.

43

44 MR. HOLMES: Okay. I guess the reason
45 I asked that was on our Page 25 it has WP06-01, then it
46 has three different subsections in it, and on the last
47 subsection it says handicrafts from non-edible
48 byproducts when authorized may not constitute a
49 significant commercial enterprise, but if we're going
50 to take that up, that's fine.

1 I have another question, and how does
2 this relate to the CITES treaties and things like that
3 of international prohibitions on the sale of bear parts
4 and critters and things like that? Are brown bear in
5 particular covered under the CITES treaties? I'm
6 trying to take us beyond the international point, and
7 my logic is this really concerns me, because we might
8 have our State biologist -- a year or two ago in Prince
9 William Sound, I think Hinchinbrook Island, they had
10 some Koreans that had Koreans that actually had a
11 chain. They were slaughtering bears and taking all the
12 parts, including claws, bladders, teeth, and they were
13 encouraging other people to do it and buying it all on
14 a big black market situation.

15
16 And so once anything leaves the United
17 States, I'm asking can this be tightened up more. Are
18 there Federal -- international laws that pertain to
19 bear claws, because, you know, I don't have any problem
20 with somebody making a necklace and giving it to a
21 buddy, but I do have some severe problems with sale of
22 bear claws, particularly brown bears, because that
23 means a whole lot to, you know, the commercial
24 viability of a lot of communities, native and non-
25 native guides, and so I'm really, really concerned.

26
27 So if you could maybe give us some
28 insight if there's international laws that pertain to
29 these items.

30
31 MS. GREFFENIUS: You certainly have a
32 relevant question. This, you know, primarily is
33 focusing on non-commercialization and businesses, and
34 is addressing more of a local nature.

35
36 As far as the CITES, we can certainly
37 get back to you with an answer on that. As I said, I
38 don't delve into the law enforcement arena so much, and
39 so as far as how that would pertain to this, I can
40 certainly consult with some of our folks in our office
41 and get back to you, if that.....

42
43 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, that would be swell,
44 because it is a big question.....

45
46 MS. GREFFENIUS: Yeah, it's a real big
47 question.

48
49 MR. HOLMES:that really relates
50 to folks in a big way.

1 MS. GREFFENIUS: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Any more questions
4 or comments.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: The next one is
9 Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments.

10

11 Thank you, Laura.

12

13 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. Members of the
14 Council. Good morning. My name is Lem Butler. I'm
15 the area wildlife biologist for the Alaska Department
16 of Fish and Game. My area includes the Alaska
17 Peninsula and Aleutian Islands.

18

19 I personally was not involved with
20 reviewing these first two proposals, but I can
21 certainly read Fish and Game's comments into the record
22 for you and answer any questions that you may have to
23 the best of my knowledge. So again just to read the
24 comments for the record.

25

26 The Alaska Department recommends that
27 this proposal not be adopted. They do not support it.
28 The Department does not believe that the Federal
29 Subsistence Board has established a record
30 demonstrating that the sale, as opposed to the barter,
31 sharing or use of bear claws, teeth, or bones for the
32 use in making handicrafts for sale is a customary and
33 traditional practice. Even if the Federal Board made
34 such a determination, the record would still only
35 support limited non-commercial exchanges adhering to
36 customary practices in some areas of the State.

37

38 The proposed provisions of sections
39 (j)(8)(a) and (j)(8)(b) exceed the authority of the
40 Federal Board, because they purport to authorized sales
41 and purchases by entities that are not Federally-
42 qualified subsistence users in contravention of State
43 laws. Sale and purchase of bear claws, teeth, skulls
44 and bones are prohibited under State law by AS
45 16.05.920 and 5 AAC 92.200. The Federal Board does not
46 have the authority to alter such prohibitions with
47 regard to non-Federally-qualified subsistence users.
48 The State may take enforcement actions against any non-
49 Federally-qualified subsistence user who purchases or
50 sells bear claws, teeth, skulls, or bones, regardless

1 of any Federal regulation that purports to authorize
2 such sale or purchase.

3
4 The State has raised several other
5 issues relating to the sale of bear parts in a Request
6 for Reconsideration filed on August 2005 on Federal
7 Proposal WP05-01. Proposal WP06-01 fails to correct
8 most of the underlying problems with the current
9 regulation identified i that Request for
10 Reconsideration.

11
12 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Thank you. Do we
13 have any comments or questions for.....

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: None. Thank you.
18 Other Federal, State, tribal agency comments.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: None. InterAgency
23 Staff Committee.

24
25 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, for the
26 record, we do not have an InterAgency Staff Committee
27 member here to represent that portion of the comments,
28 so when we get to that point for each of the proposals,
29 you can just kind of skip over that. And that they
30 would be doing is kind of just going over the comments
31 that they had if they had met regarding that proposal.
32 But we don't have anybody here at this time, so you can
33 just kind of skip over that portion.

34
35 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thanks.
36 Fish and game advisory committee comments.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: None. Summary of
41 written public comments.

42
43 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We
44 do have a couple of written comments that we received
45 on Page 39. And I'll go ahead and read those into the
46 record.

47
48 We did receive comments from the
49 Defenders of Wildlife, and they support with amendment
50 deleting the Unit 1 through 5 exemption.

1 The sale of claws to businesses as
2 defined should apply to all game
3 management units. Without further
4 justification, there is no reason to
5 exempt Units 1 through 5. the sale of
6 claws has been closely restricted i
7 state regulation for the obvious
8 commercial incentive involved and the
9 relative ease of procurement, handling
10 and transfer of these desired items in
11 a broad commercial market. Exceptions
12 for parts of the state are inconsistent
13 and raise serious monitoring and
14 enforcement problems for the State and
15 Federal agencies.

16
17 A second comment was received from the
18 AHTNA 'Tene Nene' Subsistence Committee.
19 They also did not support this
20 proposal. However they support small
21 sales by rural residents of handicrafts
22 made from claws of black and brown bear
23 taken under Federal subsistence hunting
24 regulations.

25
26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27
28 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.
29 Do we have any public testimony in regards to this
30 proposal.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Hearing none,
35 Regional Council deliberation, recommendation and
36 justification. Any Council member regarding this --
37 comments on this proposal.

38
39 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I've chewed on
40 this a lot. And I'm going to vote against this, and
41 for the record, the points that I'm against it are
42 because of the impact to -- potential impact to local
43 communities involved in outfitting and guiding. I
44 believe, you know, that makes a substantial
45 contribution to the economics of communities, and with
46 the declines in fisheries and other things, these
47 things are very important to families that are involved
48 in outfitting, guiding, assistant guides. I think a
49 bear hunt on the Peninsula now brings in \$15,000 or so
50 to -- maybe our guide reps could give some figures on

1 what those are. Substantial amounts to towns and
2 communities. And as folks are hurting for other
3 income, you know, that reflects on their use of
4 subsistence items.

5
6 Another point is the potential impact
7 to subsistence users for food, because I should see if
8 somebody decided to put a bee in their bonnet and
9 figured they could make money blowing away a bunch of
10 extra bears, I think Al was -- I don't know, because I
11 think it's really important to have those bears for
12 food when people take them. And I don't know that
13 someone might tend to abuse that and take more than
14 what's necessary for food.

15
16 And the third point is the legal points
17 raised by the state folks in their comments. I just
18 would hate to see this -- I guess their point here is
19 purport to the authorized sales and purchases by
20 entities that are not Federally-qualified users. For
21 users with -- and subsistence folks, that's swell, but
22 I would really hate to see, you know, a burgeoning
23 climate like with the Koreans either buying these claws
24 and grinding them up for aphrodisiacs or gall bladders
25 as necklaces. And so the whole proposal to me is
26 fraught with problems.

27
28 And I'm not sure, I would ask,
29 Michelle, when were talking about bear parts before,
30 now did our Council vote on it?

31
32 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. When we
33 covered the bear parts, the sale of bear parts, I
34 believe it was for the non-edible products, and the
35 Council decided that because it is a standard practice
36 within some of the communities, to go ahead and support
37 that, with the understanding, kind of the same language
38 here, that as long as it's not sold to, say, a business
39 or something and then the business be selling it for
40 profit.

41
42 It's basically kind of the same thing
43 here. This is just making sure that -- this is
44 clarifying that you may not sell handicrafts to a
45 business, but you can sell as an individual, as a
46 Federally-qualified individual that has taken a bear
47 under subsistence, you can sell your claws that you
48 made into handicrafts to another individual. You just
49 cannot sell it to a business. And this is kind of
50 additional language. And it's something that was

1 already covered prior, but this is just additional
2 language to that.

3

4 MR. HOLMES: Okay. So we have gone in
5 favor of that before, and this is tightening it up?

6

7 MS. CHIVERS: Yes.

8

9 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Well, then I'll
10 keep my mind opening from further comments from the
11 other members before I do my final decision here,
12 because I'm really concerned about the potential of
13 these things going to non-Alaskan folks and for it
14 going out of the country and creating another market.

15

16 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Appreciate
17 it.

18

19 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thanks,
20 Pat. Any more comments from Council members.

21

22 MR. ROHRER: Mr. Chair. Can we modify
23 this regulation, or modify the proposed regulation? I
24 have no problem with bear claws being bartered and
25 traded, but I am 100 percent against being sold
26 commercially, but I don't think they should be sold at
27 all.

28

29 I think the comments from State are
30 very good. Unless you're selling them to another
31 subsistence user, it's against State law. State law
32 says you can't buy or sell, so there's going to be a
33 lot of issues there. Enforcement issues is going to be
34 a huge issue. Trying to keep track of where the
35 originated from is going to a mess.

36

37 Can we modify this proposed regulation
38 to eliminate the sale of claws entirely, and just
39 provide for bartering and trading, but to eliminate the
40 sale?

41

42 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Yeah. I think
43 we've done that in the past where we supported the use
44 of non-edible parts of the bear, brown and black bear.
45 The exception was the claws. And that's where we are
46 today.

47

48 And the way that I'm -- and I'll wait
49 for further comments before I make a comment on this
50 proposal, but we can make modifications and pass it on

1 as a recommendation to the Federal Board.

2

3 MR. ROHRER: Mr. Chair, that was my
4 understanding also that we had made that proposal, but
5 that's not what Michelle said. Did you say that --
6 well, could you repeat what -- I thought you said at
7 our last meeting that we said that we supported the
8 sale, just not the commercial sale. Could you clarify?

9

10 MS. CHIVERS: That is correct. I mean,
11 the Council, and I think many other Councils as well,
12 had stated that in small communities where they take a
13 subsistence bear, and they would like to make
14 handicrafts. It's all just with regard to handicrafts.
15 And you can sell to another individual. You just
16 cannot sell it to a business. And that was what we
17 supported, because I mean like Mr. Holmes said, some
18 people rely on that for their mainstay for cash, for
19 their income. And that was part of the reason why the
20 Council supported that. I'm pretty sure that's what we
21 did. I mean, Pete -- I'm looking at Pete and Al,
22 because I mean that was my recollection, but maybe I'm
23 not clear on remembering what exactly the Council did
24 on that. But that's what I thought the Council's
25 recommendation was.

26

27 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Well, Michelle, my
28 recollection is we did not support claws to be used as
29 a handicraft a couple years ago.

30

31 MS. CHIVERS: Then it was my other
32 Council, sorry.

33

34 MR. CRATTY: Yeah, that's the same way
35 I felt, Michelle. I feel the same way Sam does and
36 Peter does. I feel these should not be for sale,
37 because it can get out of hand, and there's no way of
38 tracking. But I believe that the tribal entities, if
39 they want -- if somebody wants to give me a bear claw
40 necklace or something, because I'm a chief of Old
41 Harbor Tribe, that would be fine with me. I think it
42 should be worked among the tribes, and not be used as a
43 for sale. I see -- I just see a conflict coming in the
44 future of something, the possibility of losing what
45 we've got, our subsistence bear hunts and stuff.

46

47 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Paul.

48

49 MR. GUNDERSEN: I feel the same way
50 about a lot of these different issues, and especially

1 with byproducts of game animals. I've been in the
2 guiding business and I'm a subsistence hunter, lived
3 the lifestyle all my life. There are traditional
4 things that's happened, there are things that, you
5 know, that they've -- I guess to me they've never
6 really been recognized until today. You know, I can
7 see where this could be the trickle down effect. It
8 would be this eagle eggs, it would be raven feathers or
9 eagle feathers that people go and walk the beaches and
10 collect And then it's just -- you know, I can see
11 thing going just way out of hand. Yeah.

12

13 I don't know how you would do anything
14 to regulate it or should you regulate it, because, you
15 know, it's like if my hair fell out and hit the floor
16 and somebody picked it up and walked away with it.
17 It's a piece of hair off an indigenous person. Is that
18 going to be something that's -- you know, it's like
19 picking up an eagle feather, you know, and it's just --
20 I don't know where this thing is going, and I don't
21 know if we should be the keeper of it, or should be the
22 one that makes the regulations do it.

23

24 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thanks.
25 Any more comments from council members.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: No. You know,
30 after thinking about this, I think we have in the past
31 supported the use of parts of brown bear and black
32 bear, excluding the claws for sale to business. And
33 this is what this proposal is referral to, is that we
34 as Federal users do not sell to businesses that turn
35 around and make a profit. That's what this is
36 addressing. This is not addressing the issue of a
37 handicraft, the culture of bear or whatever to utilize
38 these within this community, and trade it amongst
39 themselves. We're not addressing that issue. We're
40 past that. This is addressing the issue of the
41 handicraft maker taking it to Carr's or some other big
42 promoter of native art and making a profit off the
43 claws. Specifically the claws.

44

45 And the way this is written, it says
46 unless the bear is taken in Units 1 and five, I would
47 oppose it. And what we can do, and that question was
48 asked by one of our members here, to modify this and
49 just remove the wording of unless the bear was taken in
50 Units 1 and 5, and in both that -- 8(A) (B), remove

1 those two, that line. Then I may support it, because
2 this only refers to sale to for profit making entities,
3 and keep 8(C) as it is, because that goes to the direct
4 cultural user where it may not constitute a significant
5 commercial enterprise. I think that was the definition
6 that we accepted three years ago in regards to any kind
7 of handicraft. An individual starts out at \$200 and he
8 makes \$500, well, that's not significant because of the
9 process it takes to get to that handicraft. If it's
10 \$15,000, then it's a significant amount of money, and
11 they are putting themselves in the class of commercial
12 users.

13
14 I think we've pretty much -- we went
15 through this particular proposal. Now this would be
16 our second time around, because it was rejected or sent
17 back by the Federal Board to the RACs. This is our
18 second time around. And I think we ought to stay to
19 our original vote that was two years ago, and support.

20
21
22 I know that, Michelle, those other
23 Councils may have misguided us on what we did do, but
24 my clear thinking on this whole issue is that we did
25 not support the use of bear claws in any sales other
26 than for handicraft and by Federally recognized users.
27 And I would wait for further comments so we can move on
28 this proposal. It's 11:00 o'clock.

29
30 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair, if I might
31 suggest, maybe we'd want to defer this proposal and
32 perhaps somebody could look up the transcripts of our
33 meetings, because I think like Al, I thought we were
34 very strong against bear claws period. And so it would
35 be good to know exactly how we did vote it, because I
36 know my memory is as short as what I've got left of
37 hair on top of my head, using his analogy of hair here.
38 And so I'm kind of unclear as to how we really went,
39 because we've had multiple issues come up on
40 handicrafts, and where we've been supportive, and then
41 other things where it came to bear claws.

42
43 And the point I was making on community
44 interaction is the -- you know, not that I'm a guide,
45 but that those moneys are really important, and these
46 things threaten established -- it's a conflict of
47 established business that relate a lot communities
48 versus handicrafts.

49
50 And given away that is fine with me,

1 but I just don't see selling it. So I'd like to fine
2 out -- oh, yummy, I'm going to quit talking.

3
4 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I knew that would
5 get to you.

6
7 MR. HOLMES: That's good. Strategy,
8 Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, and turn
11 your mic off, please.

12
13 Okay. Laura.

14
15 MS. GREFFENIUS: Mr. Chair, to clarify,
16 I don't have an answer for your question on how you
17 voted, but just if it helps to jog your memories, WP05-
18 01, that's from last year, it would have been this
19 meeting -- your meeting this time last year that you
20 would have discussed that proposal that went before the
21 Federal Subsistence Board in May. So it wouldn't have
22 come up at your last fall meeting, it would have been
23 the one from last winter. So if that helps.

24
25 And that one was addressing regulations
26 concerning the sale of handicrafts made from bear
27 parts. It was a lot more inclusive, because there was
28 -- the Board ended up making some decisions on
29 definitions, et cetera.

30
31 Then this one came forth addressing
32 commercial sales, because the Board wanted the Councils
33 to have a chance to discuss that. So if it helps that
34 you try to recall from your year ago meeting.
35 Otherwise, back at our office we can certainly look up
36 how you voted on that one.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.
41 That thing's starting to come back, is that we did
42 support the use of non-edible parts of the bear and
43 brown bear, except for claws.

44
45 And we didn't address the commercial
46 issue, because I think this came from Southeast
47 primarily where commercial sale, they wanted it to be
48 kept in. And that's when all this dysfunctional issue
49 regarding this proposal before the Federal Board then
50 was tabled or brought back to the Regional Councils for

1 a vote. And that's where we are today.

2

3

Paul.

4

5 MR. GUNDERSEN: This thing about
6 piecing out animals and doing things, if I was a
7 consumer and bought a bear hunt, and i'm talking on the
8 commercial side now. When I go to buy a bear hunt,
9 I've bought the bear. I don't give a hoot if it, you
10 know, if it's got three toenails or six or whatever.
11 But I could see -- I would feel in my mind, I could see
12 fit to do whatever I wanted to do with those pieces of
13 the critter, you know. I paid \$20,000 to go get one.

14

15 It just don't make good sense to me to
16 sit here and try to figure out what you're going to do
17 with the teeth, or what you're going to do with the
18 claws. The next thing is going to be the tail or
19 whatever, you know. And it's just -- I think it's a
20 waste of energy. We just have to see -- get a broader
21 vision and stretch the rules exactly -- you know, if
22 you bought a bear, you bought a bear. If you bought a
23 pig, you bought a pig.

24

25 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. What's the
26 Council's direction or recommendation at this time. We
27 have before us a proposed regulation that is different
28 than the one we had a year ago. What is the board's --
29 bring up for a vote or.....

30

31 MR. CRATTY: I make a recommendation
32 that we don't support. Do not support.

33

34 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair, I would
35 like to call for a roll call vote.

36

37 MR. HOLMES: I'll second Cratty's.

38

39 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. Can I
40 propose a modification to the regulation?

41

42 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Yes.

43

44 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I would modify it to
45 -- I propose to modify it to eliminate the sale or
46 restrict the sale of any claws -- or just to say you
47 may not sell handicrafts made from the claws of black
48 or brown bear, period. And that would restrict it,
49 just tightening up this regulation, instead of
50 restricting you selling it to -- as a commercial

1 enterprise, you couldn't sell it at all. That would
2 still allow barter -- you could still barter or give
3 them away, but it would completely restrict the sale,
4 which is what I think I'm hearing from everyone on the
5 Board. Everyone here seems to be against the sale. So
6 it would go one step further than what this does here.
7 Instead of just restricting for commercial sale, it
8 would restrict all sale whatsoever. And then that
9 would also fulfill the State's concerns.

10
11 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. The way I'm
12 understanding is that you'd propose that you may not
13 sell claws of black bear and brown bear, period.

14
15 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Handicrafts made from
16 the claws.

17
18 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: You may not sell
19 handicraft?

20
21 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Handicrafts made from
22 the claws. Yeah, currently you can't sell the claws
23 unless they're made into a handicraft. Yeah.

24
25 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Right. And you're
26 disallowing actual handicrafts, which would go to the
27 user, the Federal user. They would be the only one
28 that.....

29
30 MR. SQUARTSOFF: No, what I'm saying is
31 you would not be able to sell handicrafts made from the
32 claws of black or brown bear. So it would -- we would
33 just strike to an entity operating as a business as
34 defined, and that would just make it against the law to
35 sell bear claws regardless. Is that clear?

36
37 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Yes, it's clear to
38 me now. Yeah. Is that a motion to amend or a
39 motion.....

40
41 MR. SQUARTSOFF: A motion to amend.

42
43 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: There's a motion
44 to -- excuse me. There's a motion to amend at this
45 time. And for the record, you may not sell handicraft
46 made from the claws of black or brown bear period.
47 What would that do to 8(A), 8(B)? You'd just delete
48 it.

49
50 Is there a second.

1 MR. CRATTY: Do I pull my motion?
2
3 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: What was your
4 motion?
5
6 MR. CRATTY: I think not to support it.
7
8 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Oh, no, you just
9 -- your motion to not to support was the.....
10
11 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: That was on first.
12
13 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: That was the first
14 one?
15
16 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Uh-huh.
17 (Affirmative)
18
19 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Now it's being
20 amended. So when it comes to a vote, if you like the
21 way it's being amended, then you can vote for the amend
22 it.
23
24 I need a second before further
25 discussion on the amendment. Hearing no second.....
26
27 MR. HOLMES: I'll second it for
28 purposes of discussion, but.....
29
30 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Seconded.
31
32 MR. HOLMES:I'd like get a more
33 precise as to what it would read. I couldn't quite
34 hear.
35
36 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Just take
37 out -- read 8(A), and read it, you may not sell
38 handicrafts made from the claws or black or brown bear,
39 period. The rest of that proposed regulation would be
40 removed from the regulation -- or from the proposal.
41
42 MR. HOLMES: Okay. I understand.
43
44 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: 8(B) then would be
45 removed in its entirety. And 8(C) then would then
46 become (B) and would remain in the proposal.
47
48 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Yeah, I'll second
49 it for some discussion here. I'd like to see what.....
50

1 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Discussion on the
2 amendment.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Hearing none,
7 we'll call for a roll call on the amendment. Roll
8 call, please.
9
10 MS. CHIVERS: Pete Squartsoff.
11
12 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yes.
13
14 MS. CHIVERS: When I do this roll call,
15 can you please turn your mic on.
16
17 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yes.
18
19 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you. Pat Holmes.
20
21 MR. HOLMES: Yes.
22
23 MS. CHIVERS: Sam Rohrer.
24
25 MR. ROHRER: I support it with the
26 amendment.
27
28 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: We're voting on
29 the amendment.
30
31 MR. ROHRER: Yeah. Okay. I support
32 it.
33
34 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. So that's -- okay.
35
36 MR. ROHRER: Yeah.
37
38 MS. CHIVERS: Al Cratty.
39
40 MR. CRATTY: Yes.
41
42 MS. CHIVERS: Jim Hamilton.
43
44 MR. HAMILTON: Yes.
45
46 MS. CHIVERS: Vince Tutiakoff. I'm
47 just going in -- yeah, I'm just in roll call vote.
48
49 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Yes.
50

1 MS. CHIVERS: Paul Gundersen.
2
3 MR. GUNDERSEN: No.
4
5 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, we have six
6 voting in favor of the amended language and one voting
7 against it.
8
9 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you
10 very much. I'm sure that we're going to hear more
11 about this, because it's going to go back to the
12 Federal Board for review and recommendation. We may
13 hear this again next year.
14
15 And how we'll vote on the main motion,
16 which is the amended motion -- I don't think we have
17 to. We have passed it, no? Passed the motion was to
18 accept WP06-01 as amended, and we voted to support it.
19
20 MS. CHIVERS: Was that as amended by
21 Staff or Mr. Rohrer? I thought this last roll call
22 vote that we did was for his amendment?
23
24 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Right, for his
25 amendment. Yeah.
26
27 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. So you're going
28 back to the main motion for the Council rec -- or the
29 Staff recommendation on Page 30 I believe?
30
31 MR. HOLMES: So we're voting against
32 the Staff one and then our amended version would be
33 what we would be voting on again, or -- I'm lost.
34
35 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: I believe we will
36 voting, if the Council supports the wording that we've
37 submitted as an amendment, we'd be voting on the
38 amendment and not primarily the Staff's recommendation.
39
40 MS. CHIVERS: So back to the main, that
41 was to not support, correct?
42
43 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Not to support the
44 proposed amendment -- the proposed regulation.
45
46 MS. CHIVERS: On Page 30.
47
48 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Right.
49
50 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. So this motion is

1 to not support the regulation as proposed -- the
2 preliminary conclusion on Page 30, with this roll call
3 vote?

4
5 MR. SQUARTSOFF: No. No, the main
6 motion we made was to adopt, and seconded. The motion
7 was made to adopt, and there was a second for
8 discussion purposes. And then there was amendment to
9 change it, and that passed. So now it's back to the
10 main motion.

11
12 MS. CHIVERS: To adopt.

13
14 MR. SQUARTSOFF: To adopt.

15
16 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: To adopt.

17
18 MR. HAMILTON: So if we're in favor of
19 the amendment, then we vote against the motion to
20 adopt?

21
22 SEVERAL: No.

23
24 (Conversation with mics not on)

25
26 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, what we've
27 done is we've amended the proposal, and this is our
28 proposal now, or recommendation to the Federal Board.
29 That's what we're doing right now. What was before us
30 originally was the Federal Board's proposal, which
31 we've amended now.

32
33 MR. HAMILTON: Okay.

34
35 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. I'm trying
36 to understand this, too, you guys, you're getting me
37 all warmed up.

38
39 MR. HAMILTON: Mr. Chairman, are we
40 voting on the amendment or are we voting on the
41 original?

42
43 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: We have voted on
44 the amendment already. We have adopted the changes.
45 Now we're going back to the original proposal which
46 was.....

47
48 MR. HAMILTON: Right. On Page 30 as
49 written.

50

1 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: As written on Page
2 30. We're going to now to, since we've made a change
3 on it, I don't think that we're going to support this
4 because of the wording that we submitted as an
5 amendment.

6
7 MR. HAMILTON: I understand. Thank
8 you.

9
10 MS. CHIVERS: So, Mr. Chair, this next
11 vote that we're going to take is on the original vote
12 -- I mean, excuse me, on the original proposal, but the
13 motion was to adopt. Do we want to adopt? I mean.....

14
15 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: No, we vote no.

16
17 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. That's what I want
18 to make sure. I just want to clarify that. So now, do
19 you still want a roll call vote on that one, or.....

20
21 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Yes.

22
23 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. So this is on the
24 main motion.

25
26 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: On the main motion
27 to adopt.

28
29 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair, before we
30 go on, the proposal was amended by us. Now if we vote
31 -- why are we even amending it if we're voting against
32 it?

33
34 MS. CHIVERS: Well, that was my
35 question. That's where the confusion came in, because
36 if you're already made an amendment, why not support
37 with the amendment, and just the main motion would just
38 die. Oh, you have to go back and do a motion on the --
39 yeah. But I mean, you've already made an amendment and
40 you've already voted on this, so I think this would
41 become your standing vote here.

42
43 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. My
44 understanding is that now we would vote for this
45 proposal, because it was amended.

46
47 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah.

48
49 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Right.

50

1 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: The rules of
2 order, if you make an amendment to a motion, that
3 motion then is theoretically changed, and we now
4 control the motion as amended. We voted to approve the
5 amendment, or the changes, which is the amendment, so
6 therefore the proposal itself has already been adopted
7 as amended. We do not have to go back to the main
8 motion, because we've already approved it with
9 amendments.

10
11 MS. CHIVERS: That's what I thought.
12 Right.

13
14 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: We're must making
15 too many layers of bureaucracy here.

16
17 (Laughter)

18
19 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Whatever, just so
20 it's.....

21
22 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: What has come
23 before us now and what we're taking and we recommend is
24 that it's been amended, and we've changed the wording
25 basically. And that's the way we're going to support
26 it.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 Okay. Thank you. What time is it? Do
31 we have time to our next, No. 2?

32
33 SEVERAL: Yeah.

34
35 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. All right.
36 We'll move on to WP06-02. Thank you. We'll ask Laura
37 to get us started here, introduction of proposal and
38 analysis.

39
40 MS. GREFFENIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41 This one begins on Page 40 in your Council Book. And
42 the issues and discussion on Page 42.

43
44 So this one deals with -- this is
45 different than the last one. It deals with the sale of
46 handicrafts made from non-edible byproducts of wildlife
47 other than bears. So we're not dealing with the bear
48 claw issue on this one.

49
50 It was submitted by the Office of

1 Subsistence Management and requests the Federal
2 Subsistence Board to authorize the sale of handicrafts
3 made from non-edible byproducts of wildlife, other than
4 bears, harvested for subsistence uses. The proposed
5 regulation will not affect previous regulations
6 approved by the Board addressing the sale of bear
7 handicrafts. So I just wanted to clarify that we need
8 to shift gears here.

9
10 The intent of this proposal is to have
11 Federal regulations align more closely with existing
12 State regulations with respect to handicrafts, and
13 accommodate existing practices. And this proposal
14 affects all regions of the State. So again this is one
15 that's being brought before all of the Councils to get
16 recommendations.

17
18 Current Federal regulations prohibit
19 the sale of wildlife or byproducts of wildlife unless
20 specifically permitted in Federal regulations. Current
21 Federal regulations only allow the sale of handicrafts
22 made from bear skin, hide, pelt or fur, including claws
23 from some parts of the State. the sale of handicrafts
24 made from bear bones, teeth, sinew, or skulls taken in
25 Southeast and pelts from furbearers and subsistence
26 harvested fish under customary trade regulations.

27
28 Under State regulations, what I just
29 read was Federal regulations, and under State
30 regulations, many handicrafts and parts of game can be
31 sold, purchased or bartered. And they have a specific
32 list of what cannot be sold, such as most meat and bear
33 parts, big game trophies, et cetera. Therefore many
34 wildlife handicrafts, individual antlers and horns,
35 capes and other items can be sold under State
36 regulations, but they cannot be sold from animals
37 harvested on Federal public lands under Federal
38 regulations.

39
40 And the purpose of this proposal is to
41 make Federal regulations consistent with the existing
42 State regulations with respect to handicrafts. This
43 action will not alter existing harvest limits or
44 seasons. It does not have any effect on that.
45 Therefore it should have no impact on wildlife
46 populations.

47
48 This action will provide those
49 subsistence users who make handicrafts an opportunity
50 to sell those handicrafts made from wildlife harvested

1 under Federal subsistence regulations. This change
2 will be minimal, because the activity is currently
3 allowed for wildlife harvested under State regulations,
4 and this change will have no affect on other users.

5
6 Because this proposed regulations uses
7 the terms big game and trophy, definitions are provided
8 for those terms in the analysis.

9
10 This proposed regulation also prohibits
11 sales from constituting a significant commercial
12 enterprise, so it would be consistent with the same
13 kind of intent of the sale of bear claw handicrafts.
14 Just that it's not a significant business.

15
16 Adoption of these new regulations will
17 provide Federally-qualified subsistence hunters the
18 same opportunities that are currently available to
19 those harvesting under State regulations, and it would
20 accommodate existing practices. So it's essentially
21 kind of what's been termed a housekeeping issue just in
22 that sense.

23
24 One question may come forth. Why
25 doesn't the proposed regulation allow the sale of capes
26 and individual horns and antlers as the State
27 regulation does? The answer to that is the proposed
28 Federal regulation requires that the sales be limited
29 to handicrafts, and to be consistent with the
30 definition of subsistence uses in ANILCA Section .803.

31
32 The Staff recommendation's on Page 44.
33 The Staff recommendation is to adopt the proposal with
34 the recommended modifications. Just briefly those
35 modifications refer to some redundant reference to bear
36 in the regulatory language, and definitions and terms
37 for big game and trophy and to prohibit sales from
38 constituting a significant commercial enterprise. So
39 those are some of the definitions and modifications
40 that are listed on Page 44.

41
42 So that concludes my presentation.
43 Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.
46 Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments.

47
48 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. Members of the
49 Council. Again my name's Lem Butler.

50

1 The Department recommends that you
2 support this proposal. The Department supports a
3 Federal regulation authorizing the sale of handicraft
4 articles made from non-edible parts of wildlife
5 harvested for subsistence uses that is consistent with
6 State regulations governing the purchase, sale or
7 bartering of game and game parts.

8
9 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Any questions.
10 Comments.

11
12 MR. GUNDERSEN: I've got a couple
13 comments on it I guess, that you guys recognize the
14 Federal lands and the State lands, but not the
15 corporation lands. Unfortunately, these animals roam
16 between all these different properties, and they don't
17 have name tags, I'm a Federal animal or a State animal.
18 Yeah it's -- then how is this regulation -- she made a
19 statement that you can add to this with animals taken
20 on Federal lands. And you said the same thing about
21 State. What happens on corporations? So you've got a
22 whole bunch of gray area here you're working with.

23
24 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. If I may
25 answer that, actually the State's the wildlife manager
26 on Federal, State and private lands. We don't make
27 distinctions. The State holds wildlife in trust for
28 the public and the State and Federal Government through
29 State and Federal regulations can dictate ways in which
30 a person can reduce animals to their possession, but
31 State regulations apply to Federal and -- or to, excuse
32 me, corporation and private lands as well as State
33 lands and Federal lands. They're actually already
34 covered in there. This is just going to address
35 animals taken during Federal subsistence seasons for
36 which the State does not have a season. So again
37 that's why it applies specifically to Federal lands,
38 which is the limit of the Federal Subsistence Board's
39 jurisdiction.

40
41 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Thank you. Any
42 more comments from Council.

43
44 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman, I'm going to
45 vote on this. I've participated in spirit camps out at
46 Unalaska and Afognak and related things in Kodiak, and
47 one of the things a lot of the ladies do is work and
48 teach kids on handicraft. And we did vote in favor at
49 the previous meeting on the use of non-edible
50 byproducts of fish and shellfish, and I think this is

1 parallel, and, you know, it's too bad that we have to
2 pass regulations to do things that folks have done, but
3 I think it's a good idea, and I'll vote for it.

4
5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Thank you. Any
8 more comments.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Thank you very
13 much. Other Federal, State or tribal agency comments.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: None. InterAgency
18 Staff Committee comments.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: There are none.
23 Fish and game advisory committee comments.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: None. A summary
28 of written public comments.

29
30 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We
31 did receive two comments, and both are in support.

32
33 One comment was received from that
34 AHTNA Tene Nene Subsistence Committee.
35 They support this proposal so that
36 rural residents may sell handicrafts
37 made from non-edible byproducts of most
38 wildlife. This practice has been done
39 under State regulation, but not under
40 Federal regulation since there is no
41 regulation in place under Federal
42 subsistence management.

43
44 The other comment was received from the
45 Mentasta Traditional Council. They
46 also supported this proposal.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you

1 very much. Public testimony.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: None. Regional
6 Council deliberation, recommendation and justification.

7 Are there any Council member comments on this proposal.

8

9 MR. CRATTY: I'd just like to say I do
10 support it, and think it's good. There's a lot of like
11 seal stomachs and sea lion stomachs, seal hides, all
12 kinds of subsistence practices that are used in Old
13 Harbor to make drums or whatever they want to make,
14 bags, or coats or whatever. So I do support this.

15

16 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Thank you. At
17 this time I'll recognize a motion to adopt.

18

19 MR. HOLMES: Move to adopt.

20

21 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: It's been moved by
22 Pat.

23

24 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, move to adopt.

25

26 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Is there a second.
27 By Jim.

28

29 MR. HAMILTON: Yes, I second the
30 motion.

31

32 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Jim Hamilton.
33 There being no objection, all those in favor say aye.

34

35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36

37 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Opposed.

38

39 (No opposing votes)

40

41 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Motion carries
42 unanimously to support. Thank you very much, Laura.

43

44 Okay. We'll move -- we're in a mode.
45 We're on the move now. Okay. WP06-19 and 20. 19 and
46 20.

47

48 (Off record conversation - mics not on)

49

50 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Well, what's the

1 feeling of the Council, do you want to take it on now,
2 or go to lunch?

3

4 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I think we should take
5 lunch and then do it after.

6

7 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah. It's going
8 to be long.

9

10 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Hopefully we can get
11 some more public.

12

13 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Hearing no
14 objection, we'll break for lunch and be back here at
15 1:00 p.m.

16

17 (Off record)

18

19 (On record)

20

21 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Call the Council
22 back to order after lunch.

23

24 A quick announcement. The fishery
25 proposal form is still sitting out front there. And if
26 we get public testimony, then we'll hear it as they
27 fill out their forms.

28

29 At this time we'll move on to the
30 regional wildlife proposals, Unit 8, 9, 10. And 19/20
31 Proposal. I would ask Laura to start us off here.
32 Introduction and analysis.

33

34 MS. GREFFENIUS: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
35 Chair. This is Laura Greffenius with the Office of
36 Subsistence Management.

37

38 And hopefully everyone's got their
39 books. I'm going to do a lot of referring to pages and
40 kind of flipping around just because of where things
41 are in the book. This one begins on Page 49 in your
42 Council Book.

43

44 What I'll do is summarize the
45 highlights, but I don't want to go over things too
46 quickly. Some things I'll cover in a little more
47 detail. This one's a bit more involved, and we'll have
48 some discussion afterwards. I'll be glad to answer
49 questions. If I go into anything too cursorily, then
50 certainly we can delve into it more. I'll answer

1 questions or some of the agency staff can as well.

2

3

4 Also for anyone, anybody in the
5 audience or our guests, there's a unit map on Page 47.
6 Unit 9(D) is the one at the very lower portion of the
7 Peninsula. The proposal deals with only Unit 9(D). So
8 most of you are familiar with the unit, but just for
9 the benefit of others.

9

10 So on Page 50, if you'll follow along,
11 I'll describe the two proposals that we'll be
12 discussing. And these are combined. The analysis is
13 combined. There's two separate proposals, but because
14 they deal with the same issue, the Southern Alaska
15 Peninsula Caribou Herd, it's combined in the proposal,
16 but for the introduction and for the recommendations at
17 the end, they're separated out. But the biological and
18 harvest information would be the same since it's
19 dealing with the same herd.

20

21 So No. 19 was submitted by your
22 Council, the Kodiak/ Aleutians Subsistence Regional
23 Advisory Council, and No. 20 was submitted by Alaska
24 Department of Fish and Game. And both proposals
25 request the Federal Subsistence Board to consider
26 further restrictions to Federal harvest regulations for
27 the Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd in Unit
28 9(D).

29

30 And these proposals address
31 conservation concerns about the declining population of
32 the caribou herd, and proposed regulatory changes to
33 facilitate an increase in the size of the herd. So
34 generally overall that's what both of these proposals
35 are addressing.

36

37 And specifically, No. 19, the one
38 submitted by your Council, would eliminate the cow hunt
39 and decrease the harvest from two caribou to one bull
40 in Unit 9(D). You can follow along under the
41 regulations. That's addressed or written out. In
42 addition, the Counsel requests that Federal public
43 lands be closed to caribou hunting except by Federally-
44 qualified subsistence users hunting under these
45 regulations.

46

47 And No. 20 was submitted by the Alaska
48 Department of Fish and Game, and this proposal requests
49 an elimination of the cow hunt as well while
50 maintaining a harvest limit of two animals. And the

1 proponent, Alaska Department of Fish and Game states
2 that bulls only hunt is in accordance with guidelines
3 established in the 1994 Southern Alaska Peninsula
4 Caribou Herd Management Plan.

5
6 That's brought up a little bit later in
7 the analysis, but since we mention it right in the
8 beginning, I'm going to refer you to Page 52 where we
9 talk about the management plan. And this was discussed
10 at your meeting last fall as well.

11
12 This is a cooperative agreement between
13 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Fish and
14 Wildlife Service. I'm on the bottom of Page 52.

15
16 And I just want to note that the
17 threshold -- the population and management objectives
18 outlined in the 1994 plan consist of population
19 thresholds which included the caribou population on
20 Unimak Island. And presently the Unimak Caribou Herd
21 is distinguished as separate from the Southern Alaska
22 Peninsula Caribou Herd.

23
24 So I want to note that the threshold
25 levels below that are indicated at the very bottom of
26 Page 52 combine population numbers for the Southern
27 Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd for both Unit 9(D) and
28 the Unimak Island Caribou Herd. Just so that there's
29 not any confusion as we proceed, these numbers on the
30 bottom of Page 52 and then at the top of Page 54 are
31 for those combined. And just so that people had an
32 idea of what the Unimak Island Herd size is, there's a
33 table on Page 54, and it's estimated to be about 1,000
34 animals.

35
36 So back to focusing on the Unit 9(D),
37 so the rest of the information we'll stick to Unit
38 9(D). And there was a discussion as far as the
39 management plan, there's a recognition that it does
40 need to be updated, especially because the two herds
41 have been separated and some planning process needs to
42 be initiated in order to carry that out.

43
44 And as far as the lands, the Federal
45 Public lands, since we referred in No. 19 about the
46 proposal includes closing Federal Public lands to non-
47 subsistence users, about 40 percent of Unit 9(D) is
48 Federal public lands and they're managed by the Izembek
49 and Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuges.

50

1 Okay. Under regulatory history on Page
2 51, I'm not go to go into all the details. We already
3 mentioned that they're considered separate herds, and
4 there had been a decline in numbers during the early
5 80s, but by the time of 1997, there was a sufficient
6 surplus of bulls to allow a subsistence harvest to be
7 resumed on Federal public lands in Unit 9(D).

8
9 And then in the past several years
10 there had been some special actions, and also some
11 proposals, and in 2004, a permanent regulation was
12 adopted to increase the harvest limit to two caribou in
13 Unit 9(D), and also at this time that proposal in 2004,
14 at top of Page 52 now, also established in regulation
15 the winter season that goes from November 15th to March
16 31. And the male caribou are the first to drop their
17 antlers, so the later season in the winter is a hunt
18 for primarily the males of the herd and is an option
19 for residents who are unable to harvest a caribou in
20 the first hunting period.

21
22 As far as population numbers of the
23 Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd, I think the
24 best way to look at that would be to look at Page 53,
25 Table 1, and most pertinently is to look at the column
26 on the far right-hand side, and it indicates the counts
27 by the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. And you can
28 see the years there and the numbers that were highest
29 at the top, and then there was a decrease in numbers,
30 and then again in the late 90s when it increased, and
31 that's when the harvest limit in 2004 was increased to
32 two caribou. But now most recently we're down to an
33 estimate of about 1700 animals for the most recent
34 counts.

35
36 Pat, we're on Page 53. We're looking
37 at the Table 1, so just follow along.

38
39 So another pertinent column on this
40 table, on Table 1, is the calf to cow ratio. I know
41 there's a lot of numbers on this table, but if you just
42 follow along on that particular column, you can see the
43 numbers were highest there at the top, and now it's
44 dwindled down to in the composition counts for this
45 past year, 6 calves per 100 cows. So that ratio is low
46 during the fall of 2005. It had been low over the past
47 four years. It indicates a population decline is
48 occurring, and the current recruitment is not
49 sufficient to offset the adult mortality.

50

1 As far as the bull cow ratio, it's
2 approximately 30 bulls per 100 cows, and that's within
3 the management objectives. But again it's the low calf
4 counts that are of concern.

5
6 Okay. Continuing on to the harvest
7 history, we compiled that information in an appendix
8 just to be able to put some charts together. So on
9 Page 57 in your books, this has the caribou harvest
10 reported. There's both a Federal registration permit
11 for this hunt, and the State general permit. On this
12 I'll just point out that for both the Federal and State
13 hunts there are some cows harvested, but primarily the
14 bulls are harvested. That accounts for the majority of
15 the harvest.

16
17 And then on the next page, on Page 58,
18 this was just to give some trend information, just the
19 communities that do have the highest harvest in Cold
20 Bay, I mean, in 9(D), those communities that have the
21 highest numbers of harvest would be Cold and King Cove.
22 Other communities in 9(D) are Nelson Lagoon, Sand Point
23 that do some harvest as well. And then the non-
24 residents that come in. You can see those numbers
25 towards the fourth line down.

26
27 So that just gives some information, a
28 general of where the numbers are based on communities.

29
30 Caribou have historically been and
31 today are the most important land mammal used for
32 subsistence in the lower Alaska Peninsula communities,
33 and most of the reported subsistence harvest in Unit
34 9(D) occurs along the Cold Bay road system during
35 November and December when the herd is in the vicinity
36 of Cold Bay.

37
38 I'd like to mention on Page 54, we just
39 wanted to make sure we addressed some current events
40 involving this species. As I mentioned before, the
41 Council did discuss the need for an update of the
42 management plan, and so that's recognized as to assist
43 the local wildlife managers to make recommendations on
44 seasons and harvest limits.

45
46 And also the new management plan would
47 need to adjust the threshold numbers accordingly,
48 because now the Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd
49 is recognized as Unit 9(D) and Unimak is separate.

50

1 Also, something else that's important
2 to mention, there's funding for -- \$25,000 was approved
3 in 2006 for an ANILCA 809 agreement. ANILCA section
4 .809 deals with cooperative agreements, and this one
5 would be between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
6 and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to put radio
7 collars on adult female caribou in the Southern Alaska
8 Peninsula Caribou Herd during their spring -- the
9 spring and fall surveys. And these radio collars will
10 provide data on survival and reproduction. Blood and
11 fecal samples will also be collected to monitor the
12 presence of diseases and parasites, and this monitoring
13 effort will provide managers with additional
14 information needed to regulate this caribou herd. So
15 that money was appropriated specifically because
16 there's concern with this herd and in order to get more
17 information to effectively manage the herd.

18
19 So just for a synopsis on the effects
20 of these proposals, for No. 19, the proposed regulation
21 would reduce the caribou limit from two animals of
22 either sex to one bull, and in addition Federal public
23 lands would be closed to hunting except by Federally-
24 qualified subsistence users.

25
26 And requirements established in section
27 .815 of ANILCA allow a closure for taking of fish and
28 wildlife on Federal public lands when necessary to
29 assure the continued viability of a wildlife
30 population, or to continue subsistence uses of that
31 wildlife population. I mention that one, because we're
32 addressing a closure in No. 19.

33
34 No. 20, just to summarize that one
35 again, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game proposal,
36 that would change the Federal Hunt to bulls only with a
37 harvest limit of two. This would benefit the herd by
38 slowing the population decline. And Federally-
39 qualified subsistence users could continue to harvest
40 two caribou, however, only bulls.

41
42 The Staff recommendation is on Page 55.
43 And for No. 19, it's to support Proposal 19 with
44 modification to amend the harvest limits and eliminate
45 the proposed closure of Federal public lands. So as
46 you can see it would be one bull during the August 1 to
47 September 30 season, or one antlerless caribou during
48 the winter season from November 15 to March 31. And
49 these again would be by Federal registration permits.
50 And this parallels the State regulations, except the

1 subsistence season would start on August 1 instead of
2 August 10, so just to mention the State regulation,
3 just in comparison to that one.

4
5 And the recommendation for No. 20, the
6 on submitted by Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
7 would be to take no action given the action recommended
8 on No. 19. And the conservation concerns expressed as
9 needed for No. 20 are addressed in the recommended
10 modifications for No. 19.

11
12 The justification for these
13 modifications, and just for the proposed support with
14 modification of the Staff recommendation is to -- is
15 reducing the harvest limit to one caribou and
16 eliminating the cow harvest during the fall season are
17 two measures aimed toward conservation of the caribou
18 herd. And these regulatory changes should improve cow
19 survival and reduce problems associated with low
20 recruitment at a time of population decline. Poor
21 nutrition appears to be one of the main factors for the
22 population decline. Also a bull only harvest is
23 expected to help slow the herd's decline

24
25 Also in reference to Federal lands,
26 closure of Federal public lands to non-Federally-
27 qualified users must be substantiated with biological
28 information to warrant such a closure. Based upon
29 additional 2006 population counts and composition
30 surveys, and radio collar monitoring studies,
31 additional biological information about the Southern
32 Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd shall be obtained to make
33 future management decisions.

34
35 And with that, that concludes my
36 presentation on this one, and I'll be happy to answer
37 questions, and some of the agency Staff can help answer
38 questions as well, if you have particular ones.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Thank you. Any
43 questions for Laura.

44
45 MR. HOLMES: Laura, thanks for the
46 swell support, and I apologize for not getting here for
47 the first part, and if you've already addressed it,
48 I'll just quiet down.

49
50 I did have a question. Now you

1 mentioned that I believe the State does manage Unimak
2 separate from 9(D), so would these proposals relate to
3 all of old (D), or would they also include the Unimak
4 Island area?

5
6 MS. GREFFENIUS: Yes, Pat. Just to
7 clarify, this proposal is specific to Unit 9(D), and I
8 did mention -- so this one's only pertaining to the
9 caribou herd for management and hunting regulations in
10 9(D).

11
12 I did mention the Unimak Caribou Herd,
13 and it's mentioned in the analysis, primarily for
14 clarification, because the management plan that's in
15 use -- or just is in existence right now, dates for
16 1994, and that one is outdated. It needs to be revised
17 based on the management now of -- Unimak Island is
18 considered separate, and so they're being managed
19 separately. And Unimak Island numbers and the counts,
20 approximately 1,000, are included in this report, and
21 you may have noticed that, primarily just so people
22 could have an understanding of what the population is
23 there, because the current management plan includes the
24 numbers from both. So it was just a way to make sure
25 that that was clear.

26
27 In reviews of this particular analysis,
28 we wanted to include that to make sure that that people
29 understood the populations in both places, and that was
30 how the management plan addressed it previously, but
31 right now this proposal deals with 9(D) for hunting in
32 9(D).

33
34 Does that help answer your question?

35
36 MR. HOLMES: Yes, so are you saying
37 east and north of False Pass basically. And from what
38 I gathered from your report, or from the last time,
39 that the Unimak.....

40
41 MS. CHIVERS: Pat.

42
43 MR. HOLMES: Oh. The Unimak herd is
44 doing relatively well, and that these proposals we're
45 dealing with are for the area east and north of False
46 Pass, is that correct, in 9(D)?

47
48 MS. GREFFENIUS: That's correct. This
49 proposal deals with 9(D), and Unimak is considered --
50 is more stable, and so the biological information as

1 far as the survey numbers and the monies that have
2 appropriated, will be for 9(D) in order to get a better
3 understanding there in order to be able to make
4 management decisions.

5
6 But, yeah, a good question. I'm glad
7 you brought that up to clarify.

8
9 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Yeah.

10
11 MR. ROHRER: Laura, I have a question
12 on Page 53. Looking at these different numbers from
13 '96 to '97 the herd doubled, and then we're looking
14 down -- you come -- and that's kind of a trend you see
15 as you look back through these years. It's like back
16 between '91 and '93 they drop by 1,000 animals, and
17 then it doubles on an increase, and then you come back
18 down here, 2002, and there's 4,000 and now in 2004
19 that's cut in half again. Those are some serious
20 number jumps over a matter of one year, one or two
21 years, I mean, to have a herd double in size and then
22 cut in half again. How accurate are these numbers, and
23 can you talk at all about the -- such a swing in those
24 numbers?

25
26 MS. GREFFENIUS: Okay. Well, I'll take
27 a stab at it, and then some additional comments can be
28 made.

29
30 As far as the accuracy of the numbers,
31 I know that the refuge makes a point to do their counts
32 in the wintertime so they've got the contrast of the
33 snow in the background. Of course, it's weather
34 dependent. But they're done at the optimal times to
35 ensure that we can get the kind of counts that will
36 help for management decisions.

37
38 And you're correct, as far as looking
39 at the numbers, they dropped way down, then there was
40 an increase, and that's what prompted, if you look at
41 that number 4,000 there, and then regulations were
42 changes in 2004 to increase it to a two harvest limit.
43 And so here we're in 2006, and so some of the
44 discussions that we had amongst our Staff is, you know,
45 if you take all of sudden a real drastic approach to,
46 you know, limiting the harvest or closing Federal
47 public lands, or try to take measured steps, because it
48 was only two years the harvest was increased, and now
49 we're looking at some considerable declines, more --
50 and concerns about the population and taking some

1 measured steps and getting more biological information.

2

3 So I don't have exact answers as far as
4 the reasons why. Lem can certainly address that when
5 he comes up here, but just overall there's the issues
6 of poor nutrition and disease, and just some of those
7 are factors.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Paul.

12

13 MR. GUNDERSEN: You know, that dates
14 that you had mentioned, this committee or most of the
15 guys that's on this committee I guess had incorporated
16 a group effort between local -- with local knowledge
17 and local observers to go with the people that were
18 tabulating the numbers. And due to weather conditions,
19 the season and everything else, the local people
20 knowing where the animals were, increased the count by
21 twofold, as you can see, you know, it's shown there.
22 And this practice has been going on for -- I don't know
23 if they're still doing it any more, but it was up until
24 -- I know up until last year at least that they were,
25 you know, recruiting locals to go with them on their
26 observations.

27

28 And if you go back a couple more years,
29 you look at the numbers, you had 10,000 numbers there,
30 but they kind of ate themselves out of house and home.
31 The whole habitat crashed. And it's taken them a while
32 to come back.

33

34 And last fall during our meeting in
35 Kodiak, I had asked if this group, not to touch the
36 subsistence end of it, but to look at what's happening
37 in the sports hunt. Once we'd opened up that area for
38 a subsistence hunt on Federal lands, the State spun
39 right around after a 10-year closure and opened it up.
40 And we've got about six guides working out of there,
41 and I know one at least 30 bulls out of a small area.
42 And that's really impacts the number of animals in the
43 area.

44

45 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Thanks, Paul. Any
46 more comments.

47

48 MR. CRATTY: Yeah, I just wanted to
49 state for the record that when we worked on this in
50 1996, we were down to where there were no animals. And

1 like Paul was saying, the year later they come out with
2 a subsistence hunt, and then the State, you know,
3 looking here at the harvest and everything, you can see
4 where Federal registration permit through the years has
5 only taken 100 and some animals, and then the State
6 general permitting system taken almost four times over.
7 I just wanted to put that in for record.

8

9

CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Jim.

10

11

MR. HAMILTON: Mr. Chair, I was
12 assuming most of these counts were done by aerial
13 survey, but it sounds like it's more complex than that.
14 I'm just wondering if somebody can address how these
15 counts came to be, or where the numbers come from? Are
16 they on the ground? Are they aerial? Both?

17

18

MS. GREFFENIUS: Yeah, as far as the
19 Izembek counts, those are aerial surveys. And then the
20 composition counts that the State does, my
21 understanding is they're aerial surveys as well. But I
22 will let the refuge manager from Izembek be able to
23 detail just exactly how they conduct the aerial
24 surveys, and that will help out.

25

26

MS. SIEKANIEC: Yeah, Mr. Chairman.
27 There's a variety of things going on with these
28 numbers, and we have tried to go back into the record
29 to see how some of the surveys were done.

30

31

The majority of the later surveys are
32 done by aerial survey methods, and we have transect
33 lines that we cover, trying to cover all of the areas
34 We try to focus on the winter surveys, because a lot of
35 the caribou have moved out of the higher elevations,
36 and they're easier to count at that point when there's
37 snow on the ground.

38

39

But I know some of these past numbers,
40 some of them came out of surveys in the summer. Some
41 of them came out of surveys in the fall. Some of them
42 were road surveys. So there's a variety of things
43 here.

44

45

I guess what I would like to show is
46 what we're looking at is the trend, not necessarily
47 total numbers, but what's the trend. Is it going up,
48 is it going down. And also looking at what the State's
49 doing with the composition counts as far as the calf
50 numbers are dropping, and that's where our concern

1 comes in.

2

3 MR. HAMILTON: Yeah, okay. I just
4 misunderstood. I mean, Paul was talking about local
5 residents counting on the ground. I was just wondering
6 if that was part -- I was just trying to understand if
7 that was part of these numbers here but apparently.....

8

9

10 MR. GUNDERSEN: Actually they were
11 incorporated with (indiscernible, mic not on) in the
12 aircraft. Yeah, they were with the U.S. Fish and
13 Wildlife biologist who was doing the aerial surveys.

14

15 MR. HAMILTON: So those numbers were
16 somehow incorporated -- I'm sorry. So these numbers
17 were somehow incorporated into the aerial surveys, or
18 -- that's what I'm trying to understand.

19

20 MR. GUNDERSEN: That was the aerial
21 surveys. They were in the aircraft flying these
22 transects lines that she was talking about.

23

24 MR. HAMILTON: I see. Were in planes
25 with Fish and Wildlife aircraft, or air taxis or
26 whatever?

27

28 MR. GUNDERSEN: Yeah, whatever they
29 were using at the time.

30

31 MR. HAMILTON: I see. I've gotcha.
32 Thank you.

33

34 MS. SIEKANIEC: Yeah, Mr. Chairman.
35 What Paul is talking about is one year there was
36 concerns about what the number of fluctuations were
37 going on. We typically have a Cub and it only fits one
38 person, but because people were interested in having
39 the local communities involved in the counts, we got
40 another plane involved. So we had both planes up at
41 the same time, and they were surveying similar areas,
42 and overlapping and covering, you know, the entire
43 areas. So we did have observers in one of the planes,
44 and then we had our own biologist in the other plane.
45 And we did get some fairly good numbers.

46

47 Our challenges are we only have a Cub,
48 that's what we typically use. And weather does play a
49 factor in how much of the area we can cover each year.

50

1 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I have a
2 question. These declining calf numbers, that to me is
3 more alarming than population size. And I'm wondering,
4 is the peninsula reflective of other parts of the
5 State, particularly Bristol Bay, Y-K, where we've have
6 had a big increase in predation? Because either you're
7 losing calves to either improper ratios, but your
8 ratios don't look bad, or disease or it's too cold and
9 they're freezing their buns off, or they're getting et.
10 What's happening? Any conjecture or data?

11
12 MR. BUTLER: Excuse me. Mr. Chair.
13 Members of the Council. Again for the record, my name
14 is Lem Butler.

15
16 Having experience with a larger area, I
17 deal with five different caribou herds, three of which
18 are currently declining. Southern Alaska Peninsula
19 Caribou Herd's declining. The Northern Alaska
20 Peninsula Caribou Herd's declining, as well as the
21 Mulchatna. All are showing lower calf ratios. The
22 Northern Peninsula Caribou Herd most closely mirrors
23 what the Southern Peninsula Herd's doing in terms of
24 calf numbers. Mulchatna is showing slightly better
25 statistics still at this point.

26
27 All these herds are showing signs of
28 declined productivity, so the females just aren't
29 pregnant at the levels you would expect during
30 population increases. The calf weights through either
31 direct measure just after birth in the case of the
32 Southern Peninsula Caribou Herd, or as measured in the
33 fall during radio collaring in Mulchatna, Southern
34 Peninsula, and Northern Peninsula, all their calf
35 weights are depressed at this point. So both the
36 evidence of, again, decreased productivity, pregnancy
37 rates, and decreased calf weights, certainly suggest
38 that there's nutritional stress involved, and that
39 nutritional stress may be associated with habitat
40 limitations in terms of directly in relation to
41 carrying capacity, or they may involve disease, which
42 an stress an animal.

43
44 We're certainly seeing evidence of that
45 in the Northern Peninsula Herd. We currently have a
46 study up there to determine if disease is a
47 contributing factor, or if it's just again a range
48 limitation. So hopefully we'll have more information
49 on these things for you in the future.

50

1 We are seeing a fair amount of
2 mortality associated with predation in these herds.
3 It's not at an abnormally high level in contrast to
4 other populations. For example, in the Northern Alaska
5 Peninsula Caribou Herd, we lose about 40 percent of our
6 -- or, excuse me, 60 percent of our calves to brown
7 bear and wolf predation during the first two weeks of
8 life. A lot of populations in the State increase with
9 a 50 percent mortality rate during the first two weeks
10 of life, so it's not -- it's an elevated level, but
11 it's not significant in contrast again increasing
12 populations.

13
14 MR. HOLMES: Thank you very much.
15 That's a lot of good information.

16
17 MR. CRATTY: I'd like to state for my
18 record, back in '96 when we had just come to the table
19 and we were at King Cove, there was a lot of debate
20 from the people on the subsistence use end, and I'd
21 sure like to make sure that they've all -- they all was
22 able to subsist on what they need. I'd just like to
23 put that in the record.

24
25 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Any more
26 comments.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: We'll have
31 the.....

32
33 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair, if I may just
34 comment on what was talked about prior in terms of the
35 population counts. Having again some more robust
36 experience with these counts, really the best way to
37 look at the populations sizes is as a trend. When we
38 go out there, we try to enumerate all the caribou, but
39 obviously you're limited. You can never accurately
40 count every single caribou. So what we present to you
41 is a minimum population estimate. It's not a
42 reflection necessarily of the population size as a
43 whole.

44
45 There's going to be annual variation
46 with surveys. You certainly can't double a caribou
47 population over the course of a year, so you're right
48 in pointing out that there's some variability in there
49 that reflects sampling error.

50

1 But again, what we're really looking at
2 with the -- and trying to relate to you is more just
3 the trend. Is the population increasing or decreasing,
4 which was meant -- which was pointed out. Population
5 status increasing or decreasing is much more important
6 than population size. You can have 2,000 caribou in an
7 increasing population, and you'd want to have a cow
8 hunt. 2,000 caribou in a decreasing population, and
9 you may want to consider, you know restricting a hunt.

10
11

12 So very I think good comments from the
13 Council, and hopefully that provides a little bit more
14 information for you as well.

15
16 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.
17 Any more comments.

18
19

20 MR. HAMILTON: Mr. Chairman. I would
21 like to ask Lem one more question. Yeah, I understand
22 what you're getting about about the trends here. Do
23 you have any information on rough harvest the last --
24 harvest trends the last two or three years as far as
25 resident sport hunter versus non-resident sport hunter
26 versus subsistence hunter? I mean, just how those
27 numbers add up the last two or three years, if there's
28 an increase or decrease one way or another?

29
30

31 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. Members of the
32 Council. I do have that data.

33
34

35 Looking at the history back to 2000,
36 there are no significant changes in success according
37 to residency classes. Non-residents on average take 22
38 caribou. Non-local Alaska residents take 15. And
39 local residents, according to the reported harvest, are
40 taking 21. And I think generally it's pretty well
41 accepted the local harvest isn't always reported, so
42 that may not be a very good reflection of what the
43 actual harvest is, but at least in terms of again
44 what's reported to us, there doesn't seem to be any
45 significant fluctuation.

46
47

48 MR. HAMILTON: So that was the 2000
49 number?

50
51

52 MR. BUTLER: That's the average if you
53 look at the.....

54
55

56 MR. HAMILTON: From 2000 to now?

1 MR. BUTLER: 2000 to 2004 regulatory
2 years, right, so that's a five-year span.

3
4 MR. HAMILTON: Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.
7 Any more comments.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Any more -- does
12 that complete your Department of Fish and Game comments
13 then?

14
15 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. I could read
16 Fish and Game's comments into the record for you at
17 this time.

18
19 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Sure.

20
21 MR. BUTLER: With regards to Proposal
22 WP06-19, excuse me, I had to look at this one more
23 time, the Department recommends that this proposal not
24 be supported. This proposal would reduce the harvest
25 limit in 9(D) from two caribou to one bull and close
26 Federal lands to hunting by non-Federally-qualified
27 subsistence users. The Department of Fish and Game
28 does not believe that a closure of Federal lands to
29 non-Federally-qualified hunters is necessary at this
30 time, but does support a reduction in the harvest
31 limit.

32
33 The Department offers qualified support
34 for this proposal as modified by the Federal Staff to
35 allow the harvest of either one bull in the fall
36 season, or one antlerless caribou in the winter season.
37 This would align State and Federal harvest limits and
38 simplify the regulations.

39
40 However, the department will evaluate
41 the composition of the 2005-2006 harvest, and if many
42 cow caribou are being taken under the antlerless
43 harvest, we will recommend that it be discontinued as a
44 State hunt -- for the State hunt. Elimination of the
45 cow harvest is essential to slow the population
46 decline, and to prevent herd numbers from falling below
47 the 2,500 level, at which time the Southern Alaska
48 Peninsula Caribou Herd Management Plan would call for
49 all hunts to be closed.

50

1 With regards to WP06-20, the Department
2 recommends taking no action based on actions taken in
3 WP06-19. This Department of Fish and Game proposal
4 addresses a conservation concern for caribou in 9(D)
5 and was written before composition surveys were
6 conducted in October of 2005 and new population counts
7 had been completed. In view of current population
8 estimates of 2,600 between both the Southern Alaska
9 Peninsula Caribou Herd and the Unimak Caribou Herd,
10 reducing the harvest limit to one bull is appropriate
11 for slowing the population decline and allowing it to
12 fall to a level at which all harvesting must be
13 curtailed and preventing it from falling to that level.

14
15

16 And that concludes the Staff comments.

17
18

19 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.
20 Are there any questions or comments?

21
22

23 MR. ROHRER: Mr. Chair. I have a
24 question for Lem. You just read on Page 59 in view of
25 the current population estimate of 2600 caribou for the
26 Southern Alaska Peninsula Herd, you said and the Unimak
27 Herd. But mine doesn't say and the Unimak Herd. Is
28 that 2600 animals, is that including Unimak?

29
30

31 MR. BUTLER: Yeah, that's correct. Not
32 being the one that authored this, I guess that was
33 overlooked when it was put down.

34
35

36 MR. ROHRER: Okay. But that
37 should.....

38
39

40 MR. BUTLER: It should.....

41
42

43 MR. ROHRER: And so these numbers we're
44 looking at back on Page 53 of 1600, that's strictly for
45 the 9(D) caribou, not including -- the rest of those
46 animals are all on Unimak to make up that 2600?

47
48

49 MR. BUTLER: Correct. About 1,000 are
50 estimated to be on Unimak at this point.

51
52

53 MR. ROHRER: Okay. Thanks.

54
55

56 MR. GUNDERSEN: You were saying that on
57 this proposal -- it's on -- that 2500 would be the
58 threshold, the number. And so we're at 2600 with a
59 combined herd. There's 100 animals sitting out there

1 before complete closure as I understand what you're
2 saying. And it's really hard to -- my understanding by
3 sitting on this Board was looking out for the interests
4 of the subsistence user. When you see 20 Super Cubs
5 coming in all loaded up to go out and to harvest
6 caribou, and you tell the subsistence user that he has
7 to cut back so that they can get their animal, it's
8 pretty hard to sell. It's tough. It's a tough job. I
9 live on both ends of this spectrum, so I know what I'm
10 talking about.

11

12 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Pat.

13

14 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. Lem. I was
15 wondering what your local advisory committees at False
16 Pass and King Cove and Sand Point, what's been their
17 input on this? Do you have something similar like we
18 have in Kodiak where they have a coffee klatch, or, you
19 know, what's kind of the feelings that you're getting
20 from your advisory committees?

21

22 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. Members of the
23 Council. The local fish and game advisory committees
24 haven't met on wildlife issues for a number of years.
25 I couldn't even tell you when the last meeting actually
26 occurred, so we don't have any input from a local
27 advisory committee for Fish and Game.

28

29 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. Maybe Stanley
30 should shake people and tell them there's a point for
31 input rather than grousing after it's all done.

32

33 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: The only time
34 those advisory committees get active out there is if
35 it's got fins on it.

36

37 MR. CRATTY: I'd just like to put in a
38 comment. This has got to be looked at really serious
39 for the State and the Federal. With this fishery, crab
40 fish rationalization, and jobs being cut, people in
41 these communities are going to need to subsist more and
42 more. I know taking subsistence away from me would be
43 devastating. And I think the people around here feel
44 the same way.

45

46 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, go ahead.

47

48 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. I think both
49 the State and Federal Governments would agree with
50 that, and hopefully these are all issues that we'll

1 address with a revamping of the management plan. The
2 current management plan calls for closing both hunts
3 when the population falls below 2,500 in combination.
4 That's the Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd and
5 Unimak Caribou Herd. The population objective is for
6 5,000 caribou. That would call for a complete closure
7 of the hunt when the population's only declined by 50
8 percent. So these are certainly issues that we'd like
9 to address, and I believe the Federal Government will
10 be interested in trying to adjust things to allow for
11 continued opportunity of subsistence users.

12

13 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I'm
14 really concerned about the numbers here on the half per
15 100 cows. I mean, that -- the last three years is
16 very, very low. And then on the other hand, I'm also
17 very concerned about the subsistence users. Based on
18 these numbers in the appendix on Page 57, you know,
19 there's three times of caribou being taken by State
20 general permits.

21

22 You know, based on that, I feel we
23 ought to -- and talking to some of my friends from out
24 at King Cove, they have no problem with going with just
25 two bulls instead of two caribou. So I'm going to make
26 a motion to amend the proposed regulation to two bulls
27 by Federal registration permit, Federal public lands
28 are closed to hunting of caribou except by Federally-
29 qualified subsistence users hunting under these
30 regulations.

31

32 MR. GUNDERSEN: I'll second.

33

34 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: So we don't get
35 lost, let's the regulation or whatever one it is, 19,
36 is that the one you're addressing?

37

38 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yes. 19.

39

40 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Let's get that on
41 as a motion.

42

43 MR. SQUARTSOFF: WP06-19.

44

45 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Let's get it in as
46 a motion before you amend it. You can't amend
47 something that hasn't been moved yet.

48

49 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Oh, okay.

50

1 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: So we don't get
2 into that argument of what was amended and what we
3 voted for again. And keep all of this in line.
4
5 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I'm sorry. Yeah, I'll
6 take a step back. I'll make a motion to.....
7
8 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Adopt WP06-19?
9
10 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Right.
11
12 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Put that on the
13 record.
14
15 MR. SQUARTSOFF: To adopt WP06-19.
16
17 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Yes. Go ahead.
18
19 MS. GREFFENIUS: Just to clarify, if
20 you say to adopt WP06-19 as it was proposed by the
21 Council, or as it's with the Staff -- support with
22 modification?
23
24 MR. SQUARTSOFF: No, the proposed
25 regulation.
26
27 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: By regulation,
28 just.....
29
30 MS. GREFFENIUS: As it was
31 originally.....
32
33 MR. SQUARTSOFF: On Page 49.
34
35 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Right. Page 49.
36
37 MS. GREFFENIUS: Okay. All right.
38
39 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, Page 49. We
40 had a motion moved. Was it seconded to adopt?
41
42 MR. GUNDERSEN: Second.
43
44 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Paul did.
45
46 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Paul. Okay. All
47 those in favor -- okay. Now you go to discussion.
48 Okay. Now you could do your amendments or changes.
49 I'll try and get it done. Oh, we haven't finished our
50 protocol sheet. So that's fine. It's on the record.

1 At least we're talking about this particular motion.
2 And now we'll have -- are you done then?

3

4 MR. HOLMES: I have one question.

5

6 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: You have another
7 question. Okay. We're still on Alaska Department of
8 Fish and Game comments.

9

10 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. I have a question
11 for Glenn (sic), and I'm wondering if in this
12 discussion here, it's too bad that there aren't
13 advisory committee things going on. While I still --
14 maybe you could say some of them are Area M caribou or
15 something that have moved to AYK, I don't know.

16

17 I wonder if there's some potential
18 middle grounds where perhaps like in Kodiak sometimes
19 adjusting the State season a tad would give an
20 advantage to local hunters and still provide for, you
21 know, some balance. And I'm wondering if you could
22 move the seasons more into let's say a winter season on
23 sport hunt to some extent to -- and then maybe have a
24 stepped approach, and have a later season that would be
25 more advantageous for King Cove, False Pass and, you
26 know Peninsula hunters. And then if the population
27 gets worse, then have that in your management plan that
28 you just close the whole thing down if it got worse at
29 that point, but it would still, you know, kind of allow
30 for both user groups to access the critters. I'm just
31 wondering if, you know, some mutual discussion in that
32 area might be a feasible solution here. Because if it
33 gets worse, I certainly would go along with closing the
34 Federal lands, but, you know, I know a couple folks
35 that participate in that, and, you know, native and
36 non-native, and so, you know, it's -- any, is there a
37 place that compromise could be worked out?

38

39 I don't know if at our level we cannot
40 address the State deal. We can only address the
41 Federal deal, opening and closing. And right now we're
42 trying to get in line with the State, and it would take
43 the local advisory Boards to attend the Fish and Game
44 meetings and request certain dates to opened and closed
45 which we could support at a later date.

46

47 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. It certainly
48 would be within the purview of this Council if they
49 wished to submit a proposal to the Board of Game. And
50 I'd certainly welcome proposals to modify the State

1 regulations. I'd like to see the State hunt closed in
2 October as you get closer to the rut. I think that
3 would certainly be an appropriate thing to suggest
4 Possibly you could propose closure of the State winter
5 season, which I think would address some of the local
6 issues that have been expressed from Cold Bay area by
7 the refuge and several others. The influx of a few
8 non-locals during the winter. So I think that there
9 are certainly avenues that you could take there that
10 the Board of Game may be receptive to, and I'd be
11 certainly willing to work with folks.

12
13 I'd like to point out though for the
14 record that the harvest on Page 58 goes all the way
15 back to 1983, during the last population increase when
16 we were looking at a harvest of over 1,000 caribou per
17 year when the population was maxing out. Harvests have
18 never returned to these levels. This appendix I
19 believe is a misrepresentation of what's currently
20 happening out there. Again right now it appears that
21 harvest has averaged a mere 60 animals under the State
22 hunt, and that's including local subsistence hunting.
23 Those are incorporated in to these figures that I'm
24 presenting to you. At these levels, we're really not
25 putting a significant dent in the population, and you
26 can see that by looking at the bull to cow ratio, which
27 is well within management objectives, and hasn't
28 diminished. Closing Federal lands isn't going to
29 influence or have a significant impact on non-local
30 hunters, and I don't think it's really going to help
31 the population as much as it may seem when you think
32 about it before considering those numbers. So again, I
33 just wanted to point that out so that the Council's
34 working with a good sound base here as they consider
35 changes.

36
37 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Mr. Chair.
38 Well, my response to that, my concern about that was
39 the 2003, 2004 and 2005 calf to cow ratio, and that's
40 going to be coming up here in the very near future. So
41 there's definitely going to be a decline in the over-
42 all population. And so if we could slow down the
43 harvest, that's definitely going to help that down the
44 line, if we go to just two bulls instead of cows.

45
46 MR. BUTLER: Correct. Yeah. Mr.
47 Chair. And that's directly in line with the direction
48 that the Department of Fish and Game would like to see,
49 just elimination of the cow season is the most
50 important objective due to this conservation concern of

1 the cal of calves coming into the population. Bulls,
2 of course, are not as critical to a population as the
3 females, and as long as you have enough males to not
4 limit reproduction, the bull harvest is not having a
5 significant impact on the herd, and again that's why I
6 point to that bull to cow ratio in relation to the bull
7 harvest. But you're absolutely right, the low calf
8 ratio is a big concern, and anything we can do to
9 improve it, including trying to increase cow survival
10 is I think an appropriate action at this point.

11

12 MR. CRATTY: Does the State have a
13 registration hunt or is it a drawing hunt? Or do you
14 guys give out as many permits as you want?

15

16 MR. BUTLER: Currently the State season
17 is a general harvest ticket, so anyone can come out and
18 hunt at this point. So that would be another thing to
19 propose if this Council is interested in submitting any
20 changes to the Board of Game.

21

22 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. Is there
23 any concern about going to a drawing hunt for the
24 State?

25

26 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. Members of the
27 Council. The State can certainly consider it. I don't
28 have any strong feelings one way or the other. I'm not
29 sure -- I can't speak for the Board of Game obviously,
30 and what they might decide, but it certainly would be
31 something that can -- that we could consider. Uh-huh.

32

33

34 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I'm thinking
35 out loud. The reason that I'm looking for some -- or I
36 think we might want to consider some middle point,
37 obviously we can, you know, go with this proposal and
38 close the lands, but I think in terms of game and fish
39 management in the State since statehood, and often
40 when, you know, closures come about, sometimes things
41 get stirred up and little baby steps sometimes like we
42 did with the goats or Kodiak deer. A little bit of the
43 time went to restrict things, sometimes ends up getting
44 more support.

45

46 On a question of going to drawing
47 hunts, at least in watching umpteen Board of Game
48 meetings, that's a big philosophical step.
49 Registration hunts allow pretty much for access. And
50 so I guess I would punt this whole out loud thinking to

1 our guide folks and ask for some of their thoughts,
2 inputs on a philosophy on how to address this.

3

4 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: No comments?

5

6 MR. ROHRER: Mr. Chair. My only
7 comment, I hate to see us be too hasty in closing the
8 Federal lands to all the users. I certainly -- if it
9 comes to it, I have no problem closing it to just allow
10 the subsistence users. But the more I look at these
11 numbers, the population estimates jump all over. And
12 you look at the harvest, it's 60 animals per year.
13 It's not a very high harvest. And it seems to me we
14 have a little bit of room in here to cut it down just
15 doing the one bull by Federal registration permit,
16 leave that open to everyone. Give it another year. If
17 the numbers quit -- or keep declining, I'm all for
18 closing it to the Federal-qual -- or closing it to just
19 subsistence users. But I think it's too big of a jump
20 to go right now from two caribou to only one bull for
21 Federal subsistence users. So I would -- I like the
22 Staff recommendation of support with modification to
23 amend the harvest limits and eliminate the proposed
24 closure. So I recommend we follow the Staff
25 recommendation.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Any more
30 comment. Fish and Game?

31

32 MR. BUTLER: That concludes my
33 testimony. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.
36 Other Federal, State and tribal agency comments.

37

38 MS. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair. My name is
39 Sandra Siekaniec. I'm the manager at the Izembek
40 Refuge. And I'd like to provide you some additional
41 information for your consideration.

42

43 On Page 102 of your book, I do have an
44 agency report, and the first part of that does have
45 some additional information about caribou presented
46 mostly in a different way than the other present-- was
47 presented.

48

49 You know, it does show our numbers,
50 what we counted. It also shows a graph going with the

1 current management plan that includes Unimak, and
2 giving you a guide of where the thresholds are.

3
4 The other thing that I wanted to do was
5 because the meeting was not going to be held in King
6 Cove, I decided to make myself available to the
7 communities to find out what their comments might be
8 for this Board. So I also did write a memo. I'm not
9 sure if -- it's been passed out, on community visits
10 that I did.

11
12 I was able to go to Nelson Lagoon. I
13 met with them and gave the proposals to them as well as
14 the information. They, of course, as everybody has
15 been saying, had concerns about the guides. They felt
16 that there was a guide in the area near them that had
17 take 30 caribou, and that's where their main concern
18 was. They said that the guide had attempted to provide
19 them with the meat, but the meat was not any good by
20 the time they received it.

21
22 One concern that I had, and I brought
23 it up to them, was that if the Federal lands are
24 closed, which is only 40 percent of this area, that
25 will move people into the State areas and the
26 corporation lands. And the State areas are totally
27 surrounding Nelson Lagoon. So I had a concern that
28 that may impact them even further. I'm not sure, but
29 it's a possibility.

30
31 They felt that they were seeing more
32 calves, and I'm not sure how to evaluate that, other
33 than the caribou are cyclic. They do move around a
34 lot, so they could be seeing more caribou with calves.
35 I'm not sure.

36
37 They also mentioned that there were
38 some wolves in the area becoming very brave. They come
39 into town. So they were concerned about that as well.

40
41
42 I thought that they were concerned
43 enough about this issue that they were going to have a
44 representative here at this meeting, and apparently
45 they were unable to do this.

46
47 They do want to maintain their
48 subsistence right, and I think that's their biggest
49 concern.

50

1 They suggested that the State should
2 restrict the number of guides and hunters in the unit
3 by possibly having tag permits. So that was one of
4 their recommendations.

5
6 I did try to go to King Cove, and
7 unfortunately I only had one participant at that
8 meeting.

9
10 I was able to talk to an individual who
11 lived in King Cove and had moved into Cold Bay. He
12 thought that there were about 10 fishermen with boats
13 that came over from King Cove to harvest caribou for
14 the community. So it's a very small part of the
15 community, but I still think it's a usable -- something
16 that they need to survive as well.

17
18 There were some concerns in Cold Bay,
19 and it's kind of hard, because the easiest place to get
20 these caribou is when they come into Cold Bay, because
21 there's a road system there. So as soon as a
22 population will move in or a group will move in,
23 immediately you have people going out there to harvest.
24 We saw a lot of harvesting, and it's -- I can't tell,
25 because I wasn't there last year, but, you know, one
26 individual was thought to have taken 30 caribou. He
27 did a designated hunter permit, so he could be taking
28 for somebody else.

29
30 We did hear some waste issues that
31 people were finding caribou that hadn't been taken care
32 of in the burn barrel, and apparently, you know, not
33 using the meat.

34
35 There was also a concern that because
36 of the antlerless hunt, some cows were taken in the
37 later season. And that was a concern to the community.

38
39 Let's see, other things that were
40 brought up in Cold Bay. They suggested doing the
41 surveys with photo surveys, and that is a potential.
42 We do have that option. We need to see if we can get a
43 camera in our plane.

44
45 Another suggestion once again was to do
46 the local spotters, and we will look into that as well.

47
48 There was also some concerns about
49 disease, white cysts found in some of the heart of the
50 caribou that's been harvested.

1 Let's see. Another thing that was
2 mentioned, and I know I probably have to refer to Lem
3 on this one, was there have been people who have seen
4 the caribou move from 9(D) to 10, which is Unimak
5 Island. And I think genetics has cleared up that these
6 are two separate populations, but I'm not certain on
7 this. But that was one thing that was mentioned.

8
9 I wasn't able to get to False Pass, so
10 I did not get their information.

11
12 One other thing, too, that I have a
13 concern about is that all the harvest information is
14 not reported. We have not been getting reports back in
15 from subsistence users, so we have no idea what the
16 communities need. And I think that would assist us if
17 we could try to get them to report a little bit better
18 so that we know how to do our management plan that we
19 can provide for this resource for them.

20
21 And I guess that's all I have. Mr.
22 Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Any questions.
25 Comments. Paul.

26
27 MR. GUNDERSEN: Thank you. That was a
28 -- yes, we do have to get the reporting methods a
29 little bit clarified I guess. The number of animals
30 that's been used in the area. Mr. Mack over here,
31 Mayor, he can probably attest to this whole thing, is
32 that what are you going to find in a lot of these
33 communities. The locals are afraid to use numbers.
34 And in the past the use of numbers has always turned
35 around and bit us right in our behind. And so it's --
36 you're not going to get a straight answer. But these
37 times and dates and the way things are going, to be
38 fair and equal to everybody, that they've got to be --
39 you know, there's got to be a better reporting system.

40
41 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Sam.

42
43 MR. ROHRER: Sandra, two comments. The
44 first one from Nelson Lagoon talked about guides
45 bringing in meat to the village that wasn't usable. I
46 hope that you guys are looking into that. That's
47 wanton waste and needs to be absolutely put a stop to.
48 I certainly hope that you guys along with Protection
49 will be looking into that, to put a stop to that,
50 because that shouldn't be tolerated for anyone,

1 especially for guides. I really hope you look into
2 that.

3
4 The second thing, I'm a little unsure
5 on the numbers here. They complained about a guide who
6 harvested 40 bulls, but according to LEM there was only
7 15 non-residents that even had harvest tickets. And I
8 think my number's right, you said 15 non-resident and
9 21 or 22 residents, which anyway still only adds up to
10 37. That's three short of 40 guides. What's --
11 there's a discrepancy with the numbers. Any ideas
12 there?

13
14 MS. SIEKANIEC: Yeah. I guess it's
15 kind of hard for us to tell. This is information I'm
16 getting second and third hand. I just wanted to make
17 sure it was in the record that they had concerns about
18 issues with guides.

19
20 You are correct, we do need to be
21 keeping an eye on that area. It seems to be there's
22 other issues, too, that were coming up, and that I'm
23 going to be focusing in on that area I think sometime
24 this next year.

25
26 MR. ROHRER: Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you
29 very much. Yeah, I'd like to thank you for your
30 report. I think it's something that we've been asking
31 for a long time from Izembek. And hopefully this will
32 help us to make some of our decisions, because we do --
33 sometimes we don't hear from King Cove, or if we do,
34 it's usually after the fact and they're pounding on the
35 table and then we try to resolve it. But thank you for
36 your information.

37
38 Any more comments. Pat.

39
40 MR. HOLMES: I was -- not for you
41 ladies, I appreciate it. But I was wondering if
42 Stanley has kind of any wise, omniscient perceptions on
43 all this, or if you've chatted with folks further west
44 or -- you've always been kind of a problem solver. I
45 don't know if you can do this one, but what do you
46 think, Stan?

47
48 MR. MACK: (Indiscernible, mic not on)

49
50 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, we have

1 space there for him to talk on here. You're taking
2 over my job here, too. I just handed you that deal
3 there.

4
5 Okay. The next one is InterAgency
6 Staff Committee.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: None. Fish and
11 game advisory committee comments.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: None. Summary of
16 written public comments.

17
18 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 There were no written public comments received.

20
21 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Now we have public
22 testimony, and I guess a request to have -- Stanley,
23 you can give us some input. We won't have you fill out
24 the form right now.

25
26 MR. MACK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
27 Members of the Board. I'll try my best to summarize
28 this, or not take up all your time, and hoping I can
29 add some light to the situation with the caribou. My
30 name is Stanley Mack, for the record. I reside here at
31 Sand Point. Born and raised in King Cove. And I've
32 been a subsistence hunter all my life.

33
34 Your situation with the caribou is
35 similar to the situation that the AMBCC Board is
36 working with with the migratory birds. I can
37 sympathize with your dilemma with the caribou, because
38 we have the same situation there.

39
40 Paul is so right, that when you go into
41 a community, everybody has that perception of here
42 comes the bad guys, and it's sad, simply because of the
43 past experiences that the folks have had. It's been
44 handed down. We have the same situation with the
45 Migratory Bird Co-management Council. We couldn't get
46 numbers, absolutely could not get numbers. No one
47 wants to give out numbers. And as most indicated, it
48 might turn around and bite you. And it has bitten us a
49 couple of times.

50

1 So with that, we've had a tremendous
2 time trying to acquire numbers for the count. And we
3 expressed our concern that we don't get the numbers,
4 they're going to have to guess at what we're taking.
5 And we finally came the conclusion that we'd appoint
6 people in the communities to help out, because if one
7 of your own kind comes back and asks you for some
8 numbers, usually you get an answer. But someone from
9 the outside coming in, you're not getting the time of
10 day. It has been changing, but it's very slow. Very,
11 very slow.

12
13 With the caribou situation, I've always
14 had a problem. Well, with all hunting. I've never
15 been a sports hunter. Everything that I shot went home
16 and went in the freezer. We ate it. So that was a
17 hard thing to swallow when you see these guys going and
18 the State allows this hunt to go on, and we see only
19 them horns coming in and being shipped out. For many
20 years there was no monitoring of the meat. It was
21 probably left out there for the animals, you know. I
22 won't say one way or the other what happened.

23
24 For the last few years that I worked
25 over at Cold Bay, the last 15 years I worked over
26 there, I seen many, many horns pass through Cold Bay on
27 its way out. Within the last five years, I've seen a
28 change where there was some meat coming in. But up
29 until that time, I had not seen any. And it was very
30 hard for me to swallow that, because I can't understand
31 the difference between sports hunting and subsistence
32 hunting. I had the opportunity to go sports hunting,
33 it would be subsistence hunting for me. But it doesn't
34 mean that to this young lady that lives somewhere else
35 I'm sure.

36
37 So I don't know how to put a handle on
38 it just yet, but it's very hard, and I think we ought
39 to take a look at maybe the State and the Federal
40 Government ought to get together and work something out
41 so that if you're going to stop George from hunting,
42 stop Ralph, too. I don't know the solution to that,
43 but that's a suggestion.

44
45 We're trying desperately to do that
46 with migratory birds now. We've allowed sports hunting
47 and disallowed subsistence hunting. The numbers of
48 takes are different in the subsistence hunts than they
49 are with sports hunts in many cases in the State. Not
50 out in our area. We're still working on that, and I

1 think we've got a great management team that is trying
2 desperately to preserve the wildlife and the waterfowl
3 here.

4
5 But I think your guidance, and again
6 we'll get back to the local participation, and I think
7 you folks at the Board level here, have seen the change
8 in the numbers when there was local folks out there
9 observing and counting. I've seen that number jump.
10 Well, you can see it in your books, the difference in
11 the numbers where they went from that 1,000 to 4,000.
12 I think it was some local guys from King Cover went out
13 up on the flight that time, and they counted them.

14
15 Time and place for counts I guess is
16 very important. And I don't know if they do one in the
17 spring and the fall or in the winter or when it is, but
18 I think there could be some improvement there.
19 Something to look at. But until you shut the door on
20 people who live off the fat of the land, you ought to
21 examine the entire package as to who's taking what and
22 who's being held accountable for what's happening, as
23 the testimony came out of Nelson Lagoon.

24
25 And I don't doubt that one bit, that
26 there was meat brought in that wasn't fit for human
27 consumption. I've seen it in Cold Bay. It gets warm,
28 it's warm during that time of the year. And if an
29 animal's out there for just one day, it's bad meat.

30
31 So some of the things that I think
32 would be real helpful is to monitor this stuff a lot
33 closer, and then get together with the Department of
34 Fish and Game and set up regulations that would kind of
35 help you guys make a decision in order to preserve the
36 animal population.

37
38 Thank you. Have you got any questions.

39
40 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Well, thanks a
41 lot, Stanley. I know you've got a lot of information,
42 and we appreciate you sharing your knowledge with us.

43
44 And some of the issues, and I agree
45 with you, you know, a lot of our subsistence users will
46 not talk to people from the outside. And we do --
47 we've instituted in some cases, you know, people in the
48 communities to report back to State Fish and Game.
49 Catches on seals, birds and fish.

50

1 MR. MACK: Just along that line,
2 Vincent. We try to address, instead of an individual
3 take, it became a community take, and that seemed to
4 have helped us a lot more in the migratory birds
5 anyway. We're starting to get more reporting now from
6 communities, instead of Peter taking, so Al taking
7 some, or Pete taking some, it's the community's taken
8 some. I think your brother has been working -- or
9 Herman's been working on that. It goes that way, and
10 it seems to be opening a little bit more in regard to,
11 instead of an individual taking, as the young man who
12 was a designated hunter took 30 caribou, which it's a
13 possibility, but he was a designated hunter. Now,
14 whether that goes communitywide -- it could work for
15 you. That might work, that might help. It seems to be
16 working for the migratory birds, anyway. At least
17 we're getting a better count on them. And we won't get
18 an exact count, I can guarantee you, but at least it's
19 a start. It's helping us.

20
21 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Get rid of them
22 shotgun shells you've been carrying around in your
23 pocket then.

24
25 MR. MACK: I need them for weight. The
26 wind is blowing.

27
28 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Windy, yeah.
29 Thanks, Stan. Appreciate your comments. Paul.

30
31 MR. GUNDERSEN: This South Peninsula
32 Caribou Herd thing is really -- and even the North
33 Peninsula Caribou Herd, it's really a tough to argue
34 about, because it's a fairly balanced herd, but
35 listening to what Glenn (sic) was saying, that the
36 cow/calf ratio -- I mean, the cow/bull ratio was pretty
37 good, but the calf recruitment's real low. I mean, if
38 you look at the overall spectrum of the animal
39 composition, it's really hard to cut out a sports hunt,
40 you know, with the number of bulls per ratio of cows,
41 but the whole picture's shrinking, you know, and it's
42 just -- the locals really get pretty excited about it
43 when that happens.

44
45 MR. MACK: Just one more comment, just
46 in regard to the time of the sports hunt. I know it's
47 the spring of the year, and I don't know if that's the
48 particular time when the cows are starting to calf, or
49 are they still carrying calves, because when you go out
50 there and hunt and shoot into a herd of caribou, and if

1 you're -- these animals are like humans. Any kind of
2 startling activity could cause a miscarriage. I just
3 thought I'd throw that out. I don't if anybody's ever
4 looked at that or not. Or stillborns or whatever.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.
9 We're done with public testimony. Regional Council
10 deliberation, recommendation.

11
12 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair.

13
14 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Yes.

15
16 MS. CHIVERS: I'm sorry. Laura just
17 reminded me that after the printing of the book, we did
18 receive a couple of comments via fax. If you don't
19 mind, I'll go ahead and read those.

20
21 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Do you want to
22 read them into the record, please.

23
24 MS. CHIVERS: We did receive a comment
25 from a James Smith out of Cold Bay, and his comment was
26 he thought the limit should be one bull, it should be
27 antlered, get rid of the antlerless season. Early
28 season and late season should be one antlered bull,
29 protect the cows. Need to take a look at proxy
30 hunting. I know of one person who has shot over 30
31 caribou this past season.

32
33 The second comment was received from
34 John Maxwell II out of Cold Bay, and his comment is one
35 bull, drop the antlerless part. The first part of
36 second season, November 15th through early December, 70
37 of the bulls still carry their antlers. I'm sorry, I
38 almost couldn't read it.

39
40 But those were the comments that we
41 received. Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.
44 We'll work our way this way. Jim, comments, Council
45 comments on 06-19 or 20.

46
47 MR. HAMILTON: Yeah. There's a lot to
48 swallow here. I really appreciate Stanley's comments.

49
50

1 I really hope that this may not be the
2 right venue or the right time and place to address it,
3 but some of these guiding issues really bother me. And
4 I don't know how to deal with the enforcement aspect of
5 it. But I just hope there's more pressure, more
6 presence in the enforcement area to look into this.
7 I've seen it. I've guided caribou hunts in the
8 Mulchatna Herd, and I've guided in several regions of
9 the State, and it's a crime. I mean, basically it's
10 illegal, it's a crime, and there's no excuse for it.

11
12 As far as the issues at hand on 19 and
13 20, to me the bottom line is it seems like the real
14 emergency is the low calf to cow ratio, and however we
15 deal with it, I hope -- it seems like number 20 is more
16 appropriate in that light. It seems like we need to
17 address cow hunting first, and then go from there. I'm
18 all for two bulls for subsistence or whatever, one for
19 non-resident. I don't know we deal with this on both
20 State and Federal lands, but it seems like, you know,
21 the issue is is the cow to calf ratio caused by poor
22 nutrition and possibly some predation.

23
24 So I hope we start there and stick to
25 -- just go through a step-by-step process and address
26 opportunities for subsistence users and really put a
27 clamp on some of the stuff that I'm hearing about. I
28 mean, I've heard it in the past in different regions of
29 Alaska. I know in the Northwest Arctic Caribou Herd
30 right now they're dealing with the same stuff. It's
31 statewide. It's just a few bad apples here and there,
32 but it just really frustrates me. It frustrates I
33 think any responsible guide or any responsible citizen,
34 and I hope -- you know, everyone's short-handed now,
35 everyone's short on money, short on enforcement
36 officers, airplanes, all the stuff it takes to police
37 all of this, but it's -- I just hope something starts
38 here.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Thank you. Sam.

43
44 MR. ROHRER: Mr. Chair. I feel a lot
45 the same as Jim. The discussion of the wanton waste
46 must makes me really mad. There's no excuse for it
47 whatsoever, and they need to -- I just hope that the
48 State and Feds will crack down on that. There's just
49 absolutely no excuse for that.

50

1 I like the Staff's recommendation to
2 support the proposal with those modifications, either
3 that or going with the State's recommendation of two
4 bulls by Federal registration permit. Either one.
5 Again, the harvesting the bulls isn't the issue. It's
6 the calf survival. And I think we need to take it one
7 step at a time. Reduce the harvest, get rid of the
8 harvest for the females and see what the population
9 does. And if it continues to go down, then we can
10 start looking at other options. But I think for now, I
11 think reducing the -- or making the harvest be for
12 either one or two bulls, either way, is the way we
13 should go with that.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Thank you. Al.

18

19 MR. CRATTY: Yeah, I feel the same way
20 as Sam and Jim does here on the wanton waste and also
21 I'd like to go with the Staff's recommendation.

22

23 Sandra, I had a question, I could look
24 in the book, but what -- per household, they're allowed
25 two caribou by subsistence, or one? Is it per
26 household or.....

27

28 MS. SIEKANIEC: Right now each
29 individual can get a permit for two caribou. And this
30 is going straight down to the youngsters. I mean,
31 we're having kids coming in that are 12, 14 years old.

32

33

34 In the past we haven't really limited
35 how many permits we give out, and maybe that's an
36 option is that we restrict it by community. So far
37 it's just been between Lem and I, our call whether we
38 continue giving out permits or not.

39

40 MR. CRATTY: Okay. Thank you.

41

42 Then, Stanley, I had a question for
43 you. What usually does it take a family of four? How
44 many caribou or what do they usually like to subsist
45 on? I mean, do they need two per person per household
46 or.....

47

48 MR. MACK: Depending on the size of the
49 family. I know in my day it was four to a household.
50 There's 18 of us, you know. But, no, I don't know, Al,

1 to be honest with you.

2

3 MR. CRATTY: Well, what do you feel
4 that people will be comfortable with, the two or
5 what.....

6

7 MR. MACK: I would say two to the
8 household, yeah. I wouldn't go any less than that.
9 Absolutely not. There are those that prepare it
10 differently, you know, and they use a lot more. And
11 there are those that that's all they live on. And
12 every chance they get, they go out and get one. You
13 know, it's very difficult to get McDonald's meat in
14 here. Well, Sand Point has got a little better traffic
15 than in other places around the area, you know, to
16 order. And we've got the freight lines coming in here
17 every now -- and we order our meat out of Seattle, but
18 a few years ago it wasn't that accessible here. And
19 there are places on the Peninsula that really need to
20 have that subsistence caribou, and they live on it.
21 That's their customary and traditional use.

22

23 And that may be another thing you might
24 want to look at is customary and traditional use. I
25 know that's what we're dealing with a the AMBCC, and it
26 seems to be working.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MR. CRATTY: Thank you. That's all I
31 have.

32

33 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Thanks, Stanley.
34 Thanks, Al. Pete.

35

36 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. Once again my
37 biggest concern is the calf to cow ratio in 2003, 2004,
38 and 2005. Based on that, I have no problem with going
39 with just two bulls by Federal registration permit.
40 and that's -- and just that, not going with the -- it
41 sounds like it's not really making that much difference
42 with the Federal public lands being closed to non-
43 residents. I don't think it makes that much of a
44 difference, or it doesn't sound like it as far as the
45 numbers that are being taken, and also about pushing
46 the non-locals into one area like Nelson Lagoon.

47

48 (Off record)

49

50 (On record)

1 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I kind of
2 had an epiphany a while ago and got a message from my
3 secret spiritual advisor, and this bolt of lightening
4 says, curb tendency to go off in all different
5 directions. A little thing from a fortune cookie. So
6 I'm going to place that in my wallet and put it in
7 front of me in future meetings. And apologize for
8 over-caffeination.

9
10 And I think I would go along with my
11 colleague from Port Lions and I wish we had a mechanism
12 here where we could say to Glenn (sic), you know, close
13 the State hunt in October, and close winter season, and
14 have a registration hunt. I don't know. Maybe we need
15 to get that process. I don't know.

16
17 But I think maybe with what we can do
18 right now, the WP06-20, two bulls by Federal
19 registration permit might be the first step. And then
20 if it gets worse, then we go to one bull and close
21 federal public lands.

22
23 And maybe as individuals and folks down
24 here could write the fish and game advisory committee
25 and Department of Game to have those other things
26 restricted. I'm philosophically inclined that way, but
27 it's not kind of not my turf, so with what we have to
28 deal with, I'll go with WP06-20.

29
30 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Paul.

31
32 MR. GUNDERSEN: Maybe I'll back up a
33 little bit and talk about Jim and Sam were talking
34 about, being upset with the wanton waste issues and
35 some of these guides that's working there. But the
36 local community's been putting pressure on these guys
37 to be accountable for what they're doing. This is
38 something that's an issue. It's been happening for
39 years and years. We're so far west that a lot of
40 people don't think there's any enforcement around.
41 But, however, they've been aware of it, and they've
42 been cracking down as to what's going on.

43
44 On the other side of the issue is --
45 I'm trying to think of what the -- I lost my train of
46 thought on that one, but, yeah, those things are being
47 looked at.

48
49 And the other thing I'm saying is that
50 -- just like I said earlier, was that it's really hard

1 to put any controls over what the subsistence -- on the
2 subsistence users without looking at the sports user.
3 I've been in the guiding business and stuff for years.
4 And also a subsistence user. And when you live in a
5 community and you see these things happening before
6 your eyes, and under State regulations they're totally
7 legal to do. And they're being restricted from going
8 out and getting an animal that they've traditionally --
9 they've taken all their life, you know. So we've got
10 to watch what we do. And our basic function is to look
11 out for their needs.

12

13 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Thanks. Pete, you
14 said you wanted seconds?

15

16 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. I'd like to --
17 I guess a question to Lem. In consideration for this
18 wanton waste stuff and being late -- or, you know, an
19 early season. Is it possible the State could propose
20 to open the guiding season a little later? Like, you
21 know, we don't start hunting our elk at home until
22 October.

23

24 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. Members of the
25 Board.

26

27 Actually I should have probably grabbed
28 my regulation booklet. We can find out.

29

30 Again, as we get more information, I
31 think we can present a better case for restricting the
32 State season. Of course, the State season was limited
33 at the last Board of Game meeting. It was changed from
34 one caribou to one bull. Current State season opens
35 hunting for -- under the State hunt on August 10th
36 through September 30 during years in which the bear
37 seasons open. During seasons in which the bear season
38 is closed, the State season I believe goes to October
39 10th, which starts to push more into the rut, and that
40 was what I again was mentioning, you may want to
41 propose curtailing during some years.

42

43 Opening on August 10th really isn't
44 that much of a problem. I mean, certainly you could
45 suggest that it be moved back. Most non-local hunters
46 are going to be looking to take caribou during the last
47 week of August and up until about September 15th anyway
48 for antler considerations. They like to get them when
49 the antlers are shed of velvet. So I don't -- you
50 could again propose moving that date back from August

1 10th, but I'm not sure that would actually change the
2 harvest, you know, in practice.

3

4 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. Well, my
5 concern isn't the antlers. It's meat for the local
6 residents.

7

8 MR. BUTLER: Right.

9

10 MR. HOLMES: I was just reflecting on
11 Pete's comments and on Glenn's (sic) on the season
12 structure. And if you have your harvest farther into
13 the fall, then the meat will be kept cooler and you'll
14 have a lot less wastage. I know when I was a kid and
15 we'd go and hunt in the Denali, we didn't even bother
16 to go until, you know, the last week of the season,
17 just because you could get more meat home. It just
18 makes sentence.

19

20 I would ask, Mr. Chairman, a question
21 of clarification. Glenn's implying that we can make a
22 recommendation to the Board. I know our role is to the
23 RAC, but I'm wondering structurally, can we do a
24 resolution or a recommendation to another committee or
25 a statement of desire? I just don't know how we
26 interact.

27

28 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, there's a
29 mechanism maybe. You spoke to it earlier.

30

31 MR. BUTLER: Yeah. Mr. Chair. Members
32 of the Council. Anyone can submit a proposal to the
33 Board of Game. The deadline for proposals for this
34 area is December 10th. A call for proposals will go
35 out in September. Again, anyone can submit a proposal,
36 so it can come from either this Council or any
37 individual member of the Council. And, again, I'd
38 certainly welcome it. Fish and Game encourages other
39 people to submit proposals of this nature to the Board.

40

41 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.

42

43 MR. HOLMES: I guess I would ask the
44 Council, would we want to do that?

45

46 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: I believe when we
47 get to the agenda item. What do you call it. Members
48 comments towards the end of our meeting, then we can
49 ask for -- we can discuss that issue.

50

1 MR. HOLMES: Okay. That will be swell.

2
3 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Thank you very
4 much.

5
6 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Yes.

9
10 MS. CHIVERS: If it is the wish of the
11 Council to submit a proposal to the Board of Game, we
12 do have agency staff here to help write that proposal,
13 and then get it submitted before December 10th.

14
15 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Yes. And that was
16 what I was talking to, that we do it after we get
17 through our business, and then maybe bring up the issue
18 of bringing a proposal to Fish and Game from this RAC.

19
20 At this time we're still -- are we
21 finished? Everybody had first round. Any seconds on
22 comments to 19 or 20.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: None. Well, my
27 comments I guess then.

28
29 In listening to the members today, I
30 want to thank Staff for their input and for public
31 comment from Stan in regards to from the communities.

32
33 You know, I fully agree that there
34 needs to be a shut-down on the cow hunt. I agree that
35 should have happened a long time ago, but we're dealing
36 with it now, and I think that's a good idea. I have a
37 concern, and the numbers that really stood out to me,
38 and probably the rest of you, is the calf to cow ratio
39 that we're seeing, whether it's by hunters, or by
40 predators, or by disease, or what it is, hopefully
41 we'll find out and be able to answers at this time next
42 year when we talk about it again.

43
44 I'm not in necessarily favor of cutting
45 the subsistence hunt. And under 19 we're going to one
46 -- from two caribou to one bull. I'm going to be
47 supporting a two-bull hunt.

48
49 And I'm not at this point -- I don't
50 see the necessity of closing the Federal lands,

1 although the numbers are kind of shocking to me that we
2 have non-resident hunters that are taking twice what is
3 taken by locals. But I think when we go to this two
4 bulls hunt only and eliminate the cow hunt, we'll see
5 those numbers go down in probably all levels.

6
7 So I'm prepared to act on -- and I
8 think we ought to take this in order just because it's
9 19, and then go to 20. A motion was moved and a second
10 I believe already to adopt WP06-19. A motion of yes
11 would adopt this motion, or this resolution, and a vote
12 of no would decline it and would automatically move
13 this Council to consider WP06-20. So I'd ask at this
14 time what is the members -- to go ahead and vote at
15 this time on 19, since we have a motion and second on
16 the floor already?

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: All those in favor
21 of WP06-19 say aye.

22
23 (No affirmative votes)

24
25 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: All those opposed
26 say aye.

27
28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29
30 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: WP06-19 is a
31 unanimous no. At this time I ask for a motion for
32 WP06-20.

33
34 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I'll make a motion to
35 adopt WP06-20.

36
37 MR. HOLMES: Second.

38
39 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: It's been moved
40 and seconded. Discussion. I think for all the very
41 good reasons that everybody has talked about earlier
42 can be part of the discussion of 20 as we were
43 discussing both at the same time. If there's no
44 objection, we have.....

45
46 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I'd just like to make
47 one more little comment. I wish that we could have had
48 a little bit more public input from King Cove and Cold
49 Bay and Sand Point, but I think due to the weather and
50 a lot of other things that are going on, a lot of

1 people can't be here that would probably have liked to
2 have been here. I'm still a little concerned about the
3 difference, that three to one or -- so we'll definitely
4 keep a handle on that. And I guess when these come up
5 again next winter, we may have to change it then.

6
7 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Yes, I agree. You
8 know, the comments that we have received have been very
9 good. And I think all of us here, including members of
10 the road system are concerned about the wanton waste
11 that's been reported, and hopefully we'll hear outcomes
12 of that. And maybe if this is continued, and we as a
13 RAC have to address this issue, and to protect the
14 Federal lands, we may have to close it to non-resident
15 users in the future. And I know that we want to keep
16 everybody on a level playing field so to speak, but we
17 are here to provide for the subsistence users i our
18 regions, an that should be first. But until we get
19 more information, more input from the communities, I
20 think we're doing the right thing today.

21
22 Any more comments on WP06-20.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Question.

27
28 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: The question's
29 been called. All those in favor say aye.

30
31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32
33 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Opposed.

34
35 (No opposing votes)

36
37 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Motion carries
38 unanimously. WP06-20 is adopted. And for that, we'll
39 take a big sigh of relief and take a break. Thank you
40 very much.

41
42 (Off record)

43
44 (On record)

45
46 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: A quick
47 announcement. We've got a teleconference coming in
48 here at 3:15 from Pete Probasco, so we'll try and get
49 through as much as we can of WP06-21, extended
50 antlerless deer season. We'll have Laura start us off.

1 MS. GREFFENIUS: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
2 Chair. Members of the Council. This one begins on
3 Page 61 in your books.

4
5 And I will highlight the highlights on
6 this one to summarize. There's a lot of specifics, and
7 I'll summarize, but it's not to gloss over any relevant
8 information. It's just these analyses do cover quite a
9 bit of information an background. But I'll just go
10 more for the outcome here.

11
12 So No. 21 is submitted by your Council,
13 and requests that the opening date for the antlerless
14 season for Sitka black tail deer in Unit 8 be changed
15 from November 1 to October 1. and this change would
16 align Federal regulation with the opening date of the
17 State season for any deer in Unit 8 Remainder.

18
19 And I'm on -- actually this one begins
20 on Page 60, and on Page 61 you can see where it shows
21 the regulations and the State regulation, just for
22 comparison.

23
24 Currently under State regulation, the
25 season for harvesting any deer in Unit 8 Remainder
26 begins on October 1, while the current Federal
27 regulation has an antlerless deer season beginning
28 November 1. And the proponent requests the Federal
29 antlerless season coincide so it's also on October 1.
30 It provides a direct benefit to subsistence users by
31 opening an antlerless harvest season the same date as
32 the State regulation.

33
34 And we're talking -- as far as Federal
35 lands, we're talking about in Unit 8 it's Kodiak
36 National Wildlife Refuge. About two-thirds of Kodiak
37 Island is comprised of the refuge, about 40 percent of
38 all lands in Unit 8 are in this refuge.

39
40 As far as the background in this one,
41 the beginning of the State season change to October 1
42 was effective in regulatory year 2003/2004 for
43 harvesting any deer in Unit 8 Remainder. And under
44 this current proposal, as I mentioned, it would begin
45 the same date as the State regulation, and subsistence
46 users would continue to have an antlerless season one
47 month longer, until January 31. And that date is
48 already in place. We are not changing the end date.

49
50 As far as the background information,

1 there's been a lot of fluctuations with the deer
2 population. An estimate for the 2004 population is
3 60,000 deer, and it appears to be increasing throughout
4 Unit 8. Regarding the deer populations in Unit 8,
5 there -- the abundance on the island is primarily a
6 factor -- a function of the severity of winter at the
7 lower elevations in the winter range of the deer. And
8 it's associated with the winter mortality. Deer
9 populations can decline following a series of severe
10 winters, but may also recover rapidly when winter
11 conditions are more favorable. And that's been the
12 pattern and is given in this biological background as
13 far as the ups and downs of the population.

14
15 The current management objective
16 determined by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
17 for Unit 8 is to maintain a population of 70 to 75,000,
18 and also a harvest of 8,000 to 8,500.

19
20 Harvest history, or numbers in the 2003
21 to 2004 time frame, these numbers are derived from
22 harvest questionnaires and it's estimated about 5,200.
23 This past year they didn't do the questionnaires, but
24 the biologists from the refuge estimated roughly about
25 6,000. So that's within the management objectives.

26
27 As far as the effects of this proposal,
28 there should be no negative impact on the deer
29 population in Unit 8 as the population has increased,
30 providing an additional harvestable surplus.

31
32 So the Staff recommendation is on Page
33 64, and it's to support the proposal. And
34 justification being the beginning date for the
35 antlerless season under the proposed Federal regulation
36 of October 1 aligns with the starting date of the State
37 regulation for harvest of any deer in Unit 8 Remainder.

38
39 So that concludes the presentation for
40 this one. Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you
43 very much. Do you have any comments or questions for
44 Laura.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: None. Thank you.

49
50 Alaska Department of Fish and Game

1 comments.

2

3 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. Members of the
4 Council. I bet most people on this Council know more
5 about Unit 8 deer than I do, so I'll keep this short.

6

7 The Department recommends that you
8 support this proposal. This proposal would extend by
9 one month the opportunity for Federally-qualified
10 subsistence users to harvest antlerless deer on Federal
11 Public lands in Unit 8, which is consistent with
12 corresponding State regulations.

13

14 The effect of the proposed change on
15 subsistence users statement incorrectly states the
16 adoption of this proposal would increase the deer
17 harvest limit in the Federal subsistence regulations.
18 In fact, the harvest limit in Unit 8 would remain three
19 deer, and the antlerless deer could be taken only from
20 October 1st to January 31st.

21

22 And that concludes the State comments.

23

24 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Any comments from
25 the Council.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Thank you very
30 much. Other Federal and State, tribal agency comments.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: None. InterAgency
35 Staff Committee comments.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: None. Fish and
40 game advisory committee comments. Pat.

41

42 MR. HOLMES: I guess this is as close
43 as I can get to coffee klatch comments. We did have
44 folks that indulged in that talk from the advisory
45 committee, and I guess on their committee they can be
46 appointed or recommended by them.

47

48 But anyway, we had guides, Paul
49 Chervenak, the vice chair, and input from the village
50 representatives on the advisory committee, as well as

1 the folks from our group as individuals.

2

3 And I think the advisory committee, and
4 Al could correct me, would be very much in favor of
5 this proposal.

6

7 And thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8

9 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.
10 Summary of written public comments.

11

12 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 There are no written public comments.

14

15 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.
16 Public testimony.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: There are none.
21 Regional Council deliberation, recommendation and
22 justification. Paul, comments?

23

24 MR. GUNDERSEN: No.

25

26 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Pat, comments.

27

28 MR. HOLMES: Well, I think pretty much
29 everybody across the board agrees with aligning that
30 season up. And it does go along with the thoughts of
31 the coffee klatch on increasing the harvest of does to
32 try and get the doe to buck ratios better in alignment.
33 And so I think it really represents a good picture of
34 the community's thoughts.

35

36 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you,
39 Pat. Pete.

40

41 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I
42 have heard no opposition to this proposal.

43

44 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Thank you. Al,
45 wake up.

46

47 MR. CRATTY: The same here, heard no
48 opposition. Would support it.

49

50 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Sam.

1 MR. ROHRER: I'd support it, Mr.
2 Chairman.
3
4 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Jim.
5
6 MR. HAMILTON: I support it.
7
8 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. At this
9 time -- you've got seconds? At this time the Chair will
10 take a motion to approve, or a motion to adopt, to
11 support WP06-21.
12
13 MR. ROHRER: So move.
14
15 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Moved by Sam.
16
17 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Second.
18
19 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Seconded by Pete.
20 All those in favor say aye.
21
22 IN UNISON: Aye.
23
24 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Opposed.
25
26 (No opposing votes)
27
28 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Motion carries.
29 Thank you very much, Laura.
30
31 Okay. We're moving right ahead here.
32 We've got, as I want to mention, we have a
33 teleconference coming in at 3:15, so we'll cut it short
34 at 3:10 so we can set up. But in the meantime we'll
35 try and get something -- item 12 on our agenda is the
36 call for proposals to change Federal subsistence
37 fishery regulations.
38
39 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. That's on the
40 agenda just to remind the Council that the call for
41 fishery proposals is now open, and it will be closing
42 this Friday, March 24th. So this is the Council's
43 opportunity, probably now or within -- before the end
44 of the week to get a proposal in if they want to submit
45 something for fisheries.
46
47 Thank you.
48
49 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. It is
50 closing on March 24th, so that's this purple form here.

1 Have we received any in our area regarding fisheries
2 that you know of since the January opening?

3

4 MS. CHIVERS: I haven't heard of any.
5 It did open in January, and this was -- yeah, it opened
6 January 4th and was sent out. And as far as I know, I
7 don't think we've received any fisheries proposals for
8 this area.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you
13 very much.

14

15 Let's see, we'll move to item 13,
16 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, and ask Steve
17 Fried to give us the status of the monitoring program
18 projects and we may have to cut you short if we run
19 into the there, Steve.

20

21 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. Can I suggest
22 that maybe let's hold off on going with his
23 presentation, and just take maybe say a 15-minute
24 break. In about five minutes I'm going to go ahead and
25 start working on the phone to get Pete on. So maybe
26 during this time, we can go ahead and get the projector
27 set up for when Rob wants to give his presentation.

28

29 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Maybe
30 that's a good idea. Sorry, Steve, that's just a
31 practice run.

32

33 MS. CHIVERS: Sorry.

34

35 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. We'll take
36 a brief recess and then come back.

37

38 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you.

39

40 (Off record)

41

42 (On record)

43

44 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: We'll call the
45 Council back into order. At this time we've got Pete
46 Probasco on the line. Hello, Pete, are you there?

47

48 MR. PROBASCO: Hello, is this Vince?

49

50 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Yes, it is. We're

1 just now getting the rest of our members in here, but
2 under item, for the members, Page 92.

3

4 MR. PROBASCO: That's correct.

5

6 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Item 14 I believe
7 it is. Item 14.A.4, subsistence use amounts protocol
8 briefing. So if you want to just go ahead, you've got
9 the floor there, Pete. Go ahead.

10

11 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Vince. Mr.
12 Chair. I also have in the room with me Pat Petrivelli
13 from BIA. She's here to listen as well.

14

15 And I first would like to apologize to
16 the Council for not being there in person. However,
17 recent work schedules required my attendance at
18 meetings yesterday and today. And so I apologize for
19 not being there in person.

20

21 And I hope that we can go through this
22 briefing and help the Council understand what we're up
23 against as far as dealing with the subsistence use
24 amounts protocol. This is a draft document. As has
25 been stated, it starts on Page 92.

26

27 And the purpose of this briefing is to
28 introduce the draft document for your review. I'm here
29 to answer questions, to help understand what the
30 purpose of the subsistence use amounts protocol is, and
31 then hopefully get guidance from the Kodiak/Aleutians
32 Council on how they would recommend proceeding with
33 this protocol.

34

35 I think it's important for me to
36 preface that initially in developing all protocols,
37 Regional Advisory Council members were involved in the
38 process. However, due to legalities, i.e., the FACA
39 requirement, Council membership on the protocol working
40 groups was not allowed, and so consequently we're
41 trying to meet the intent that we told Councils
42 initially when we started developing this protocol is
43 that we weren't going to go forward with any protocol
44 until the Councils have weighed, provided their input
45 and recommendations on changes, et cetera.

46

47 So with that, Mr. Chair, I'll just do a
48 briefing. I'll keep it short so that we have time for
49 questions and answers, and then we'll take it from
50 there.

1 All of you are aware that currently the
2 program that we deal with managing our fish and
3 wildlife resources in the State of Alaska is under a
4 dual management regime. In other words, for any
5 species you have both State and Federal management.
6 Well, I assume that people can understand that when you
7 have two entities, two bureaucracies, that management
8 can be difficult when you have different mandates.

9
10 And so to help work through these
11 difficulties, a memorandum of agreement, even though
12 it's not signed, has been initialized by the State and
13 the Federal Governments on how we are to try to work
14 together for the benefit of not only the users, but the
15 wildlife resources we're entrusted with. And within
16 that MOA, between the State and the State Board of
17 Fish, Board of Game, and the Federal Subsistence Board,
18 and the five agencies, they've identified specific
19 protocols that we are to be developing since the
20 inception of the MOA.

21
22 And this specific protocol is the
23 subsistence use amount protocol. And the purpose of
24 this protocol is to establish guidelines for how
25 subsistence use amounts will be incorporated in the
26 Federal Subsistence Program, primarily to make sure
27 that we meet our objectives of the subsistence
28 priority. Many of you are aware that the State already
29 has a similar, what they call amounts necessary for
30 subsistence, that's already in regulations. It's
31 already utilized by the Board of Fish and Board of
32 Game.

33
34 Within your document, you will find the
35 draft subsistence use protocols, and this is the full
36 text of the draft protocol. It's in its entirety. And
37 again, like I stated, we want your review and comment.

38
39
40 Both State and Federal Boards recognize
41 that to meet the priority for subsistence uses of fish
42 and wildlife, both mandated in ANILCA and Alaska
43 statute, it is required that when there is a
44 harvestable surplus where subsistence needs are being
45 met, we're also, as stated, to provide for other
46 beneficial uses of these fish and wildlife.

47
48 Not only the MOA, but this protocol,
49 will provide guidance for the coordination of different
50 management regimes between the State and Federal

1 programs.

2

3

4 And I guess the purpose I want to state
5 again is to develop the process for considering what
6 portion of the harvestable surplus is necessary for
7 subsistence uses of fish and wildlife in the Federal
8 Subsistence Program. In other words, a subsistence use
9 amount protocol is a guiding factor in determining how
10 we meet the subsistence use priority. And I'll go into
11 that in a little more detail as we work through it.

11

12

13 This protocol first started its work in
14 2001. There was many hurdles to overcome, both
15 internal and external. probably the biggest one is
16 internal between the State and Federal groups. Those
17 have been worked out, and consequently we were able to
18 develop this draft and get it before you.

18

19

20 I think it's important to understand
21 that both SUA under the Federal program and the ANS
22 findings help. They're just one factor of implementing
23 the subsistence priority. and it's important to
24 understand these are not caps and they're not limits.
25 We've been seeing as we present this to other Councils,
26 to the public, when they ask questions, and
27 understandably so, when they see a number, they
28 immediately look at them as a cap. They're not.
29 That's not their intent. A subsistence use amount, if
30 one was identified and developed, it's used as a
31 guidance in managing whatever fish or wildlife
32 resource. And it is used by the managers or the
33 management agency to make sure that that number is met
34 prior to allowing other uses is you will.

34

35

36 SUA refers to the amount of a fish
37 stock or wildlife population that Federally-qualified
38 users harvest for all ANILCA-defined subsistence uses.
39 And I believe most of you are familiar with what those
40 subsistence uses are.

40

41

42 An ANS finding, which is under the
43 State program, indicates the level of harvest of fish
44 stocks and wildlife populations that are customarily
45 and traditionally used for subsistence under State law.

45

46

47

48 Now, the key points to this protocol
49 I'd just -- they're summarized in bullet, and I'll just
50 go through them, on Page 92 and 93, are the key points
51 of this protocol. They use specific steps which are

1 outlined in the protocol. The Federal program will
2 initially recognize and use State ANS findings in the
3 development and implementation of subsistence harvest
4 regulations. As you know, there are many, particularly
5 in the fisheries arena and the wildlife arena, there
6 are wildlife management plans developed. And within
7 those regulations, there are ANS findings, and under
8 the MOA agreement, we have agreed to utilize initially
9 those ANS findings; however, we're not tied to them.
10 If we believe for any reason that the ANS amounts are
11 not sufficient for us to meet the subsistence priority
12 for Federally-qualified users, we can change those.

13
14 Each ANS finding, when they deal --
15 when they are dealing with a regulatory proposal or an
16 issue, will be presented and evaluated in the Federal
17 proposal analysis. In other words, it will go through
18 the normal system. It will go through a review and an
19 analysis will be developed, and then it will go forward
20 to the Councils for their review, their deliberation
21 and recommendations back to the Board.

22
23 SUA findings may be developed and used
24 if the Federal program determines that an ANS finding
25 is not accurate or a representation of what was our
26 subsistence harvest.

27
28 When developing SUAs, the Federal
29 program will consider ANS findings. They'll also
30 consider recommendations from the Regional Advisory
31 Councils, which we have to do, and additional
32 subsistence harvest information from household
33 surveys, et cetera.

34
35 The State and Federal programs should
36 support harvest assessment research to assist both the
37 State and Federal Boards in matters related to ANS and
38 SUA findings. In other words, there's a lot of our
39 dollars have been utilized to do community surveys,
40 household surveys to determine what are the subsistence
41 uses as well as the subsistence harvests. In order for
42 us to not only keep up with the times, if you will, but
43 to accurately portray what's being taken in our rural
44 communities, this research has to continue, and this
45 SUA protocol emphasizes that.

46
47 Mr. Chair, in summary this protocol is
48 a document that provides guidance to both State and
49 Federal managers for coordinating subsistence
50 management. My background is in fisheries management,

1 and I view having a number, it being either an ANS or
2 and SUA, is a very important factor to have to use as
3 guidance when managing a particular stock or
4 population.
5

6 And keep in mind that both ANS and SUA
7 findings refer to the amount of a fish stock or
8 wildlife population that subsistence users harvest for
9 subsistence uses. And under the Federal program, an
10 SUA specifically refers to the amount harvested by
11 Federally-qualified users for all the ANILCA-defined
12 subsistence uses. In other word, it's not just limited
13 to one use. It's all of those that are identified
14 under ANILCA.
15

16 And I guess the protocol -- I guess the
17 purpose of the protocol is to develop a process
18 considering the amounts of fish and wildlife harvested
19 or subsistence uses in the Federal Subsistence Program.
20 Having this quantifiable amount will enable fishery
21 managers, Federal managers, wildlife managers to know
22 whether or not they're providing enough opportunity for
23 subsistence uses.
24

25 I guess the big question that has been
26 asked at the other Council meetings is do ANS/SUA
27 findings limit harvest. And I have to emphasize that
28 they do not. Both ANS and SUA are not a harvest or
29 cap. They do not limit the amount that can be
30 harvested for subsistence uses by individual households
31 or communities, nor do these findings guarantee any
32 particular level of harvest. Again, they're used as a
33 guide in managing these stocks or populations.
34

35 Mr. Chair. There is a lot of
36 information and questions that are found on Page 94 and
37 95. And I've captured the main points of this
38 protocol. The actual draft protocol is found on Page
39 96, 97, 98, 99, and I'm here to answer any questions
40 that you may have on this protocol. Again, we're
41 looking for your Council to review and comment on this
42 document.
43

44 So with that, Mr. Chair, I'll entertain
45 questions.
46

47 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Thank you, Pete.
48 This is Vince. I guess my first question is when is
49 the deadline for the Council, the RAC,
50 Kodiak/Aleutians, to make recommendations? Is that

1 today? Are you asking.....

2

3 MR. PROBASCO: No, Mr. Chair. We would
4 like to have comments today. Sort of being at the end
5 of the Council process, you have the benefit of knowing
6 how other Councils have weighed in. And the Councils
7 that have weighed in have been -- a few have been
8 supportive, but I would the majority of them really
9 question the protocol document. Some have spoke
10 against it. And so consequently where we're at now,
11 sine I'm the co-chair of the MOA working group, based
12 on the comments we've received to now, we're going to
13 have to go back to the drawing board, take these
14 comments that we received from all these Councils, and
15 look at revisions and redraft to this document. And my
16 guess right now is we would probably go back out to the
17 Councils again with this document.

18

19 But as far as your specific question,
20 are you -- do you have to respond today, we would like
21 you to respond with comments, but we will take comments
22 if your members or if you want to form a task force to
23 develop comments, we will receive them at a later date
24 as well.

25

26 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you,
27 Pete. I just want to make that clear for the other
28 members that -- and there have been other Councils who
29 have weighed in as you said. And it sounds like to me
30 the majority of those have questioned the document or
31 the protocol working agreement.

32

33 If there's -- does any Council member
34 have any questions or concerns at this time.

35

36 MR. CRATTY: Yeah. Pete, this is Al
37 Cratty. I was looking over this. You know, I like it,
38 but taking it back to the village, it's going to be
39 pretty hard to -- people are really shy on doing any
40 kind of stuff like this or -- I don't know, you guys
41 got people down there doing surveys now for ADF&G, and
42 working with the people of Old Harbor, which is working
43 find, but I see a problem, you know, trying to get this
44 by the people.

45

46 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Al. Yes, as
47 far as taking it back to the specific communities, we
48 would encourage that, and you know, without getting --
49 without having the benefit of meeting with this MOA
50 work group, but looking at my calendar and crystal ball

1 if you will, we still have work to do on this, Al. So
2 I would say there's sufficient time for the communities
3 to weigh in.

4
5 The comments that we've already
6 received from the Councils are of such significant
7 nature that we do have to sit down and really take a
8 look at our document. I think we may have missed the
9 mark in some areas, and we're going to have to sharpen
10 our pencils and see if we can do a better job.

11
12 So I don't want to leave the impression
13 that there's a real short time line on this. The Board
14 will not be acting on this in their May meeting, and so
15 we do have some time. But the earlier the comments get
16 to us, the better, okay?

17
18 MR. CRATTY: Okay. Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, go ahead.

21
22 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. Pete.
23 Great premergent weather here. Wish you were here.

24
25 I've read through your proposal here,
26 and it makes a lot of sense to me to coordinate these
27 efforts, and having been working with a lot of folks in
28 Kodiak, looking at ruralness questions and use
29 patterns, you know, the latest good data set for Kodiak
30 on subsistence use is 1993, and that's way out of date.
31 And I see this as potentially a big advantage to
32 communities to define what their actual uses are and I
33 think the techniques that the ADF&G's surveys are --
34 and maybe you probably want some comment from Pete and
35 all, but I think they get a lot more feedback that way
36 than if they're just sent a list and say, hey, fill
37 this out or what do you think of this criteria.

38
39 I think it's a really good start, Pete.
40 And thanks for making that effort.

41
42 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair.

43
44 MR. CRATTY: Pete, this is Al again.
45 And I'd like to say, you know, working with Liz
46 Williams with the State of Alaska on the subsistence
47 issue, and what you're doing and what some of the
48 people at the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge try and
49 do, is getting the people to work, and training the
50 people to go to the people. You know, their own people

1 working with them has worked really good in Old Harbor,
2 and they're getting a lot more information out like
3 that. I mean, having their own people go into the --
4 you know, into the homes and talk to the people
5 themselves, instead of having an outsider come in and
6 try and get the questions out. I just wanted to pass
7 on to you what little bit of that that's been done has
8 been working really well.

9
10 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you. And both to
11 Al and Pat, Mr. Chair, if I may, the way I look at the
12 subsistence use amount protocol, and that's been some
13 of the confusion, is that people are immediately
14 looking for Federal numbers. And the purpose of this
15 protocol is not that. It developed -- it outlines a
16 process on how, if we find ourselves needing to develop
17 subsistence use amounts for the Federal program, the
18 process that we would undertake.

19
20 Right now the State has ANS findings.
21 Now, we're not tied to those findings, but initially
22 until we look and develop other numbers, we will
23 utilize them in making management decisions. But,
24 again, we're not tied to that ANS finding. If we have
25 data and information that indicates that that number is
26 not correct, we're not tied to it. We can change from
27 it.

28
29 But this protocol lists out the process
30 on how we will implement and utilize a Federal SUA
31 number if you will.

32
33 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Thank you, Pete.
34 Any more comments from Council, or concerns. Pat.

35
36 MR. HOLMES: I would just, Pete, I'd go
37 along with Al, and I know I helped Lisa Scarborough get
38 things set up out at the Village of Atka to gather
39 information like that. And it's obvious that we're
40 going to have to come up with a methodology, and this
41 is a good start.

42
43 MR. PROBASCO: I think, Pat, that
44 brings up a good point. Mr. Chair. To Pat. That this
45 is a draft protocol. If the Board does adopt it, and
46 if all the signatories to the MOA agree to it, this
47 document though is a living document, and can be
48 changed when necessary.

49
50 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you

1 very much. How much C&T or has -- Pat Petrivelli, have
2 you been involved with this, putting together this
3 document?

4
5 MS. PETRIVELLI: I was on the working
6 committee on the document. So it was my job to try to
7 work with -- the difficulties we encountered is the
8 fact that we define subsistence differently between
9 State and Federal uses, and then -- and just the idea
10 that so many of the numbers are outdated. And then the
11 heavy reliance upon harvest reporting data that a lot
12 of people don't participate. But technically there is
13 the idea that people will be able to -- the Councils
14 will -- the protocol calls for the Councils to have
15 input in updating the numbers, but other Councils have
16 felt that that's an undue burden to rely upon the State
17 ANS numbers as a starting point. And they feel more
18 comfortable with relying upon Council recommendations
19 as starting points rather than ANS. But that's just
20 the other feedback that I've heard.

21
22 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you,
23 Pat.

24
25 Any initial feelings from the Board
26 members on how you feel about this protocol draft form.

27
28
29 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. If you decide
30 you want to have a subcommittee look at this more in
31 depth, I'd be glad to be part of that.

32
33 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.
34 Any more comments.

35
36 You know, I would like to say I'm kind
37 of -- I'd like to read it more and maybe get a little
38 bit more information from Pete regarding the background
39 information, your appendices.

40
41 MR. PROBASCO: Okay.

42
43 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: The chart in
44 regards to the State document, the role of the amount
45 necessary for subsistence, which is item 4. I would
46 like to have an opportunity to review that. I'm sure
47 some of that language is sitting in this protocol
48 agreement that we're looking it. And also the policy
49 letter of 2004.

50

1 I was initially part of that original
2 group of chairmen that were involved with putting
3 together some of the issues on 2000 I believe it was
4 when this MOA was being put together. And I don't
5 know, I really don't have any comment on it at this
6 point, other than I'd like to get more information,
7 those two particular letters in particular.

8
9 For some reason I getting the feeling
10 or I'm getting if smells like smoke, then there must be
11 fire. And I'm kind of wondering what this protocol
12 agreement is going to do to the subsistence user. I
13 guess it ties into the fact that I smell a little bit,
14 or I kind of sense the next step after this protocol
15 agreement is going to be limited use by subsis --
16 similar to limited entry type of talk or language. And
17 it's going to be awful hard to, like Pete and Al had
18 said, you know, get it back to the communities for --
19 you know, once this thing does go into effect and the
20 communities starts reading some of this stuff, they'll
21 -- it's a lot of information that's very hard for some
22 of the user groups, you know, within the community to
23 give numbers or actual places where they do their
24 hunting or fishing, and those kinds of things. They
25 traditionally don't tell even a group such as sitting
26 here. It's taken almost eight years to get a lot of
27 information.

28
29 So I'm kind of wondering, you know,
30 what's the -- other than the State being involved and
31 trying to regulate our subsistence, we've agreed to
32 that under the -- under agreement to try and manage
33 Federal lands on the same guidelines as State, but I'm
34 having a little bit of trouble of understanding this
35 subsistence use amounts protocol. I mean, it just --
36 is that another fancy word for limited entry for
37 subsistence users?

38
39 MR. PROBASCO: I don't know if I would
40 call it -- Mr. Chair. Vince. I don't know if I would
41 call it limited entry, but I think you've couched very
42 well some of the fears of not only yourself, but other
43 Councils throughout the State is that, yes, there's a
44 number attached to this. Either it's an ANS or an SUA
45 amount, if those are developed. And the fear is not
46 having a clear understanding how that number will be
47 utilized not only by an in-season manager, but also by
48 the decision-makers, in other words, the respective
49 Boards. And I think we need to do a little bit better
50 job on this protocol document outlining that.

1 I want to emphasize again that the SUA
2 or the ANS amount is only a guide. But again there's
3 that fear that it may be used to cap a subsistence
4 harvest, and then maybe result in other users coming in
5 and having an unfair competition. That was stated at
6 one Council meeting.

7
8 But there's still some work on this
9 document, Vince, and you captured that concern fairly
10 well as far as what did that number mean.

11
12 MR. CRATTY: Yeah, Pete. This is Al
13 again. Yeah, you know, talking to people at home and
14 stuff, you know, one of the fears is do something like
15 this, and then like what happened five years ago,
16 you've got the Area M problem here, and then the Yukon
17 problem, and it all comes back to Kodiak. Are we
18 intercepting their fish, you know. On the commercial
19 end, that's a real big fear, took and then on the
20 subsistence. You know, what's to say if Chignik starts
21 squawking that we're -- they didn't get no reds to eat
22 and then you'd close us down. That's a big -- just
23 speaking on the commercial end.

24
25 MR. PROBASCO: Well, that's where my
26 expertise is, Al, as you know, is the commercial end,
27 and I'm not a wildlife manager, but I'll put on my
28 management hat and ask you guys to do the same. If I
29 was managing the Karluk River and I had -- let's say we
30 had a village up at Karluk Lake that had a subsistence
31 harvest of sockeye. I would use an ANS amount or an
32 SUA number as a guide to make sure that I had that
33 number of fish above the escapement number moved into
34 the system, and would cautiously manage, or maybe not
35 allow fishing at all until I was assured of not only
36 the escapement number, but the ANS number or the SUA
37 number. That's how I would utilize this in a fisheries
38 scenario.

39
40 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: This is Vince
41 again. That sounds reasonable, but, you know, one of
42 the first thing that jumps out at me is the McLees Lake
43 issue. We haven't reviewed it yet, but I read some of
44 the documents of fish escapement in the last three to
45 five years has dropped dramatically due to user groups.
46 And maybe something like this, had it been in place,
47 could have -- you know, could have warned the Unalaska
48 Fish and Wildlife group that there were way too many
49 permits being issued for the size of the community that
50 caused that drop. I mean, if this kind of information

1 was available at that time, they would not have the
2 problem they're having in McLees Lake right now in my
3 opinion. It's kind of in relation to what you're
4 talking to.

5
6 Pat.

7
8 MR. HOLMES: I'd like to chat about
9 McLees later, too, but I'm kind of looking at this and
10 reflecting on some of the questions we just asked
11 Stanley Mack on Unit 9 caribou. And what we were
12 struggling with is do we have an adequate amount of
13 critters with declining population for people's food
14 needs, and what's a reasonable amount per family of how
15 many caribou. And to me, I look at this, if -- let's
16 say I moved out to Atka or something. That's probably
17 one of my favorite places. And people were talking
18 about reindeer or chums or something. At least it
19 would be a way where the community would say, well, we
20 need to have 500 reindeer a year, or 80 caribou, four
21 king salmon or whatever. Kind of a minimal level of
22 defining community needs rather than community limits.
23 Am I looking at this the right way, Pete?

24
25 MR. PROBASCO: I think you -- it's not
26 a community limit, Pat, so I guess it's a start at
27 community needs is a good way to phrase it, but with
28 that said, it doesn't mean it's limited to that. It's
29 not a maximum number if you will. But it's a number
30 that is utilized as to the best of our knowledge and
31 what the data indicates should meet the subsistence
32 uses -- or needs of that community.

33
34 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, that's what I mean,
35 was the bottom line, not the top line.

36
37 MR. PROBASCO: Well, what Pat spoke to
38 is that some Councils, the State presented --
39 particularly in the wildlife arena, the State presented
40 some ANS numbers up in the Interior on some moose, and
41 the Regional Advisory Council, and the members of the
42 public in attendance, they just -- they were shocked at
43 how low those numbers were, and felt that they did not
44 even come close to representing their area or community
45 take of moose. So as you can imagine, that put doubt
46 on this protocol, and also in doubt as to are the
47 current numbers an accurate reflection of what is
48 needed.

49
50 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.

1 Any more comments. Any more questions. Pete.

2

3 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Pete, this is
4 Pete Squartsoff from Port Lions.

5

6 My concern is, Pete, is that in Port
7 Lions I know there's a lot of subsistence users that
8 don't -- will flat refuse to go along with the survey.
9 And their reasoning is they feel if they give these
10 numbers, and they feel it's too high, they're going to
11 be cut off. And now i they don't have the numbers,
12 they may be cut off. So, I mean, my guess is probably
13 50/50 in that community.

14

15 MR. PROBASCO: And in Port -- thank
16 you, Pete. And Port Lions is not the only one that
17 feels that way. There's a lot of communities that some
18 people willingly participate in the surveys, others
19 don't.

20

21 I think that the message that we've got
22 to continue to take home to our rurals is that
23 subsistence uses, not only harvest, but uses, is a
24 priority, and that it's important to document what that
25 level of use is. And from my opinion, Pete, if they're
26 under-reporting, that will ultimately possibly hurt
27 them. I think it's important to have an accurate
28 reflection. I don't know where there's -- where you
29 can have too much subsistence use, unless there's
30 waste, but I don't think that's common, so I think it's
31 important that they document their total use of those
32 resources.

33

34 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Paul.

35

36 MR. GUNDERSEN: Yeah. Hi, Pete. Paul
37 Gundersen here.

38

39 What happens in our situation out here
40 in, you know, the South Peninsula/North Peninsula where
41 the people traditionally take their subsistence harvest
42 out of their commercial catch during the summer, so
43 there's really no record as to the amount? Does that
44 have any effect on it, or -- because those fisheries
45 are an escapement driven fisheries.

46

47 MR. PROBASCO: Mr. Chair. Paul. The
48 household survey, if it was being conducted in Nelson
49 Lagoon, and they were surveying your family, you would
50 report that, and regardless of where it comes from, if

1 you're taking out of your commercial catch, or you're
2 (indiscernible, breaking up) out in the Lagoon, all of
3 those are still subsistence uses. And they will be
4 reflected if reported in the household survey.

5
6 MR. GUNDERSEN: Okay. Thanks.

7
8 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Any more comments
9 from Council members.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Well, thank
14 you for your time, and we're real sorry that you
15 couldn't be here with us to experience this nice
16 blowing snow and 100 mile an hour winds.

17
18 MR. PROBASCO: I think probably Pat
19 Holmes and I want to rush over to Horsnoy (ph), and see
20 how it's doing over there.

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Amen.

25
26 MR. PROBASCO: All right. Well, Vince,
27 I hope you have time to make some comments on that, or
28 at least maybe some volunteers within your Council will
29 take time and work with the OSM staff. We'll get Staff
30 to assist you all in developing your comments, if you
31 so desire.

32
33 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. I believe
34 that's what our next action will be after we have a
35 little -- unless there's Council members -- Pat has
36 volunteered. Any other members want to volunteer to
37 make their comments available that have a strong desire
38 regarding this particular issue to be a working group.
39 Pat. Al.

40
41 MR. CRATTY: I would recommend Pete and
42 Paul.

43
44 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Pat and Al then
45 will be, and myself. We'll make comments and make them
46 available to coordinator or Staff. And we'll get those
47 to you as soon as we can.

48
49 MR. PROBASCO: Thanks, Vince.

50

1 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.
2 Thanks, Pat. Thanks, Pete. We'll talk to you later.
3
4 MS. PETRIVELLI: We're saving money.
5
6 (Laughter)
7
8 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Yeah.
9
10 MR. PROBASCO: Take care.
11
12 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Oh, yeah. Okay.
13 'Bye.
14
15 MR. PROBASCO: 'Bye-bye.
16
17 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Just quickly, if
18 we can get your comments regarding as a majority of the
19 other Councils have already commented. We're probably
20 the last group to make comments on this protocol issue.
21 I could see it going back to the Federal Board for
22 review, so I think just by recommending some -- if
23 there's any real changes to this draft in wording, in
24 any other way that would structurally change it, then
25 we leave it as is and recommend that we do not pass it
26 and send it back to them for further review.
27
28 MR. GUNDERSEN: Yeah, I don't like the
29 idea of putting numbers on it.
30
31 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Go ahead.
32
33 MS. CHIVERS: Repeat what you said,
34 please.
35
36 MR. GUNDERSEN: Yeah, I don't like the
37 idea of -- there's going to be too many variables in
38 it, in how they're going to lay this out. I could see
39 it really being troublesome on a river system,
40 especially on the Yukon and all over up there trying to
41 set up the -- you know, the further up the river they
42 are, the smaller numbers they're going to get.
43
44 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, what I see
45 happening, and I see coming out of this thing is -- a
46 good example is what you brought up, Paul, is the river
47 system. And they had an example here in one of these
48 pages where it could have been a fire upriver causing
49 those downriver not to get their fish.
50

1 And they're going to use the ANS
2 system, which is a State, not Federal. They're going
3 to go to the State system to determine what is the SUA,
4 which is a Federal level. And, you know, that kind of
5 -- I think that's a big concern for a lot of
6 communities. Basically it's going to be -- I hate to
7 say this, but I look at this thing as another medium of
8 limited entry coming into the subsistence user. And
9 once you get going down that road, you'll never get
10 them stopped. So we've got to be very sure that this
11 draft protocol document, and basically all it is is a
12 working agreement, of what's going to define user
13 groups, amount and quality of fish and game down into
14 the future.

15
16 So, I mean, my recommendation is I
17 don't like it. I don't like the way it's written. It
18 doesn't give enough information than it's very open-
19 ended in my opinion. Open-ended is the way I look at
20 it.

21
22 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I
23 appreciate your reservations, and I can agree with
24 particularly the potential implications, you know,
25 because even though we relate to subsistence, we also
26 relate to commercial and out west here on the
27 Peninsula, most of the harvest comes from commercial
28 catch, and previous problems with Area M. And so
29 that's fraught with difficulty.

30
31 On the other hand, I can look at it in
32 terms of something like Kodiak and the Buskin River as
33 part of the escapement goal for sockeye, and the fact
34 that, you know, six-tenths of the harvest for the whole
35 island comes out of that one river. And so, you know,
36 the local comm fish biologists basically don't let the
37 seiners anywhere near it to protect the subsistence.

38
39 So on one hand you can use it as a tool
40 to protect, and on the other hand it might come around
41 and bite you on the back side.

42
43 I kind of read it as a starting point
44 to try to figure out how to do it. And so I think it
45 is important for us to get our two-bits worth in.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 MR. CRATTY: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Myself,
50 too, I see it as a problem of getting the people of Old

1 Harbor, just like Pete said, half of them will do it
2 and the other half won't. And I see a problem with the
3 guides and transporters. I mean, this is scary to put
4 in front of a guy that makes a living and seeing
5 something like this and how it could -- even me as a
6 commercial fisherman, how it could affect my future if
7 things were to go wrong with the use of this. I just
8 want to put that in the record.

9
10 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.
11 Well, any more comments. If now, we'll.....

12
13 MR. ROHRER: Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Yeah.

16
17 MR. ROHRER: I have a comment. If I'm
18 understanding this correctly, it sounds like it's
19 nothing but good for the subsistence user by setting a
20 bottom line for what they have to have to subsistence.
21 I certainly know when we're sitting here trying to make
22 decisions on how many caribou people down here need, if
23 we had some numbers in front of us that said, these
24 household needs this many caribou, that would certainly
25 make our decision a little bit easier for deciding if
26 there's enough caribou left over to keep an open
27 season, or what not.

28
29 As Al said, I can -- as a commercial
30 user, it's a little bit scary to me if the numbers get
31 too inflated and they start cutting off other users,
32 but as long as the numbers stay reasonable, and they're
33 not over-inflating the numbers, I see from a
34 subsistence, strictly subsistence, point of view,
35 nothing but good for the subsistence user. Again, just
36 setting a bottom line so they're guaranteed they're
37 going to get the -- at least get the base line or more.

38
39 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: They've changed --
40 in the past 12 years they've changed the definition of
41 subsistence at least three times, and in my opinion,
42 this is just another avenue to change it again. I
43 mean, the State of Alaska did not recognize subsistence
44 use. It took the Federal Government to step in, and
45 that's why we're here today, to step in and protect
46 those who had no voice in the Board of Fish and no
47 voice at the Federal level. So that's why we're here,
48 and I'm kind of hesitant in changing some of these
49 issues that's just a smoke screen in my opinion to
50 change the subsistence use again.

1 And I want it defined, you know. They
2 say here very clearly, the first paragraph says that
3 they will -- they have an obligation to provide a
4 proprietary use for subsistence users of fish and
5 wildlife as mandated under Title VIII, and to allow for
6 beneficial uses of others of the fish and wildlife when
7 harvest surpluses are sufficient. And then in a second
8 breath they're saying, well, we've got define a limit
9 for that subsistence user, and if he's met his limit,
10 then we're going to give everything else to the third
11 or fourth user group. And basically what that's doing
12 is redefining subsistence use, and using it as a smoke
13 screen of Title VIII. I mean, be very specific, say
14 you're going to chance or attempt to change VIII. I
15 view this document as one of those ways to do that.
16 And we've been very strong in the past in defending
17 Title VIII. That is the reason why we're here. And if
18 they're going to -- and we've always said from AFN all
19 the way down to the local village level, no changes in
20 Title VIII. All though this is kind of sliding it in
21 there, opening the door a little bit. Like I say, you
22 know, this could turn into a big, big issue, four to
23 five, 10 years down the road where subsistence users
24 will be then on a limited entry. You get 10 for this
25 region say of caribou. And that's it. It's not based
26 on herd level or anything. It's for the user groups
27 only.

28
29 I just put that out for thought. I
30 mean, I've seen it happen. Most of us have.

31
32 MR. HOLMES: Perhaps one comment that
33 we could provide is how would the development of this
34 prevent what you're saying, and prevent limits, because
35 I see it as a defense for folks.

36
37 And, you know, I'm not going to argue
38 it, because I think there's some good logic behind your
39 over-all points, but I would make one point of what I
40 feel is clarification, as a retired State person, and
41 that the State has never been against subsistence. It
42 is a subsistence priority. It was eight senators that
43 refused to allow the people of the State to vote on the
44 rural definition.

45
46 And I know from talking with all of the
47 area biologists for Kodiak back to statehood, their
48 first goal is fish up the creeks so there's enough to
49 come back, fish to eat, and then they open the
50 commercial fishery, you know, and there was a couple

1 rednecks in there that didn't do that, but I think for
2 the most part the whole intent, the Buskin's a good
3 example, they try to keep folks away from the Buskin
4 and keep them away from Litnik until they got enough
5 fish going up the creek for both user groups.

6
7 So anyway it's just my perspective.
8 And I sure respect yours, Vince. Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate
11 that. Okay. Any more comments. Jim.

12
13 MR. HAMILTON: One more. Yeah, my
14 initial thought is we're part of a decision-making
15 process. And in order to make good decisions, you need
16 data, or at least I feel like I do. You need to get
17 your grasp on information, and really sound
18 information. So that's my first thought.

19
20 But my second is, is I'm really
21 understanding your concerns. I mean, I appreciate it,
22 and I'm really going to try hard to understand where
23 you and Al and I think most of us are coming from. I
24 understand the suspicions, and I understand the
25 concerns. And my bottom line, I'm a hunting guide, but
26 I wear other hats, and my bottom line, or where I vote
27 from is, you know, the fact that my kinds can do this,
28 and I can live this lifestyle. That's pretty much
29 where I vote from. So I will try hard. I appreciate
30 your concerns, and I'm going to try hard to understand.

31
32
33 But my first thoughts were the more
34 information we have and the better information we have,
35 the better decisions we can make, but I'll try hard to
36 keep an open mind.

37
38 Thanks.

39
40 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate
41 that. Any more comments.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. What is it
46 the Council would like to do with this document. At
47 this time just -- we have until September next year,
48 actually probably just a little bit before that. They
49 meet in October. September? Sometime. Probably about
50 the time we have our meeting. so we need to have

1 something to get back to our coordinator as far as, you
2 know, where we stand on this particular protocol
3 agreement.

4
5 MR. HOLMES: Vince, I would suggest
6 that the members that want to read this in depth could
7 maybe email you with their thoughts and then you could
8 compile them as pros and cons and then forward them to
9 Pete, because it sounds like from what he was saying,
10 there's resistance to the concept until some of the
11 questions are resolved. So if we're providing
12 something that some of us think are positive, some
13 possible hang-ups, then we could give that to them as
14 guidance, and then it's obviously going to be coming
15 back and forth for a goodly while.

16
17 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: That sound good
18 there. We can -- anybody that does have a comment to
19 get them to Michelle or myself, email or fax or however
20 you can get it. Smoke signal. Whatever.

21
22 MR. HOLMES: Maybe we should send it to
23 Michelle, and she can do the smoke signals, because
24 sometimes catching up with Vince is like trying to
25 grasp a herring on the Bering Sea. They're there, but
26 he's a busy guy.

27
28 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Not quite as busy
29 any more.

30
31 MR. CRATTY: I'd like to just state
32 that I think we should get this out to the communities
33 so they can look at it. I know I could tell so many
34 people and that's it, but we should get it out to the
35 communities and either to tribes, city councils,
36 corporations, let them know what's going on here, so we
37 get all the input we can get so people know what's
38 going on. It's going to be hard for them to swallow
39 this I think. I don't know. I'd just like to say
40 that.

41
42 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I'll do the same.
43 I'll give it to the tribal folks in Kodiak and the
44 advisory committee. I know that the advisory committee
45 is going to meet until next fall again, but at least I
46 can give it to their chairman to pass out to whoever he
47 thinks is appropriate. And maybe that's our role is
48 just getting good information out to our different user
49 groups, you know. Just pass town, you know, Port Lions
50 and wherever.

1 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: I think that --
2 not to cut you off, Pat, but do you think that we ought
3 to move on and just say, well, we need to have comments
4 in by say August 1st so that she'll have time to
5 compile them and get them back to us for our September
6 meetings, and even on to the Subsistence Board for
7 their meeting sometime in early September, which our
8 meeting is going to be after theirs anyway it sounds
9 like. And it will give time for the other entities,
10 the tribal entities, advisory groups that are in our
11 communities to look at this and make comments. Some
12 may not have a problem with just the way it is, and
13 say, well, it's another level of bureaucracy and
14 they'll have to live with it or not get any food or
15 fish or whatever they've they've got to do, but, you
16 know, most people.....

17
18 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Another survey.
19

20 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Just another
21 survey, but we have to give them an opportunity. I
22 think that's my recommendation at this time.

23
24 Any more comments.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Then we'll ask for
29 comments to be in no later than August 1st. And maybe
30 a couple weeks after that we can get them to the RAC
31 members for review. Okay.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 We'll move on. What's our next item
36 here, is it agency reports, 14?

37
38 MR. SQUARTSOFF: No, we're going to
39 watch a movie.

40
41 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Oh, we're going to
42 watch slides right now. Okay. Who is next?

43
44 MS. CHIVERS: Steve Fried.

45
46 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Steve. Okay.
47 Steve, you're up.

48
49 (Off record)

50

1 (On record)

2

3 MR. FRIED: There's just two things I
4 wanted to bring to the Council's attention. One is
5 just to bring them up to date on the status of the
6 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program studies, and then
7 the second thing was to bring them up to date on where
8 we are in strategic planning. And it's all for
9 information purposes. There's no action items, so I'm
10 not going to really spend a lot of time. There's
11 nothing in your books, but I've handed out a bunch of
12 stuff, and, you know, you're welcome to talk to me
13 about it after the meeting or call me in Anchorage or
14 whatever.

15

16 The first thing, just as a status of
17 the studies that we funded, it's status of the
18 2000/2005 program studies. And there's 15 studies we
19 funded since 2000 when it began, and actually for most
20 of those, they're done. There's reports. We post the
21 final reports and annual also annual reports up on the
22 web site of the Office of Subsistence Management, if
23 you wanted to read them, or, or, you know, if you don't
24 have access to the web, we can send you paper copies.

25

26 There's six studies that were begun in
27 2004 that are still going on, and there's a little
28 paragraph that kind of indicates where we are with
29 them, and what information's being collected, you know,
30 in the last year. So it's basically just for
31 information purposes.

32

33 You'll notice that the last time we
34 funded a study was 20024. We didn't fund any studies
35 within this area in 2005, or even 2006, but we're now
36 working through the 2007 call, and I've provided a
37 little table that shows the proposals that we received
38 for Kodiak/Aleutians, and there were six of them. And
39 they -- we just went through about a week ago a meeting
40 with the Technical Review Committee, which is composed
41 of representatives from the five Federal agencies and
42 also three representatives from the State, each fishery
43 division, Sport Fish, Comm Fish, Subsistence, and they
44 made a decision on which proposals should be forwarded
45 for a more detailed proposal, called an investigation
46 plan and which studies shouldn't. And you can see that
47 all but one were forwarded.

48

49 The decisions were made based on
50 strategic importance, which at this point is based on

1 the list of issues that have been developed through
2 this Council, and in the future they'll be based on
3 whatever comes out of the strategic planning workshops.

4

5

6 And basically the only one that really
7 wasn't advances was one on Big Creek coho salmon, and
8 it's not because -- actually it was a very well-done
9 proposal, and it sounds like it has a pretty good
10 connection to Federal subsistence, but nobody could
11 ever find that it's actually been, you know, a real
12 problem or a real sensitive issue, because it never
13 came up in council discussions and it never came up in
14 that first workshop we held. So it was purely a matter
15 of there's just so much money, and even with all the
16 things that are forwarded, there's probably not going
17 to be enough money to fund all of those either, so they
18 just had to draw a line some place, and they did it on
19 this one. It doesn't mean, you know, this can't be
20 resubmitted next year. And I think in this next
21 strategic planning workshop, I'll probably maybe have
22 the participants maybe a little bit more specific on
23 areas they think we need to work on. Right now it's
24 really just been at the species level, and the
25 information needs level, so actually this.....

26

27 So, you know, in summary this call for
28 proposal went a lot better than the last couple years.
29 We had a lot of proposals, and we got some forwarded,
30 so I was pretty happy about that.

31

32 So basically that's all I wanted to
33 bring to the Council's attention as far as where the
34 monitoring program is, and where it looks like it's
35 going. And I don't know if anybody has questions on
36 that right now, or, like I said, later, but, you know,
37 you will see these investigation plans come the next
38 Council meeting.

39

40 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Any comments.
41 Questions. You've got your light on there, Pat.

42

43 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I think
44 that these are probably the -- I didn't see what your
45 long list was, but these have been long-term priorities
46 for our Advisory Council for Kodiak, Afognak Lake and
47 Buskin, out at Unalaska, McLees Lake. And then the
48 other two are new ones, but I think those are going to
49 be information that our Council's going to be needing
50 in the future, so I'm really glad to see kind of these

1 corps items continuing with funding. And I thank your
2 review committee for passing those on.

3

4 MR. FRIED: Okay. the only other thing
5 I was going to talk about was the strategic planning
6 efforts.

7

8 And we've also got a report on Afognak
9 Lake from Fish and Game, and I was just wondering
10 whether or not you'd like me to do the strategic
11 planning first and then have the report, or would you
12 like to have the report now.

13

14 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Do your strategic
15 planning first.

16

17 MR. FRIED: Okay. We'll keep going on.
18 Well, there's basically three hand outs there. One's a
19 report to -- it's a briefing paper, it's two pages, and
20 it basically talks about the statewide efforts in
21 strategic planning and where we are. We've completed a
22 strategic plan for Southcentral, at least for the
23 Prince William Sound management area, and the one we've
24 completed for Southwest is for Bristol Bay/Chignik.
25 We're in the process of doing one for Kodiak/Aleutians.
26 The two strategic plans that we completed for
27 Southcentral and Bristol Bay/Chignik area are posted up
28 on the web. And we've actually used -- we used those
29 for the 2007 call for proposals. So they're actually
30 pretty important for the program.

31

32 And I think the way we've done it with
33 workshops, with getting, you know, agencies,
34 organizations, you know, users together for, you know,
35 two or three-day workshops has really helped focus us.

36

37

38 And the thing we got out of this that
39 we weren't getting out of a lot of the Council lists
40 was, you know, what the priority information needs
41 were. So a lot of times we had long lists of programs
42 and issues, but we really had a hard time saying
43 whether, you know, this one was more important than
44 this one or that one, you know, except for when we had
45 a conservation problem or a fisheries problem that rose
46 up to the top.

47

48 Again, we kind of published something
49 in the newsletter which really just is sort of a
50 summary on that briefing paper as to where we are

1 regionwide.

2

3 And the only other thing I wanted to
4 mention, we did have a workshop for Kodiak/Aleutians.
5 We're working on a report. And this isn't the report,
6 but it does I think highlight the important things.
7 It's got a time frame, you know where we're going. And
8 like I said, we've already had a meeting last November.
9 We're actually going to have another meeting in May, on
10 the 3rd and 4th, a second work group. This should be
11 the last one before we finish the plan.

12

13 And we did get a lot of work done in
14 the workshop. There's a list of participants. You can
15 see it had pretty broad representation from Fish and
16 Game and the Federal agencies, and Council members,
17 people from, you know, just the local areas, Kodiak
18 Area Native Association, Ivan Malutin, Edgar Smith
19 from, you know, Unga, and the Peninsula Set Net
20 Association. We tried to get a pretty broad viewpoint
21 there, and also tried to keep it down to a manageable
22 level.

23

24 What we tried to do was to, you know,
25 get a frame work of we have a mission statement, then
26 we have goals, objectives and then the information
27 needs. And that's this little diagram here that, you
28 know, we've got basically two fisheries units that
29 people identified, one for salmon and one for non-
30 salmon. They also identified which species were more
31 important.

32

33 For salmon, people decided that the
34 sockeye and coho were probably of the highest
35 importance for Federal subsistence. Next in line were
36 actually pinks and chinook, and then the last was
37 chums.

38

39 And as for as the non-salmon species
40 people thought were important was dolly varden, Arctic
41 char, and also rainbow and steelhead trout, which
42 really are now taxonomically grouped with salmon, but
43 people felt that, you know, they're managed differently
44 and they really needed to be in another fisheries unit,
45 so we kind of kept them in that one.

46

47 I guess the most important thing we get
48 out of this, if you can see these little graphs here,
49 and this is actually the information needs that are
50 rated by what everybody felt was most important. So we

1 kind of went through all this and everybody voted, and
2 we had a way to do this where people had a key pad,
3 they could look at the screen and a bar graph and see
4 where everybody's votes were, and they could discuss,
5 you know, why somebody disagreed with somebody else.
6 And at the end, we just kind of grouped -- it didn't
7 matter. I mean, you know, people could just disagree
8 and feel real different, but we basically -- it was --
9 there's a method to kind of combine all that and get
10 importance.

11

12 So this would be a list of what the
13 most important needs that they decided there were for
14 salmon and for non-salmon. And, for example, the most
15 important information need they thought out of these 22
16 for non-salmon was to estimate annual subsistence use
17 harvest and effort by location, gear type, species and
18 date. And that was the most important information need
19 they thought there was for Kodiak/Aleutians salmon.
20 And the least important one on the bottom is to build
21 process based models to predict future use patterns.
22 They didn't that was important at all, although that
23 was an information need that they identified.

24

25 Now, the next step to do would be to do
26 what's called an information inventory, and see what
27 information is actually available and combine it with
28 this. And so even though this might be the most
29 information need, maybe you go through and find out we
30 have all sorts of information, and it's at least good
31 for the next two or three or four years, so we don't
32 really need studies on that. And maybe we have lots of
33 information on all of these, so maybe you end up when
34 you do a call for proposal of going down to the bottom.
35 That probably isn't what's going to happen, but it
36 could. It depends on what's available. So hopefully,
37 you know, with the next work shop, we'll able to do our
38 -- take a look at the information inventory that we've
39 put together and then do what they call the gap
40 analysis to see where the information gaps are. And
41 then hopefully to have this done, put the report out,
42 get it reviewed by the public in time for the 2008 call
43 for proposals, and that's the way we focused the
44 proposal. We'd probably take the top third or
45 something, you know, and really focus people on we
46 really want proposals on these specific issues.

47

48 So that's where we're going with this.
49 And as I've said, we have a second work shop scheduled
50 for May. And we'll be sending a draft report out to

1 all the people that participated before that so they
2 could review it and, you know, we can combine and
3 include their comments on that.

4
5 Any questions or more information you
6 need.

7
8 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: You haven't set a
9 day in May?

10
11 MR. FRIED: Yeah, the 3rd and the 4th.

12
13 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: 3rd and 4th.

14
15 MR. FRIED: Yeah.

16
17 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.
18 Any more questions or comments on this. No?

19
20 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Steve, is that going
21 to be all the same people that were on the list, or are
22 you going to have some different people?

23
24 MR. FRIED: No, it would be the same
25 people, so you'd be there, too. I'm hoping you got --
26 you're supposed to be faxed the information as to where
27 it is and when it is. You know, you and Edgar are the
28 hardest ones to get ahold of.

29
30 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.

31
32 MR. FRIED: Okay. I guess then if -- I
33 don't know if you want to take a break or hear the Fish
34 and Game report on Afognak, but that would be next.

35
36 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Want to hear the
37 Fish and Game report on Afognak.

38
39 (Off record)

40
41 (On record)

42
43 MR. BAER: Mr. Chairman and members of
44 the Council. My name is Rob Baer, I'm kind of getting
45 blocked out of the picture there, but with Fish and
46 Game, and I'll be giving a summary report from 2005.
47 I'm sorry I don't have any handouts for you on this,
48 but this is a recap on what was in your binder at the
49 end of the fall from last year. So at any rate, this
50 is the Afognak Lake sockeye salmon assessment.

1 MR. HOLMES: Did it make any
2 difference?

3
4 MR. BAER: I don't think so, Pat.

5
6 MR. HOLMES: (Indiscernible, mics not
7 on)

8
9 MR. BAER: So at any rate, this is the
10 map of Afognak there. You're all familiar, or most of
11 you anyway are familiar with the island, and how
12 important that fishery is, or that system is to local
13 villages, and even to Kodiak residents.

14
15 This is an historical -- let me get
16 this mic down a little bit -- the historical shot there
17 of escapement goals -- or of the escapement and the new
18 escapement goal of 20 to 50,000. As you can see there,
19 these last five years have dropped quite significantly.
20 And similarly, the last few years of subsistence
21 harvest have also been quite low.

22
23 So as a result, OSM was able to help
24 fund this project for the assessment of the stock. And
25 there were five major objectives put together to
26 evaluate this lake system, estimate the smolt
27 production was the first one. Evaluate lake nutrients
28 and chemistry with limnology. The third one, measure
29 usable spawning habitat. Fourth, determine the sockeye
30 salmon production potential. And, of course, compile
31 all of this into a final report. This is the 2006
32 year, this coming up season will be the last of the
33 three-year study.

34
35 So the first objective there, I guess
36 I'd better raise this up a little bit, too, unless we
37 could move that map. Thank you. Well, I really
38 screwed it up now.

39
40 All right. So the first objective
41 there, we estimate the smolt production. That's the
42 inside of one of the traps with an underwater camera.
43 And then a downstream view right there at Litnik, the
44 cabin there where the crew is housed. And the smolt
45 trap is right here to the left, and this is the adult
46 weir.

47
48 As you can see, this trap is not
49 catching all of the river, so we're not catching all of
50 the fish. In order to determine how many fish we're

1 catching, we do mark/recapture tests. And that's done
2 about once a week. We collect fish in the trap. We
3 hold them and dye them with a red dye, and they're
4 released upstream to determine how much this trap is
5 actually catching, and apply that catch to the rest of
6 it to determine what the trap isn't catching for a
7 total out-migration. And that's basically what this is
8 saying here. approximately 500 fish every week are
9 dyed. That one is not dyed. It's just a picture that
10 I had.

11
12 And this was the actual catch. About
13 73 or 74,000 were actually caught in that trip. And is
14 shows how the daily catch would go. They spike, and
15 for various reasons, it's a little bit subjective.
16 Sometimes they'll come out on a big moon, sometimes
17 they won't. Temperature will cause them to move out.
18 But it's all -- the end of May is typical.

19
20 So the trap actually caught about 15
21 percent total of the out-migration. And 95 percent of
22 those fish were age one, which is -- this is very
23 telling for us, because when you have a lot of out-
24 migrating fish at age one, that's fairly indicative
25 that there's good rearing the lake, and this is also
26 the other positive note to look at the condition factor
27 of the fish. It's .84. It really means nothing to you
28 guys maybe. It's telling us that these fish are fairly
29 healthy. They're foraging, and they have a good length
30 to weight ratio.

31
32 This is showing out-migration timing
33 for the age ones and age twos. Typically you'll see
34 the age twos come out right away and then fall down,
35 and the age ones will wait a little bit to spike out.
36 They'll spike out a little later. And total of a
37 little over half a million fish came out this year,
38 which is higher than we've seen since 2003, since we've
39 been doing this study, which, of course, we're excited
40 about.

41
42 The second objective is to evaluate the
43 lake nutrients and the lake chemistry. We collect
44 water samples through the months of May through
45 September, and do water plankton tows, and like I said,
46 the nutrient and chemistry.

47
48 This is basically a table showing the
49 history of the data that's been collected on Litnik
50 Lake there. And the same thing for the zooplankton.

1 Something to note here, from 1990 to
2 200, this is when the lake was fertilized, and this is
3 a hunk of data that has been difficult to work with, so
4 when the Board -- we submitted a new evaluation of the
5 lake for the new escapement goal, and this chunk of
6 data was thrown out, simply because it's artificially
7 inflated because of fertilization.

8
9 And this is the biomass of the
10 zooplankton, basically the weight of those little
11 creatures which are right here. And this is the number
12 of those animals per square meter. And similarly it
13 follows the biomass. This chunk of time frame here is
14 inflated because of the fertilization.

15
16 Top sum those up, the limnology, there
17 were no extreme outliers in the water chemistry. The
18 2005 zooplankton counts were slightly high -- were
19 higher three out of the past four years, and in 2005.

20
21 And like I was mentioning earlier, the
22 increase in the number 1's coming out, the age 1's, and
23 their high condition factor is positive. So they're
24 certainly foraging well.

25
26 The third objective was to measure
27 habitat, and this was something I was fortunate enough
28 myself to do. I went out to the various systems, to
29 the Eggtake Creek, Hatchery Creek, and the minor
30 systems, and measure the spawning habitat and also do
31 the lake shoal habitat. This breaks it down to the
32 potential or available spawning habitat for these three
33 systems. We have pretty high confidence in these creek
34 systems, simply because we're actually measuring the
35 substrate, evaluating it for spawning habitat, the rock
36 size, and the upwelling and the flow. Whereas the lake
37 shoal is a little more subjective simply because I was
38 flying the system looking at actual escapement from
39 2005, and applying that to what there might be
40 available. So in other words, if there were many more
41 fish in the lake, they would have most likely have been
42 spawning in more areas along the lake. So this one is
43 a very conservative number, simply because last year we
44 had a low escapement.

45
46 So the objective number 4. Estimate
47 the protection potential, and this was, of course,
48 evaluated last year when Fish and Game Staff
49 recommended changing the escapement goal from 40 to
50 60,000 to 20 to 50,000. And as I mentioned earlier,

1 that was -- a lot of that supporting data that was
2 used, we removed those 10 years of zooplankton and
3 limnology data, simply because it was fertilized in
4 that chunk of time.

5
6 A Ricker (ph) spawner recruit curve was
7 applied also for this to determine this new escapement
8 goal. So it is now 20 to 50,000.

9
10 Yeah, Pat. Maybe I'll finish and then
11 we can -- thank you.

12
13 Compiled the historical assessment data
14 is also part of this objective 5. There's the daily
15 escapement and then cumulative escapement for 2005.
16 And, of course, it spikes just like any other system.
17 21,000 was this year's escapement. 2005's escapement.

18
19 Historical escapement graph here. And
20 again here's a chunk of time that's fairly large. This
21 was I believe '91, '93, I'm not sure, I think '93 was
22 artificially stocked as well, as well as '98 and '99.
23 I'm not sure about '99, I'm sorry, but at any rate,
24 these 10 years it was fertilized and stocked.

25
26 Here's again harvest. This is all
27 types of harvest in the Afognak Bay area. And then
28 here, of course, again is the subsistence harvest.

29
30 And something that's very interesting
31 that I just recently learned about the person that
32 deals with our subsistence permitting and data entry,
33 Joanne Shaker, has just recently, since 1996, she's
34 been sending out reminders to anyone that was issued a
35 permit, sent out a reminder, hey, we need this data.
36 And since '96, she's gotten 90 percent information
37 back. Ninety percent of the people that were issued
38 permits sent data back. Prior to that it was in the 60
39 percent range. Now, I'm sure there's a way that we
40 could pull it out and found out who -- which user
41 groups are responding, but I find that highly
42 encouraging that we're getting up to 90 percent on
43 information back.

44
45 2005, she's just sent the reminders
46 out. We only have 50 percent data back for this year.

47
48 And the other thing that I had been
49 told by Joanne, some people thought that it was closed,
50 that subsistence fishing was closed, and it wasn't this

1 year.

2

3 So again this is the last year for this
4 three-year study. And again we'll do the smolt
5 production, we will continue to monitor the lake with
6 limnology, and compile all the historical and recent
7 data into a final result.

8

9 But as you just heard from Mr. Fried,
10 an additional three-year study is proposed is advancing
11 for additional three years of funding.

12

13 And thank you for your time. Any
14 questions. Pat.

15

16 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. Rob. I was
17 really excited when the OSM funded the project
18 initially, and when Steve Arnold gave us a report on
19 that first year's out-migrating smolt, and showed that
20 they were all fat, dumb and happy, or fat, smart and
21 happy, and that, you know, given the age of return on
22 the fish, that we would be seeing an increase in the
23 subsistence harvest. And we have seen that. And, you
24 know, that's the sort of thing that folks really needed
25 to know.

26

27 And I have a couple questions for you.
28 One, the reasons for dropping the escapement goal.
29 Obviously that's for some good things. I could answer
30 it, but it would be better for you.

31

32 And also some -- perhaps some
33 reflections on -- quite often we get questions about
34 dolly varden interaction, if you could maybe discuss
35 some of the biology of that. And I think probably
36 Steve has some experience on Dollies up in the Bristol
37 Bay, because that's often a question I hear from the
38 public, well, you know, why don't we kill them all.
39 But there's some other things.

40

41 But if you could explain the change in
42 the escapement goal, and what that means to the return
43 in the future.

44

45 MR. BAER: Well, like I was mentioning,
46 and I had a couple of slides in there, the escapement
47 goal was dropped based on a spawner recruitment curve
48 which is -- I was not involved in that portion of it,
49 and I'll try and explain it, but it's based on fish
50 returning and how many are capable -- what that system

1 is capable of supporting, and it was also based on how
2 much forage base is available. And when you remove
3 that chunk of time when the lake was fertilized, that
4 is what the lake can handle, and that's how that was
5 analyzed. That was presented to the Board of Fish in
6 January of 2005, and adopted.

7
8 MR. HOLMES: And so in essence
9 sometimes when you have fewer fish return to the lake
10 you end up with better recruitment and -- oh, pardon
11 me. So by dropping that goal, in some respects, with
12 fewer fish going into the lake, there's less
13 competition within the fish in the lake, and it makes
14 for more robust and happy smolt and actually better
15 returns for the whole system. Greater stability.

16
17 MR. BAER: Correct. And ultimately for
18 a maximum yield.

19
20 Did you want me to address the dolly
21 varden?

22
23 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, if you could. I'm
24 sure that's always been an interest of Pete's and other
25 folks.

26
27 MR. BAER: Well, as I mentioned, I
28 actually had done -- I was on the site and doing those
29 stream surveys in August and seeing all the fish
30 spawning and, of course, seeing all the dollies. And
31 I'll be the first to admit there were a lot of dollies
32 there, and I think there's -- for sure dollies prey
33 upon the out-migrating -- or the fry and it's an issue
34 that could be evaluated. I just -- I wouldn't even
35 really know where to begin to start evaluating those
36 dollies. They return to other systems, they forage on
37 sticklebacks.

38
39 I assume what you're getting at is a
40 total elimination or eradication of dollies, and on the
41 face value, I think that would affect things, and to
42 what degree, I don't know. And in order to determine
43 that, a full-blown investigation study would have to
44 take place, and I -- perhaps I'm not the right person
45 to answer that. And I do know that it would involve
46 quite a study and multiple locations, not just Afognak,
47 because like I say, they do migrate to other systems.

48
49 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I recall when Pete
50 Murray did a study on the Buskin, we had some of those

1 puppies go all the way down to Old Harbor. And
2 obviously you'd probably have similar relationships in
3 the lake.

4
5 And I think you raised a good point on
6 the fact that they do eat stickleback as well. And so
7 possibly if you dropped them down, you might bet the
8 stickleback up and they might be competitors, too.

9
10 I was wondering, Steve, if you had any
11 experience up at Bristol Bay with any of the -- I know
12 they tried all sorts of things up there with bounties
13 on dollies and seining them up and stuff, but was there
14 anything conclusive?

15
16 MR. FRIED: Conclusive? No. It's hard
17 to evaluate. I mean, it was expensive to do. They
18 spent several years -- it was the Bristol Bay disaster
19 funds back in the early 70s when the population crashed
20 there. And part of the disaster funds were used in the
21 Wood River system to come up with some kind of dolly
22 varden predator control project. And the idea was the
23 fact that dollies would sit at the -- the system
24 comprises several lakes connected by rivers, and the
25 dollies would sit at the bottom of some of the rivers
26 and eat the smolt.

27
28 What they did was capture dollies, pump
29 their stomachs, figure out how many on average, you
30 know, smolt were in the stomachs, tried to do some
31 digestion rate estimates and then tried to figure out
32 many smolts were being eaten.

33
34 And then the idea was to catch as many
35 dollies as they could, either prior to or during smolt
36 migration. They put them in pens until the smolt
37 migration was over, hoping that by getting those fish
38 out of there, that there would be more smolt that would
39 survive. I mean, we're talking about putting thousands
40 of dollies in pens. I think the last year we actually
41 hired a purse seiner to do it, and I think he got like
42 3,000 or so dollies just in one set.

43
44 And, you know, you can make all those
45 estimates. Whether or not they helped the system come
46 back, I don't really know. It sure didn't do the
47 dollies much good. They get really skinny. You know,
48 people tried to feed them, they wouldn't eat, you know,
49 hatchery fish food or anything like that. There's
50 several lodges that used to take their clients to fish

1 dollies when the weather was bad, and they didn't
2 appreciate the program either.

3

4 You know, they stopped the program.
5 The Wood River systems been doing great. It's probably
6 been one of the most stable systems in the bay as far
7 as sockeye production. And I don't know if that dolly
8 varden program had anything to do with that, but there
9 hasn't been any control efforts since then. There's
10 still plenty of dollies in there, and they seem to co-
11 exist fairly well. I mean, they found out that part of
12 the population there was eating snails and insects,
13 they weren't even eating smolt. So some of the
14 population was eating smolt, some of it wasn't. I
15 don't know. It was interesting, but a lot of work, a
16 lot of effort, a lot of money. Whether or not it was
17 worth it, I don't know.

18

19 They did have bounties before that when
20 the Federal Government used to manage, and they had
21 problems with that, because they were turning in tails
22 of chinook salmon and everything else, including
23 dollies.

24

25 MR. HOLMES: I guess that kind of comes
26 down to a big question. You're kind of part of the
27 program manager that decides where the money goes, and
28 it sounds like with your reduced budgets, I know myself
29 and probably most folks would be just tickled to death
30 if we can keep the Buskin and the Litnik, Afognak
31 studies going, and sort of if we were to go chasing
32 dollies, it may not be as cost productive I guess or
33 efficient.

34

35 MR. FRIED: Well, I don't think this
36 program's set up to do predator management anyway.
37 We've talked about that for wildlife. I think the same
38 thing holds for fisheries. So you, you know, you could
39 do a study, but then what would you do with the study,
40 you know. If you found out that if you'd reduce the
41 dolly population, you'd increase sockeye production. I
42 mean, who is going to do the -- I guess you would have
43 to convince the land management agency or something
44 that it was necessary, but I don't think it would rise
45 real high on the list. I mean, it would probably have
46 some bearing as to, you know, how the whole system fits
47 together and what role dollies play, but, you know, as
48 far as taking the next step in actually some applied
49 management program, I'm not sure, you know, how that
50 would work.

1 MR. HOLMES: Short of encouraging Pete
2 to make kippers out of all the dollies there.
3
4 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Well,
5 thanks. Appreciate the slides and update on what's
6 happening around that area. Keep us updated at the next
7 year's evaluation.
8
9 Okay. Here's where we are, folks.
10 It's a quarter to five, and we've got agency reports
11 and other business and time, place of next meeting.
12 And I understand we don't leave here until what,
13 2:00?
14
15 MR. SQUARTSOFF: 2:00 o'clock.
16
17 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: 2:00 tomorrow.
18
19 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah, we can be
20 done by 10 in the morning.
21
22 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: If we start at
23 9:00. So if it's okay with the Council, we'll recess
24 until the call of the Chair in 9:00 in the morning, or
25 is that -- what's up?
26
27 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, let me see if
28 the room is available. We had just set up for just one
29 day, but let me go check right quick.
30
31 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. And if not,
32 we'll meet at the airport lounge.
33
34 Pat, go ahead.
35
36 MR. HOLMES: I would ask the members,
37 if they haven't, to maybe take a look at those handouts
38 from the coffee klatch, and resolutions there for
39 supporting Sitka, Ketchikan, and then the more refined
40 resolution draft for our Council to send to the Board,
41 and then that would keep me quiet.
42
43 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Yeah.
44 We're going to -- when we get to that, we're going to
45 ask that you submit all your information as part of the
46 public record. That's the only way it can get in. And
47 individually as a RAC, we'll be able to pull out that
48 particular resolution or support letter, whatever it is
49 that you have there, and it can be presented by a
50 member from that particular public record, and then we

1 can move on with it.

2

3 So we're okay here until tomorrow
4 morning at 9:00? Okay. So hearing no further -- and
5 make sure you read your homework tonight, Al. We'll
6 see you tomorrow at 9:00

7

8 (off record)

9

10 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 143 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the KODIAK/ALEUTIANS FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I, taken electronically by Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC on the 21st day of March 2006, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. at the Sand Lake, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 30th day of March 2006.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 03/12/08