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KODIAK/ALEUTIANS FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

Sand Point, Alaska  
March 22, 2006  
9:00 o'clock a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Vincent Tutiakoff, Chair
- Peter Squartsoff
- Patrick Holmes
- Samuel Rohrer
- Alfred B. Cratty, Jr.
- Jim Hamilton
- Paul Gundersen
- Regional Council Coordinator, Michelle Chivers

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Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC  
3522 West 27th Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99517  
907-243-0668  
jpk@gci.net

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Sand Point, Alaska - 3/22/2006)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: We'll call the Kodiak RAC back to order. And do we need a roll call again?

SEVERAL: No.

CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: No. It's just a recess. Okay. All members present.

Welcome to the public, and also if you a public comment, fill out this green form so that we can get on with it.

Yesterday we left off on item 14.A., Office of Subsistence Management, item 1, review of rural determination briefing, Page 66. And where -- go ahead.

MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. The briefings that are in the paper that state that they're informational only, those are just to kind of catch the Council up to where we are in that process.

With rural determination, there will be more following at a later date. This is just kind of to make sure that everybody has the same information.

And so if everybody's already read through that, you can just kind of skip over the informational items, unless there's questions, and hopefully Staff can answer them. But if anybody has any questions on it, then they can certainly ask and we'll try to answer them.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you. For the record, and we want to get it on record, the continued support of this Kodiak/Aleutians RAC that has been a concern of some members that we should get a motion in order and get it on the record i support of the two communities that are being reviewed for rural determination, Kodiak and Adak. And the number 3 item is the material that may be presented and should be

1 presented by and will be presented by members of the  
2 RAC and how we're going to deal with them so they get  
3 into the record. So at this time, I would, unless  
4 there's any questions regarding this particular issue,  
5 that I would ask for a motion on Kodiak rural issue.  
6 And I've written a motion.

7  
8 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair, I would  
9 like to make a motion on Kodiak rural determination.  
10 The motion, continue support of the eligibility of  
11 Kodiak Island as a rural designation for subsistence  
12 priority on fish and wildlife on Federal public lands.

13  
14 MR. CRATTY: Second.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Is there a second?

17  
18 MR. CRATTY: Second.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Seconded by Al.

21 Discussion.

22  
23 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman, I would like  
24 to make that more specific, because in talking to Tom  
25 Boyd and also talking to the Southeast RAC Chairman,  
26 and the problem with -- we had something like that the  
27 last time that it went to the Board, and that didn't  
28 really describe the situation for the Kodiak Island  
29 communities. And in the packet that I gave the Board  
30 and Michelle, there's a letter.....

31  
32 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Excuse me, I'm not  
33 going to cut you off, but could you -- whatever  
34 material that you have, could you present it to the  
35 recorder, and we'll.....

36  
37 MR. HOLMES: She has it.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: .....include all  
40 this information. Just give the -- we don't need to  
41 discuss the whole thing. This is an issue I think that  
42 the community of Kodiak I know is very concerned about,  
43 but this decision is not going to be made at this  
44 level. We support the continued activities of the  
45 community, and whatever material they have, they want  
46 to get it to the Federal Board or to Tom or to the  
47 Secretary of Interior. They need to get it in the  
48 record, and just present it.....

49  
50 MR. HOLMES: Well, Mr. Chairman, I

1 would totally disagree. It is going to them. The  
2 point that I just made is we were told by the Office of  
3 Subsistence Management, Tom Boyd, the head, that  
4 basically the presentation that was made and the  
5 resolution was inadequate. And I feel that this  
6 correspondence, March 21, that was faxed to us by the  
7 Woody Island Tribal Community is a much more specific  
8 resolution addressing those points. And I would like  
9 to have that entered as a resolution from this Council.  
10 And you can overrule me, but, you know, I'd call for a  
11 vote of the Board. I think it's a really, really  
12 important document, and it will go to them through  
13 multiple channels. It's the one with the little  
14 bullets on the side, sir.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: It's the March  
17 21st letter?

18  
19 MR. HOLMES: Yes, sir.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: The March 21st  
22 letter addressed to Mitch Demientieff?

23  
24 MR. HOLMES: Yes, sir.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: I'd ask that it be  
27 part of the record. It's second page of the attachment  
28 to the main motion.

29  
30 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: And I hope it fits  
31 together.

32  
33 MR. HOLMES: Oh, it was downstairs, the  
34 ladies were helping me.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: So it's this one  
37 right here that's with the.....

38  
39 MR. HOLMES: It's a two-page thing, a  
40 letter to Mitch Demientieff. And you could append that  
41 to the motion that Pete made.....

42  
43 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yes.

44  
45 MR. HOLMES: .....but just so that goes  
46 in as a resolution of Council. That would help  
47 greatly.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: For the record, it  
50 will be attached to the motion, this March 22nd letter,

1 2006. 21st letter, excuse me.

2

3 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, did you want  
4 it read in to the record, is that what.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: No, just attach it  
7 to the motion for the record as a support document for  
8 the motion.

9

10 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. Mr. Chair, I  
11 believe that Pat Holmes did receive a letter that he  
12 had asked that I read into the record as well. He  
13 handed it to me this morning. It's a letter from.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: I would like to  
16 see that before it's -- what is it?

17

18 MS. CHIVERS: Or did you want to just  
19 attach it as well? I don't.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: What is it?

22

23 MS. CHIVERS: It's just one copy of a  
24 letter, so I can pass it around unless you want me to  
25 just read it in the record?

26

27 MR. HOLMES: It just came in from  
28 Gabrielle (indiscernible, mic not on) to me, it's a  
29 letter of support. It supports (indiscernible, mic not  
30 on).

31

32 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. I'll also  
33 ask that that be attached.

34

35 MS. CHIVERS: Got it.

36

37 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Any further  
38 discussion by members of the Council.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Hearing none, I'll  
43 call for the question. Pat.

44

45 MR. HOLMES: I move that we adopt the  
46 motion with the attached material.

47

48 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, I've already  
49 directed that.

50

1 MR. HOLMES: Oh, I'm sorry.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Through the Chair.  
4 That's fine.  
5  
6 MR. HOLMES: I'm having a really bad  
7 headache.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: I know. It sounds  
10 like it, yeah.  
11  
12 MR. HOLMES: I'm kind of brain  
13 strained. All right.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: All those in favor  
16 say aye.  
17  
18 IN UNISON: Aye.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Opposed.  
21  
22 (No opposing votes)  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Motion carries.  
25 Thank you very much for all your hard work, Pat.  
26 Hopefully you'll get over your headache there.  
27 Stressed out.  
28  
29 Okay. The next item is the Adak Island  
30 rural determination. Do we have a motion.  
31  
32 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. I'd like  
33 to make a motion to support the designation of Adak  
34 Island from non-rural to rural for the purpose of  
35 subsistence use of fish and wildlife on Federal public  
36 lands.  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Is there a second.  
39  
40 MR. GUNDERSEN: I'll second it.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Seconded by Paul.  
43 Discussion.  
44  
45 MR. HOLMES: You might want to add and  
46 Federal waters, because you've got the Maritime Refuge,  
47 and that would give it a little more precise message,  
48 sir.  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: If there's no

1 objection, add waters. For fish and wildlife, Federal  
2 public lands and waters. A friendly amendment.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Hearing no  
7 objection, do I hear a call for the question.

8  
9 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Question.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Question is  
12 called. All those in favor say aye.

13  
14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Opposed.

17  
18 (No opposing votes)

19  
20 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Motion carries.  
21 Okay. Thank you very much.

22  
23 The next item, move on to the next  
24 agenda item here, please. Marine jurisdiction.

25  
26 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: That's  
27 information.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Informational  
30 only.

31 Draft closure review policy briefing by  
32 Laura. And that's on Page 69 of your book. Good  
33 morning.

34  
35 MS. GREFFENIUS: Good morning. Chair.  
36 Members of the Council. So we'll be going through Page  
37 69. This is Laura Greffenius with the Office of  
38 Subsistence Management. Page 69 it starts. I'll go  
39 through the high points, and then this draft closure  
40 policy.

41  
42 Last fall there were closure reviews  
43 presented to the Councils by Staff of the Subsistence  
44 Office. I didn't see in your minutes any that were  
45 covered last fall, so perhaps there weren't any  
46 specific to this Council. But it was something that  
47 went before the Councils, and then it generated some  
48 proposals. So there very well might be some in the  
49 future And we're also getting comments from all the  
50 Councils.

1                   So I'll go through this, just some  
2 background information, what the policy entails and any  
3 thoughts that come up, questions. This is an action  
4 item, so if you like what you hear, support it. If  
5 there's things that you don't like, make comments. We  
6 are soliciting comments, but then also to just get a  
7 yeah or nay from the Council. And this will be going  
8 before the Federal Subsistence Board in May so they can  
9 finalize this policy. So it's important to provide  
10 your input.

11  
12                   So starting on the top of Page 69, this  
13 was generated -- this draft closure policy initiated  
14 last January with a letter from Governor Murkowski to  
15 the Secretary of Interior, and he had some concerns,  
16 some issues concerning the Federal Subsistence Program.  
17 And one of the Governor's issues of concern was  
18 standards used by the Federal Subsistence Board when  
19 closing areas to non-Federally-qualified users. And so  
20 the Departments of Interior and Agriculture sent a  
21 letter, the Secretaries of those Departments sent  
22 letters back to the Board instructing them to review  
23 the current practices regarding closure decisions, and  
24 to formulate a policy clarifying the Board's approach  
25 to making these closures. Many of them were already in  
26 place, but then when there are new ones that are made,  
27 there just needed to be a policy concerning that.

28  
29                   There are several types of closures  
30 which we'll go into, and so the policy addressed the  
31 types of closures, criteria for establishing future  
32 closures, and table displaying the closures that are in  
33 place now. Some of them have been in place since the  
34 start of the subsistence program in 1990.

35  
36                   And as I mentioned, many of these were  
37 covered -- some of these were presented to the Councils  
38 in the fall. And if your Council didn't have any, then  
39 there could likely be some in the future, so at least  
40 you'll be familiar with it.

41  
42                   So I'll touch on the high points for  
43 the policy that start on Page 70. And the purpose of  
44 this policy is essentially -- is consistent with ANILCA  
45 and other Federal laws. Many times when we are  
46 discussing the proposals, whether it be the wildlife  
47 biologist or the fisheries biologist, we need to refer  
48 to ANILCA. When we go into the justification, we need  
49 to refer to ANILCA and say, you know, because of  
50 Section .815, for example, that this closure can or



1 cannot be done. So most of this policy really is  
2 consistent with what's already in place with ANILCA,  
3 and then it adds -- so there's not that much new in the  
4 sense that it just goes through a few administrative  
5 things of how we're going to procedurally carry through  
6 with it.

7  
8 And also, I see some of you flipping  
9 the pages, and we'll get to that towards the end.

10  
11 It also put together -- this policy put  
12 together a table to get all the closures in one place  
13 so they can be visually seen, because otherwise they  
14 were scattered throughout the subsistence regulations  
15 book. So it kind of just makes things more easier to  
16 address.

17  
18 As I mentioned, the purpose is to set  
19 criteria and guidance and some procedural matters.

20  
21 So going down to the types of existing  
22 closures, as I said, many of these closures have been  
23 in place since the inception of the subsistence program  
24 in 1990. They were just ones that resulted when the  
25 Board adopted the existing State regulations, and so a  
26 lot of times these need to be updated. Sometimes they  
27 still need to be in place, whether there's a low  
28 wildlife population, whatever. But they need to be  
29 updated since they've been around for a while.

30  
31 There's closures that allow continued  
32 uses by rural residents as well as closures to all  
33 users when necessary to protect the resource. I'll  
34 just go through the list.

35  
36 There's, on the top of Page 71, there's  
37 the seasons closures that came from the State  
38 regulations. So many times we end up just changing the  
39 season dates depending on what works best for the  
40 subsistence users.

41  
42 There's closures to subsistence users  
43 for conservation purposes. There's ones that have been  
44 in place for quite a while, and then also ones that are  
45 voted on by the Councils, new closures.

46  
47 Some of them are administrative  
48 closures for public safety. These are ones around  
49 campgrounds. There's some, for example, in the Denali  
50 area that are along roadways, for example, just for

1 protection of the public.

2

3                   And then there's also closures to non-  
4 Federally-qualified users where there's a subsistence  
5 priority just so that -- for conservation purposes, or  
6 to make sure of the continued subsistence uses.

7

8                   And then in the appendix we'll look at  
9 those. There's a list of all the closures.

10

11                   The criteria, I'll go through these,  
12 for establishing future closures, and the reason many  
13 of them were put in place, but especially for  
14 establishing future ones, as I said, are consistent  
15 with ANILCA Section .815. And as I said, we address  
16 these usually in our proposal analyses.

17

18                   Where it's necessary for the  
19 conservation of healthy populations of fish and  
20 wildlife based on population status, trends and  
21 management objectives. When there's, you know, not  
22 enough to go around. It's just something that's -- the  
23 subsistence users are given the opportunity on Federal  
24 Public lands, and then lands are closed to non-  
25 Federally-qualified users. So that's one of the kinds  
26 of closures.

27

28                   When it's necessary for the  
29 continuation of subsistence uses of such populations.  
30 And this comment right here, competition in and of  
31 itself is not a justification for closure of Federal  
32 public lands to non-Federally-qualified users; however,  
33 when there's issues of significant displacement to  
34 subsistence users and their harvest occur because of  
35 hunting, then non-Federally-qualified users can be  
36 justified. An example is some issues that came up on  
37 the North Slope with hunting of caribou and caribou  
38 being diverted from certain passes where the  
39 subsistence users are. That's just an example. I  
40 don't have an example right for this area.

41

42                   Public safety, again, is a closure  
43 pertaining to that, and then for administrative reasons  
44 such as military activities. I think that's more  
45 pertinent in the Interior.

46

47                   Factors to consider in deciding  
48 closures, some of these relate to the criteria. The  
49 biological information, it's something that the  
50 biologists always consider, the biological information.

1 And we talk to the agency staff, the personnel that are  
2 right with the land agencies, whether it be Fish and  
3 Wildlife Service, or National Park Service, or Bureau  
4 of Land Management personnel.

5  
6 We also look at the harvest information  
7 and what's needed by the communities. The current  
8 harvest levels from the subsistence users and non-  
9 subsistence users. We need to look at the reliability  
10 of the data. We understand sometimes the information  
11 is -- if we don't have all the permits turned in or  
12 whatever, we need to kind of look at that in making  
13 decisions. That's why it's so important for permit  
14 information to be turned in.

15  
16 We need to look at the impacts of the  
17 proposed closure on the resource use, not only right in  
18 that area, but outside the immediate area, because  
19 sometimes a closure can affect adjacent areas. It's  
20 something that we had discussed, if it kind of moves  
21 hunters and harvest over to another location.

22  
23 And then also to address other options  
24 other than closures.

25  
26 And then at the very bottom is kind of  
27 what the administrative things I was talking about.  
28 Some of these closures have been in place since 1990 as  
29 I said. Some of them had been established in the 90s,  
30 and when we went through and made a table of these this  
31 past summer and fall, we realized a lot of them hadn't  
32 been updated and hadn't been looked at. And that's one  
33 reason why we had been requested to do so. So there's  
34 going to be a procedural matter that they'll be  
35 reviewed after three years from establishment of the  
36 closure. In some cases there might have been some  
37 population differences where if there's been a  
38 population increase in a certain area, and then the  
39 closure's no longer effective. Instead of just leaving  
40 it in place then they would be reviewed.

41  
42 So every three years these need to be  
43 looked at, and then also these closures, the review  
44 process will be presented at the fall meetings, because  
45 that's the time when the wildlife proposals are  
46 submitted. And then it would be up to the Councils if  
47 there's a closure review that comes before you, then  
48 the Councils can decide if they want to keep that in  
49 place, not deal with the proposal, if they don't like  
50 the closure or whatever, then a proposal can be

1 submitted. So it's kind of a process to keep everyone  
2 updated on all sides is what it amounts to.

3  
4 So as far as the tables right here,  
5 there's two. Appendix A is closures to non-Federally-  
6 qualified users, Page 74 that starts. Just scanning it  
7 and looking at the units, there's not any particular to  
8 this Council for the wildlife. There's some Unit 9,  
9 Bristol Bay, your neighbors, but not for this one. In  
10 the fisheries there were some on Page 80 that pertain  
11 to the Kodiak area. So the table's set up in two  
12 parts, closures to non-Federally-qualified users, and  
13 then on Page 81, closures to Federally-qualified  
14 subsistence users. In some cases it's pretty much  
15 closed all around. And so I didn't see any in the  
16 wildlife portion, but in the fisheries portion there  
17 were actually a fair number starting on Page 87,  
18 continuing to 88 and 89 for your area. I'm not going  
19 to go through all those, but just to point it out to  
20 you if you wanted to look at some of those.

21  
22 And just in the future, when we do, on  
23 Page 91, the closure review format, and these are -- I  
24 had worked on several on these last fall and presented  
25 them to the Councils. This is the format we used.  
26 It's a much more abbreviated version of the analyses,  
27 and it just gives the pertinent information of when the  
28 closure was initiated and why, and then just some brief  
29 information, just like we do in the analyses on the  
30 biological background and resource information, harvest  
31 information. And then at the bottom we make a  
32 recommendation just whether or not to keep the closure,  
33 you know, recommend a proposal to modify or just any  
34 other recommendation. And this is what, you know, we  
35 would use to -- sometimes OSM will submit proposals,  
36 and other times they're generated from the Councils.

37  
38 So that covers the main points of that.  
39 As I said, the comments on here need to be submitted no  
40 later than April 1st, any comments that you have right  
41 now, and just -- I think most of the Councils have  
42 taken this as an action item, you know, making a motion  
43 and then further discussion so the comments can be  
44 included in the Board meeting that's coming up in May.

45  
46 So that's all I have on that, and I'll  
47 answer any questions, and thank you.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you,  
50 Laura. Any comments from the members on this format

1 regarding closure issues.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. For the  
4 record it seems like a logical approach.

5

6 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Any more  
7 comments.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: If not I'll  
12 entertain a motion.

13

14 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I move we  
15 accept this report.

16

17 MR. ROHRER: I second that.

18

19 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: It's been moved  
20 and second to accept the report.

21

22 I think what Laura's after is we adopt  
23 or accept the policy also, or comments.

24

25 MS. GREFFENIUS: And in addition  
26 comments, you know, whatever comments. And this is a  
27 draft, so it's in the works, and just is going to be  
28 worked on. If there's -- if you haven't had a chance  
29 to look it over, you know, line by line, you can always  
30 submit something individually by April 1st or just  
31 comments you have overall, you know, to have on the  
32 record.

33

34 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Is that April  
35 1st.....

36

37 MS. GREFFENIUS: Of 2006. Uh-huh.  
38 Coming up shortly.

39

40 MR. CRATTY: I have one. Laura, I'm  
41 wondering, you know, they've got customary and  
42 traditional use on Page 89, and they, on the species  
43 closed is salmon, and they say Kodiak, Woman's Bay and  
44 all that. Then they say the residents of Kodiak Island  
45 Borough, except those residing on Kodiak Coast Guard  
46 Base. I don't understand that. I mean, the people on  
47 the Kodiak Coast Guard Base utilize the fish just as  
48 much as the people in Kodiak Island Borough. When  
49 you've got customary and traditional use determination.

50

1 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Pat.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: I believe when that  
4 determination was made, the Coast Guard staff were not  
5 using subsistence-caught fish that much. And that  
6 testimony as I recall was that they relied more on  
7 sport fishing for their access. The ones that lived  
8 off the base that were Alaska residents, some of them  
9 did get subsistence permits. When I looked at the data  
10 for 2000, there was only like two permits that could  
11 actually be attributed to the base. And I think they  
12 did that, because of comments from long-time Kodiak  
13 folks suggesting that, you know, that wasn't a  
14 traditional use for Coast Guard people, because most of  
15 them are only there for a couple of years. That's the  
16 best of my recollection.

17

18 Mr. Chairman.

19

20 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Yeah. I seem to  
21 understand or starting to recall that discussion that  
22 we had at the Buskin River Inn in regards to that  
23 particular issue two years ago.

24

25 Any more comments.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Now, I'd recommend  
30 that -- I know the motion was to accept the report.  
31 But to get to the point, we need to adopt the policy as  
32 it's presented. And my understanding is this is a  
33 working document, so as we move through it and as it  
34 becomes a tool of this RAC, then we can make changes or  
35 recommend changes to the actual policy. And what we're  
36 really accepting I think is the last page, which is the  
37 format. That's where we will be involved.

38

39 MS. GREFFENIUS: What you're voting on  
40 is the policy itself, the draft policy that starts on  
41 Page 70 and goes through Page 73. And then the  
42 appendices and then the format that there at the end  
43 are just the example of what we do. But we're voting  
44 -- what you're voting on is the policy and whether you  
45 accept that, or comments or suggested changes. If that  
46 helps clarify.

47

48 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.

49

50 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. If I may

1 remove my original motion and place a motion on that we  
2 accept this, Kodiak/ Aleutians RAC accepts this draft  
3 policy for decisions regarding closures to hunting,  
4 trapping and fishing opportunities on Federal lands and  
5 waters in Alaska.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: With the  
8 acceptance, understanding of the second?

9  
10 MR. ROHRER: Yes.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: So moved. Any  
13 more discussion.

14  
15 (No comments)

16  
17 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Hearing none, call  
18 for the question. All those in favor say aye.

19  
20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Opposed.

23  
24 (No opposing votes)

25  
26 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Motion carries.  
27 Thank you very much.

28  
29 MS. GREFFENIUS: You're welcome.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: We did number 4  
32 already, which was the subsistence amount protocol  
33 briefing by teleconference yesterday.

34  
35 We'll move on to item 5 is avian flu.  
36 It's informational only.

37  
38 And B, Izembek National Wildlife  
39 Refuge. We have Sandra Siekaniec here. Page 102.

40  
41 MS. SIEKANIEC: Good morning. My name  
42 is Sandra Siekaniec, and I'm the refuge manager at the  
43 Izembek Refuge.

44  
45 If you turn to 102, let's see, we've  
46 already gone over the first page, so I'm going to move  
47 on to my other parts of the report.

48  
49 As far as brant goes, the regular sport  
50 season last year was shortened to about a month. I did

1 have law enforcement people in the field. It seemed  
2 like everybody was complying with that. I don't think  
3 we had any problems.

4  
5 We did have one complaint about some  
6 subsistence users who were not retrieving birds. We  
7 weren't able to investigate that. We found out about  
8 it a little bit too late. We're going to be looking  
9 into that again this year.

10  
11 The new rules for this year were  
12 published, and it affects somewhat the Izembek area,  
13 but it also affects Yukon Delta. The rules on Yukon  
14 Delta is that they will have a special black brant and  
15 cackling goose season hunt closure from when they start  
16 egg laying until the young birds are fledged. And they  
17 are also closing five nesting areas where black brant  
18 nest to all hunting and egg gathering.

19  
20 And then for the Izembek area, they are  
21 shortening the season. And they're -- Basically it  
22 only affects Izembek and Moffet Lagoons. It will  
23 shorten the season about 15 days. So instead of it  
24 closing on August 31st, it will close on August 16th.  
25 I know when I talked to folks about caribou, I did get  
26 a complaint from the folks in Cold Bay. They felt that  
27 they were being singled out on this because of a few  
28 people that had violated in the past. But I still  
29 think there's opportunity there. It doesn't close  
30 Kinzarof Lagoon. There are some areas where they could  
31 hunt at well.

32  
33 Any questions about brant. Yes.

34  
35 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I was  
36 wondering on the discussion, 103 to Page 104, and I may  
37 not have just been receiving well. It talks about the  
38 hunting season will be closed when populations are  
39 below 60,000 geese. That's statewide closure or -- oh,  
40 emperor geese.

41  
42 MS. SIEKANIEC: Yeah, I think you were  
43 looking at emperors first.

44  
45 MR. HOLMES: I'll wait. Pardon me.

46  
47 MS. SIEKANIEC: Any question on brants?

48  
49 (No comments)

50



1 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Go ahead. We can  
2 move on.

3  
4 MS. SIEKANIEC: Okay. I know the  
5 Council asked me last time about emperor geese, so I  
6 obtained some information about the geese. And you'll  
7 see the chart on Page 103.

8  
9 Current population numbers are about I  
10 think it's 56,000. They have to be at 60,000 for three  
11 consecutive years before the hunting season is open.  
12 So it's still a little ways off. Well, actually, I'm  
13 sorry, the three year average has to be 80,000 is what  
14 it is for hunting to be considered again.

15  
16 Now, Pat, do you have any questions on  
17 that?

18  
19 MR. HOLMES: Yes, Sandra. I appreciate  
20 you getting that information. It's a question I think  
21 that's been asked before, and we haven't really got  
22 that information, and you've done a swell job on  
23 providing more for our Council than some of your  
24 predecessors.

25  
26 My question is I guess the closure is  
27 statewide, and then I was wondering if you could  
28 elaborate why on the management plan it's a three-year  
29 running average. Is that just because of the  
30 difficulty of counting the critters.

31  
32 MS. SIEKANIEC: Yeah, part of it is the  
33 difficulty in counting the critters. The other thing  
34 is, if you get a high number one year, that doesn't  
35 mean the population is stabilizing. You need to have a  
36 consistent population to make sure that you've got the  
37 population to harvest from.

38  
39 MR. CRATTY: Sandra, do they still have  
40 their egg take in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta or is that  
41 closed on the emperor geese?

42  
43 MS. SIEKANIEC: It's totally closed.

44  
45 MR. CRATTY: Okay. Thank you.

46  
47 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. Has there been  
48 a notable difference since the egg take was closed on  
49 the population?

50

1 MS. SIEKANIEC: I'm not aware of any  
2 changes that way. I know -- well, you can see, the  
3 numbers are fluctuating somewhat. The hunting was  
4 closed in '87 for subsistence. That doesn't mean it  
5 stopped. It just means that it was legally closed. So  
6 I am aware that there probably is some take still  
7 occurring. But, yeah, I'm not positive what the egg  
8 laying actually stopped.

9  
10 MR. SQUARTSOFF: And one other  
11 question. When these numbers are counted, are they  
12 counted in the same areas at the same time, or, you  
13 know, is it possible that some of these birds could be  
14 moving a different way and being missed on the count?

15  
16 MS. SIEKANIEC: Basically when they do  
17 the population, they do it in the spring when all the  
18 birds have returned to Alaska. And they do it the  
19 whole coast. They don't specify a certain area. They  
20 go all the way from the lower Peninsula and the  
21 Aleutian Chain, all the way up to Dillingham and into  
22 Yukon Delta. So it's a transect by air that's done  
23 continuously.

24  
25 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. I guess the  
26 reason I was asking that question, because I keep  
27 getting reports that the numbers are increased a lot on  
28 Kodiak. Emperors.

29  
30 MS. SIEKANIEC: Well, and the other  
31 thing is, if they're not finding wintering habitat on  
32 the Alaska Peninsula, they may be moving to Kodiak. So  
33 that may be a shift in the population use.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Any more questions  
36 or comments with regard to emperor geese.

37  
38 (No comments)

39  
40 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Hearing  
41 none, we'll move on.

42  
43 MS. SIEKANIEC: Okay. The next topic  
44 that I'd like to cover is avian influenza. There is  
45 some information in your packet, I think on Page 100.  
46 That is an old handout, and we do have more recent  
47 information.

48  
49 I did bring along some new information  
50 I just got before I left. There's a few of them on the

1 back table. But a lot of these websites that I've put  
2 in your handout here are valid. You can go there any  
3 time to see if there's any updates.

4  
5 What we're finding is that right now  
6 the wild bird populations are getting this H5N1 virus  
7 from the domestic birds. There have been no reports of  
8 transfer between wild birds and humans at this time.  
9 And there's also not been any H5N1 found in the United  
10 States at this time.

11  
12 We did test birds last fall, because we  
13 knew this was coming up. We tested our eiders when we  
14 were doing the banding, and there was no H5N1 found at  
15 all.

16  
17 We're going to be doing some testing  
18 this fall on several different species, including  
19 swans, pintails, the eiders, of course, and maybe some  
20 shorebirds. It will be our main focus, just trying to  
21 see when it comes into the country, and if it's a  
22 concern for the area, we want to make sure everybody's  
23 aware of it.

24  
25 The biggest thing with this virus is  
26 it's like any flu virus. Hygiene is critical. You  
27 need to make sure that if you're handling birds, that  
28 you wash immediately after, that you don't, you know,  
29 touch to your mouth or your nose. Soap and water will  
30 kill it. Bleach will kill it. And cooking of your  
31 waterfowl will kill it. So if it does come in, you  
32 know, there are steps that you can take so that you  
33 don't get infected.

34  
35 Does anybody have any questions on  
36 that.

37  
38 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. I'll just  
39 comment. It looks like the questions are pretty well  
40 answered.

41  
42 MS. SIEKANIEC: Okay. Great. And I  
43 intend to keep providing information to the communities  
44 as it becomes available, so that people are kept aware  
45 of it.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.  
48 If no more comments on it, we'll move on.

49  
50 (No comments)

1 MS. SIEKANIEC: Yeah, just a few other  
2 items. We are cautious, that, you know, sea otters  
3 have been listed as a threatened species. At this time  
4 only native individuals can accept carcasses as far as  
5 to keep them.

6  
7 The other thing is that if anybody sees  
8 a dead carcass we would like to have it so that we can  
9 evaluate it to find out what the cause of death is. So  
10 if anybody sees one, let us know.

11  
12 Probably something I should have  
13 mentioned on avian influenza. If you're finding dead  
14 birds, also call us. We need to get there and pick  
15 them up and try to figure out what's going on. I would  
16 advise not touching them, because you don't know what  
17 they have, but if you can give us a call. I did  
18 provide the Council members with a magnet that has our  
19 1-800 number so that you can reach us if you need to.

20  
21 We're also working on our comprehensive  
22 conservation plan, and we're hoping to have a draft for  
23 internal review by the all, and possibly a draft plan  
24 for the public by January 2007.

25  
26 We're also working with the State in  
27 doing a management plan for the Izembek State Game  
28 Refuge. And it's my understanding that they will have  
29 a draft for internal review by April. So we're working  
30 on that as well.

31  
32 One other item that came up before I  
33 left, and I've got several handouts. And I'm not sure  
34 if I talked about this in the past meeting or not.  
35 Along with the King Cove access road issue and the  
36 environmental assessment, it was determined that  
37 several of the easements that we have that allow people  
38 to transport for public lands to public waters were not  
39 in areas that people could access easily. So we re-  
40 evaluated them on the ground and determined better  
41 areas where people could go. And the packet that you  
42 have in front of you is open for public comments.  
43 People can make comments on the changes to the  
44 easements. Basically it's moving easements from one  
45 spot to another where it's more accessible to the  
46 people.

47  
48 The upper one, there is a qualifier to  
49 that one. It is for non-motorized use, which is a  
50 little bit different. But it has to do with being

1 close to the wilderness area, and the road being fairly  
2 close to that wilderness area.

3

4 The comments are due in by the middle  
5 of April, so if you guys have any comments, you're more  
6 than welcome to send those in.

7

8 Any other questions.

9

10 MR. ROHRER: Mr. Chair. I have a  
11 question on the sea otters. I assume that the sea  
12 otter -- all hunting was shut down for sea otters for  
13 Alaska natives, is that correct, when they were listed  
14 as threatened?

15

16 MS. SIEKANIEC: That is correct.

17

18 MR. ROHRER: And that will be the case  
19 until they're taken off the threatened list?

20

21 MS. SIEKANIEC: Yes, that is true.

22

23 MR. ROHRER: Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Any more comments.

26 Questions.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: And that's the --  
31 is that your report then?

32

33 MS. SIEKANIEC: That concludes my  
34 report.

35

36 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you  
37 very much.

38

39 Okay. The Kodiak Island -- Kodiak  
40 National Wildlife Refuge. No one here for that report,  
41 and it's in our book.

42

43 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. We don't have  
44 anybody here from Kodiak.

45

46 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Alaska  
47 Department of Fish and Game. Yesterday we had the  
48 slide show, but we've got some other.

49

50 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. Members of the

1 Council. Again my name's Lem Butler.

2

3 I really don't have a formal report for  
4 you, other than again I'd like to remind you that you  
5 are welcome to submit proposals through the Board of  
6 Game process to effect changes in Unit 9 to the State  
7 regulations, which would affect, again, corporation,  
8 State land and Federal lands. And we could try to  
9 address some of the concerns this Council may have,  
10 especially in lieu of the fact that we don't have an  
11 active fish and game advisory committee for the area.  
12 This Council's really the only group that meets and  
13 represents the local community and their interests.  
14 Again, certainly would welcome any proposals put  
15 forward by either this group or any individual members.

16

17 With that, I could talk more about  
18 different ideas, if that's still of interest to the  
19 Council. Otherwise I'll let you carry on.

20

21 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: What's the feeling  
22 of the Council.

23

24 MR. ROHRER: Mr. Chair. I think it  
25 would be a good idea, but I would refer to Paul. I  
26 mean, this is his neck of the woods, this is his area.  
27 But this would certainly be a great time to talk and  
28 come up with some ideas to submit a proposal to the  
29 Board of Game. I would support doing that, if Paul  
30 wishes, and everyone else.

31

32 MR. GUNDERSEN: Yeah. Excuse me. Last  
33 fall when we -- at our meeting in Kodiak, I brought up  
34 the same issue about the caribou situation on the north  
35 side. And there was -- at that point they were talking  
36 about the possibility of restricting some of the  
37 subsistence hunting. And without looking at what the  
38 State issues were.

39

40 My approach was to talk to the State or  
41 put in a proposal, and to kind of curtail some of the  
42 activities that were there, or cut down the bag limits  
43 or whatever was going on and leave subsistence alone.

44

45 I went back, talked to the community,  
46 but I could not generate enough interest to get a  
47 proposal generated for that meeting. And now that the  
48 numbers are getting down as low as they are, like we're  
49 100 animals away from the complete closure, there may  
50 be some interest. But now we're what, another year

1 away again before the cycle comes around again for  
2 submitting proposals.

3  
4 But it's in the works, you know,  
5 they're thinking about it, but however they haven't  
6 acted fast enough to get this last round of proposals.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: I was going back  
9 to your last minutes of 22nd, 23rd of September, Paul,  
10 and you said you could not get the support that you  
11 needed to generate in your comments here, community  
12 recommendations for the Council, was to curtail the  
13 State hunt by limiting guides to a certain number of  
14 hunters. You could not get that support from your  
15 community?

16  
17 MR. GUNDERSEN: No. They -- yes, I  
18 did, but not in the -- I could do it on a one-to-one  
19 basis, but I couldn't get the general consensus of the  
20 community to work with that. But now I think it's --  
21 everything's a lot more evident, and they would be more  
22 cooperative or be more prone to see if they can do  
23 something about it.

24  
25 MR. CRATTY: Yeah, Vince. I'd just  
26 like to say, I think, Paul, you should get with your  
27 tribal councils and city entities in these different  
28 communities and get something drawn up, what they'd  
29 like to do before it does get too bad. I don't think  
30 it's our judgment, as people from Kodiak, we'd like to  
31 help, but over what the people want to do here.

32  
33 MR. ROHRER: Lem, when would a proposal  
34 have to be into the Board of Game for -- when's the  
35 next cycle?

36  
37 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. Members of the  
38 Council. The next Board of Game meeting for  
39 Southcentral Alaska will be in March of 2007.  
40 Proposals will be due December 10th, 2006.

41  
42 I think it's important to keep in mind  
43 that particular in communities like Nelson Lagoon,  
44 there's so much State and private lands that the  
45 Federal hunting regulations don't apply to. So really  
46 people are limited to State regulations in a lot of  
47 that country. So changes made on the State side will  
48 have impacts on local residents as well.

49  
50 But there's some ways to I think effect

1 some of the changes that were -- or concerns that were  
2 expressed by this Council without limiting folks from  
3 local communities, and to -- with too great of an  
4 impact.

5  
6 Another thing to keep in mind is that  
7 recently the State's put together a Commercial Services  
8 Board, which would actually be the body that would  
9 discuss things about like limiting guides to a certain  
10 number of clients.

11  
12 So if there is further interest, I'd be  
13 happy to work with anyone that wants to get together or  
14 talk about these things, to figure out what board to  
15 submit proposals to, and what changes can be made that  
16 will effect the most desired results for all parties.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Yeah. Pat.

19  
20 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I have been  
21 encouraged by the success that our Council has had  
22 working with Larry Vandaele in Kodiak and helping guide  
23 Kodiak folks in figuring out, you know, things that --  
24 where we can use the State system to the benefit of  
25 local folks for food. And I think it would be really  
26 good if, being there is not an advisory committee, that  
27 perhaps you might consider assigning Paul to work with  
28 Glenn (sic) and seeing if they could develop some  
29 proposals that might help particularly in places here  
30 in the Peninsula where there are more State lands than  
31 Federal lands to help folks achieve their goal of  
32 getting food, because sometimes I know in Kodiak, and  
33 Sam could speak for it, the guides have given a little  
34 bit in order to make sure that, you know, there weren't  
35 conflicts. And so I guess my thoughts.

36  
37 Mr. Chair.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Thank you. I  
40 think what the Department of Fish and Game should take  
41 back to their working group is the long discussion we  
42 had on 19 and 20, WP06, and the support that this  
43 Council has in regards to we supported 20. And, you  
44 know, our concern here is that we want to keep the  
45 levels of that herd to be able to support a subsistence  
46 hunt. WE didn't go as far as eliminating non-  
47 Federally-qualified users at this point. But I think  
48 it's an issue that's going to come back around that  
49 this Council may have to do that on Federal lands.

50



1                   And I think that taking that  
2 information back, and working with Nelson Lagoon and  
3 people in Cold Bay and King Cove, they need -- and  
4 Stanley's here, which is good. He was part of that  
5 discussion. Hopefully he'll get back to his  
6 communities maybe through the Borough informational  
7 period that he can get them to rally and give some  
8 support to this program so that they understand where  
9 we are. Like Pete mentioned, there's only like 100  
10 head differential from no hunt at all. And so we've  
11 got to continue to watch that. I mean, that would be  
12 my message to the Department of Fish and Game from this  
13 RAC.

14  
15                   But we would like to thank you for your  
16 support, and hopefully Paul and his community can draft  
17 something that will get to you for the next cycle of  
18 Department of Fish and Game on management issues.

19  
20                   MR. GUNDERSEN: Yeah, the advisory  
21 community in Lagoon is active, but it's only been  
22 active in the fisheries department. The game side of  
23 it, if it wasn't broke, you know, no use in fixing it.  
24 And there has been a lot of interest, or not interest,  
25 but concern I guess that's come about here in the last  
26 couple years in watching what's going on, and they want  
27 to get better control of it. So I've been trying to  
28 spur them on to go, okay, get this -- you know, put  
29 together a couple proposals and submit them to the  
30 Board.

31  
32                   And so they're aware of the situation.  
33 They know what avenues that they have to work through.  
34 Like I was saying earlier, but if it ain't broke, don't  
35 fix it. I hope this, you know, sheds some light on the  
36 whole thing, so they know how close to the cut-off  
37 point they are right at this point.

38  
39                   CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Pete.

40  
41                   MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. Mr. Chair.  
42 I've got a question for Lem. Has there ever been any  
43 talk about transplanting any deer or anything out to  
44 this area.

45  
46                   MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. Members of the  
47 Council. Yeah, there's been brief discussion at  
48 various levels, but I believe that any efforts to  
49 transplant deer would probably be blocked on a Federal  
50 level through the refuge. Sandra kind of could

1 probably talk better to that. You know, if they  
2 naturally disburse into this area, I'm sure that they'd  
3 do quite well. But I don't know of any talks that have  
4 been taken seriously on a governmental level to  
5 actually make a project like that advance.

6  
7 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. I feel, you  
8 know, if they could survive out in this area, it would  
9 definitely take the pressure off the caribou for  
10 subsistence users mainly.

11  
12 MR. BUTLER: Uh-huh. Yeah. And again  
13 Chignik Lagoon has mentioned that at other meetings as  
14 well that I've had with them.

15  
16 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I wonder,  
17 Glenn (sic), if you could maybe give some ideas to  
18 Paul. I know if it's not broke, don't fix it, but I  
19 know in several parts of the State, up in Dillingham  
20 and Kodiak, sometimes with the Game Division, getting  
21 public support for slight adjustments in seasons and  
22 things like that, sometimes you can work an advantage  
23 to local folks, particularly in achieving their  
24 subsistence needs. So, you know, I'd encourage you if  
25 you have some thoughts or ways in which the State  
26 system could be adjusted slightly to the benefit of the  
27 local population, you know, if you could pass it on to  
28 Stanley and Paul, so that that could make it into the  
29 Board cycle, because that's coming up, the proposals,  
30 pretty quick here.

31  
32 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Jim.

35  
36 MR. HAMILTON: Mr. Chair. Lem, just  
37 right off the top of your head, can you think of any  
38 way we might be able to get a better -- Fish and Game  
39 might be able to get a better handle on the cow to calf  
40 ratio, what's causing the problems or -- I mean, is  
41 there some study, some methodology, some cooperation.  
42 Just anything that can help us understand, or help you  
43 guys understand better?

44  
45 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. Members of the  
46 Council. There's several studies that we could do.  
47 Funding is the main limiting factors that we're dealing  
48 with right. I'm sure many of you are aware of Wildlife  
49 Division's efforts to increase license fees so we can  
50 generate more revenue to pursue projects along these

1 lines.

2

3

4 From the composition ratios that we're  
5 seeing in the fall, we have a pretty good handle on the  
6 ramifications of these different factors, but we really  
7 don't have much of an idea as to what's going on on a  
8 base level, what gets us to those low ratios in the  
9 fall.

10

11 Recently the Office of Subsistence  
12 Management helped fund a caribou project. We're going  
13 to deploy 30 radio collars on adult female caribou, and  
14 we're going to take blood and fecal samples while we're  
15 deploying those collars to see if there are any  
16 evidence of the diseases that we're seeing in the  
17 Northern Peninsula Herd, to start pursuing some of  
18 these lines of question.

19

20 Another thing that we could do, and  
21 again it's going to be limited in terms of funding and  
22 manpower, but we could do parturition surveys, just  
23 prior to pregnancy, go out and determine how many of  
24 the females are pregnant. And based on these 30  
25 collars, we could actually get a specific age of  
26 reproduction, so we can see if there's a delayed  
27 reproduction, or if any of the age classes are having  
28 problems. Typically caribou over four years of age  
29 reproduce on a regular basis until things get really,  
30 really bad. Things have to get really poor before they  
31 stop producing calves. So again with some simple  
32 surveys, we could start to tease apart whether we're  
33 dealing with a production problem, whether it's  
34 influenced by nutritional or disease problems, and  
35 possibly infer from that again if we're dealing with  
36 predator issues. Or at least again have a new platform  
37 on which to advance studies.

38

39 So I'll certainly be looking for any  
40 cooperative efforts with other agencies or departments  
41 to see if we can get some of these things started for  
42 the Southern Peninsula Herd.

43

44 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Thank you. Do we  
45 have, maybe for Michelle, how much or how is the  
46 process that we can get to the department a  
47 recommendation that they fund some of these projects  
48 other than.....

49

50 MS. CHIVERS: Mr Chair. I'm going to  
51 defer that to Steve Fried. I'm not sure.....

1 MR. FRIED: Not for wildlife.

2

3 MS. CHIVERS: Oh, not for wildlife.

4

5 MS. GREFFENIUS: Laura Greffenius. The  
6 809 agreements, the cooperative agreements that I had  
7 mentioned during the presentation of the 19 and 20 and  
8 also that Lem just mentioned the \$25,000 for the  
9 collaring project. I don't know the exact date, but we  
10 can find that out for you. It's in the summertime,  
11 late summer I believe, that there's a call for, you  
12 know, proposals, and just information. I mean, putting  
13 in a request for monies and projects. And then those  
14 are all reviewed, and then it was just this past  
15 January when those were all decided on for the -- so  
16 the submission is the summer before, and then when it's  
17 decided on in the winter, and then, for example, Lem  
18 would be able to conduct those this spring and summer.  
19 So that gives you a time frame for the scheduling.

20

21 Also it's been suggested by our Staff  
22 that monies be requested from the State for the  
23 planning process just as another example, that it could  
24 be put in this fall, and then it would be decided on  
25 for initiating the planning process and a new  
26 management plan.

27

28 And the reason I'm deferring to the  
29 State for this planning process, just the way the  
30 monies come. If it's -- those monies in a planning  
31 process and meetings and it's Federal meetings, there's  
32 all the rules relating to the Federal Advisory  
33 Committee Acts and FACA, and it just gets a lot more  
34 complicated. And one of our Staff told me that it just  
35 makes it a lot cleaner if the monies can be transferred  
36 over to a state and the State initiates that. And so  
37 I've been in touch with one of the planning individuals  
38 in the Anchorage office just preliminarily just to get  
39 some information, and then I'm sure we'll be in touch  
40 with Lem. And so that's something that could be in the  
41 works for putting in a request this coming summer. So  
42 I just wanted to make sure I mentioned that.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.  
47 Any comments. Questions.

48

49 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I  
50 definitely feel we should move forward with that and

1 put in a request just to help fund the State Fish and  
2 Game Department to do surveys on research.

3

4 MR. HOLMES: If that's a motion, I'll  
5 second it.

6

7 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Jim.

8

9 MR. HAMILTON: Yeah. Just one quick  
10 question for Lem. I understand the Board of Game  
11 process for proposals, and there's a lot of lag time in  
12 all this. You said 2007 for Unit 9 for the Peninsula.  
13 Are there other ways to kind of bypass that system or  
14 speed up the process? Is there any loophole, or is  
15 there any way to get an exception for them to look at  
16 Unit 9 or 9(D) caribou, the Southern Alaska caribou and  
17 step up funding before this, you know, longer process.

18

19 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. Members of  
20 the Council. Are you referring specifically to  
21 funding, or to the regulatory process as well?

22

23 MR. HAMILTON: The Board of Game  
24 process specifically. I mean, I understand they look  
25 at issues regionally, and they by and large stick to  
26 those regions, but is there a way to put something in.  
27 You know, if they're covering the Interior, is there a  
28 mechanism to where they can look at this and consider  
29 it somewhat of an emergency. Yeah, that's my question.

30

31 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. Members of the  
32 Council. Yeah, there are two mechanisms. First as the  
33 area biologist, I have a lot of control over seasons  
34 and bag limits and can have authority to make in-season  
35 adjustments on a limited level.

36

37 A second way to effect changes would be  
38 to submit an emergency petition to the Board of Game  
39 that they could consider at a meeting. And it would be  
40 up to the Board at that point to decide whether or not  
41 they would want to hear discussion of an issue out of  
42 cycle. Typically that's submitted by the local fish  
43 and game advisory committee, which, you know, I'd be  
44 happy to work with folks to get one started again for  
45 this area if local people feel that there is enough of  
46 a need in this area at this time to begin discussing  
47 wildlife issues again with Fish and Game.

48

49 MR. HAMILTON: Yeah. I guess I'm  
50 thinking more of the research process, or just kind of

1 speeding funding and researching, but, yeah.

2

3 MR. BUTLER: On a funding level, again  
4 I'll certainly be pushing for it with my bosses trying  
5 to get more monies directed into this area. Right now  
6 we're dealing with declines in the Mulchatna Herd and  
7 the Northern Peninsula Herd as well, so what budget I  
8 get is spread between many areas, and lot of other  
9 local subsistence users have a great interest in those  
10 populations as well. But some of that money, I had to  
11 tell Port Heiden that we wouldn't be getting a Northern  
12 Peninsula caribou count this year, because I'm going to  
13 try to direct my funds towards the Southern Peninsula  
14 herd, so changes are being made in our budget  
15 distribution to address concerns in this area already.

16

17 MR. HAMILTON: Thanks.

18

19 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Yeah. Laura.

20

21 MS. GREFFENIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
22 Jim, I just want to respond to your question more on  
23 the regulatory side. I know it takes a little while  
24 for the funding on the research projects. But as far  
25 as the regulatory, Lem mentioned the emergency orders  
26 from the State side of things. If there's something  
27 really pressing, they can be submitted, and then a fall  
28 season stopped or whatever, and not go through the long  
29 process.

30

31 On the Federal side it's called a  
32 special action. And oftentimes those will come into  
33 our office, it might be in response if the State did an  
34 emergency order, then we'll follow with a special  
35 action. Or it might come independently of something  
36 coming from the State. You know, a lot of time we'll  
37 get some late summer because of issues pertaining to  
38 the fall. Those are temporary, and we'll write like an  
39 analysis, not as thorough as what you have for the  
40 regular cycle, but we'll write something up so that we  
41 can justify yeah or nay doing a special action. Those  
42 are temporary and it would just be in effect for that  
43 period of time. But then if it wants to become part of  
44 the permanent regulations, it would go through the  
45 cycle that we're doing right now.

46

47 So those are some of the ways that the  
48 -- the speedy ways to do the regulation process if  
49 something, you know, drastic happened that needed  
50 attention.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Thank you. Pat.

4

5 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. After a  
6 message from my spiritual advisor, I'd like to make a  
7 motion that this Counsel endorse emergency funding to  
8 study the Peninsula caribou cow to calf problems, and  
9 anything that relates to that, both from whatever  
10 source is available from the State or Federal  
11 Government. And if that would be an adequate type of  
12 statement from us for you folks to work towards  
13 soliciting funds from your agencies. So I'd like to  
14 put that motion on the table.

15

16 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Second.

17

18 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: It's been moved to  
19 request additional funding for the area specific, or  
20 9(C), 9(D). Are there -- for additional funding. It  
21 was moved and seconded. Is there any more discussion.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Hearing none, call  
26 for the question. All those in favor say aye.

27

28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29

30 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Opposed.

31

32 (No opposing votes)

33

34 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Motion carries.  
35 So we'll do what we can now to try and get you some  
36 additional funding to help in this cow to calf ratio  
37 issue, and try to find out what's happening to that  
38 herd. Okay.

39

40 All right. Thank you very much.

41

42 MR. BUTLER: Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. We're on to  
45 other business. There is none as far as we know.

46

47 Time and place of the next meeting. My  
48 understanding that it will be held in Kodiak due to the  
49 rural determination issue and public comment needed  
50 from Kodiak area residents. And on our calendar, or on

1 Page 124 I believe it is. Yeah.

2

3 MS. CHIVERS: 123, Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: 123. Okay. 123.

6 We have tentatively scheduled September 21st, but I'm

7 hearing that there may be public testimony that would

8 be prior to, so we're looking at either the 20th or

9 21st to be the public testimony, and then our meeting

10 actually be on the 22nd, if we so choose. Is that

11 correct? So I would recommend that our -- that's a

12 Thursday. That the public testimony be on the 20th,

13 and we have our regular meeting on the 21st. If

14 there's no objections, I need a motion.

15

16 MR. ROHRER: Mr. Chair, would it be

17 possible to move that to the 21st and 22nd, just later?

18 It would certainly help my schedule out a lot if we

19 could, instead of having it in the middle of the week,

20 either at the beginning or the ending just for how our

21 seasons work.

22

23 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: If there's no

24 objection, we can go that route. Have the public

25 hearing on the 21st and the regular or our scheduled

26 meeting to be on the 22nd, which is a Friday.

27

28 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: No problem.

29

30 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: No objection, so I

31 need a motion in that order.

32

33 MR. ROHRER: So move. Or not so move,

34 but I make that motion. Only you can so move.

35

36 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: It's been moved.

37 Do I hear a second.

38

39 MR. HOLMES: Second.

40

41 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Seconded by Pat.

42 All those in favor then, the motion is to have a public

43 hearing on the 21st and the regular scheduled meeting

44 on the 22nd. Travel dates then will be set up

45 appropriately for those coming from the Chain. All

46 right.

47

48 All those in favor say aye.

49

50 IN UNISON: Aye.



1 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Opposed.  
2  
3 (No opposing votes)  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: What's wrong?  
6 Motion carries.  
7  
8 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. In terms of  
9 the public hearing, in that packet of correspondence  
10 from the Kodiak community, we included a draft letter  
11 asking for public in Kodiak on the rural question. And  
12 so I would just ask that those -- that that letter be  
13 kind of included in correspondence on the issue.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: It will be. It's  
16 already been included as part of that.  
17  
18 MR. HOLMES: Swell. Thank you.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: You're welcome. I  
21 hope you're getting to feeling better. Are you?  
22  
23 MR. HOLMES: Well, I'm glad we're  
24 almost done, I'm about ready to go pack it up and go to  
25 sleep.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. We're  
28 almost done here. Establish a date and location of the  
29 winter 2007 meeting, which is on 124. How about Adak.  
30  
31 MR. CRATTY: I'm thinking about the  
32 caribou issue here.  
33  
34 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, I was thinking  
35 King Cove.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: I mean, this time  
38 of year.  
39  
40 MR. CRATTY: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I was  
41 thinking of when the Board of Game meets next year, in  
42 2007, if there is a caribou issue, I think we should  
43 come back to the communities over here. That's the way  
44 I feel. I don't know what the rest of the Council  
45 feels.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: If there's no  
48 objection, a location has been thrown as King Cove.  
49 Now we need to set a date.  
50

1 MR. CRATTY: Mr. Chair, I was thinking  
2 the 20, 21st. Travel on the -- or later that week. It  
3 can't be. Or the following week in March.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Are you  
6 recommending March 15th and 16th or thereabouts.

7  
8 MR. CRATTY: Yes, Mr. Chair. I think  
9 it would be a lot easier for us to travel out of  
10 Kodiak. I know I was supposed to come out on a Friday,  
11 didn't come out a Saturday, and they have problems  
12 making reservations for me on a Saturday or a Sunday to  
13 get out of Old Harbor. I think that was Mitch's  
14 problem, too. Pete doesn't have quite the problem,  
15 because he's closer to Kodiak.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Pete and then Pat.

18  
19 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. That's  
20 definitely a concern, because our airlines are cutting  
21 back their schedules to three days a week, so we can't  
22 fly out of the villages on weekends.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Pat.

25  
26 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I think in the  
27 middle of the week, whatever works out there. I was  
28 wondering on a location, Mr. Chairman, if we might get  
29 some info from folks here as to what's the easiest  
30 place for them to get to to communicate with us. Would  
31 it be Cold Bay or Sand Point. This is a swell place to  
32 meet, but I think we need to get to where we can have  
33 access for most of the people on the Peninsula, easy  
34 for them to get there.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Yeah. I think we  
37 said if we move, to go ahead into King Cove, and  
38 weather was a factor, we have Cold Bay as a backup.

39  
40 Go ahead.

41  
42 MS. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair. I did talk  
43 to somebody at the tribal office in King Cove. A  
44 couple things happened this year. I guess you guys  
45 wanted to go there, but there was basketball in town at  
46 that time. So there was not enough lodging. What the  
47 tribal office told me was they said they would prefer  
48 it to be in King Cove; however, if it could not be,  
49 they would prefer it in Cold Bay, because it's easier  
50 for them to get there rather than Sand Point.

1 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay Thanks. Do  
2 you want to make a comment there?

3  
4 MR. BUTLER: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Lem  
5 Butler again. If caribou are of concern to this  
6 Council, typically the Board of Game meets March 15th,  
7 so I'll likely not be able to attend a meeting at that  
8 point, and then I wouldn't be able to provide you with  
9 any updates about caribou if you have it that week.

10  
11 So just a point for consideration.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Thanks.

14  
15 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I'd  
16 like to for March 8th and 9th in King Cove with Cold  
17 Bay as a backup.

18  
19 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. I'm sorry,  
20 it's not shown on this calendar. The calendar was not  
21 updated prior to the printing of the book, but March  
22 8th and 9th is my meeting in Kotzebue with my other  
23 Council. I'm sorry.

24  
25 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: How about February  
26 27th, 28th.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: February 28th?

29  
30 MR. SQUARTSOFF: We definitely want to  
31 have it before the Board of Game meeting.

32  
33 MR. ROHRER: Mr. Chair.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Yeah.

36  
37 MR. ROHRER: Well, I don't know if we  
38 have any other options, but February doesn't normally  
39 work very -- that's getting into our show season, and  
40 those are awfully -- normally the end of February, I'm  
41 gone. Later in March would certainly be better for me,  
42 although I don't know when.

43  
44 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I'd  
45 definitely like to have it before Lem goes to the Board  
46 of Game meetings.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: The only option at  
49 this point that I see would be March 5th and 6th. Does  
50 that work for everybody.

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Well, 5th and 6th,  
2 then that puts us back in the weekend.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: 5th and 6th,  
5 Monday and Tuesday.

6  
7 MS. CHIVERS: Well, I guess with  
8 regards to weather, it might be possible as long as I  
9 can get out in time to get to Kotzebue, because I'll  
10 probably be leaving for Kotzebue on the 7th.

11  
12 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Mr. Chair, we're  
13 right back in the same situation of getting out of the  
14 villages on Kodiak if we have it on the 5th and 6th.

15  
16 MR. HOLMES: I was wondering. Could  
17 the Service pick up an extra couple days per diem for  
18 the folks? I mean, it's normal in Government if  
19 people can't get in on a certain day, if, you know,  
20 they would be able to travel early and, you know, come  
21 in from the villages on Friday and have per diem to  
22 stay in town, and then fly out. That's not a whole lot  
23 of money, another couple hundred bucks or so.

24  
25 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Mr. Chair.  
26 That's exactly what I had to do this last -- coming out  
27 here.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: So how about the  
30 12th and 13th. And we have it at Cold Bay where we can  
31 always get in and out. That way the communities of  
32 King Cove and Sand Point can make it to Cold Bay.

33  
34 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, that might be a  
35 solution. And then if it's tight on Lem's schedule, we  
36 could teleconference with you if it's going to make a  
37 complication for you, because I know Game Board always  
38 -- Game Division has their preboard meeting and  
39 everybody huddles and says, what are we going to do.  
40 And maybe we could teleconference with you in Anchorage  
41 if we're down in Cold Bay there in that first part of  
42 the week, and then, what the heck, you can have your  
43 leaders listen in, too.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: And that would  
46 work for me, because I'd come out Adak on Sunday and  
47 get into Cold Bay the following Monday, so start our  
48 meeting the afternoon or so Monday, and finish up on  
49 Tuesday.

50

1 MR. CRATTY: Sandra, when are they  
2 going -- and I can't remember your name with the State  
3 Fish and.....

4  
5 MR. BUTLER: Lem.

6  
7 MR. CRATTY: Glenn. When are they  
8 going to do the surveys on the caribou again, this  
9 summer? So we kind of know what -- get an idea if  
10 there's a drastic change or.....

11  
12 MS. SIEKANIEC: Yeah, for the  
13 composition counts, Lem usually does those in the fall,  
14 in October. And then for our winter counts, we try to  
15 do them when we have snow cover, so we start trying in  
16 November and go through about February. so we probably  
17 could get at least one, maybe two, to make sure we're  
18 getting double counting -- or, you know, check  
19 counting.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay. Lem.

22  
23 MR. BUTLER: Yeah, that sounds about  
24 right. Again, we'll be deploying the radio collars on  
25 30 caribou in October as well when we do the fall  
26 composition count. And at that time I'm going to begin  
27 attempting a new population estimate as well, so that  
28 would be another potential date for a survey. So the  
29 composition, population count and capture in October,  
30 and then Sandra's winter population count.

31  
32 MR. CRATTY: Well, what I was  
33 wondering, I was wondering when would you know if  
34 there's going to be a drastic change, or there could  
35 be, you know, a drastic change to where there could be  
36 no hunting or something. That's my concern. If  
37 there's a drastic change and we wanted to get something  
38 to the Board of Game, we'd want to meet before then.  
39 Otherwise, you know, something we could work with the  
40 communities or something.

41  
42 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. Members of the  
43 Council. Yeah. October will be the next point in  
44 which we're updated on the status of the herd. At that  
45 time I'll get the new calf ratio and we'll have another  
46 look at whether or not recruitment's improving. I plan  
47 to employ ultrasounds while we're capturing animals and  
48 handling them, so again we'll have a sense of  
49 condition. Basically at that point we'll know if  
50 there's any chance that we're going to look at -- we're

1 to be seeing a stabilization of the population or an  
2 increase, or be able to predict a further decrease into  
3 the future.

4  
5                   One of the things we're going to try to  
6 do again is to revamp this management plan before we  
7 get to a closure point, where we'd have to close all  
8 hunting. So with any luck, you know, even if we're  
9 looking at a decline, again that's when we'd first be  
10 able to tell that we'd have to start considering  
11 emergency regulations would be in October. Hopefully  
12 we'll be in a much better place to evaluate what  
13 changes would need to be made based on what we're  
14 seeing at that point.

15  
16                   CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: It sounds like to  
17 all us then that the 12th and the 13th would work fine  
18 as far as even making information, feedback from Cold  
19 Bay and from the Department, and also be able to make  
20 the ADF&G meeting what's scheduled for March 15th.

21  
22                   If there's no objections, we'll set the  
23 dates for our next 2007 winter meeting at Cold Bay, and  
24 the meeting to start on the 12th and 13th.

25  
26                   MR. SQUARTSOFF: King Cove.

27  
28                   CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Cold Bay. The  
29 only reason I picked Cold Bay is in and possibilities  
30 for everybody, and the possibility of King Cove and  
31 Sand Point making it to Cold Bay. Is that agreeable.  
32 Can we have a motion to that effect, please.

33  
34                   MR. GUNDERSEN: So move.

35  
36                   MR. SQUARTSOFF: I so move.

37  
38                   CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Moved by Paul,  
39 seconded by Pete. All those in favor say aye.

40  
41                   IN UNISON: Aye.

42  
43                   CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Opposed.

44  
45                   (No opposing votes)

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Motion carries.  
48 Thank you very much for your input. We'll be in Cold  
49 Bay. Plenty of time in Cold Bay. That's one thing you  
50 have in Cold Bay is lots of time.

1 Stanley, public comment.  
2  
3 MR. MACK: This is off the record.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: Okay.  
6  
7 (Microphone off)  
8  
9 MR. CRATTY: I make a motion to  
10 adjourn.  
11  
12 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Second.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN TUTIAKOFF: It's been moved by  
15 Al, seconded by Pete. Any more items? If not, we are  
16 adjourned at 10:30.  
17  
18 (Off record)  
19  
20 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 30th day of March 2006.

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Joseph P. Kolasinski  
Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 03/12/08