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KODIAK/ALEUTIANS FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

VOLUME I
PUBLIC MEETING

Buskin River Inn
Kodiak, Alaska
September 22, 2005
9:00 o'clock a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Speridon Simeonoff, Acting Chair
- Alfred B. Cratty, Jr.
- Paul Gundersen
- Patrick Holmes
- Ivan D. Lukin
- Regional Council Coordinator, Michelle Chivers

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Kodiak, Alaska - 9/22/2005)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Let's call this meeting to order. It's 9:09. Could we have roll call, please, I guess, Michelle.

MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll go over roll call. Pete Squartsoff. Pete is actually -- he had a scheduled hunt and was unable to make this meeting so the Council was already aware of that.

Pat Holmes.

MR. HOLMES: Here.

MS. CHIVERS: Richard Zacharof. Mr. Chair, he was scheduled to be here and I'm not sure if he may be actually coming in on a plane this morning. He was scheduled to arrive last night so he may show up later this morning.

Sam Rohrer actually he had a hunt scheduled this week and was unable to make the meeting. He would have been available next week but not this week and he's already been excused.

Al Cratty.

MR. CRATTY: Here.

MS. CHIVERS: And if I could remind everybody to please use your microphones.

MR. CRATTY: Here.

MS. CHIVERS: Thank you. Vince Tutiakoff. I just spoke with Vince day before yesterday and he's actually in D.C., and had planned on making it to the meeting but would not be here and I had already discussed that with the Chair as well.

Paul Gundersen.

MR. GUNDERSEN: Here.

MS. CHIVERS: Speridon Simeonoff.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Here.
2
3 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, we have a
4 quorum. Thank you.
5
6 REPORTER: Michelle.
7
8 MS. CHIVERS: Ivan Lukin, I'm sorry.
9
10 MR. LUKIN: Here.
11
12 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you.
13
14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I'd like to welcome
15 everyone here. At this time we'll just go down the board
16 and introduce ourselves. I'm Speridon Simeonoff from the
17 village of Akhiok. And we'll start with Pat.
18
19 MR. HOLMES: I'm Pat Holmes from.....
20
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Push the button.
22
23 MR. HOLMES: We'll get all these
24 protocols going here. I'm Pat Holmes from the town of
25 Kodiak. Do we need to do the conflict of interest or
26 later? Okay, well, it's not in there, but I don't have
27 any conflicts of interests.
28
29 MR. CRATTY: Al Cratty, Old Harbor.
30
31 MR. LUKIN: My name is Ivan Lukin from
32 Port Lions. I sit on the village tribal council.
33
34 MR. GUNDERSEN: Paul Gundersen, Nelson
35 Lagoon.
36
37 MS. CHIVERS: Michelle Chivers, Council
38 coordinator.
39
40 MR. BERG: Good morning everybody, I'm
41 Jerry Berg. I'm a fishery biologist with the Office of
42 Subsistence Management. Good morning.
43
44 MR. SAITO: Brian Saito, Fish and
45 Wildlife Service, wildlife biologist.
46
47 MR. MALUTIN: I'm Iver Malutin. I'm the
48 elder and I represent the Kodiak Area Native Association
49 in all traditional subsistence. Thank you.
50

1 MS. LEE: Tonya Lee. And I'm the Kodiak
2 National Wildlife Refuge -- refuge technician.
3
4 MR. MCCULLOUGH: I'm Jim McCullough. I'm
5 the regional fin fish management coordinator for salmon
6 and herring commercial fisheries.
7
8 MS. CLARK: Maureen Clark. I'm the
9 public affairs specialists with the Office of Subsistence
10 Management.
11
12 MS. CRAVER: And I'm Amy Craver. I'm an
13 anthropologist and I work for OSM Fisheries Information
14 Services.
15
16 MS. WILLIAMS: I'm Liz Williams, Division
17 of Subsistence, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
18
19 MS. SIEKANIEC: I'm Sandra Siekaniec, the
20 new Refuge manager of the Izembek National Wildlife
21 Refuge.
22
23 MR. BUNCH: I'm Charlie Bunch, the Deputy
24 Regional Director for Bureau of Indian Affairs.
25
26 MR. CHEN: Good morning. My name is
27 Glenn Chen. I'm with the BIA Subsistence Program.
28
29 MR. EDWARDS: Good morning. Mike Edwards
30 Fish and Wildlife Service, King Salmon Fish and Wildlife
31 Field Office.
32
33 MR. LARSEN: John Larsen. I'm with the
34 Native Village of Afognak.
35
36 MS. PATTINSON: I'm Beth Pattinson, a
37 fish tech for the Kodiak Wildlife Refuge.
38
39 RAY SHOAL: Ray Shoal (ph) interested
40 citizen.
41
42 MR. SCHWARZ: Len Schwarz, Fish and Game
43 with Sportfish here in Kodiak.
44
45 MS. PETRIVELLI: Pat Petrivelli. I'm an
46 anthropologist with the Subsistence Branch of BIA.
47
48 MR. LAPLANT: Good morning. My name is
49 Dan LaPlant. I'm a biologist with the Office of
50 Subsistence Management.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Welcome. Welcome
2 everyone. At this time we'll have review of our agenda
3 if there's any changes or anything that anyone wants to
4 add to our agenda, now's the time.

5
6 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Michelle.

9
10 MS. CHIVERS: One of the items we'd like
11 to change on the agenda is Item No. 7, we would like to
12 get Lem Butler, who is the biologist with ADF&G on line
13 and so maybe at this point we could probably take a break
14 after we do the adoption of the agenda. But I'd like to
15 move that up right after adoption of the agenda so that
16 we can get him on line as he's available.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

19
20 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Pat.

23
24 MR. HOLMES: I was thinking that sometime
25 in this process that we go through it might be handy to
26 have at the end kind of RAC members comments just in case
27 they have some thoughts at the end of the meeting.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Is there anything
32 else.

33
34 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. The other item
35 that we're going to be bringing up today is, probably
36 this afternoon, the rural determination issue. And I'm
37 pretty certain we're going to have some public testifying
38 and it's up to the Council how you want to handle this.
39 I mean it's going to be before agency reports. I don't
40 know how many people will be testifying so we can either
41 go ahead and start the public testimony and if it looks
42 like it's going to be a lot of people then we can
43 possibly move that issue towards the end or else we can
44 just take public testimony as they come in and then if
45 there's a lot of people who show, we can always go into
46 tomorrow, we have day two scheduled if we need it.

47
48 So I'll leave it up to the wish of the
49 Council. I don't know if you want to discuss that now or
50 if you want to wait until that time.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I would suggest that
2 we just continue with our agenda until those people
3 arrive otherwise we'll be taking comments as they come in
4 and we'll just break up our agenda. We'll just continue
5 with our agenda and then when they all get here, then we
6 can get into taking public comments.

7
8 For everyone, there's a public comment
9 form on the table back there. If you wish to make a
10 public statement, please, fill one out and give it to
11 Michelle.

12
13 Is there anything else on the agenda,
14 Michelle.

15
16 MS. CHIVERS: (Shakes head negatively)

17
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Then a motion is in
19 order to accept the agenda with the added member comments
20 at the end

21
22 MR. HOLMES: Move to accept.

23
24 MR. CRATTY: Second.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and seconded.
27 Any discussion.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
32 discussion, is there any objections.

33
34 (No objections)

35
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
37 objections, then the motion carries.

38
39 Vincent Tutiakoff is not here for the
40 Chair's report, maybe you could.....

41
42 MS. CHIVERS: Well, Mr. Chair, before we
43 move on, actually if we can go ahead and take a five
44 minute break and I can get Lem Butler on line to go ahead
45 and go over the Southern Alaska Caribou Herd issue.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

48
49 MS. CHIVERS: And Dan LaPlant, I believe,
50 is going to start the presentation but I'll have Lem

1 Butler on line if the Council has questions, and he may
2 have more information as well. So if you maybe want to
3 take a five or 10 minute break.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Let's take a break
6 and we'll get Lem on line.

7
8 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you.

9
10 (Off record)

11
12 (On record)

13
14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Let's call the
15 meeting back to order. I guess we have Lem Butler on
16 line. Lem, can you hear me okay?

17
18 MR. BUTLER: I can just barely hear you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, we'll try and
21 work with that. You're on for the Southern Alaska
22 Caribou Herd on Units 9(D) and 10, and I'll turn it over
23 to you and Dan LaPlant. You guys can give your report,
24 how's that.

25
26 MR. LAPLANT: Okay, Mr. Chairman, I'll
27 start out of I may. Again, my name is Dan LaPlant, I'm
28 with the Office of Subsistence Management. And here at
29 the table with me I have Sandra Siekaniec, the Refuge
30 manager for Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, and also as
31 you just pointed out, Lem Butler from Alaska Department
32 of Fish and Game in King Salmon is also on the line.

33
34 I just want to bring your attention to in
35 your book, on Page 22, is a report on this issue of
36 caribou in Units 9(D) and Unit 10 Unimak Island. This is
37 a report that Dave Fisher put together at your request.
38 You discussed this issue at your spring meeting and
39 requested Dave put this report together. Dave was unable
40 to be here today, he's kind of winding down his career
41 with Fish and Wildlife Service and getting ready to
42 retire. So anyway on Page 22 of this report from Dave,
43 he provides you with the regulatory history of the
44 caribou herd in that unit as well as the harvest data.
45 As you can see from the numbers here and Lem and Sandra
46 will be talking about these but you can see the
47 population has been declining here recently and it looks
48 like the most recent survey to take place in 9(D) was
49 back in February of this year. And if you follow down in
50 his report, he identifies some of the elements of the

1 Cooperative Management Plan. And then the regulatory
2 history here demonstrates how the population declined
3 back in the early '90s when the Federal Subsistence
4 Program first started where the season was closed, it
5 looks like it was closed in '91 to all non-Federally-
6 qualified hunters on Federal lands, and then in '93 it
7 was closed completely, both the State season and the
8 Federal season. And then as the population started
9 coming back in '97, there was a special action initiated
10 hunt, and in '98/99 similar, and it looks like in year
11 2000 another special action established the hunt -- or
12 extended the hunt to September 30th. So as things were
13 improving, and then in the year 2003 it was increased,
14 the harvest limit from one to two caribou, and four
15 caribou on Unit 10, and then that was made permanent
16 regulation in '94.

17
18 Anyway, the harvest history is here. The
19 best place to look at the harvest history is on the table
20 that he provided on Page 24. There's harvest history
21 from both the Federal hunts and the State registration
22 permits as well as the residents, the hunters on the
23 following page.

24
25 So that information is provided for you,
26 and I would suggest that the point of this information is
27 to provide you this information as you consider potential
28 wildlife proposals during the call for wildlife proposals
29 later on in the meeting. So as you hear the information
30 from Lem and Sandra, if you'd consider what proposals you
31 might want to offer in the upcoming wildlife cycle. And
32 also the other thing that you should probably be giving
33 some thought to is the management plan. The management
34 plan was developed to address the entire herd, but now
35 the herd is in in two different segments. And in Dave's
36 report, and I'm sure Lem will talk about that as well,
37 that the herd is now considered two different herds, two
38 separate herds, the Unit 10 portion is being managed
39 separately, or considered separately. So the management
40 plan may need to be adjusted to address that situation.

41
42 So I'll turn this over to Lem and we'll
43 let him present his information.

44
45 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Dan.

48
49 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. Members of the
50 Council. Again, my name is Lem Butler. I'm the wildlife

1 biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
2 charged with managing both Unit 9 and 10, although our
3 work tends to be more focused in 9. I'm based out of
4 King Salmon.

5
6 I've had the chance to get down and work
7 with the Southern Peninsula Herd for the last several
8 falls since I've taken this position. And as you seen in
9 the report, what we're seeing during our fall surveys is
10 somewhat alarming. Right now, with the fall composition
11 counts we're seeing good bull to cow ratios, typically
12 around 40 bulls to 100 cows which is considered adequate
13 for reproduction, but our calf to cow ratios have dropped
14 off significantly. In 2003 we estimated that there were
15 only eight calves per 100 cows in this population and
16 then in 2004 we were looking at seven calves per 100 cow.
17 And with those calf to cow ratios it's -- you really
18 don't need a computer model or anything to quickly draw
19 the conclusion that we're dealing with a population
20 problem and we're looking at a declining status currently
21 for this area.

22
23 Of course Izembek has managed to do some
24 winter counts and they've seen a similar trend where the
25 population decreased from about 4,200 animals in Unit
26 9(D) down to 1,800 here recently.

27
28 So, again, this is much concern. And we
29 really need to look closely at the Federal season at this
30 point with a two caribou bag limit, particularly the
31 harvest of female caribou with these problems with calf
32 recruitment at this time.

33
34 In the near future we're hoping to collar
35 animals and try to get a better handle on what's actually
36 happening with the population, is this an initial
37 productivity problem; is this a calf survival issue,
38 nutritional problem, or even perhaps a disease problem as
39 we're seeing with the Northern Alaska Peninsula Herd from
40 Port Moller going up towards King Salmon.

41
42 But for now, just, again, dealing with
43 the basic population dynamics, it's certainly time to
44 evaluate what we're doing with the Federal hunt
45 structure. And as it has been mentioned, for a long time
46 we've used the Southern Peninsula Herd as the caribou
47 occupying both Game Management subunit 9(D) and Unimak
48 Island in Unit 10. There's a number of reasons that we
49 had done this in the past but it's quickly becoming
50 apparent that these two areas should be managed

1 separately. We really haven't seen any large immigration
2 from Unimak Island since the '70s when the population on
3 Unimak Island was approximately 5,000 caribou. Trying to
4 manage these herds jointly poses problems for both
5 habitat and for the opportunity for subsistence users,
6 particularly if we're dealing with the different dynamics
7 between the two areas. We really don't want to try to
8 manage Unimak Island for 2,500 caribou, if potentially
9 under the current management plan is Unit 9(D) population
10 were to be depleted much further.

11
12 So, again, this is something that I would
13 certainly be interested in working with the Federal
14 government to develop a new management agreement in the
15 near future and I guess it'd be good to get your blessing
16 on that action as well.

17
18 But basically that's my summary of what
19 I've been finding in my studies of the Southern Peninsula
20 Herd, and I'd be willing to answer any questions you
21 might have.

22
23 MR. LAPLANT: Thank you, Lem. Before we
24 answer questions there -- or ask any questions, maybe
25 we'll let Sandra Siekaniec offer any additional comments
26 that she would have.

27
28 MS. SIEKANIEC: Yeah, I guess I'm fairly
29 new to the job but, you know, even being down there I'm
30 not seeing as many caribou as I think there should be in
31 that area. And getting information from Lem, and the
32 fact, too, that we have done two winter surveys this year
33 because we were so concerned with the first winter survey
34 numbers, and they matched. So we're still seeing the
35 same thing down there.

36
37 I know I have I heard of possibly three
38 caribou that were taken by subsistence users so far this
39 year and I have not heard of any other caribou taken in
40 the area. So I'm very concerned about the population.

41
42 I guess I would suggest that we try to go
43 in line with the existing subsistence regulations for
44 adjacent units of 9(C) and 9(E) and go with one bull.
45 That's just my suggestion but I think it would be a way
46 to start the process to reduce the possibility of having
47 to have an emergency situation where you have to shut it
48 all down.

49
50 That's basically what I have to say.

1 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Is there
4 any questions. Paul.

5

6 MR. GUNDERSEN: Yes, good afternoon, Paul
7 Gundersen from Nelson Lagoon. Nelson Lagoon depends on
8 that caribou season greatly, so does Sand Point, King
9 Cove and the residents of Cold Bay.

10

11 There's been brought to my attention here
12 over the last year that this was potentially going to be
13 a problem. One of the reasons is the commercial
14 operators in the country with the State hunt. And
15 everybody realizes that their subsistence hunt is in
16 jeopardy. I spoke with a number of different individuals
17 in Nelson Lagoon, a couple in Cold Bay, I had a couple of
18 phone conversations with people from Sand Point. They
19 really don't know -- we've discussed some ways that we
20 may be able to curtail some of this activity and one of
21 the ideas that was brought up to me was to see if we can
22 get a recommendation of support out of this group to be
23 presented at the Board of Game meeting, State Board of
24 Game meeting in Kotzebue, I think it's on the 11th of
25 November of somewhere in there, to curtail some of the --
26 or limit the amount of clients these sporthunters can
27 take.

28

29 There used to be a fairly decent bull
30 population that was around the immediate Nelson Lagoon
31 area, between there and Pavolof Bay, that herd, from all
32 the activity going on in Cold Bay through the operators
33 there and then several up in the David River area has
34 extremely depleted that gene pool of caribou in that area
35 and it's recognized by everyone. And also the heavy bear
36 and wolf population in that area. I imagine that the
37 count that they've seen by the area biologist, the bear
38 count, outnumber the caribou at this point.

39

40 If there's any other suggestions that
41 anybody has that may be able to curtail some of this
42 activity without jeopardizing the subsistence hunt would
43 be greatly appreciated.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Paul.
46 Response. Any other questions. Pat.

47

48 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. Pat Holmes
49 for Kodiak. I would have liked to have seen a table
50 here, I guess, is the second paragraph of the discussion,

1 those are the only surveys that have been done or is that
2 just the recent history? On Page 22 of our proposal
3 book, obviously we've had a severe decline since 2002 but
4 being as I'm a geezer retired biologist it's always nice
5 to see tabular forms so a person can look at how things
6 have changed.

7
8 If one takes a look at your table
9 attachment B, the total removal up to 2002 is only 427
10 animals. And so our more recent data here, 2002 to 2004
11 we've got 50, 110, like maybe 225 -- well, no, even less
12 than that, probably 160 animals killed since 2002. So
13 it's very obvious that human predation is not the
14 problem. I would ask, has anyone done any habitat
15 surveys -- is it a problem with habitat or from what I
16 hear from my friends that live out in that neck of the
17 woods, is it seems to me -- or is it predation? That's
18 the question, habitat or predation, it's not human
19 removal?

20
21 So what's happening, what's your best
22 guess?

23
24 MR. LAPLANT: Lem, were you able to hear
25 the question?

26
27 MR. BUTLER: I heard the question as to
28 whether we're dealing with a habitat or predation issue,
29 and the general feeling that it wasn't a human harvest
30 problem necessarily.

31
32 I can address -- I missed a lot of the
33 discussion about the past populations with the tables, I
34 couldn't quite make out everything that was being said
35 there so I apologize if I don't quite cover that.

36
37 And, again, basically to respond to the
38 habitat/predation/human harvest issue, we don't have any
39 current data that suggests that it's one or the other,
40 habitat versus predation problem. The last calf
41 mortality study that was done was done back in '99, the
42 population was increasing at the time, we did see bear
43 and wolf mortality in the calves at that point in the
44 population cycle, but we don't have anything more
45 recently in this current state of decline, at least,
46 recently entered.

47
48 We have handled a number of animals since
49 2002, what we're seeing there is -- particularly our
50 calves, we're looking at about 50 percent survival of

1 individuals from the 10 month stage to the yearling -- or
2 to the two year old stage, which is abnormally high.
3 You'd expect that to be greater in a population herd that
4 was doing well. But, again, supports the idea that we
5 are, in fact, dealing with this population trend decline,
6 as the data indicates. Unfortunately it doesn't tell us
7 whether we're dealing with a nutritional problem, a
8 predator problem or a -- you know, again, I'd point out
9 that disease may well be a problem. We're dealing with a
10 population decline just to the north in another caribou
11 herd, but it appears to be largely disease related and
12 certainly there's potential for that to have crept into
13 the Southern Peninsula Herd.
14

15 Which factor is actually causing the
16 majority of the problem is -- we can't put our finger on
17 it and that may change from year to year as well, you
18 know, whether it's a predator problem or a disease
19 problem primarily driving any given year's poor calf
20 recruitment.
21

22 But nevertheless we're still dealing with
23 a population decline. We're dealing with an issue where
24 our female caribou just aren't producing calves to
25 support population growth. And to address that from a
26 management structure we need to do everything we can to
27 ensure cow survival and to promote the production of
28 healthy calves so that we can provide for subsistence
29 opportunity into the future. And that's why I'd argue
30 that, while human harvest may not, per se, be the
31 ultimate thing driving the population right now, again,
32 we have a fairly decent bull to cow ratio, you know,
33 certainly there are individuals that can be taken there
34 and utilized by subsistence users, and we obviously have
35 cows out there that aren't producing calves, but we don't
36 know which cows are producing calves and which ones
37 aren't. It could be that certain individuals are either
38 healthier or utilizing a different range of habitat to
39 have access to better nutrition to throw off the calf
40 production. But for whatever reason we, again, need to
41 give those females the opportunity to reproduce and
42 that's why I'd argue that we need to start regulating the
43 human harvest, both through the restriction of making the
44 season only open to bulls and reducing the season to one
45 bull. I agree would be appropriate given the rate of
46 decline that we're currently observing, the fact that we
47 don't see any change in this trend forthcoming in the
48 near future. And with the desire to provide maximum
49 opportunity and not go back into a scenario where we have
50 to completely close down the season in the future.

1 So we're trying to preserve the
2 opportunity as much as possible with these
3 recommendations for regulation changes.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

6
7 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, well, probably your
8 survey budget's about like Van Dale's, about non-
9 existent, and so I wasn't trying to put you in a bind.
10 Obviously when you're managing the only thing you can do
11 is manage people. You can look and see if there is a
12 disease problem if you can get the money, and you can
13 also deal with selective predator control like the Board
14 of Game has been doing. But the one thing our Council
15 can address is reducing the human harvest.

16
17 My earlier comments were that I'd like to
18 see in these type of reports, the survey data bull to cow
19 ratios so that the Council has all the information to
20 deal with, but obviously the bottom line is there's a
21 problem and all we can do is reduce the harvest. So I
22 think next time we get a report it would be good to get
23 more information. But obviously what we've got to deal
24 with is reducing the bag limit.

25
26 MR. LAPLANT: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I just
27 wanted to also point out that Pat's question also related
28 to the information on attachment B, referring to the
29 total harvest there for that period of time, '83 through
30 2002, that's from the State's harvest database. That
31 relates to the harvest under the State system. So for
32 the total harvest I guess you'd have to add the two
33 tables on the previous page, that includes both Federal
34 and State harvest. So just to clarify that.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Paul, did you have
37 something.

38
39 MR. GUNDERSEN: Paul Gundersen, Nelson
40 Lagoon.

41
42 On these reporting methods and means, I
43 think it's probably the best tools you've got to work
44 with and I do question the question the accuracy of the
45 numbers though because I've lived out there all my life
46 and there is a certain amount of animals, especially by
47 the older groups that are taken across the board, cows,
48 calves, the whole works, because they're for meat
49 animals.

50

1 And as for being a diseased animal, that
2 type of news travels through the local community like
3 wildfire. If they find any animals that's got anything
4 wrong with the lungs, liver, whatever, internal organs,
5 it shows up fairly quickly, and word gets out and caribou
6 in certain areas may be, you know, contaminated and
7 they're showing signs of disease. But I have not heard
8 that in the last several years. I know there's been a
9 good fat content, and the animals that have been
10 surviving, their teeth are good, they've got good bone
11 marrow. And so it all kind of leads to the accuracy of
12 these numbers.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Paul.
15 Michelle.

16
17 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, there was a
18 request for public comment.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Iver, you have a
21 comment to make.

22
23 MR. MALUTIN: Yes, I do. Do I need to
24 get to a mic.

25
26 REPORTER: Yes, over here.

27
28 MR. MALUTIN: My name is Iver Malutin. I
29 am speaking only on behalf of my wife's family, and they
30 were all born and raised Chignik, namely the Sconbergs
31 (ph). And I totally agree with Paul and what he said.
32 And just wish they would extend the boundary from out
33 west further to include Chignik, maybe down to Wide Bay,
34 because it seems to me like it's all the same caribou.

35
36 And married Bertha Sconberg in 1967 and
37 what I did last winter was I made a history on the
38 Sconbergs and there's still 11 of them alive, the
39 youngest being 65, the oldest being 90, and one of the
40 interesting things that they said was they moved to Ocean
41 Beach only because of food, and the main source of food
42 was caribou. And it was unique that most of the people
43 in Chignik did that, and they lived on caribou. And all
44 of a sudden I'm hearing that because, I think, lack of
45 information by somebody -- I think it's lack of money by
46 the Department, that they totally closed off the caribou
47 this summer. And I fished the Linchek, I fished Agafina,
48 I fished all over there and this -- even reports that I'm
49 getting from the fishermen that are coming back from
50 Chignik and they're in Kodiak now, that the caribou,

1 there's a lot of caribou in the basin in Wide Bay,
2 there's a lot of caribou in Linchek, there's a lot of
3 caribou in Agafina, in that area.

4
5 And Paul hit the nail on the head when
6 he's talking about a new player coming into the game, and
7 that's the people that are out there making bucks
8 hunting. And what we're talking about here is not --
9 we're talking about food for the table, we're not talking
10 about money for our pocketbooks. And there has to be a
11 clear distinction made on that and here we are taking,
12 some of this food from the people that have been living
13 on caribou all their life and now the only way they can
14 get them is to do it illegally. The State doesn't have
15 the -- or the Feds don't have the resources to go out and
16 enforce. I'm not saying they did or didn't, you can
17 determine that. But the thing is the need is for the
18 people. And I think that Paul come up with a really,
19 really good statement, is that you don't have enough
20 information and in talking to all the Chignik people, I
21 talk with them everyday, I don't think and they don't see
22 any diseased caribou.

23
24 And this other reason that they're
25 depleting and they don't know why but I think that this
26 committee has to really, really think about what Paul has
27 said about making recommendations and first of all
28 include all the people of the traditional users. We are
29 breaking unwritten law by depriving them of the resource
30 that they've had all their life.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Iver.

35
36 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. Members of the
37 Council. Can I comment on that?

38
39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.

40
41 MR. BUTLER: Thanks. Yeah, I'd like to
42 point out, again, that I brought up disease as a
43 potential problem, you know, it's somewhat of a quandary
44 right now as to why the Southern Peninsula Herd is
45 declining and declining quite sharply. Whether they grew
46 quickly and exceeded the carrying capacity limitations
47 and the habitat was essentially rebounding and it's
48 primarily a nutritional problem at this point or whether
49 or not the habitat has, in fact, recovered to the point
50 of sustaining a larger number of caribou and we're

1 dealing with a disease problem, or a predation issue.

2

3 Again, we really don't have any way of
4 determining that at this point with the current
5 information that we have. We are going to take blood and
6 fecal samples to look for a few of these diseases, just,
7 to, again, reassure ourselves that that isn't, in fact,
8 what's happening here.

9

10 We don't have anything to suggest at this
11 time that it is a disease issue. I still have to point
12 out that the diseases that we're talking about wouldn't
13 necessarily result in a swollen liver or some other
14 visible sign. One of the diseases in the Northern
15 Peninsula Caribou Herd is a virus that in and of itself,
16 wouldn't show any clinical signs, per se, to which
17 caribou. The ramifications of these are just lack of
18 pregnancy. It's mostly results in, and, you know,
19 reproductive issues. So it's not necessarily something
20 you'd be able to detect unless you take a blood sample
21 and send it off to a lab. We want to, again, just look
22 and see if these things are there. We are not saying,
23 again, that they are, per se, and regulating the
24 population at this point.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: All right, thank
27 you, Lem. Paul.

28

29 MR. GUNDERSEN: Yes, Paul Gundersen,
30 again. You're talking of needing these blood samples to
31 get a good cross-section of the herd. Maybe I could
32 suggest that under the State game regulation and also
33 under the Federal subsistence provisions, that when the
34 people are taking these animals, to do -- collect a blood
35 sample and refrigerate it or whatever it is, and get it
36 into the Department so they could get a good cross-
37 section of what's going on.

38

39 MR. BUTLER: Yeah, that's a good
40 suggestion. I'll have to look into what it would take to
41 get samples, maybe distribute it to the Refuge, perhaps
42 they could help there, that are taking caribou on the
43 road system, collect some samples this fall or next fall.
44 Good suggestion.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other questions.
47 Pat.

48

49 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I'm wondering here,
50 because we've had a tremendous decline in just a couple

1 of years with a total harvest of less than 160 critters,
2 so that, to me, speaks that something changed radically
3 and very rapidly, and the population years ago was
4 higher. And I'm wondering what has been done over the
5 last 10 years and what's the cub to sow ratio on bears
6 and what's the population of wolves doing out on the
7 Peninsula? Not that our Council can do anything about
8 that, again, all we can do is drop are human harvest, but
9 what's going on with the bears and wolves out there?

10

11 MR. BUTLER: Perhaps I could let the
12 Refuge respond to the bear question. I know that they've
13 done a few bear trend surveys out in that area here
14 recently.

15

16 In terms of the wolf population, winter
17 conditions typically aren't suitable for conducting wolf
18 surveys so we've never been able to actually estimate the
19 number of wolves on the Peninsula, in general. I hear
20 quite a few reportings that they're common. The numbers
21 don't seem to have changed much in recent years given the
22 low moose numbers and the declining caribou populations,
23 again, Peninsula wide, they seem to be, according to the
24 anecdotal evidence, stable, if not by some accounts
25 increasing.

26

27 I'll let the Refuge comment on the bear
28 trend areas if they have that information available.

29

30 MR. LAPLANT: Thank you, Lem. Sandra, do
31 you have any comments.

32

33 MS. SIEKANIEC: Yeah, we did do a bear
34 survey in the Joshua Green area this year. Population
35 numbers seemed average, a little bit on the low side of
36 average, though, with not as many cubs as we've seen in
37 past years.

38

39 We have not done any wolf surveys, as Lem
40 said, it's kind of difficult to locate the packs
41 sometimes, but, I guess I'm not seeing huge numbers.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Any
44 other questions.

45

46 MR. HOLMES: One last one.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

49

50 MR. HOLMES: I was wondering what the

1 State is pursuing on the sport harvest, are you looking
2 at reducing the bag limits there? In looking at the data
3 in attachment B, over '83 to 2002, it looks like some
4 substantial numbers were taken, in fact, more were taken
5 by non-residents than folks that live in False Pass, King
6 Cove, Nelson Lagoon and Sand Point, so a goodly number
7 are taken in the sport harvest. Are those ratios still
8 the same and are you going to be reducing at the Board of
9 Game -- at the Board of Game, has the bag limit been
10 dropped on the sport?

11
12 MR. BUTLER: At the March meeting of the
13 Board of Game we had a chance to discuss some of the
14 current information we have available for the population.
15 I submitted a proposal to restrict non-resident seasons
16 and bag limits and to reduce the State bag limit for
17 residents from one caribou to one bull. The Board chose
18 to act on the restriction on the residents. So we
19 eliminated the cow harvest in the State regulations.
20 However, they were reluctant to significantly change the
21 non-resident season, in part, because, again, we have a
22 healthy bull to cow ratio, in part for some the same
23 concerns that have been mentioned, the relative lack of
24 information at this point and a desire to see more in the
25 future.

26
27 But that's certainly an issue that we're
28 going to continue to pursue. Right now the current
29 management agreement calls for a complete closure of the
30 hunt when the combined population of Unimak and the 9(D)
31 area fall below 2,500. Right now the combined population
32 would equate to 2,800 animals. So given the current rate
33 of decline and the current management agreement, it's
34 likely that the State would have to issue an emergency
35 order at some point in the near future to close the
36 seasons down completely unless a new agreement is
37 reached. So we certainly are working with State
38 regulations to stress these issues.

39
40 The lack of harvest by residents has been
41 somewhat of a quandary. I don't have that same table
42 that you have in front of you there at the meeting, but
43 in the past I've noticed that the local Unit 9(D)
44 residents seem to have reduced their harvests in the
45 recent years, at least, according to what we currently
46 have reported in the State harvest records. And perhaps
47 this is something that members of the Council who are
48 more familiar with the communities down there could share
49 some information with me on it. Is that a lack of
50 caribou being taken in the villages or is that a change

1 in the reporting by the local residents? Again, perhaps
2 someone there might have some insight on that. I
3 certainly hear rumors that once caribou are near the road
4 system, then Cold Bay, quite a few animals are taken.
5 When they're less available, the local resident harvest
6 drops off, which is probably to be expected. And, again,
7 without having the same table in front of me I'd be hard
8 pressed to say that that's necessarily what's going on in
9 some of those years.

10
11 Perhaps that at least answers the
12 question and gives a bit more for discussion there.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Lem.
15 Paul.

16
17 MR. GUNDERSEN: Yes, Paul Gundersen,
18 Nelson Lagoon.

19
20 I do believe that the State reporting
21 records from the sports hunt is fairly accurate.
22 However, I kind of doubt that the ones from the local
23 communities are as accurate as they should be.

24
25 Back in '91, I think it was, when we were
26 going to -- or we asked for the special Federal
27 subsistence intervention so that we would be able to hunt
28 caribou for subsistence reasons I brought up this same
29 subject and this is history repeating itself. Back in
30 the '70s and '80s, you look at your records, that range
31 sustained eight to 10,000 animals for 20 years. However,
32 there was some problems with the vegetation and things
33 because of a couple volcanic eruptions, but the one that
34 really took care of the caribou herd was that Reeve
35 Aleutian Airways was in operation at the time. They
36 owned the hotel in Cold Bay, they owned the bar, they
37 owned the store and they owned an airline. That was a
38 deadly combination to that South Peninsula Caribou Herd.
39 During the winter months they would put on a \$300
40 special. There were airplane loads of people coming out
41 of Anchorage hunting off the Cold Bay road system and
42 they were hauled out by guides and everything else, out
43 of that area. In a matter of couple of years everything
44 crashed and it all got blamed on predation. And it took
45 a number of years, you know, for the herd to stumble
46 along and they did have some pretty good years of calf
47 recruitment. The first thing the State did was open the
48 sports hunt, we're going through the same thing.

49
50 There's six operators down there right

1 now and -- or eight operators that I know of. I don't
2 think that any one of them has got less than 20 caribou
3 hunters. And as you know and past experiences, being
4 game biologists, the local people are not going out and
5 taking rutting bulls. They are going after meat animals.
6 And that is young bulls, they're up and coming, cows --
7 dry cows, with no calves or anything like that, so that
8 is why I am saying that your numbers -- the accuracy of
9 your numbers in the local harvest are way off.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Paul.
12 Any other questions.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Now, from the
17 minutes of our last meeting we postponed action on this
18 item until this meeting until we got more information.
19 Does the Board feel comfortable in taking action at this
20 time?

21

22 (Pause)

23

24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Iver, do you have a
25 comment.

26

27 MR. MALUTIN: Mr. Chair, could I.....

28

29 REPORTER: Wait, come on up.

30

31 MR. MALUTIN: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.
32 My name is Iver Malutin again. And the reason I'm up
33 here this time is that there's a funeral today, a very
34 prominent elder has passed away and many of the people
35 aren't here and they can't be here to testify. And it
36 would be really to our benefit if we could postpone this
37 until tomorrow and take action on this because I'm sure
38 that the people that are directly related to this issue
39 are here and are going to go to the funeral. And they
40 could probably comment tomorrow or maybe late this
41 afternoon. But it would be really, really good if we
42 could do that.

43

44 And just one comment I had and I just
45 wanted to ask him, the caribou, Chignik, Chignik Lake,
46 Chignik/Perryville, Ivanof, is there any probability that
47 in the near future that these people are going to be able
48 to at least harvest one caribou or what is the forecast,
49 and what can we see in the horizon and I'm listening to
50 what Paul says, and everything that he is saying is true.

1 And because of the lack of money, these people aren't
2 able to get their information that they need and I think
3 that a lot of this is lack of information.

4
5 They had sea otter surveys there. Sea
6 otter surveys there and many, many times they came back
7 and the count on sea otters was way down and finally some
8 of the people from the villages told them how to count
9 the sea otter and how to look with them, not only with a
10 plane, not only with a helicopter, and the numbers
11 changed drastically. And I think that's what we need for
12 this, is some better information and better ways to get
13 the count and then maybe we could get a true picture
14 really of what the caribou are.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Iver.

17
18 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. Members of the
19 Council. If I may, make a few comments.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Lem.

22
23 MR. BUTLER: Thanks. Again, you know, we
24 actually do have some very good data on, particularly the
25 composition counts, both for the Southern Alaska
26 Peninsula Caribou Herd and the Northern Alaska Peninsula
27 Caribou Herd that's been mentioned in the Chignik, Wide
28 Bay area to the north. And while we don't have all the
29 information that we'd like to have at this point and
30 while there are a lot of questions to what's driving the
31 population, these composition counts really do tell you a
32 lot. And certainly we do have good sample sizes relative
33 to the population estimates for these surveys. We're
34 looking, again, at, you know, eight calves per 100 cows
35 in the Southern Peninsula Herd in 2003 and seven calves
36 per 100 cow in the Southern Peninsula Herd in 2004. And
37 with those kind of numbers you just cannot sustain a
38 population.

39
40 If you assume that half of those
41 individuals are male and half are female, you're looking
42 at three female calves for every 100 cows coming into the
43 population. To maintain a population at a stable rate,
44 you'd need 97 percent survival in your female, adult
45 females, and we just aren't seeing that. That's a very
46 uncommon survival rate for caribou even on a statewide
47 level. There's really no question that we're dealing
48 with population issues for both this herd and for the
49 Northern Alaska Peninsula Herd which is currently -- has
50 been surveyed much more frequently. We plan to do some

1 more work up in that area and I'm very confident that
2 we're actually on the right track in that area with the
3 population.

4
5 We're going to be applying more money in
6 the near future to the Southern Peninsula Caribou Herd.
7 I'd like to increase our work level, and, again, start
8 trying to collect more samples to get a better hand on
9 what's happening. But, again, I think the take home
10 message for right now is with these calf ratios and with
11 the evidence that we've been given from the Refuge in
12 terms of their winter counts, we are certainly dealing
13 with a population issue, and 9(B) as well.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

16
17 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. It's obvious
18 that there is a serious problem there. And I know Lem's
19 predecessor, Dick Sellers, was concerned, both with the
20 herd there at Chignik, Iver, and the other one, and I
21 think things are in a pretty serious pickle and I would
22 suggest that our Council take up this proposal and take
23 some action to do something.

24
25 Obviously if the population drops any
26 more then the State hunt will cease and then all we'll
27 have is the subsistence hunt on Federal lands, so I think
28 we should probably take some action because the range of
29 these numbers on population estimates here is, talking
30 1,800 critters and like Paul mentioned, we used to have
31 an extremely large herd out that way. I think dividing
32 up the two into subunits is very appropriate because from
33 what I understand from the testimony from Staff is
34 there's some fair numbers on Unimak Island and the herd
35 to the east is not doing as well, so I think we should
36 address those two suggested proposals.

37
38 Mr. Chairman.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat. Any
41 questions or comments. Ivan.

42
43 MR. LUKIN: My name is Ivan Lukin from
44 Port Lions. I think I would be in support of maybe, if
45 there's any action taken, to close that charter hunt down
46 and leave the local hunts alone.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Al.

49
50 MR. CRATTY: Al Cratty, Old Harbor.

1 REPORTER: Al.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Your microphone.
4
5 MR. CRATTY: Going back to '96 and '97,
6 when we addressed this before and listening to the people
7 in King Cove and Cold Bay, how this affected them, I
8 think, now is a good time to take some action also, too.
9
10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Paul, do you have
11 anything.
12
13 MR. GUNDERSEN: Yes. I guess I was kind
14 of fired up on this one, too, and I was asked by a number
15 of people up in Nelson Lagoon and the adjacent
16 communities to see if we could do something on this board
17 level to support some of their ideas. It's tough to hear
18 that they may be being cut off of their subsistence when
19 you see a SuperCub flying by with two racks strapped to
20 it and the cape flopping way behind, you know they got at
21 least 400 pounds of meat they're going to take someplace
22 and dump, so it gets to be -- at this time of year it
23 gets to be a pretty contentious thing.
24
25 So I'm in support of making some sort of
26 recommendation to support to preserve the rights of the
27 locals to hunt and to curtail the sports hunt by some
28 means.
29
30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Paul. In
31 looking at our minutes from our last meeting, the
32 recommendation was to change from one caribou to one
33 bull. It doesn't change the harvest limit at all, it
34 just changes from one caribou to one bull.
35
36 MS. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chairman. The
37 regulations right now on subsistence is two caribou, it
38 doesn't specify sex at all, but it's two.
39
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Then we must have a
41 typo in ours, because it says one caribou to one bull.
42 But if it's two -- from two caribou to one bull then --
43 Dan.
44
45 MR. LAPLANT: Mr. Chairman. Yeah, that
46 was a change that the Board of Game made under State
47 regulations. In March they changed the State harvest
48 from one caribou to one bull for the fall season. So the
49 State has made that adjustment recently. So the Federal
50 regulations still remains at two caribou for Unit 9(D).

1 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Pat.
4
5 MR. HOLMES: I didn't bring my manual
6 from last time for the exact wording on that proposal.
7 Also it'd be nice to see, is that available, somewhere in
8 our book, I don't think it is, this is, you know, what we
9 -- our last discussion -- I think if we're going to be
10 taking up any change in proposal or recommending a change
11 in the reporting and management areas, we need to have
12 some kind of written document. So maybe we could find
13 that and come back to it, I don't know.
14
15 MS. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chairman. You may
16 want to refer to Page 8. I believe those are the minutes
17 from last timeframe and it suggested in there, I know
18 Patrick Gonzales from our Refuge suggested harvest from
19 one caribou to one bull. Actually he's talking about the
20 State season was changed. I don't know if there was
21 actually anything that was suggested at that time though.
22
23 MR. HOLMES: Oh, okay.
24
25 (Pause)
26
27 MR. HOLMES: I guess, Mr. Chairman.
28
29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pat.
30
31 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. Pat Holmes.
32 I guess, what can we do to help? I mean is this just
33 informational at this point or do you need concurrence on
34 change of the reporting areas or what?
35
36 MS. SIEKANIEC: Lem, do you want to
37 answer that.
38
39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes.
40
41 MR. BUTLER: Perhaps I could have the
42 question repeated.
43
44 MR. HOLMES: What do you want from our
45 Council?
46
47 MR. BUTLER: In regards to the agreement
48 or in regards to generating a proposal to adjust the
49 current subsistence regulations.
50

1 MR. HOLMES: Well, I guess probably both,
2 you tell us what you need and we'll think about it.

3
4 MR. BUTLER: Okay. Well, again, in terms
5 of the current agreement between the Federal government
6 and the State government in regards to how these
7 populations will be managed, the current agreement is
8 restrictive for a number of reasons and appears to be
9 outdated. Currently it's probably going to limit
10 subsistence use on Unimak Island for no good reason, just
11 because the population in 9(D) is declining.

12
13 I think this is an agreement that really
14 needs to be changed and updated, again, to address the
15 fact that these two areas have caribou populations that
16 are fairly distinct and in this case, perhaps, just a
17 suggestion or a show of your support for the Fish and
18 Wildlife Service to go ahead and start working with the
19 State to modify the baseline agreement would be
20 sufficient. I know that the Refuge has expressed their
21 interest in it in the past but, again, being that this
22 Council represents the communities, if you could show
23 support in that case.

24
25 In terms of the regulations that need to
26 be changed. Again, with current population decline,
27 certainly cow harvest at this point needs to be
28 eliminated if at all possible. The calf ratios are very
29 poor. We need every female we can potentially have
30 attempting reproduction to try to start slowing the
31 population decline and hopefully, you know, again,
32 stabilizing the population so we can have long-term
33 harvest of this animal.

34
35 Going to the bull only hunt, it certainly
36 is justified at this point because of the bull to cow
37 ratio. You know, we have enough bulls to reproduce with
38 the females, so we know the problem isn't with that
39 particularly. So allowing subsistence users to take
40 bulls is appropriate. So at this point, in spite of the
41 fact that we're dealing with a declining population.
42 That may change in the future, but for now I, again,
43 believe that a one bull harvest is appropriate.

44
45 I would suggest that the Council consider
46 submitting a proposal to make that regulation.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Paul.

49
50 MR. GUNDERSEN: I believe that you would

1 be able to sell that to the local population if there
2 were also some recommendation coming from this Council to
3 the State to curtail the State hunt by maybe limiting
4 each guide to a certain number of hunters. But if the
5 local community is the only on taking the hit, you're
6 going to create a lot of noise.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Pat.

9
10 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. Members of the
11 Council. If I could make a comment there.

12
13 MR. LAPLANT: Go ahead, Lem.

14
15 MR. BUTLER: Yeah, I certainly see the
16 point to that comment. And, again, I'd point out that
17 the State regulations have been -- speaking on that very
18 same restriction, again, we've eliminated the cow harvest
19 at this point and have gone to a bull only hunt.

20
21 In terms of how this gets related to the
22 communities, I'd like to really emphasize again that
23 we're dealing with a declining population and to not make
24 a change at this point is going to be problematic for
25 this population for the future and it's going to result
26 in problems for subsistence harvest in the future simply
27 because there aren't going to be caribou around, they're
28 not going to be available to begin with even if there is
29 a regulation that allows for their take.

30
31 Again, this is going to impact
32 subsistence users. We know that whether we are just
33 dealing with a regulation change or whether we're dealing
34 with looking at the larger picture of the population
35 decline. I feel that it's our responsibility to do what
36 we can to manage the human harvest to try to maximize
37 opportunity for subsistence users into the future so that
38 they aren't adversely affected more than they need to be.

39
40 I don't know how this is more easily sold
41 to some of the communities, what context you can put that
42 in, but, again, I'd just like to really emphasize that
43 point that, you're right, this is a limitation for local
44 users but I think it's one that's justified, given what
45 we're seeing and it's, again, going to affect them
46 whether we make a change or whether we let the population
47 dictate the harvest.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

50

1 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. Pat Holmes.
2 Lem, obviously you've been thinking about splitting this
3 area and I'll make a motion here in a moment to suggest
4 that the Feds split the management areas and revise their
5 strategy, but you've been thinking about that for some
6 time, I can tell. Have you looked at the data between
7 the two areas and is the calf survival the same in both
8 or do you -- are you just dealing with one lumped piece
9 of data where you've got an average for both areas?
10 Because obviously the component herd to the east is more
11 stressed than the one to the west. So the question is,
12 does the Unimak herd have the same low level of calf
13 survival as the component of the herd to the east?
14

15 MR. BUTLER: Yes, I can answer that
16 question for you. And it's a pretty simple one,
17 unfortunately, weather has been a significant problem for
18 us in getting to Unimak Island, so the calf ratios that
19 are being reported purely reflect what we're seeing in
20 Unit 9(D).
21

22 Unimak, the only information that we have
23 about that population currently, again, the recommended
24 range for the caribou population size is to have between
25 a thousand and 1,500 caribou on Unimak Island. That was
26 developed, based on experiences of several biologists,
27 but it's never really been tested that that's an ideal
28 range, but that's currently what the State would
29 recommend if we were to target a population range.
30

31 From the work done by the Refuge, we've
32 seen a population size, just looking at Unimak, totally
33 in and of itself, 1,200 caribou in 2002 and more recently
34 just over 1,000 caribou in 2004, so we're still about
35 right in the right range, a slight decline in the count,
36 but how significant that is, it doesn't appear to be a
37 significant decline. So we're viewing that population as
38 relatively stable. We don't have any supporting
39 information in terms of adult survival or calf
40 recruitment for that particular area.
41

42 MR. HOLMES: So it looks like you're
43 counts there, if it's holding relatively stable, one
44 might be able to infer that -- might be able to infer
45 that things aren't as bad on Unimak as they are on the
46 mainland; is that correct, my assumption there?
47

48 MR. BUTLER: Could you repeat that?
49

50 MR. HOLMES: I say if your count in 2002

1 was 1,200 in 2002 and in 2004 was 1,000, that could just
2 be observational problems so that looks like the Unimak
3 is much more stable and so I think that gives us a lot
4 more to go for argument on splitting the areas as far as
5 their management goes. And, you know, at least I have an
6 intuitive feeling, not based on any science, that that
7 might allow folks in False Pass and King Cove and ones
8 that have relatives from Nelson Lagoon to be able to
9 possibly take a few cows there. But I would certainly
10 say that on the north side of the Peninsula or the east
11 end, I'll probably go along with a resolution to change
12 the harvest to bulls only for that neck of the woods.

13

14 I would suggest, I've had a few years
15 flying out there, are you trying to do your surveys
16 fixed-wing or are you using a helicopter?

17

18 MR. BUTLER: During the fall composition
19 counts we're using a helicopter with fixed-wing support
20 to simply locate the animals, and then the helicopter
21 will move in and actually evaluate sex and age
22 composition of the population during the population
23 counts, which, again, have been done by the Refuge in
24 recent years. They were purely using fixed-wing to
25 enumerate the individuals during the winter. So it's a
26 mixed pot there.

27

28 MR. HOLMES: Okay.

29

30 MR. BUTLER: And with the helicopter, you
31 know, it's just an expensive ship and we -- when we get
32 down to Cold Bay we evaluate the weather and
33 unfortunately in recent years the Unimak weather has been
34 poor and so we've had to just turn around and go back to
35 the north, but we'll certainly continue to look to the
36 south each time we get down there to get more information
37 for that population.

38

39 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I know that that's a
40 problem, I surveyed the whole chain for salmon with
41 helicopter and even getting a machine out there is tough.
42 I might ask the Refuge to think outside the box and
43 perhaps try to coordinate with Coast Guard. On occasion
44 I have been able to do some work with them. You might
45 put in your magic wish list to have survey time with a
46 helicopter and maybe coordinate with some of the other
47 agencies that may be doing things like that.

48

49 Because I know when I used to do pre-
50 emergent out there in March and April for Arnie, we'd see

1 a lot of caribou and we'd see a lot of wolves right
2 wherever the caribou were, and so I would strongly urge
3 with the magnitude of this problem, this is darn serious
4 when you're taking food from people's table and, you
5 know, you're talking about a whole environmental shift
6 here, with losing more than half your population in two
7 years, that's a serious problem.

8
9 So if you submit your proposal and you
10 want me to personally write a letter just give me a call,
11 I'll do that because I think you need to get out there
12 and have the machines you need to work with because a
13 helicopter, if the weather gets bad, you can always park
14 it and I've done that many, many, many, many times and
15 sat in the cold.

16
17 But anyway, thank you, Mr. Chairman.
18 Thanks Lem.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Lem, this is
21 Speridon. Is there a bag limit for subsistence users
22 now? I mean what is it, is it still two or what?

23
24 MR. BUTLER: Currently the bag limit for
25 subsistence users in 9(D) is two caribou and the bag
26 limit in Unimak Island, Unit 10 is four caribou. And,
27 again, currently, we'd like to see the regulations
28 changed in Unit 9(D) as was mentioned the difference in
29 the population counts between the 2002 and 2004 for
30 Unimak Island counts could be explained just by missing a
31 few animals. We're really not concerned about that area
32 at this point.

33
34 I am somewhat concerned by the bag limit
35 of four caribou. Just more from the standpoint of it
36 being a liberal bag limit on a fairly small herd. It
37 doesn't appear to be a problem and it's something that,
38 again, I just want to continue to monitor the population
39 into the future to see if that is going to be an issue.
40 For now, I think we can continue with that regulation on
41 Unimak Island and just address the 9(D) population issue.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Al.

44
45 MR. CRATTY: Yeah, I have one question
46 for Paul there, and this is on the subsistence side. I
47 was just wondering, Paul, how hard it is for the
48 subsistence users to go down to Unimak if they were to
49 leave that at four to get their subsistence caribou if we
50 were to change it to one in 9(D)?

1 MR. GUNDERSEN: One of the reasons the
2 population is probably fairly stable on Unimak Island is
3 the geographics of the place. The community of False
4 Pass has just about all but left, the numbers have
5 dwindled over the past few years. Cost of fuel for
6 people running from King Cove or Sand Point out to the
7 island is prohibitive. Unimak Island has got a great
8 notoriety for eating up SuperCubs, it keeps a lot of the
9 commercial operators off of it.

10
11 So it's got a lot of built in
12 protections. But the South Peninsula Herd does not have
13 those.

14
15 Cold Bay is becoming a very
16 commercialized hub and the wild game. And there are more
17 operators working out of there now than there has been in
18 the past. I would imagine even with these low numbers of
19 caribou their success rate is probably still up in the
20 80s.

21
22 But to answer your question, Al, yeah, I
23 think it's not feasible for us in Nelson Lagoon to go
24 there. Cold Bay, King Cove, and possibly Sand Point with
25 the right marine equipment could hunt the island.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

28
29 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
30 make a motion for our Council to have an advisory both to
31 Fish and Wildlife Service to coordinate with the Alaska
32 Department of Fish and Game to develop a management plan
33 that would manage Unit 9(D) separate from Unimak Island
34 for caribou.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Do I hear a second
37 on that motion.

38
39 MR. CRATTY: Second.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and seconded.
42 Any discussion. Paul.

43
44 MR. GUNDERSEN: I think that might be a
45 hard put to sell to the local communities. The number of
46 people that live in the area experience watching those
47 caribou going back and forth across Unimak Pass in great
48 numbers, especially when the numbers were high. They all
49 feel that is one herd. It's a touchy subject no matter
50 which way you cut it.

1 We found the same problem when we broke
2 out the North Peninsula Herd and the South Peninsula Herd
3 because of the mind that those were all one group of
4 caribou.

5
6 But, yeah, I could potentially see some
7 argument over this but it depends on what the majority --
8 I guess majority rules, so we'll leave it at that.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

11
12 MR. HOLMES: Maybe I could give Paul some
13 Tums on this and maybe modify my motion to say for the
14 period that South Peninsula Herd is in dire straits, and
15 then if things are on the rebound and rebuild and maybe
16 go to a more liberal approach on the areas. How would
17 that be to you Paul?

18
19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Paul.

20
21 MR. GUNDERSEN: Yeah, I guess there's got
22 to be some tools put into place so that -- get some
23 better management tools to keep tabs on these numbers.

24
25 That may be a little easier to digest at
26 the local level. That's about the only comment I've got.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pat.

29
30 MR. HOLMES: Michelle, if you could go
31 back to my motion, and what I would like to do would be
32 to have the correct verbiage that would say that this
33 modification of the management plan, a recommendation
34 would be that it be for the duration of the population
35 decline emergency, and that the whole thing be reviewed
36 when the population improves.

37
38 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, I have a
39 question on Pat's original motion.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Michelle, go ahead.

42
43 MS. CHIVERS: He was talking about the
44 Council -- make a motion to -- was it to assist in
45 developing the management plan?

46
47 MR. HOLMES: For the Fish and Wildlife
48 Service to work with ADF&G to split the management areas,
49 the South Peninsula Herd into the 9(D), the eastern
50 portion, and Unimak Island. So we're talking about

1 having -- allowing the biologists to have more tools to
2 deal with smaller units, rather than having to deal with
3 it as one total one.

4
5 So my concept would be you'd have Unimak
6 for that South Peninsula management plan, you'd have a
7 Unimak management strategy. And then South Peninsula
8 management strategy for the rest of 9(D). And that once
9 the population increases, then everybody will sit back
10 down and reevaluate it with the understanding that that
11 would make the local residents feel more comfortable
12 understanding what's going on. But for now there's a --
13 I feel, in justification, that there's a severe problem
14 and we need some more micro-managing -- bad word, but
15 breaking it up into smaller components, and that we would
16 urge the various biologists to work together in that.

17
18 I can make it shorter, but I got into
19 explaining things, so I'm sorry.

20
21 MS. CHIVERS: So at this point it's just
22 a motion to support Fish and Wildlife Service working
23 with ADF&G.....

24
25 MR. HOLMES: Right.

26
27 MS. CHIVERS:to split the
28 management areas?

29
30 MR. HOLMES: Yes.

31
32 MS. CHIVERS: Okay, thank you. And, Al,
33 you had seconded the motion.

34
35 MR. CRATTY: Yeah, I decline on my second
36 on the first part.

37
38 I'd just like to state in there,
39 Michelle, if there's some way that the State and the Feds
40 could work together, if this becomes a problem that the
41 subsistence user will always have a chance to subsist
42 because we went through this before.

43
44 MS. CHIVERS: Okay.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Paul.

47
48 MR. GUNDERSEN: In the beginning of
49 setting out these Regional Councils, we had discussed
50 this memorandum of agreement between the Alaska

1 Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife
2 Service to parallel their efforts as much as they can in
3 both the fisheries and in game. I would hope that this
4 has been put in place and that they would honor this
5 under these circumstances so that, you know, there's
6 going to be a lot of noise if there's nothing done to
7 curtail some of the sports activity with the local
8 communities taking the first hit.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

11

12 MR. HOLMES: If the philosophy for not
13 seconding the motion is in terms of reducing the sport
14 harvest, there's nothing that our Council can do about
15 that. We could write a letter of recommendation or send
16 a letter to the Board of Game through the Federal Board
17 saying we would like to have that parallel action taking
18 place. What we can do is to try to find some way to
19 provide some potential for harvest.

20

21 When you're looking at game populations
22 that decline that much in that short period of time, you
23 may be looking at -- well, you probably will be looking
24 at, if the information we've got, they'll probably close
25 the whole bloody sport season next fall. And probably,
26 if it continues, they probably will close the whole
27 subsistence program. If you have two management areas or
28 you have one area that has a problem, you take care of
29 the area that has the worst part of the problem and you
30 isolate that and deal with that. And then if you've got
31 an area, yeah, it's tough to get to Unimak, it's a real
32 bugger, I've made some trips out there in a 26 footer,
33 and it's scary, but that does provide some opportunity to
34 have a larger bag limit and, you know, one hopes whenever
35 you do this that this is a temporary type of strategy.

36

37 When they broke the South Peninsula out
38 from the North Peninsula, the North Peninsula was really
39 on the skids, that portion of the herd, and it hasn't
40 come back. Myself, I kind of concur with you and a lot
41 of locals that there's some serious predation out there
42 and the Board of Game needs to address some real
43 selective strategies on that harvest. And I do concur
44 with all of you gentlemen that it would be nice to --
45 it'd be really important to reduce the sport harvest
46 more. But I think the one thing we have within our
47 ability is to -- and our duty, is to provide the best
48 opportunity for folks and so by sticking with the
49 philosophical point, we can say, yeah, well, we decided
50 to take no action.

1 So that's the end of my argument. Thank
2 you.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: There was a motion
5 on the floor and Al rescinded his second, do I hear a
6 second for that motion.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no second
11 then the motion denies for lack of a second.

12
13 Do we have further discussion on this
14 topic.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: What action do we
19 need to take now?

20
21 Paul.

22
23 MR. GUNDERSEN: Paul Gundersen, Nelson
24 Lagoon. I think as the Regional Council, I think it
25 would be advantageous to make some recommendation to the
26 Board of Game as to what our feelings are on this issue
27 so that it will be taken up at this next meeting. I know
28 there are several proposals coming out of the communities
29 that are going to the Board of Game just particularly on
30 that issue.

31
32 So I think it will be addressed at that
33 time and at that end. And I wasn't really asking anybody
34 to do anything at this point, what I was doing is it was
35 more food for thought on this whole issue because it's
36 becoming pretty contentious all the way around as to
37 what's going on. And I was trying to strongly make the
38 point that if there's no action taken by this active
39 committee, to make some recommendation to the State, and
40 the State is fully aware under the sport system of what's
41 going on and the political backlash that comes out of
42 these situations.

43
44 So I guess I was just trying to make it
45 heard. I was trying to make some noise.

46
47 Thanks.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Dan.

50

1 MR. LAPLANT: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Dan
2 LaPlant here again. Yeah, I just wanted to repeat what
3 Lem had said earlier, in that, the Board of Game did take
4 action at their March meeting this past year and they did
5 eliminate the cow harvest. I know there's still some
6 additional concerns that you have Mr. Gundersen, but I
7 just wanted to bring that to light, and, again, Lem's
8 request or recommendation is that the Federal program
9 also eliminate the cow harvest from the regulations.

10
11 So that would be Staff's suggestion also,
12 that you consider making an adjustment or recommending a
13 proposal that would adjust the Federal harvest to
14 eliminate the cow harvest.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

19
20 MR. HOLMES: Well, I'll try again. I
21 guess what I was trying to do is raise the point, after
22 listening to Lem, that there appeared to be not a problem
23 with the cow and bulls and production, they just didn't
24 know. But if you look at those numbers the herd is
25 stable. To me, that's saying that they don't have a
26 problem.

27
28 So I would make a motion that in Unit
29 9(D), that the subsistence harvest be restricted to one
30 bull and in the remainder of the area, on Unimak Island
31 that it be four, either sex. That's what I was trying to
32 get at, is you could still provide some harvest, any sex,
33 in the smaller portion of it and end up with a better
34 potential for people to get something.

35
36 So anyway we can talk about it.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Al.

39
40 MR. CRATTY: Al Cratty here. How soon is
41 it for us to take action this, does it have to be done
42 this meeting or it's just like I'm looking at our
43 schedule for our spring meeting in Old Harbor, and I'm
44 thinking since we are in Kodiak, why do we have to go to
45 Old Harbor, you know, maybe we can go to King Cove and
46 hear the people or Sand Point or Cold Bay and hear what
47 the people have to say and take action after that. I'm
48 just wondering, you know, how serious it is.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Dan.

1 MR. LAPLANT: Mr. Chairman. The window
2 for submitting wildlife proposals closes on October 21st
3 this fall, and then those proposals will be analyzed by
4 Staff and brought back to you at your spring meeting for
5 Council recommendation. So you could submit a proposal
6 now and then give this some more thought, obtain
7 additional information from, subsistence users and then
8 at your March meeting, you know, express your position on
9 that proposal, perhaps modify it based on additional
10 information you receive and go on from there, and then it
11 would go before the Board at their May meeting for a
12 final decision.

13

14 But the window for accepting proposals,
15 as I said, closes October 21st.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Dan.

20 Paul.

21

22 MR. GUNDERSEN: Yes, I'd like to make a
23 comment on Mr. Holmes' proposal. It gives me some
24 heartburn as to having the four animal harvest on Unimak
25 Island, either sex, is that the people that are best
26 equipped to do it, right now, to harvest those animals
27 are the commercial operators. The locals being three
28 dollars and something a gallon for diesel oil or gasoline
29 or whatever, is, you know, it's almost cost prohibitive
30 unless they get a group of people going out there. And I
31 really don't know, I couldn't honestly say what the
32 people of King Cove would say about that. I could
33 probably find out by talking to several of them but I
34 haven't had the opportunity to talk to anybody locally on
35 it.

36

37 What's good for the goose, I guess, is
38 good for the gander.

39

40 So if it were to be -- see the hold thing
41 is on that Federal Reserve, the one animal, it wouldn't
42 make more opportunity for the guys to go out there, if
43 they could take one bull on the mainland, they probably
44 would instead of going out to the island. So it's kind
45 of one of those damned if you do, damned if you don't
46 situations.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, we're having a
49 lot of discussion and I haven't heard a second to the
50 motion. If this motion does not get a second it will

1 also die.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

6

7 MR. HOLMES: I withdraw my motion. May I
8 make a new one.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.

11

12 MR. HOLMES: I'll make one more shot at
13 this. I would propose that our Council submit a
14 proposal, a generic proposal, I think we've done this
15 before, to address the management of caribou in Game
16 Management 9(D) and 10, the South Peninsula Herd and
17 review the management program.

18

19 Okay, that's my motion, and I'll come
20 back with an explanation.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, may I have
23 clarification, you got that right, Michelle?

24

25 MS. CHIVERS: My understanding of what he
26 said was he kind of lumped the two together. He's making
27 a motion for the Council to submit a proposal regarding
28 both Unit 9(D) and Unimak Island and also to support the
29 development of a management plan; is that correct?

30

31 MR. HOLMES: Yes, Ma'am. And may I
32 explain.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.

35

36 MR. HOLMES: I know I should probably
37 wait for discussion but my explanation would be is this
38 would allow the Staff to come back, present us
39 information, Paul could talk with the folks that he knows
40 out west, all of us that have friends out west, I'll give
41 a call to Stanley Mack and some of the other people in
42 Sand Point that I know and just get some kind of feedback
43 on what they'd like to do. I think it's very critical
44 that we address this. I think we had the proposal
45 before, and then we asked for information and it came
46 back and so, you know, basically the biologists are
47 saying they've got a bad enough problem to do anything
48 but if the Council, as a whole, is not comfortable with
49 endorsing at this point, I'd like to bring it back up on
50 the next game cycle to discuss it again.

1 So whatever we would need for a generic
2 proposal to bring it back up so we could go at it again,
3 then let's do that. That's the gist of why I'm making
4 this proposal, or this motion.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, so is that
7 clear.

8
9 MS. CHIVERS: So the Council is going to
10 submit a proposal during this meeting, correct?

11
12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Is that your
13 intention Pat?

14
15 MS. CHIVERS: Is that what Pat's
16 suggesting? We do have Staff here.....

17
18 MR. HOLMES: Yes.

19
20 MS. CHIVERS:that can help write
21 the proposal, and we will be taking -- at one point we
22 will be looking for proposals from the Council or from
23 the public so maybe on a break or something you can have
24 Staff help with that or maybe when we get back to the
25 office. I'm going to kind of look at Dan for his
26 assistance here, maybe he can suggest something here.

27
28 MR. LAPLANT: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The
29 Staff here can help the Council write a specific proposal
30 that you could take action on or adopt or move forward
31 before the end of this meeting or you could leave it as a
32 generic proposal that would be submitted by the deadline
33 and then the Staff would analyze that general proposal
34 and you could make your final recommendation on that at
35 your spring meeting.

36
37 I would recommend that you have one of
38 those two options, either a more specific or a general
39 proposal adopted by the end of this meeting so we would
40 make the October 21st deadline. But Staff is available
41 here to help you, either at this meeting or afterwards.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: So the wish of the
46 Board. Paul.

47
48 MR. GUNDERSEN: I kind of like the idea
49 of putting together a generic proposal and bringing some
50 of these ideas up, and so that they're aware -- well, I

1 imagine they're totally aware of what the proposals are
2 coming in, you know, for some of the other reasons.

3
4 But like I said, myself, I hadn't really
5 had the opportunity to talk to individuals that are
6 directly involved in this very much this past fall. But
7 I feel from what I heard that they want us to address the
8 situation and let it be known to the Board of Game that
9 these issues are at hand.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I got a comment. We
12 are a subsistence advisory committee, and one thing we
13 should put before everything else is we got to serve the
14 subsistence users. And if we're going to make regulation
15 to cut the subsistence user off, the sport hunt should
16 already be gone before we even do that. And we're not
17 removing the sport hunt, we're removing subsistence
18 users. We got to ask ourselves what do we want to do,
19 we're going to get our people mad at us for regulating
20 them before we regulate other users on the resource.

21
22 MR. GUNDERSEN: Yeah, that was my point
23 completely.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We do have a motion
26 on the floor, am I going to hear a second or will that
27 die also. Ivan.

28
29 MR. LUKIN: I'd like to say a couple
30 words before I make a decision whether or not this needs
31 to be seconded.

32
33 I am in a way in favor of this, providing
34 that these people down from his area have a chance to
35 respond to this prior to this October 21st deadline.

36
37 So having said that, I would second the
38 motion.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We have a second to
41 the motion, is there any further discussion.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Lem, are you still
46 on line?

47
48 MR. BUTLER: Yes, I am.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Are you hearing this

1 okay?

2

3 MR. BUTLER: I heard most of what was
4 said. I missed the last sentence that you uttered there,
5 but.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Did you get Pat's
8 motion?

9

10 MR. BUTLER: Yes.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Do you have any
13 comments so far?

14

15 MR. BUTLER: Are you asking me if I have
16 any comments?

17

18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, I'm asking if
19 you have any comments at this time?

20

21 MR. BUTLER: Just that I, again, fully
22 support the motion to at least put a general proposal so
23 you can have a chance to discuss this and reevaluate it
24 at the spring meeting. It still makes this October
25 deadline and I'd also like to just reemphasize, you know,
26 again, with the management plan agreement, it really
27 would benefit local users.

28

29 If, under the current system right now,
30 if the Southern Peninsula Herd continues to decline the
31 Unimak Island caribou hunt will be shut down completely
32 regardless of what's happening on Unimak Island, with the
33 population, and potentially in the future if the Unimak
34 population increased to say 3,000, 4,000 individuals, a
35 level that, you know, far exceeds what the island can
36 handle, you know, there's no sense in trying to regulate
37 9(D) populations based, you know, with liberal seasons
38 and bag limits to try to counter the Unimak Island
39 population increase when you're down to just a few
40 hundred animals in 9(D).

41

42 That may not have been as clear as it
43 could have been, but the point is if we do address this
44 management plan agreement we can structure the hunt so
45 that resource users in either area, subsistence users can
46 take advantage of what is available to them.

47

48 And, so, again, I'd fully encourage you
49 to consider that as well. So that would be my comment.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Lem. Pat
2 Petrivelli.

3
4 MS. PETRIVELLI: Yeah, Mr. Chair. My
5 name is Pat Petrivelli, and I'm with the BIA. And I just
6 wanted to comment about something that Patrick Holmes
7 said about the Board not -- or the Federal Subsistence
8 program not having the authority about regulating non-
9 subsistence uses, there is provisions that are available
10 to close Federal public lands to all non-subsistence
11 users, and there's criteria established that say there's
12 three criteria that have to be met in order to close
13 public lands. And usually resource conservation or
14 serious conservation concerns is one of the criteria.

15
16 So as long as the motion and looking at
17 that aspect, I think it should include -- well, I would
18 think that the Staff would, any generic proposal would
19 look at eliminating non-subsistence users because I think
20 that's what you were kind of saying in your discussions,
21 that in making restrictions to subsistence users, that
22 the restrictions of other users should also go along with
23 that, and there are provisions to do that. And so the
24 generic plan, if you would like to make sure that that
25 generic proposal could include it, you could say,
26 including a component for restricting non-subsistence
27 users along with the restrictions of the subsistence
28 users. And then the Staff could look at those criteria
29 that's available because they have to meet certain
30 standards but they could look at that and include those
31 closures.

32
33 And the other suggestion that I had and
34 hopefully if you wanted to, when you look at those, on
35 Page 22, that population and management objectives, it
36 has all the numbers and it has the ideas of restrictions,
37 but there is no step-wise restrictions. In other
38 management plans around the state they include provisions
39 that say when the population falls below a certain level
40 then they restrict the non-subsistence users, and then
41 when it goes to a different level then they restrict the
42 subsistence users. This particular plan has none of
43 those steps and it would be important to put those steps
44 in there and that way everyone would be clear about when
45 popula -- rather than just saying the number is going to
46 go below this level and we're going to cut harvest, it
47 would be nice to have a step down level. And besides the
48 strategy of -- I mean the pro's and con's of the 9(D)
49 separation and the 10 separation, it will be good to have
50 all that information before you in a Staff analysis in

1 the next meeting, but it would also be nice if they would
2 include some numbers that everyone could agree to for
3 restrictions for the non-subsistence users and the
4 subsistence users and that way there'd be clear numbers
5 for everyone to follow.

6
7 So I don't know if you'd like to put some
8 of those parameters in your generic proposal, to have the
9 Staff include those things, or just ask them to consider
10 all those things so that you'll have a thorough
11 discussion in the fall with all the information before
12 you and the State could weigh in and the Refuge managers
13 could weigh in and have a complete discussion of all the
14 harvest levels and the biological considerations and
15 everything.

16
17 But that's just some comments that I
18 thought might help in the discussion.

19
20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.
23 Patrick.

24
25 MR. HOLMES: Well, thanks for the
26 clarification Pat. Would the Council -- I guess I'll
27 either accept a friendly amendment to the gist of what
28 Pat was addressing or let me see if I can modify the --
29 can I just make my other motion go away and I'll start
30 again.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No.

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No.

37
38 MR. HOLMES: No, okay. I'd like to amend
39 my motion to request that our Council submit a proposal
40 for the fall window to address completely both from sport
41 and the total subsistence implications for the management
42 of the South Peninsula Caribou Herd. Does that get it
43 for everybody? Does that -- because, obviously, as Pat
44 reminded us, we need to consider those, the full
45 ramifications all across the board.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Paul.

48
49 MR. GUNDERSEN: I'll second it.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Michelle.
2
3 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, I'm sorry, was
4 that just addressing just the management plan or are you
5 talking about the proposal as well?
6
7 MR. HOLMES: All I'm talking about is a
8 proposal that would request the development of a
9 management plan. Does that give enough clarification
10 there, a complete.....
11
12 MS. CHIVERS: Okay, so that's not
13 addressing the proposal that would be submitted by the
14 Council at all then, correct?
15
16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No, the motion was
17 to have the Council produce.....
18
19 MS. CHIVERS: Put together a proposal.
20
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF:a proposal, and
22 the amendment was to include the verbiage that Pat
23 Petrivelli has provided.
24
25 MS. CHIVERS: So that's, both, for the
26 management plan as well as the proposal?
27
28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah.
29
30 MR. HOLMES: Yeah.
31
32 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you.
33
34 MR. HOLMES: Just so that we end up with
35 a complete discussion of all the parameters.
36
37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, any further
38 discussion.
39
40 (No comments)
41
42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no further
43 discussion, is there any objections to the amendment of
44 the motion.
45
46 (No comments)
47
48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If there's no
49 objections, all those in favor say aye.
50

1 IN UNISON: Aye.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Those opposed, same
4 sign.
5
6 (No opposing votes)
7
8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, the aye's have
9 it. And then the main motion, all those in favor say
10 aye.
11
12 IN UNISON: Aye.
13
14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Those opposed, same
15 sign.
16
17 (No opposing votes)
18
19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The aye's have it.
20 Okay, is there any further discussion on this topic.
21 Dan.
22
23 MR. LAPLANT: Mr. Chairman. Yeah, just
24 to say we will, the Staff will work with the Council here
25 at the remainder of the meeting to put something down on
26 paper, a generic proposal that addresses these concerns
27 and we'll have it for you at the conclusion of the
28 meeting.
29
30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Dan.
31 Pat, were you going to say something.
32
33 MR. HOLMES: No, I think that sums it up.
34
35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Paul.
36
37 MR. GUNDERSEN: Yes, Paul Gundersen
38 again. In this proposal when Ms. Petrivelli was making
39 her presentation that she was kind of hinting as towards
40 put, what they'd call triggers, I guess, into this
41 proposal. And does the State and the Refuge, do they
42 have these numbers that they would automatically set off
43 these triggers from your past reporting or counts so that
44 maybe it's something we could put in place in this
45 proposal.
46
47 Say that if one unit drops below a
48 certain number, that automatically triggers this action
49 all the way down to a permit hunt or whatever it's going
50 to take. And then also if it drops below a certain

1 number, it just automatically splits the two areas, 9(D)
2 and Unit 10, and then they'll be managed separately.
3 These numbers, I don't know if anybody has these off
4 hand.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Dan, can you answer
7 that.

8
9 MR. LAPLANT: Mr. Chairman. Mr.
10 Gundersen, no, I don't believe we have these numbers now,
11 it would involve discussion and coordination between both
12 the Federal and the State managers to come up with those.
13 I think that would be part of the process to develop that
14 new strategy, you know, that dialogue take place
15 involving subsistence users to come up with those
16 numbers. I don't think we have anything to give to you
17 right now.

18
19 I would also point out, though, that
20 Pat's suggestion about closing public lands to non-
21 Federal subsistence users as being maybe the first step
22 in the process, that was the action that was taken by the
23 Federal Subsistence Board back in '93 when the population
24 initially declined at that time. If you look in the
25 history that Dave Fisher provided you, the first step was
26 to close Federal public lands. So that was an action
27 that was taken and something that should be considered at
28 this time as well.

29
30 So I think the planning process, as it
31 starts to move forward, those discussions take place, we
32 could come up with some number for you at that time.

33
34 MR. GUNDERSEN: All right, thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Dan. Any
37 further discussion on this agenda item.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing none, then
42 we'll move on. Thank you, very much.

43
44 MR. LAPLANT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
45 And we'll thank Lem for being on line also. I don't know
46 if he wants to say on line longer and continue to listen
47 to the meeting but I want to thank him for his
48 participation. Thank you.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

1 MR. BUTLER: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair
2 and members of the Council for allowing me to
3 participate. I'll hang up at this time if you no longer
4 need me.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Lem.
7
8 Michelle.

9
10 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, before we move
11 on, the hotel has asked if some people would be wanting
12 to stay here to eat. The restaurant is closed, but they
13 do have a sign up sheet and they would be kind of
14 providing a catered lunch and they gave me a list of menu
15 items with the cost. And so when we go on break, if
16 people would like to stay here for lunch I would like
17 them to sign up so I could provide the list back to the
18 kitchen.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Well, let's take a
21 15 minute break and we can get that passed around.

22
23 (Off record)

24
25 (On record)

26
27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Let's call the
28 meeting back to order. Is Ivan in the building -- here
29 he comes.

30
31 Okay, before we move on, I'd like to get
32 back and get into adoption of the minutes of our last
33 meeting which was held here in Kodiak on March 22nd, '05,
34 so a motion is in order to accept the minutes of our last
35 meeting.

36
37 MR. GUNDERSEN: I so move.

38
39 MR. CRATTY: Second.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and second.
42 Is there any discussion.

43
44 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

47
48 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. Two points, I
49 think that needs a little more clarification. One is
50 traveling and meeting locations, I'd like to come back to

1 that. And the other is forming a standing committee. In
2 the minutes it says the Council made a request to form a
3 joint committee which would include members of the
4 Regional Advisory Committee members, the local Fish and
5 Game Advisory Committee. And it's quite nicely written
6 there.

7
8 But the active phrase that is incorrect,
9 made a request. We voted to establish one. So if it's
10 necessary -- obviously Staff felt that it was necessary
11 to become a request then we should have been advised at
12 our meeting that we needed to request that of the State
13 Board of Subsistence. So all of the committees I've ever
14 been on, or boards, when a board or committee makes a
15 motion to do something then they decided to do that. So
16 I think the minutes should reflect that the Council made
17 a decision to form a committee and if Staff felt that it
18 should be a request to the Board to do that, then that
19 should be reflected in the minutes.

20
21 I looked through our bylaws and
22 procedures and maybe I missed something but I guess the
23 whole point is is if we have to request the State Board
24 to talk with the local Fish and Game Advisory Committee
25 then we're missing a bet because a lot of times we're
26 able to, as the case with the goats, prevent problems and
27 find some solutions to things. And in the past we've had
28 the same players here at this table, Mitch and Al Cratty
29 and myself and others and when I was on an advisory
30 committee, twice we used a study group process for deer
31 and came up with some good local solutions, and that's
32 been going on here for 30 years or more, in fact, since
33 statehood locally before there was a Federal Subsistence
34 Board. So I'm sort of confused and I'd like some
35 clarification, if we have to make a request, if someone
36 can show me where it says that then I'd like to know.

37
38 But I think the minutes should reflect
39 that we decided to establish one and then you can modify
40 it whichever way you want after the fact, but we did
41 decide to establish a standing study group committee for
42 mutual problem solving.

43
44 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.
47 Michelle.

48
49 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. Actually from
50 the minutes, I went through the minutes with Vince after

1 the meeting and when we had asked for items for the
2 annual report, that actually got put into the annual
3 report with some other items. And so it is addressed and
4 it was addressed to the Board. I don't know if you have
5 actually read the annual report and the annual report
6 reply, but I'll be going over that shortly here so it is
7 addressed in another area. And what's in the minutes is
8 reflected as to what was said from the transcript, it was
9 taken from the transcripts.

10

11 MR. HOLMES: Well, I guess my point,
12 Michelle, is I've made this comment before, and, you
13 know, I'm a certified geezer now and my memory does get
14 bad, but I have commented before where things that I have
15 said, and I've had to do this too, I've been in your role
16 for large groups like this and had to sit down and
17 paraphrase things and transcribe things, but my motion
18 did not make a request, and that's the point I'm making.
19 We did decide as a group to have a committee. And if it
20 says that, then if you could give me a copy of the tape,
21 then I would certainly be glad to tuck it up and say,
22 geez, my brain has slipped a little bit once again and I
23 would apologize to everyone if that is the case. But
24 it's a word that is fraught with a lot of meaning. So if
25 some of my colleagues feel we made a request or that my
26 motion said that then I would be glad to tuck it up and
27 say I'm wrong. Because a standing subcommittee is a
28 really, really important thing and it does solve a lot of
29 problems.

30

31 So I'll be quiet and if that's what I
32 said then I apologize, but if somebody was at that
33 meeting could give me some clarification I'd sure
34 appreciate it because my brain does slide off the deep
35 end every now and then, but I don't think it did in that
36 case.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Well, I have a
41 comment on that to regard to what I think you said at
42 that meeting, Pat, that we are a committee of the Federal
43 Board and as a committee we cannot form other committees.

44

45 MR. HOLMES: Oh, okay.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: So to be corrected,
48 I guess this word would be for our purposes, correct, in
49 requesting of the Federal Board to form another
50 committee.

1 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Well, I stand
2 corrected. And, you know, as always, I don't mean things
3 on a personal level and thanks for putting me in the
4 right place Mitch. A good kick in the knees every now
5 and then wakes a person up.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Is there any further
8 discussion on the minutes of our last meeting.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If there's no
13 further discussion, then is there any objections to the
14 motion.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
19 objections then the motion carries.

20
21 Now, the Chair's report, it is in the
22 book if anyone needs clarification or we can have
23 Michelle go over that.

24
25 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, why don't I go
26 ahead and do that so I can cover the annual report as
27 well.

28
29 Vince Tutiakoff did attend the Federal
30 Subsistence Board meeting but was unable to attend our
31 meeting today so if you would turn to Page 13, it's a
32 letter from the Federal Subsistence Board showing what
33 actions were taken on the items that the Council
34 addressed at our last meeting.

35
36 And we did have two statewide proposals.
37 Proposal 1 was to clarify the definition of handicrafts
38 and prevent the commercialization of bear handicrafts
39 applied statewide, and it was submitted by the Fish and
40 Wildlife Service. The Kodiak/Aleutians Council supported
41 with the modification to exclude brown bear claws,
42 stating that brown bear claws have the greatest potential
43 to be abused if sales were allowed of handicrafts made
44 from claws. The final Board action on this proposal,
45 they took three separate actions on this proposal.

46
47 They adopted the modifications to delete
48 the phrase, Made in Alaska, from the proposed definition
49 of handicrafts and add drilling as one of the methods in
50 making handicrafts. The second one was to expand the

1 list of bear parts that may be used in handicrafts and
2 the sale just for Units 1 through 5. And the third
3 action they took deferred to the 2006/2007 cycle, the
4 portion of the proposal reading the purchased by or sale
5 to licensed businesses and prohibition of significant
6 commercial enterprise. And then if you look on Page 15
7 it does show what the modified regulations, how they will
8 read.

9
10 The second proposal was a request to open
11 the wolf hunting season. The opening of the wolf hunting
12 season be changed from August 1st to September 15 in
13 Units 1 and 3 through 5, and it gives the dates, and it
14 was submitted by the Defenders of Wildlife. And the
15 Kodiak/Aleutians Council opposed this proposal because
16 they felt that there was no conservation concern and wolf
17 pelts may be used during the earlier portion of the
18 existing season so they felt the season did not need to
19 be shortened.

20
21 The final action that the Board took was
22 they rejected this proposal as was recommended by all the
23 Councils, and it was on the consent agenda item so it did
24 not require a main action because all agreed, throughout
25 the whole state, everybody agreed on that one.

26
27 The second item is the 2004 annual report
28 and the annual report reply. As I said before, we made a
29 call for annual report items at our last meeting and it
30 was kind of unclear as to which ones were the annual
31 report items so I did meet with Vince after the meeting
32 and the items that we put in the report from the Council.

33
34 One was the travel meeting locations.
35 The second was the interim appointments to fill seats for
36 new members appointed by the Secretary of the Interior.
37 And the third one was to form a standing committee. On
38 Page 19 is the response from the Board.

39
40 Regarding the travel meeting locations,
41 the Council had always expressed dissatisfaction with the
42 meeting locations and they were concerned that the
43 meeting in Cold Bay and other hubs does not allow smaller
44 communities to discuss issues that affect their area.
45 The Board supports the Council having meetings in
46 locations where subsistence users can participate and
47 help solve issues that are important to the Federal
48 program and to the people in your region. The meeting
49 locations are often chosen based on a particular issue
50 that is pertinent to that area within that region. The

1 Board understands it is important to have the meetings in
2 smaller communities. The Office of Subsistence
3 Management does try to accommodate meeting location
4 requests when possible, especially when there is an issue
5 that needs to be heard in a particular area. And, of
6 course, they say that as the Council is aware, the
7 weather can sometimes be a contributing factor in
8 determining where the meeting usually ends up being held.
9 They state that Cold Bay has served the purpose in your
10 region on occasion and so that is one of the hubs. But
11 neither the Board nor the Office of Subsistence
12 Management intend Cold Bay to be a regular meeting
13 location. They did express their thanks to the Council
14 for bringing this issue in front of the Board.
15

16 The second issue was the interim
17 appointments to fill seats until new members are
18 appointed by the Secretaries of Interior. The Board
19 responded by saying that the Board may recommend a
20 special appointment to the Secretaries of the Interior to
21 fill a vacant seat of a Regional Advisory member who has
22 resigned or has moved until the end of the term. But the
23 process in beginning this review of available applicants
24 and ending with the notification of appointment takes
25 approximately five months, the processing of a new
26 member's paperwork and preparation for travel for
27 meetings requires an additional four to six weeks to make
28 sure that we have everything in place prior to the
29 meeting which includes travel advances, monies to the
30 Council member prior to the meeting. So the Board felt
31 that it was more practical benefit to the Council if
32 there is a one year remaining for that term for which the
33 Council member resigned, if one year or less is remaining
34 the net gain to the Council -- there is no real net gain
35 to that Council in trying to get a new member on board.
36 The Council may request that the vacancy be filled out of
37 cycle but it would have to go through a special interim
38 appointment process and it's a lengthy process. And
39 interim applicants, they wanted to make sure that the
40 Council was aware, the interim appointments would be
41 selected from the applicants from the most recent
42 nomination cycle, and if there were no well-qualified
43 applicants available within that pool, the seat would
44 remain vacant until that time.
45

46 The third issue was to form a standing
47 committee. The Board considered the Council's request
48 for a standing committee and they felt that the goat
49 registration hunt was very successful when they
50 authorized an additional Council subcommittee but they

1 also felt that rather than having a standing committee,
2 they would prefer to have the Council put together a
3 committee when an issue arises and they could submit that
4 to the Board with a more detailed subcommittee
5 authorization request which would outline the goals,
6 objectives, scope of work, planned participation and
7 subcommittee duration. So based on the information that
8 was provided by the Council the Board will make a
9 decision regarding the possible formation of a
10 subcommittee. And, of course, if the Board authorizes
11 such a subcommittee, the appropriate Federal and State
12 boards and agencies will be notified, but they would
13 prefer to do it on an as needed basis as opposed to a
14 standing committee.

15

16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Michelle.
19 Is there any questions.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, Michelle.

24

25 MS. CHIVERS: The last item under the
26 Chair's report was a call for items for the 2005 annual
27 report. So at this time if the Council feels like there
28 are other issues that they would like to bring forward in
29 front of the Board now would be the time to submit a list
30 of items.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any requests from
35 the Council.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, thank you. If
40 we come up with any in the future we'll contact you, I'm
41 sure.

42

43 Okay, moving forward, we have call for
44 proposals.

45

46 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, back on the
47 table we do have a green form which looks similar to
48 this, it's for the call for wildlife proposals for the
49 2006/2007 regulatory year. As Dan mentioned earlier, we
50 will be accepting proposals through -- the deadline for

1 proposals is October 21st and I believe the Council will
2 be putting a proposal together today but this is also
3 from the Council, from the public, so if anybody else in
4 the audience has a proposal they would like to submit, we
5 will be taking proposals now through the meeting, as well
6 as they can submit them to our office prior to October
7 21st.

8

9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Michelle.
12 So we're looking for proposals at this time. Before we
13 move on we're going to break here in a few minutes for
14 lunch and we'll move to a different room, so if there's
15 no one -- where do we go from here if there's no
16 proposals.

17

18 MR. CRATTY: Lunch.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, then we'll go
21 ahead and break for lunch and then we'll go into the
22 kitchen for an hour. We'll break for an hour for lunch,
23 we'll be back here at 1:00.

24

25 (Off record)

26

27 (On record)

28

29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I'll call the
30 meeting back to order. Could we have Holmes up here,
31 please.

32

33 I have one announcement before we get
34 back into our agenda. We're going to move the rural
35 determination review into the morning's agenda so that we
36 can get done with our agenda here today and have all day
37 tomorrow to deal with the rural determination. And with
38 that said then the next item on the agenda was proposal
39 review. The first one is Proposal FP06-01, and that
40 proposal is on Page 26.

41

42 MR. BERG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
43 Again, my name is Jerry Berg. I'm a fishery biologist in
44 the Office of Subsistence Management. I'll be presenting
45 the next two proposals for the Council this afternoon.
46 The first proposal is a statewide proposal and then
47 there's more of a regional proposal that we'll deal with
48 next. And as you said the proposal information does
49 start on Page 26.

50

1 It's a statewide proposal that was
2 submitted by our office. This is an issue that surfaced
3 last spring, actually some people, I think Pat Holmes and
4 some people from the Refuge brought it to our attention,
5 that there was not a regulation that allowed handicrafts
6 to be made out of fish parts and that it was an existing
7 practice, has been for many, many years, all over the
8 state. And it was more of an oversight more than
9 anything else. And so we did not receive a proposal in
10 our office to address the issue so our office went ahead
11 and submitted a proposal to address it.

12
13 It does request that the Federal
14 regulations allow the sale of handicrafts made from the
15 non-edible byproducts of subsistence harvested fish or
16 shellfish and it would allow this statewide on all
17 Federal waters. The Federal regs do not currently
18 provide for the sale of handicrafts made from fish or
19 shellfish and we want to basically accommodate the
20 existing practices that do occur in various areas of the
21 state. As I said it would correct an administrative
22 oversight in our regulations. It is allowed specifically
23 in ANILCA but it's just not in our regulations.

24
25 The proposed reg would provide the same
26 opportunities to Federal subsistence users that are being
27 proposed under State regulations. We also found out
28 through this process that it's also not in State
29 regulations, although they do have it in their
30 definition. So the State is in the process of -- they
31 submitted an ACR to the Board of Fisheries to address the
32 same issue.

33
34 As you can see on the proposed language,
35 at the top of Page 28 in bold lettering under the number
36 9, you can see the exact wording that we're proposing to
37 address this issue. It basically states that you may
38 sell handicraft articles made from the non-edible
39 byproducts including but not limited to skins, shell,
40 fins, and bones of subsistence harvested fish or
41 shellfish. And we put that information in parenthesis
42 because there are some areas of the state, obviously,
43 where people do eat different parts of the fish, so we
44 just wanted to define what people can use to make
45 handicrafts.

46
47 Also as I think most of you are aware,
48 there were wildlife proposals in the past few years that
49 dealt with the sale of handicrafts made from the parts of
50 black and brown bears and as a result the Federal

1 Subsistence Board did adopt new regulations allowing the
2 sale of handicrafts from certain parts of brown and black
3 bears. The discussions at the Council and Board meetings
4 about the sale of bear handicrafts is also one of the
5 issues that helped bring this issue under more scrutiny
6 as to what's allowed for making handicrafts out of
7 subsistence resources.

8

9 Adopting this proposal does not -- we
10 don't believe it's going to provide any additional
11 harvest opportunity for subsistence users because current
12 salvage regulations in the regulations do require that
13 harvests occur primarily for consumption and because fish
14 and shellfish cannot be harvested solely for the raw
15 parts to be made into handicrafts, it's not expected that
16 an increase in the fish harvest will occur should this
17 regulation be adopted simply for the benefit of making
18 handicrafts. It would, obviously, benefit subsistence
19 users by providing for existing practices. And it's not
20 expected to impact the fish populations.

21

22 So with that, Mr. Chair, our
23 recommendation is to support the proposal. I'd be happy
24 to answer any questions if the Council has them.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Jerry.

29 Is there any comment from the Department of Fish and
30 Game. Liz.

31

32 MS. WILLIAMS: Hi, I'm Liz Williams with
33 the Division of Subsistence at the Department of Fish and
34 Game. And the Department supports this proposal and as
35 Jerry mentioned, the Department submitted a proposal to
36 the Board of Fisheries that's the same as this.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Other
39 agency comments.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Staff Committee
44 comments.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Fish and Game --
49 Glenn.

50

1 MR. CHEN: The Staff Committee does not
2 have any comments.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Fish and Game
5 Advisory Committee.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Written public
10 comments.

11
12 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll
13 go ahead and read those into the record.

14
15 We did receive two written comments in
16 support of this proposal. We received one from the AHTNA
17 Tene Nene Subsistence Committee. They support the sale
18 of handicrafts made by subsistence users from nonedible
19 byproducts of fish and shellfish. Subsistence users
20 should be allowed to sell these handicrafts.

21
22 The other comment was from the Chilkoot
23 Indian Association. They support the sale of handicrafts
24 made by subsistence users from nonedible byproducts of
25 fish and shellfish. The statewide change has the
26 potential to help economically deprived regions to
27 generate needed cash. It also makes sense to use as much
28 of the harvested fish to minimize waste and this change
29 would also promote cultural skills with the tribes.

30
31 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Michelle.
34 Public testimony. Tonya Lee.

35
36 MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And good
37 afternoon Regional Advisory Council members. I'm here to
38 testify on behalf of Suzie Malutin. She cannot make this
39 meeting because she's preparing repast at this time.

40
41 Susan Malutin states that utilizing the
42 skins, especially with the students in the villages
43 during Cultural Week, it reinforces their ability to use
44 these types of resources. It is a resource that is
45 readily available for them. She has used the skins in
46 the past and she says it has always worked very well.
47 She has developed her own safe method to process the
48 skins and there's no harmful chemicals left when she does
49 this.

50

1 That's the statement by Susan Malutin.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Tonya.
4 Regional Council deliberation and recommendation.
5
6 Pat.
7
8 MR. HOLMES: I'd like to move to adopt so
9 we can discuss it.
10
11 MR. GUNDERSEN: I'll second.
12
13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: It's moved and
14 seconded. Further discussion. Pat.
15
16 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, this has
17 been a long time handicraft, I can recall reading a
18 translation of Steller's Diary, he was the crazy Dane
19 that went toodeling around with Bering, and they talked
20 about folks on Attu and in the far western Aleutians with
21 seal skin boots and clothing. And Ms. Malutin and other
22 ladies have been doing this quite often. I wanted to
23 pass over for the Council, this is a little beaded pouch
24 that I made when I went up to the Afognak Spirit Camp and
25 I use it to put my hearing aid in but it's made out of
26 sockeye skin, and it kind of proves that I did something
27 at camp rather than talk.
28
29 (Laughter)
30
31 MR. HOLMES: But that's all part of --
32 several of the ladies here on the island and other
33 places, some of the handicraft type things that they do
34 and I think it was a great deal of oversight that this
35 hasn't been addressed before, so I'll strongly support
36 this proposal. I think it's important culturally.
37 Anyway, it's just the right thing to do.
38
39 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
40
41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.
42 Other comments from the board.
43
44 MR. CRATTY: Yeah, I strongly support
45 this too. It's a good thing for people to get out and
46 utilize the different skins and bones and stuff.
47
48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Ivan.
49
50 MR. LUKIN: I'm in full support also.

1 MR. GUNDERSEN: I'm also in support of
2 it.
3
4 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Further discussion
5 on the motion.
6
7 (No comments)
8
9 MR. HOLMES: Call for the question, Mr.
10 Chair.
11
12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Question is called,
13 all those in favor say aye.
14
15 IN UNISON: Aye.
16
17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Those opposed, same
18 sign.
19
20 (No opposing votes)
21
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The motion carries.
23 Mr. Berg, your other proposal.
24
25 MR. BERG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 Proposal 6 starts on Page 31 in your book. Proposal 6
27 was submitted by the Bristol Bay Regional Council, and it
28 would provide Federally-qualified subsistence users
29 additional fishing opportunities in some locations of the
30 Alaska Peninsula area by reducing the area closed to
31 subsistence fishing when there are commercial openings
32 nearby.
33
34 This is also a little bit of an alignment
35 proposal. There was an action taken by the Board of
36 Fisheries in February of 2004 that made similar changes
37 to increase subsistence fishing opportunities in many
38 locations and to make it easier to determine when
39 subsistence fishing was allowed in the Alaska Peninsula
40 area. So this is a proposal to align with the changes
41 that the Alaska Board of Fisheries made in February of
42 '04.
43
44 Federal jurisdiction for this proposal is
45 very limited. It basically would apply to marine waters
46 where the commercial fishing does occur. There's very
47 little Federal jurisdiction in marine waters but there is
48 some, mainly around Simeonoff Island and in some of the
49 bays currently but that's pending the proposal regarding
50 marine jurisdiction.

1 The changes that the State Board of
2 Fisheries made also included a reference to sections
3 within the districts which are smaller areas that may
4 also be closed before or after commercial openings and
5 that was a word that was not included in the original
6 proposal. If adopted as the proposal was submitted the
7 Federal regulations would maintain closures to
8 subsistence fishing before and after a commercial fishing
9 just within the districts without reference to sections.

10
11 There are not any conservation concerns
12 for salmon stocks in this area at this time. It would
13 make it easier to determine when subsistence fishing was
14 allowed. It would be less confusing to the public. We
15 do recommend that we include the word, section, in the
16 regulation to make sure -- just to align with the State
17 regulation and make it easier for everyone to understand.

18
19 So the preliminary conclusion is to
20 support with the modification to include sections that
21 can also be closed to subsistence fishing before and
22 after a commercial opening. And you can see the
23 recommended wording on Page 36 in your book, it has the
24 exact regulatory wording there and we've just added the
25 word, sections, in there to align with State regulations.

26
27 Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd be happy to
28 answer any questions.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Is there any
31 comments from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

32
33 MR. MCCULLOUGH: I'm Jim McCullough with
34 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. And from the
35 State's perspective, if there has to be duplicate
36 regulations, then it certainly makes sense for the
37 Federal regulations to be what the State has on this
38 issue, especially since the State is providing more
39 subsistence opportunity than the Federal regulations
40 currently allow.

41
42 The recommended modification to include
43 sections also makes sense in order to provide opportunity
44 that the State believes is reasonable. And then because
45 the Peninsula fisheries are not on a set schedule, keying
46 those Federal regulations to State commercial openings
47 also seems appropriate.

48
49 Mr. Chairman.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Other
2 agency comments.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: InterAgency Staff
7 Committee comments.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Fish and Game
12 Advisory Committee.
13
14 (No comments)
15
16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any written
17 comments.
18
19 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 There are no written public comments at this time.
21
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. Public
23 testimony.
24
25 (No comments)
26
27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Council
28 deliberations. Pat.
29
30 MR. HOLMES: Move to adopt, Mr. Chairman.
31
32 MR. GUNDERSEN: I'll second.
33
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Move and seconded.
35 Discussion. Pat.
36
37 MR. HOLMES: It just makes sense, Mr.
38 Chairman, to have parallel regulations. You know,
39 originally the strategy on that was when some commercial
40 operators got caught up in the creek and they said, oh,
41 well, I'm subsistence fishing well everybody knew what
42 they were doing, they were behind the markers, so this
43 makes it better for the real subsistence fishermen and I
44 think it's a swell idea and I'll vote for the proposal,
45 Mr. Chairman.
46
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.
48 Others. Paul.
49
50 MR. GUNDERSEN: I guess my question would

1 be, Jim, I was just looking at this map and stuff and the
2 Federal lands, I guess just basically it does help out
3 King Cove and Sand Point, the communities that's fishing
4 with the drainage off the Federal lands into State waters
5 on the south side of the Peninsula. I don't really see
6 any benefit on the north side. Is that true?

7
8 MR. MCCULLOUGH: Mr. Gundersen, yes, I
9 believe you're correct there. There may be some Federal
10 waters within Nelson Lagoon, I believe, too, that might
11 be affected by this, but as Jerry said if those Federal
12 waters continue at their current boundaries they may be
13 changed here soon though.

14
15 MR. GUNDERSEN: Okay, thanks, that
16 clarified it. Yes, I would also support this.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any further
19 discussion.

20
21 MR. LUKIN: I support.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Al.

24
25 MR. CRATTY: I support, too.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Further
28 discussion.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 MR. HOLMES: Call for the question, Mr.
33 Chairman.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The question's
36 called. All those in favor say aye.

37
38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Those opposed, same
41 sign.

42
43 (No opposing votes)

44
45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Motion carries.
46 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. Amy Carver [sic].

47
48 MS. CRAVER: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair.
49 My name's Amy Craver and I'm the anthropologist with the
50 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. I'm responsible

1 for providing oversight and tracking for the harvest
2 monitoring, traditional ecological knowledge projects
3 from the Kodiak/Aleutians region. Today I'm going to
4 provide a brief overview of our program. I'm only going
5 to touch on a few of the highlights and if you're
6 interested in more in-depth information please see the
7 introduction on Page 38.

8
9 The goals of the FRMP program is to fund
10 technically sound research projects that address high
11 priority and provide information for subsistence
12 fisheries management. These research projects address
13 fisheries issues and information needs that are
14 identified by local subsistence users and management
15 agencies. The program also develops fisheries management
16 expertise within tribal and rural organizations.

17
18 The projects that we fund provide both
19 immediate information, for example, in season harvest
20 monitoring and long-term information, for example,
21 traditional ecological knowledge projects for Federal
22 subsistence management.

23
24 In order to get at the important
25 information and issues, the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
26 Program relies on the Regional Advisory Councils working
27 with fisheries managers to identify issues and
28 information needs. In this way the RAC provides critical
29 input that are submitted for funding.

30
31 And in terms of our strategic planning
32 process that we are now involved in, while existing
33 issues and information needs are okay, limited money
34 mandates that high priority issues are identified in all
35 regions in Alaska. To do this we've begun a strategic
36 planning process. The planning process has been
37 completed for the Southcentral and Bristol Bay regions.
38 The rest of the regions in the state should be completed
39 by 2007. The Kodiak/Aleutians three day strategic
40 planning workshop will occur the 1st through the 3rd of
41 November 2005 in Anchorage. Participants will include
42 appropriate Federal agencies, the Alaska Department of
43 Fish and Game, the Kodiak/Aleutian Regional Advisory
44 Council members, people from Academia and Alaska Native
45 and Rural organizations. The workshop participants will
46 collectively develop three products for the monitoring
47 program.

48
49 1. Goals objectives and information
50 needs by the region for Federal

- 1 subsistence fisheries.
2
3 2. Identification of gaps of
4 knowledge for each information
5 need.
6
7 3. Prioritization of information
8 needs for the evaluation of study
9 proposals.
10

11 The criteria for project selection,
12 there's a description of that on the bottom of Page 38.
13 Basically the projects that we fund are evaluated on
14 priority issues for Federal subsistence management. The
15 things that we're looking for are, is the project or the
16 proposal, is it technically sound, can the principal
17 investigators do the research. Are they qualified to do
18 the research. And then an important component of each
19 proposal that we look at is its capacity building.
20

21 The project success for project selection
22 is made up of two criteria. The first criteria is the
23 Technical Review and recommendation and then it goes to
24 the Regional Advisory Council for further recommendation.
25 The Federal Subsistence Board policy guidelines
26 stipulates that a minimum of 60 percent of the program
27 monies go to non-Federal sources. Some activities that
28 are not eligible for funding under the program, this has
29 come up several times, it is habitat protection,
30 restoration enhancement, hatchery enhancement,
31 restoration or supplementation and anything dealing with
32 contaminants, our program doesn't deal with those. If
33 people are interested in doing projects about those
34 topics or addressing those topics we can recommend other
35 sources of funding for them.
36

37 The Federal subsistence guideline model
38 for funding by region, if you look on Page 40, Table 1,
39 the guideline model for funding by region for 2006,
40 Southwest region 15 percent of the funds, or \$165,000
41 goes to the Southwest. The overview for 2006, and that's
42 on Page 41, and that's a table with projects by region
43 and data type. Twenty projects were submitted for
44 funding for consideration statewide, including only one
45 for the Southwest region and that project was a stock,
46 status and trends project and unfortunately there were no
47 harvest monitoring or TEK projects that were submitted
48 from Southwest in 2006. Fifteen projects statewide were
49 recommended for funding by the Technical Review Committee
50 and, again, none were recommended for funding from the

1 Southwest.

2

3

4 And in terms of just an overview of the
5 Southwest region, I'll refer you to Pages 43 to 49. This
6 section starts off with just a brief discussion of the
7 issues and information needs. And basically the main
8 information need identified for the Kodiak/Aleutians area
9 was the changing patterns of subsistence of salmon
10 harvest. On Page 45 is a list of ongoing projects in the
11 region, 35 projects have been funded in the Southwest
12 region since the inception of the program and 11 of these
13 projects are currently ongoing.

14

15 In terms of the 2006 projects, again,
16 there was only one that was submitted for funding for
17 consideration and, really, the low number of projects
18 submitted for this area really speaks to the need for the
19 Council to identify important issues that need attention
20 for FIS to work with investigators to submit proposals
21 addressing the most important information needs. And,
22 ideally, this will happen during the strategic planning
23 workshop in November. And hopefully from that workshop
24 there'll be more proposals generated from this area.

25

26 And, again, the Council should take a
27 look at the projects that are currently being funded from
28 this region and identify which ones you're particularly
29 interested in, and we could arrange for the principal
30 investigators of those projects to come to the winter RAC
31 meeting and present some of their preliminary results.
32 And an example of one of the ongoing projects that we are
33 funding is, it's titled, Subsistence Fisheries Harvest
34 Assessment and Traditional Ecological Knowledge in the
35 Kodiak area. And after I get done talking, Liz Williams
36 will come up and talk to you a bit about what's been
37 going on in that project. And then later, Mike Edwards
38 will talk about a project that he's working on at
39 Mortesen's Creek Weir.

40

41 So, Mr. Chair, that's all I have unless
42 you've got any questions.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any questions for
45 Amy. Pat.

46

47 MR. HOLMES: When I first joined the RAC,
48 on my first term, Steve Fried was going -- we had a
49 couple of meetings where we stopped off after Cold Bay
50 and went back and identified what our RAC thought was a
real priority to get Afognak Lake funded. And it was my

1 understanding after that, that OSM Staff was going to
2 come back and continue, you know, having a workshop down
3 here in Kodiak with folks to see what our perspectives
4 were on other projects and priorities within the region,
5 but that never happened. Were we supposed to come back
6 and say, hi, here we are or it just sort of faded away.
7 Obviously folks in Bristol Bay are very successful at
8 generating proposals.

9
10 MS. CRAVER: Actually in response to what
11 you're talking about, what Steve Fried was referring to,
12 was getting together the folks from Kodiak/Aleutians and
13 the RAC, it is the strategic planning workshop that I'm
14 talking about that will be occurring in November.

15
16 And part of the reason Bristol Bay, you
17 know, they've already had their strategic planning
18 workshop and the results of that are now in a draft
19 report.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other questions.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No questions. Thank
26 you, Amy.

27
28 MS. CRAVER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And I
29 guess Liz Williams will come next and talk about her
30 project.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

33
34 MS. WILLIAMS: Hi, Mr. Chair, and the
35 Council. I'm Liz Williams with the Division of
36 Subsistence at the Department of Fish and Game. And I'm
37 going to do a powerpoint presentation on two projects
38 today but they're not totally separate. One sort of
39 informs the other. And until somebody interrupts me,
40 I'll probably keep talking, so, Michelle, watch me.

41
42 (Laughter)

43
44 MS. WILLIAMS: Can everybody see?

45
46 (Yes)

47
48 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. The first project
49 that I'm going to talk about is a huge project that we
50 did funded by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council.

1 In 2004 we did surveys in all the Kodiak villages as well
2 as all the other oil spill affected communities, so those
3 would be on the Alaska Peninsula and in the Prince
4 William Sound area. And so the study was funded by the
5 EVOS Trustee Council, but KANA, Bristol Bay Native
6 Association and Chugach Regional Resource Council were
7 all partners.

8

9 And what we did is just kind of put all
10 our resources together to mobilize this huge research
11 project which was, in effect, to assess people's
12 perceptions of the affects of the oil spill on
13 subsistence resources 15 years later. And we did this
14 through a 30 page survey that took almost an hour to do,
15 and those of you who live in the area were very nice to
16 do that with us. And we asked people just all kinds of
17 questions.

18

19 The final report is 932 pages. And I'm
20 not going to go through every table or anything like
21 that. But I just wanted to give you an idea of the types
22 of conclusions we drew just from the Kodiak area. And
23 for those of you on the RAC, I've sent copies of the
24 chapters about your community, Paul, I didn't send you
25 any because you don't live in Kodiak, but if you're
26 interested, anybody else, I can send you copies of the
27 chapters.

28

29 We did face to face surveys in all the
30 communities. We attempted a full census. We didn't get
31 a full census but we got -- we estimated there are about
32 277 households in the six villages and we interviewed --
33 or 200 households participated, so that was pretty good,
34 we have a 72 percent participation rate and we always
35 work with local researchers to do the surveys. Sometimes
36 we do them together, sometimes we split up and do them
37 separately, but it's just a really good way to get good
38 information and just get more and more people involved in
39 the whole fish and wildlife process of regulation, just
40 to get them involved in it and know what to do and how
41 the system works.

42

43 The Trustee Council has a recovery
44 objective for subsistence uses, and I'll just read it
45 real quick. Subsistence will have recovered when injured
46 resources used for subsistence are healthy and productive
47 and exist at prespill levels. In addition, there's
48 recognition that people must be confident that the
49 resources are safe to eat and that the cultural values
50 provided by gathering, preparing and sharing food need to

1 be integrated into community life. And so the questions
2 on the survey came out of this objective.

3
4 I'm just going to skip the 932 pages and
5 go right to the conclusions and just some of them, and
6 these were actually written by my supervisor, Jim Fall,
7 but I'll get to my conclusions later.

8
9 In general people think most subsistence
10 resources have recovered but not all of them. In some
11 cases we would ask people, again, about every species and
12 in some communities on Kodiak it showed no shrimp
13 harvest, so you think, oh, well, people just don't use
14 shrimp here. But when you go back to our old surveys,
15 again, a baseline survey where we asked about everything,
16 people would get hundreds of gallons of shrimp so some
17 data that didn't even show up on the survey we went back
18 and looked at our old data and we realized that shrimp
19 wasn't there. Now, whether or not it's because of the
20 oil spill or not, you know, we don't know, some people
21 said yes, some people said no. So that's one example.

22
23 And then people just said they saw a lot
24 less marine mammals, if they do get marine mammals they
25 have to go further to get them. Many people talked about
26 sea ducks not recovering and also just less of things.
27 Some things have come back but they haven't come back all
28 the way.

29
30 A lot of people talked about competition.
31 One thing that people brought up and I'm sure you've
32 heard this before, if you live here, is that the oil
33 spill attracted all these workers on the clean up, people
34 saw how beautiful this place is and all the resources
35 that were here and that has certainly led to an increase
36 in sport and charter activity. But also because of other
37 economic things that are going on, local people have also
38 moved into this arena of tourism and charters and stuff.
39 There's a mixed feeling about that in almost all the
40 communities. And people say there is more competition
41 from outside competitors though.

42
43 And, again, more effort is needed to meet
44 harvest goals.

45
46 And then subsistence patterns have
47 changed. I'll talk about this a lot, but one thing we
48 noticed and one thing that people brought up to us is
49 that less people commercial fish now than they used to,
50 mainly because of prices, but also because of other

1 factors. And, you know, subsistence and commercial
2 fishing are inter-dependent in coastal communities in
3 Alaska. And so when people don't go out and fish
4 anymore, they also don't go out and harvest the same
5 resources sort of expediently using their boat to fish
6 and get a deer or getting their home packed for
7 subsistence or whatever. So not being out fishing
8 because of economic situations since the oil spill has
9 affected subsistence patterns.

10

11 A lot of people brought up global
12 warming, you know, more red tide, increased PSP. I
13 talked about the decrease in the role of commercial
14 fishing.

15

16 Another thing that people brought up were
17 research activities have increased. And since the oil
18 spill, EVOS and other agencies have funded a lot of
19 research in the spill-affected areas and many, many
20 people talked about seeing people come into their
21 community, walk around with equipment, do all kind of
22 things and leave and never really know what they were
23 doing or why or what happened, even though they see the
24 need for a lot of this research, too, there isn't always
25 a connection. And I think that sort of led to some
26 feelings of isolation and loss of control. I think in
27 many cases people have always felt that when a disaster
28 happens, some sort of disaster, that subsistence is
29 always there to sustain people, but with this oil spill
30 it kind of burst that bubble because subsistence was
31 threatened.

32

33 This is just one community where we
34 compared from our past baseline surveys how much fish for
35 home use people take out of their commercial harvest.
36 And Port Lions was the most clear example, although all
37 the communities have a very similar pattern. In 1986 you
38 see how much fish was taken for home use compared to
39 2003. So that's a big change in subsistence right there.

40

41 Again, I was saying that people kind of
42 seeing these researchers and all this other stuff going
43 on in their community has led to a sense of isolation and
44 really loss of control. A lot of people expressed the
45 feeling that, you know, they always could fall back on
46 subsistence but with the threat from the oil spill it's
47 just not the same way.

48

49 And we just like to continually stress,
50 that to meet EVOS' recovery objectives, the human

1 dimension has got to be included, it's not just numbers
2 of animals that have come back. There's economic,
3 there's social, there's cultural and spiritual
4 components. And nobody that lives here needs to be told
5 this, but this is the kind of stuff that is really
6 important in reports like this, I think.

7
8 These are my conclusions. I did surveys
9 in four of the communities and one of my co-workers did
10 them in two of the others. But if I had to summarize
11 this report in one word, I would say, clams. Because no
12 matter where I went people were really, really concerned
13 about clams. And some people attribute the increase of
14 PSP, paralytic shellfish poisoning, to the oil spill,
15 some people don't. It doesn't matter, the oil spill was
16 a watershed event that happened and many people said no
17 one died before but since the oil spill, as you well
18 know, there have been several deaths because of PSP.
19 According to State officials at Department of
20 Environmental Conservation you are definitely not
21 supposed to eat clams, but clams are almost like the soul
22 food of Kodiak Island. People talked about how village
23 togetherness had disintegrated almost because the clam
24 harvest, when the tide was really low, is when everybody
25 in the village would go out together, sometimes with
26 Coleman lanterns, and just fond memories of everybody
27 being out at the same time because of the tide. And
28 people said they can't do this anymore.

29
30 Now, that doesn't mean that people don't
31 eat clams anymore, especially on the south end of the
32 island, a lot of people are eating clams and a lot of
33 people say if you get them where there's fresh water
34 that's constantly moving they're okay. But even people
35 that still eat clams are still real nervous about it and
36 this uncertainty began with EVOS.

37
38 Fish prices is another really interesting
39 thing that came up in these surveys that I didn't expect.
40 One of the questions on the survey was has the
41 traditional lifestyle been affected by the oil spill and
42 in many villages people said, yeah, fish prices were
43 never the same. Now, again, farmed salmon is definitely
44 an issue but the way a lot of people looked at it is that
45 farmed salmon would never have made the fast in-roads to
46 the American market that it did if the oil spill hadn't
47 conveniently occurred right after the highest red salmon
48 and other prices in decades. And so, again, you know,
49 who knows if you can ever, you know, wright the
50 connection down, legal or whatever. But the oil spill

1 was a watershed event and fish prices never have gone
2 back to what they were before 1988. And so that, like I
3 said, has affected subsistence patterns. It's affected
4 the populations of the villages, I mean that is the
5 economy and people have left. A lot of people have moved
6 to Kodiak. A lot of people have moved to Anchorage and
7 other places. And like I said commercial fishing and
8 subsistence are inter-dependent. There's the paradox,
9 you can't do subsistence without cash and you can't
10 really get cash unless you commercial fish.

11
12 Several people also talked about keystone
13 species, like mussels and herring have not come back and
14 some people attribute the sea duck decline to those
15 keystone species.

16
17 Everywhere I went people talked about
18 draggers. You know, people see draggers from their
19 communities. I know that, I think according to State law
20 they can do a polagic trawl within three miles but
21 outside of that they can't. But people feel that they're
22 not supposed to see these draggers out in front of their
23 communities. People talk about different species that
24 used to come up incidentally when they fished that just
25 aren't there anymore and they also hear about big dumps
26 of by-catch by draggers on the species that they target
27 for subsistence, and so that's a real concern for people.

28
29 Many people brought up global warming.

30
31 And then as I said, there's a lot of
32 competition, especially on the north end of the island, I
33 think as the Kodiak city population grows, people are
34 moving into the areas that are the subsistence areas of
35 the north end villages.

36
37 We also asked people, again, going back
38 to the recovery objective, is, do you think young people
39 are learning enough skills to live a subsistence
40 lifestyle. Because the generation that was young when
41 the oil spill occurred kind of skipped a beat, they
42 didn't get to learn everything the way they normally
43 would have because people stopped harvesting. They
44 didn't want to feed their family poisoned food.

45
46 One woman in Port Lions had an
47 interesting comment about that. She said a lot of the
48 kids are learning enough to eat but not enough to live.
49 And I think that kind of sums up the importance of
50 subsistence skills, is that, people are getting stuff but

1 that missing a beat during the oil spill years just kind
2 of threw things off. But also a lot of people said that
3 kids are learning enough.

4
5 So there's not a real clear conclusion.
6 It's obvious things are not the same since the oil spill,
7 there are definitely some species that are very important
8 to subsistence that haven't recovered, and people have
9 noticed the species that their subsistence harvest
10 targets rely on have not recovered either. But there's
11 more competition and then the fish price issue.

12
13 Now, I'm going to also talk about the FIS
14 funded project as well. It's Traditional Knowledge of
15 Salmon and Trout on Kodiak Island. But you can see how
16 this EVOS project really informs a lot of that project,
17 just when you look at the changes in the patterns of
18 subsistence harvest.

19
20 This project is funded, as I said, by
21 Fish and Wildlife Service, OSM, FIS. The tribal councils
22 are all partners in this project. So the tribal councils
23 of Akhiok, Larsen Bay, Karluk, Ouzinkie, Old Harbor and
24 Port Lions have funding to hire local people to do
25 surveys, to interview people and to work on other aspects
26 of this project.

27
28 The Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge is
29 working closely with us on this project. Tonya Brockman
30 and I have been out to the field together to do surveys
31 and do key respondent interviews.

32
33 And the Alutiiq Museum is an unofficial
34 partner that's been wonderful.

35
36 There's two dimensions to this project,
37 as you can see. Harvest assessment is one, and
38 traditional ecological knowledge is the other.

39
40 Harvest assessment is one of the biggest
41 issues because anybody who lives here knows about the
42 subsistence salmon permit. I haven't had an official
43 data analysis of my surveys done yet but everyone in the
44 villages hates the subsistence salmon permit, and the
45 reason is it's called a permit, it should just be --
46 there's a miss-education, and this thing's been around
47 forever, it's no current Staff's fault. But the purpose
48 is to document the importance of subsistence salmon for
49 the communities so managers know how much salmon is
50 needed for subsistence. But when you have a permit that

1 also says limit 25 per person, per household or whatever
2 it says, it sounds like you can only get a little bit of
3 salmon which doesn't make any sense for people in the
4 communities, it's just -- it doesn't.

5
6 The other thing is, is that nobody knows
7 that in regulation you can go back and get as many
8 permits as you want because there's not a limit on
9 subsistence salmon harvest on Kodiak but nobody knows
10 that, number 1, because it's buried in regulation and,
11 number 2, how practical is it to go back and keep getting
12 more and more permits. So one thing that we're going to
13 work on in this project and that we really want the
14 Councils to work on is to help create a way that their
15 community can document their subsistence salmon needs
16 that works for them and so that people know that it's
17 something for them, it's not to take away. Everybody
18 thinks of harvest number reporting as a cap, but I've
19 tried to talk to people and say that, you know, these
20 numbers can belong to you, they're not just to be used
21 against you, I mean they're not supposed to be, but
22 numbers can do anything, but they're supposed to be used
23 and they're yours. When you go to the Board of Fish or
24 whatever, this is your documentation of what you need.

25
26 So that's one aspect of that that we're
27 working on. And even though we hire local researchers
28 and stuff as part of the capacity building aspect of this
29 project, the real point of capacity building is to get
30 people involved in the process and go through it and do
31 something. And so we're hoping that the Councils will
32 come together and come up with some sort of community
33 harvest process that is their way of documenting.

34
35 As far as the TEK, there are a lot of
36 things that I've learned. And some of the ways that I've
37 been researching this is through some of the camps that
38 the Councils do, Afognak, what is it, Old Harbor, Akhiok,
39 Larsen Bay, Alutiiq Week, and also just going out when
40 people are doing stuff, when they invite me to go, or
41 happen to be in the community and learn about things.
42 And so I'm just going to show you some pictures of the
43 different things that people have been doing. And I just
44 wanted to give a few points about the TEK that has been
45 coming to my mind or that I've been learning through the
46 graciousness of people who will put up with people asking
47 weird questions.

48
49 But I mean we always think about the fat
50 content of salmon, or at least I do, and it's just so

1 interesting to talk to people throughout the island who
2 really preferred pink salmon whereas so many people these
3 days want the salmon with the most fat. But, you know,
4 before there was refrigeration or freezing, people looked
5 for salmon with the least amount of fat and so a lot of
6 people talk about how pinks are really their favorite,
7 especially the older people and they would only get them
8 once they're in the rivers and they were the thinnest,
9 they had the least fat and they were the best for drying.
10 So oil content kind of drove the target harvest for --
11 and still does. A lot of people today say they don't
12 like kings, yet, because of the way to stay in your
13 village and make money is to be maybe a sport guide a lot
14 of people are harvesting kings and then their clients
15 from outside don't want to take them home and that's what
16 they take to the Senior Center or whatever, and people
17 are starting to eat kings but you couldn't dry them so it
18 wasn't something that people had a taste for in the past.
19

20 A lot of interesting things about habitat
21 change since the earthquake. If you talk to some of the
22 older people, you know, the whole landscape changed.
23 Where there once were reds, there are now nothing. Or
24 new -- you know, things have just moved around with that
25 big geological event.
26

27 A lot of people are saying salmon are
28 returning earlier in recent years. There are also
29 environmental indicators across the Island of people will
30 say, you know, there's this one bird and they only know
31 the Alutiiq name for it, the agouiti (ph) bird, and when
32 it comes you just know the salmon are coming, the first
33 salmon of the season.
34

35 Also just the different ways people use
36 salmon. I've taken a picture of salmon anatomy to a lot
37 of the elders because the first year I'm really trying to
38 get Alutiiq concepts of salmon documented and, you know,
39 every part of the internal organ of the salmon has an
40 Alutiiq name. Some of the fins have names that indicate
41 the type of motion that they can allow the fish to have.
42 And it's just really interesting to get those concepts
43 down. And then the other thing is, you know, we think of
44 the five species of salmon but when I ask elders,
45 especially, but younger people, too, to look at pictures
46 of salmon in their different phases, what we're finding
47 are fish that are good for drying classifications, fish
48 that have been in freshwater long enough to do this. So
49 different forms of classification based on how they're
50 going to last, based on their oil content, and how long

1 they've been in freshwater.

2

3 This is a person, and I don't know how to
4 pronounce it exactly, but one thing I learned about is
5 kazuk (ph), and that's different across the Island, too.
6 I didn't pronounce it right, but in Alutiiq it means raw,
7 I believe, and in the north end of the Island a lot of
8 people will soak fish in brine and then just eat it as
9 the only preparation, and they'll use that word to
10 describe it. But some people have put an ing on the end
11 of that word and they talked about how when the humpies
12 would come in, people would just sit around and have a
13 great picnic by, when the male hump got ripe and even in
14 Alutiiq, they call it swimming with a backpack on,
15 something like that, but people loved when the hump got
16 to a certain stage of ripeness, there's some cartilage in
17 there as well as the cartilage in the nose that's just
18 great to chew. And this is a guy in Akhiok cutting it up
19 to show me, and you eat it with pushke, and another thing
20 -- or cow parsnip -- is that a lot of people, another
21 environmental indicators that people love to like eat
22 those two things together. You don't really eat the
23 pushke, you just use it to flavor the kazuk or the hump.
24 But people say that the pushkes have been drying up
25 earlier than usual and when they're trying to eat the
26 hump and have the pushke, now they have to put them in
27 the freezer because it's been so dry and hot here that
28 they're not as fresh as they want them to be when they
29 want a kazuk with them.

30

31 And just looking at all the different
32 ways people make stuff with salmon, you can ask a really
33 interesting question; what's your favorite fish to put in
34 paarock and you get so many different answers based on
35 who harvest fish when. Some people have to have reds,
36 some people say silver is the only thing that doesn't
37 fall apart, a lot of people leave the skin on in their
38 paarock, they are just different, you know, ways that
39 people like to make it for different reasons.

40

41 There are a ton of Alutiiq words for all
42 sorts of fish preparations. There's words for boiled.
43 You know, partially smoked, half-dried, then baked,
44 partially smoked, half-dried boiled. All sorts of
45 preparations with fish eggs. I mean the Alutiiq Museum
46 has really helped me a lot as far as getting in touch
47 with their Alutiiq Master teachers to look at these
48 classifications and different uses. And, again, the uses
49 that change are so interesting because, you know, you
50 still have people that dry pinks because they're the best

1 but then you have people who have started to get into
2 kings. And I guess that's one of the important things
3 about the change in use patterns of salmon is that, you
4 know, cultures die if they don't change. And what's
5 happening is people are still drying pinks like they did
6 a long time ago but they're harvesting kings, silvers and
7 reds in new numbers that are very different from a long
8 time ago.

9
10 And so the products of this research are
11 two years of harvest surveys that are conducted by local
12 researchers and the surveys ask a lot of things but we're
13 trying to get a good harvest assessment. And if you go
14 face to face to people you always get a thousand times
15 better numbers than if you give them a permit.

16
17 And then we're also doing comprehensive
18 documentation of customary and traditional uses that are
19 ever changing of salmon and trout but we really want to
20 get a community driven method of documenting the
21 importance of the subsistence salmon harvest. So that's
22 it unless you have any questions.

23
24 Thanks.

25
26 MR. EDWARDS: Hey, Michelle, before
27 everybody moves, since I'm doing a powerpoint do you want
28 me to just do mine so we don't have to switch around.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah.

31
32 MR. EDWARDS: That way everybody can stay
33 seated.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes.

36
37 MR. EDWARDS: Mr. Chair. Council
38 members. Thank you. I'm Mike Edwards. I'm a fisheries
39 biologist with King Salmon Fish and Wildlife Field
40 Office. And today I'm going to provide an overview of
41 the 2005 monitoring projects that our office has
42 conducted in your area. Basically I'm going to touch on
43 the McLees Lake Weir, McLees is down out of Unalaska
44 Dutch Harbor, touch briefly about the coho aerial surveys
45 we do in the Kametolook area. I know that's not really
46 this RAC's region of responsibility but they're close
47 enough and I've talked to you guys about that issue
48 before. And then the highlight of my talk really is
49 going to be Mortensen's Creek and then the Red Salmon and
50 Blue Bill Weir where we've taken some video technology

1 down there and that's kind of the highlight. I'd like to
2 show you guys the video work we're doing at Mortensen's
3 and Red Salmon and Blue Bill.

4
5 The McLees Lake Weir, historically folks
6 in Unalaska, Dutch Harbor could fish the Unalaska lake
7 stock but that stock's become depleted and basically been
8 closed to subsistence fishing for several years now so
9 effort now has switched over to McLees Lake. And prior
10 to the weir being installed in 2001, the majority of the
11 -- well, the escapement was monitored by Fish and Game
12 through aerial surveys and just do to the inclimate
13 weather down there and availability of aircraft and
14 things like that, the surveys were infrequent at best.
15 Some years they'd be able to fly and other years they
16 weren't. So to address that issue, in 2001 the Kenai
17 Office sent in a proposal to OSM, got it funded and they
18 ran the weir down there for three years and due to some
19 inter-jurisdictional boundary changings our office became
20 responsibility for that part of the state and we
21 submitted a proposal in '03 to get the project funded for
22 three more years, so we took over in '04 and have been
23 running it for two years now. The thing with McLees, as
24 this slide highlights, is the escapements down there have
25 been all over the board. You see we had a high of
26 101,000 in 2003 and a low this year of 12,000. And then
27 in the aerial surveys that Arnie and ADF&G did, they
28 range from 400 to 34,000. So the big question with
29 McLees is what's a normal escapement down there and we
30 really don't have that information.

31
32 Even though 12,000 seems really low, we
33 think it was plenty to seed the system, the phone wasn't
34 ringing off the hook with subsistence users telling us
35 they couldn't get fish or anything. But based on 101,000
36 in 2003, you know, 12,000 looks like a pittance. So
37 we're not really sure what we should expect into that
38 system. So hopefully next year's weir project in McLees
39 will lend some more information as to what we should see
40 in that system.

41
42 And I have been talking with Fish and
43 Game management down there and he's kicking around the
44 idea of getting their research folks involved and finding
45 out and actually reestablishing an escapement goal.
46 Right now they shoot for, like, six to 8,000 in the
47 system, so 12 we exceeded, but is 12 good or should we be
48 seeing 100,000 in there; we don't know. But we will see
49 what next year brings for McLees.

50

1 The next project is the coho aerial
2 surveys. As a result of the decline of the coho
3 populations in the Kametolook, Long Branch, and Three
4 Star Rivers there in the Perryville area, subsistence
5 effort has shifted out to the other streams adjacent to
6 Perryville. The Native village of Perryville enacted an
7 ordinance that prohibited subsistence fishing in the
8 Kametolook so the effort has shifted out to these other
9 streams. And these other streams are really similar to
10 the Kametolook, they're short in distance, they're flashy
11 systems, and there's not a tremendous amount of
12 escapement data for the coho in these systems. Fish and
13 Game, they do fly for pinks and chums down in that area
14 but they usually stop about the time the peak of the coho
15 run starts occurring. So there was a big data gap there,
16 we really wanted to find out what was in these other
17 systems and could they support this new effort that
18 really used to be on the three systems there in the
19 Perryville.

20
21 So we began those surveys back in 2003,
22 and based on talking with the folks in Perryville and
23 some Fish and Game data, these were the main systems
24 we've been flying surveys down there and we go down there
25 twice a year in the fall. And this year's first survey
26 is actually coming up next week. So these are the
27 streams we go down and fly and we actually are getting --
28 we're not getting escapement estimates, we're basically
29 getting index counts. So we're not really -- we don't
30 know what the true escapement into the system is, but
31 with these index counts we can at least get the
32 management -- we at least know at any given time what an
33 index was, at least what was in there last year, what was
34 in there this year. And based on what we saw in 2003 and
35 2004, it looks like these systems adjacent to Perryville
36 can support this harvest. Our only concern is the
37 harvest is directed into one stream and one stream only,
38 if they spread out the harvest to these other streams,
39 which it appears to us has what's been going on down
40 there based on information from the folks in Perryville
41 and Fish and Game harvest reports, it looks like their
42 subsistence needs can be met through these other systems
43 until a lot of the rebuilding work that's been going on
44 for years can get the Kametolook stock back up and then
45 they can get back to fishing the Kametolook stock.

46
47 So we'll be doing these surveys, we've
48 got -- like I said, one's going to start -- we've got two
49 more years, counting this year, one year after this year
50 to conduct these surveys. So it's provided us a lot of

1 good information that we just didn't know what was in
2 these systems down there as far as the coho.

3

4 Okay, the next system I'll talk about is
5 the Mortensen's Creek Weir. And Mortensen is one of, if
6 not the primary subsistence sockeye and coho fishery for
7 the folks in Cold Bay and King Cove. And, again, prior
8 to 2001, when we put the weir in down there, this system
9 was managed in-season by aerial surveys and all the
10 management decisions were based on aerial surveys and,
11 again, aerial surveys in that neck of the woods are
12 problematic, the weather is bad, you don't get to fly as
13 often as you'd like. And then to compound it,
14 Mortensen's is a turbid system -- well, it's not really
15 turbid to say, it's stained, it comes through the tundra,
16 picks up a lot of tanans (ph) and the water is really
17 dark and the stream bottom's dark so it's kind of hard.
18 Some days you have good conditions and the aerial surveys
19 work well, other days you have not such good conditions.

20

21 So in 2001 we decided, based on input
22 from Regional Advisory Councils and everything, we
23 decided to put a weir in at Mortensens and since we've
24 had the weir in sockeye escapements have ranged from
25 4,000 to we had a high this year of 21,000 sockeye into
26 Mortensen. So the sockeye appear to be doing very well
27 there. And then the coho have been averaging anywhere
28 from three to 8,000 a year since we've had the weir in
29 there.

30

31 And a big focus of our office over the
32 last three years has been the development of this video
33 technology. We've been working a lot with it up in the
34 King Salmon area on Big Creek which is a tributary to the
35 Naknek. We spent a few years fine-tuning and getting a
36 lot of the bugs out of the video equipment on Big Creek
37 and we came to the conclusion, well, we can do this in a
38 clearwater system, we can count fish with this
39 technology, let's take it to a turbid system and see if
40 we can do the same thing in a turbid system. So we took
41 the video equipment to Mortensens last year. And what
42 you see here, this is the video, the fish passage chute,
43 and here in a second I'll get into more detail of all the
44 parts and stuff. But basically at the weir, with the
45 video chute and the camera box is mounted on the back
46 side of it here, we can allow fish to pass when the fish
47 want to pass. We don't have to be down there at 3:00
48 o'clock in the morning to open the weir if the fish are
49 going to come, we can have the weir open, we can use the
50 video equipment to let fish pass when the fish want to

1 pass, not when it's conducive to the weir crew wanting to
2 be at the weir.

3
4 So parts of the video components, well,
5 obviously we need to have a camera box. Basically our
6 camera box is a big sealed aluminum box that has a glass
7 front on it. It's sealed, and we fill it with filtered
8 water and then we treat that water with algicide, and the
9 reason we do that is when the water gets high or in
10 turbid conditions, the majority of the distance that our
11 camera has to look through is clear water. So even --
12 we've had good images to where we could ID and count fish
13 when outside visibility was less than 20 centimeters. So
14 by having the majority of the distance from the lens to
15 the fish be the clear water inside the camera box we've
16 been able to have this thing function in turbid water
17 systems.

18
19 And then inside the camera box we
20 obviously just have the high resolution under water
21 camera and then we have these high output halogen lights,
22 that's what we use to illuminate the fish as they swim
23 through the fish passage chute. So the next part is the
24 actual fish passage chute.

25
26 And basically when we first started this
27 video stuff we tried it above water, we tried to remove
28 everything out of the water. It makes your life a lot
29 simpler if you don't have anything in the water, and
30 trying to use the motion detection software we ran into a
31 tremendous amount of problems, wind would blow, clouds
32 would move, everything would change and the motion
33 detection software kept triggering and we'd end up with
34 hours and hours and hours of video we'd have to watch
35 that had very few portions of fish so it kind of led us
36 down the path that if we had these fish in a controlled
37 environment where the motion detection would actually
38 function we could do this stuff. And we knew at the weir
39 we could make the controlled environment, and that's what
40 the fish passage chute is.

41
42 So basically it's in addition to the
43 weir. So now at our weirs where we have this video, we
44 have the fish passage chute and then we have the trap
45 box. And the only time we need to trap fish now days is
46 to get our biological samples, when we need sex, length
47 and age data from the fish. But for the most part we're
48 not getting our hands on near as many fish as we used to
49 in the past.

50

1 And then the other thing we've modified
2 inside the fish passage chute, we've created these
3 baffles which is basically another little subwall that as
4 the fish enter, we allow them to enter through the widest
5 opening of the passage chute and then they hit the baffle
6 and the baffle forces them closer to the glass to help us
7 get a better image of the fish.

8
9 And I think this is the red salmon set up
10 down there. It's a real small system, but it's
11 bidirectional. We pretty much just block off each end of
12 -- the other side of the stream with these little weirs,
13 little panels, and then it's bidirectional, fish can come
14 up stream, down stream as they see fit.

15
16 So the heart and soul of the whole thing
17 is the digital video recorder. We call them DVRs, it's
18 basically like a TIVO unit. And the one thing we've
19 learned is these things were developed for the security
20 industry and when we were first learning it we were
21 calling tech support quite a bit and they kind of freaked
22 out when you told them what you were doing with their
23 equipment and they had no idea how to tell you, you're
24 doing what?

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 MR. EDWARDS: So tech support was not
29 very helpful in the first years.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 MR. EDWARDS: But the key to the digital
34 video recorder is the motion detection software. Which,
35 if you can see on the screen here, basically the crew is
36 in the process of setting up these little algorithms and
37 you map out the section on the screen and tell it how
38 sensitive you want it to be and then any change in pixel
39 size on the screen, and so many of the little cells trip
40 and it's changed, the motion detection will record. And
41 the way the system works it's recording constantly until
42 there's an alarm and then it will go back and record what
43 we call the pre-alarm. So the fish comes in, trips the
44 motion detection, well, we've got it set, we'll get 10
45 seconds before the alarm was tripped and then it will
46 record for 30 seconds. So we get the fish entering and
47 then count the fish as it swims back out and then it
48 stops, and the machine goes back and starts recording
49 again.

50

1 So the beauty of this is the fish can
2 pass 24 hours a day as long as we've got the power to
3 keep the place lit up.

4
5 And we've discovered this year with our
6 red salmon, we started running into some difficulties
7 with fish passage at night and that's next year's goal is
8 to fix that problem. The fish swim into the chute and
9 then they don't want to swim out, which causes problems.
10 They get in there and they trigger the motion detection.
11 Like for instance we reviewed files from the 5th of July,
12 we had 300 and some odd files to review and resulted in
13 five fish going, so it's kind of defeating our purpose of
14 cutting down our time. So we've started actually
15 blocking things off at night this year until we can
16 figure out why the fish don't want to swim out. They'll
17 swim into the light but they won't leave the light.

18
19 (Laughter)

20
21 MR. EDWARDS: So that's next year's
22 problem.

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 MR. EDWARDS: So the big question, what's
27 all this look like.

28
29 Well, this is Mortensens in 2004, and
30 before you freak out and say, oh, my God, what a horrible
31 picture, granted it is a horrible picture but at
32 Mortensens, we're really dealing with a single species.
33 They're sockeye and coho and they're separated quite
34 nicely in time. We have a little bit of overlap when
35 they are both species, but typically what sockeye are
36 coming at that time are colored up.

37
38 So counting shadows like this is a lot
39 better than what the crew was doing before. Before the
40 crew would stand in the creek and count fish as they swam
41 out the trap box or through another chute. At least here
42 with the video we're able to stop it and, oh, was that
43 two fish, was it three fish.

44
45 So after 2004, it was like, yeah, it
46 works, and also here in 2004 we used under water
47 fluorescent tubes in the video chute to light up the
48 fish. And that resulted in a lot of problems and we
49 weren't really sure -- fish would be silhouetted and it
50 was just not good lighting. This was the big head

1 scratcher last year, we don't know, the stars were
2 aligned on the 1st of August at 6:30 we got a picture
3 like this, this was the only day we had a picture like
4 this, we don't know why, tide, there was no special
5 tides, we couldn't figure out why everything worked at
6 this time.

7
8 So we came into this year with going,
9 well, it did work but we can do better. We need to get a
10 better picture at Mortensens. So to do that I went and
11 talked to Culligan in Anchorage and said, how do you
12 filter water out in the field with a 12-volt battery and
13 he said, well, you need this, and so they hooked us up
14 and we greatly improved our water filtration. Because
15 we're out there, it's not like we have a tap, you know,
16 the water we use in the box comes out of Mortensens, it's
17 already dirty so we need to clean it as best we can
18 before we get it into the box. So we greatly improved
19 water filtration. We painted the inside the box. You
20 get a group of biologists, we worked on this stuff --
21 we've been working on this stuff for four years,
22 aluminum's shiny, aluminum reflects light, right. Got a
23 new maintenance worker and he was talking and he goes,
24 you know, white reflects better than aluminum and we're
25 like, oh, okay.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 MR. EDWARDS: So we painted the inside of
30 the camera box white this year and then we also changed
31 the lights and we modified the baffle design to push the
32 fish a little closer and viola here's what things look
33 like in 2005.

34
35 And I'd like to point out here though
36 that this still looks crappy compared to what you see out
37 in the field. It's digital at the weir and to get it to
38 where I can bring it and show people like this, we've got
39 to capture it via analog so the image quality goes
40 digital, analog, back to digital and then I get it here.
41 So what you're seeing is very greatly degraded to what we
42 actually get to see out in the field. But it's still --
43 I mean, look, pink, you know, pink, and there's a chum
44 coming through there. So we were very happy when we saw
45 this footage this year coming out of Mortensens. Because
46 if you ever get to Cold Bay and you get out to
47 Mortensens, if you stand in that creek and it's knee deep
48 you can't see your toes so we were very, very happy with
49 what we did at Mortensens this year.

50

1 And actually I do have -- no, I'd already
2 given the numbers for Mortensens. So the video helps but
3 the million dollar question that some people have asked
4 us -- we'll let that finish, we've seen enough of that --
5 is -- I'm getting ahead of myself. So the way our logic
6 went we did it in clear water, we did it in turbid water
7 and in 2004 at Big Creek we tried something new, we tried
8 beaming the signal from the weir which was -- it was
9 about an hour skiff ride from King Salmon, we wanted to
10 send the video signal back to town. So we contracted
11 Seymore Wildlife, gave them a bunch of money and they
12 developed a microwave thing for us. So in 2004 we were
13 actually able to get the video from the weir in Big Creek
14 back to King Salmon, we had it at the office, and we
15 showed it at the Visitor Center. It's a really good
16 outreach tool. The public loved it. Everyone hung out
17 and got to see the fish swimming through the weir and
18 everything.

19
20 So our next step was, well, we can do it
21 in turbid water, we can do it in clear water, let's do
22 more than one system with one crew now that we know we
23 can beam this signal safely via the microwave and it
24 works.

25
26 So this year we went back down to Cold
27 Bay again and set up this system where we've got a weir
28 out at Blue Bill and that set up is just the weir with a
29 camera box and a transmitter and we're sending the signal
30 via repeater back to the Red Salmon site where the second
31 weir is and we had to go through a repeater because the
32 microwave is like VHF, it needs line of sight and we
33 didn't have line of sight down there so we had to put up
34 the repeater. So we went down there and tested that out
35 this year. So basically the camera at Blue Bill feeds a
36 signal to the transmitter there at the Blue Bill site,
37 that transmitter sends its signal to the repeater site
38 which has a receiver, it processes the signal, transmits
39 it back out to another receiver at the Red Salmon site
40 and then it's fed into the digital video recorder there
41 at the Red Salmon site. The camera at the Red Salmon
42 site is plugged directly into the DVR via another
43 channel, it's a multi-channel DVR, we could actually feed
44 up to six cameras into this thing if we wanted to. But
45 the drawback and the price you pay for having more than
46 one channel is your frame rate would result in -- you
47 have to lower the number of frames you can record per
48 second which reduces your image quality. The stuff we
49 were doing at Big Creek where we pretty much had
50 television quality video we were recording at 30 frames a

1 second which is very high, it takes up a lot of space on
2 your computer, when we went to this system with two
3 channels we could only record at 15 frames a second.

4
5 But we were very successful and this is
6 stuff we recorded from Blue Bill this year and then it
7 will bounce and go right into the Red Salmon stuff.

8
9 And, again, are were very, very happy
10 with this. We've run into some of the technical
11 difficulties. We've had issues with, like I said, the
12 fish milling at night, that's been a big problem and we
13 resolved that by basically shutting off the weir at night
14 now. We have some gates we set up electronically and
15 we're closing the gate for about five hours at night and
16 then opening it back up.

17
18 But so far to date, we've been able to
19 count through Red Salmon, we've counted around 18,000 and
20 about 12,000 sockeye through Blue Bill, and we've got
21 around 1,400 coho through Red Salmon and about 277 gone
22 through the weir there at Blue Bill.

23
24 So it's been a huge success for us and
25 we're very happy with what we've done but the question
26 some people ask is why go to all that trouble building a
27 camera box, putting a video chute in there and doing all
28 this when you can always pay a technician to stand there
29 and count fish. Well, the thing we've done is we've
30 greatly improved our accuracy and our ability to identify
31 species at the majority of fish weirs in Alaska counts
32 and species identification is made instantaneous by the
33 biologists or technician standing there in the water, in
34 the weather and a pod of fish comes through and you're
35 sitting there with a handful of tallywackers and it's
36 like chum, chum, chum, sockeye, chum, coho, pink, oh, was
37 that a pink, was that a Dolly, and while your brain's
38 processing that, 15 other fish have swum through. With
39 the video recorder we can stop the action, we can stop
40 it, we can back it up, when you get a big slug of fish
41 you can stop it, freeze-frame, count the fish, start the
42 video again, let them go through and it's just greatly
43 improved our accuracy and our ability to identify
44 species, which anecdotal information on resident fish,
45 now, we're getting good numbers, whitefish, starry
46 flounder, Dolly Varden movements that before, at a normal
47 fish weir, they came and went, we may have gotten a few
48 numbers but we didn't get that much information from
49 them.

50

1 And the other benefit with the video is
2 it's allowed us to extend our weir operations in the
3 fall. When the fall rains come and the coho want to move
4 a lot of our weirs get unsafe to get out there and count
5 fish through the weir. With this thing being able to
6 work in the turbid water conditions, when the weir's
7 almost flooded and you can't get out there to count fish
8 through a chute or through the trap box, they're still
9 swimming through the video chute and we're still able to
10 count fish. Now, granted some fish may be going around
11 or over the weir if the water's that high, but we're
12 still getting counts that we would normally not get when
13 the weir would be unsafe to be out there. And it's
14 tremendous time savings. On a typical day this year in
15 Cold Bay, on a normal passage rate, the crew can go to
16 the Red Salmon site and review a day's passage for two
17 weirs in four or five hours as opposed to two crews at
18 each weir spending all day counting fish and passing
19 fish. And the other thing that's very nice with this
20 digital video, is you can archive it so if you're ever
21 working somewhere where you need to go to court and
22 somebody says, no, there really weren't those fish or
23 there weren't that many, this stuff is archiveable, it's
24 not going to degrade like a VHS tape would. You can
25 review it, rewind it, do whatever you want to it and it
26 doesn't degrade in quality. Once you get it captured
27 it's going to stay in good quality.

28
29 And then the other benefit I'd like to
30 point out is the benefit with the microwave link. The
31 biggest headache we have is we're working in remote, you
32 know, we can't plug into the wall and all this stuff
33 takes electricity. Well, since we've been able to beam
34 the signal from Blue Bill to the Red Salmon site, we no
35 longer need a monitor at Red Salmon, we don't need a DVR,
36 that's cut our power needs in half. So that's one big
37 benefit. The other benefit, ideally you would beam this
38 stuff completely back to the office. You wouldn't have
39 any of your sensitive electronic equipment out in the
40 field. You'd be able to just do this stuff at the office
41 and never risk your 1,200 DVR unit out there in the rain
42 and damp conditions in a weather port.

43
44 And, again, it helps reduce our labor
45 costs, sorry, for the seasonal technicians, but, you
46 know, now we're getting less, our budgets are tight,
47 everyone's got less money. With this stuff, this year
48 we're able to get escapements on two systems with one
49 crew. So it's been a big benefit in that direction for
50 us.

1 And then the very last thing I'd like to
2 show, this one's kind of humorous, one other benefit of
3 video equipment, this is from the Big Creek weir, if you
4 keep your eye in the upper left there, you also see
5 things other than fish when you have video cameras out
6 there and they pay attention.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MR. EDWARDS: The video, it's been a lot
11 of fun to work with, it's been very, very challenging,
12 you know, you don't take classes on this stuff in
13 graduate school, you know, so it's been frustrating but
14 very exciting.

15

16 That's all I really had to show and I'd
17 be happy to answer any questions anyone has.

18

19 Yes.

20

21 MR. MALUTIN: I got one, how many systems
22 in Alaska are using this technology?

23

24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Come to the
25 microphone please.

26

27 MR. MALUTIN: Iver Malutin. My question
28 is how many systems in Alaska are using this remote
29 system or this video system?

30

31 MR. EDWARDS: Right now, currently only
32 the three, the two in -- well, all three are in Cold Bay,
33 one at Mortensens and then the other two systems. But we
34 have shared the technology with the folks over at the
35 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and they set up a system
36 very similar to ours so we're sharing the knowledge and
37 it is getting spread around.

38

39 MR. MALUTIN: Thank you.

40

41 MR. EDWARDS: Uh-huh.

42

43 MR. HOLMES: They've been using it at
44 Chignik for quite some time to manage the run there.

45

46 MR. EDWARDS: Chignik, yeah.....

47

48 MR. HOLMES: You could talk to Jim about
49 that.

50

1 MR. EDWARDS: Paul, did you have a
2 question.
3
4 MR. GUNDERSEN: No, not really a question
5 maybe.....
6
7 REPORTER: Paul. Paul.
8
9 MR. GUNDERSEN: Not really a question,
10 maybe a suggestion, when you were talking about the fish
11 traveling through that chute then stopping in the light
12 and doing a little sunbathing, I wonder if you were to
13 set it up, where you were talking about, like with a
14 gate, and set it up in intervals so the light goes off as
15 the gate closes until it clears out, then it reopens,
16 like a cycling event.
17
18 MR. EDWARDS: Yeah, that's one thing
19 we've been wanting to try that. But it's kind of
20 difficult when the biologist that's in charge of the
21 project is in King Salmon and you're telling technicians
22 this stuff over the phone, sometimes what you ask them to
23 do doesn't get done. So that's one idea we wanted to try
24 this year with the automatic gates, because they are on a
25 timer. Because that's what I thought, if you shut the
26 gate and the fish built up a little bit and then when you
27 opened it, maybe they'd be a little more incentive and
28 they would go on upstream and get out of the chute. So
29 that's one thing we're going to explore with this stuff
30 next year, is try doing it in intervals and see if that
31 facilitates them.
32
33 The other thing we're looking at is going
34 -- we're assuming it's the light because, you know, at
35 night it's lit up and nothing else is, we're going to
36 start looking back at infrared cameras or maybe some kind
37 of night vision camera to where we could just turn off
38 the lights and get the fish counts that way at night.
39 Because ideally, I mean our goal is to not stop fish
40 movement at all, let them go when they want to go but
41 we're not there completely. We're almost there.
42
43 MR. GUNDERSEN: Yeah, protection outlaw
44 just using lights a long time ago for tracking fish.
45
46 (Laughter)
47
48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.
49
50 MR. HOLMES: Could you go back to your

1 McLees Lake escapement table, please?
2
3 MR. EDWARDS: I sure can. Uh-huh, maybe,
4 nope I think she hit no and turned it off.
5
6 REPORTER: Sorry.
7
8 MR. EDWARDS: Can I answer the question
9 without the table?
10
11 MR. HOLMES: Yes, let's shoot for the
12 question. You had five years of escapement data on the
13 weir and I didn't get '04. From your table here on Page
14 107 you've got 46,981 in 2003, but you don't have 2004
15 and '05 but it was on the table.
16
17 MR. EDWARDS: Yeah, that was just an
18 accident on my part. The 2004 was 40,328 and then 2005
19 was 12,088.
20
21 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Given that most
22 sockeye systems are either spawning or rearing area
23 limited, McLees is obviously not rearing area limited
24 because it's a broth, it's the most fantastic soup of
25 critters you could ever imagine. And that creek up at
26 the head is not particularly big for the amount of fish
27 going in there. Have you folks gone in and measured and
28 evaluated the quantity and quality of spawning habitat in
29 that creek?
30
31 MR. EDWARDS: No, we have not. The only
32 work that I know that's been done, I know the State did
33 some productivity of all the -- or the majority of the
34 sockeye producing lakes on the Peninsula back in probably
35 the early '80s and they estimated that based on surface
36 area and plankton and the other parameters they measured,
37 that that system should produce about 20,000 fish, that's
38 what it was capable of.
39
40 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I remember that study.
41 And then I guess I was even going looking back at some of
42 the earlier work in Bristol Bay and Kodiak where they
43 evaluated some of the spawning streams to balance that
44 against, you know, that aphotic volume system is -- you
45 can go down and do quite rapidly once you get the idea of
46 amount of critters you got in the water.
47
48 Have you gone up and look at the creek
49 after spawning or is that after you've had the weir?
50 What I'm worried about is superimposition of eggs when

1 you're getting escapements of 50,000 or more for three
2 years in a row?

3

4 MR. EDWARDS: No, we've not looked at
5 that yet.

6

7 MR. HOLMES: How about age composition of
8 the run there? Are they mainly -- some of those shallow
9 systems are one, two's, and one, three's or are they two,
10 two's and two, three's?

11

12 MR. EDWARDS: That system seems to be
13 mostly one, two's and two, three's, and based on the data
14 we've had so far the majority seems to alternate one year
15 to one, three and the next year to two, three. They seem
16 to rotate. I haven't analyzed this years scales yet to
17 see if they've maintained it but for the first four years
18 that was the dominate age class, they cycled each year.

19

20 MR. HOLMES: Because one could kind of
21 take a look back once you get one more year here, you
22 know, you're probably going to see cause and effect, not
23 that you can manage it any different because Arnie and I
24 have talked about that a long time, how can you manage it
25 for subsistence and vary it in relationship to your
26 escapement, but I can't help but feel I've made a couple
27 of those bonehead aerial surveys there and am intimately
28 acquainted with some of the bends in the creek and, you
29 know, it just seems that once you get up 98,000, 100,000,
30 even 46, you know, 50 and above is a lot of fish into
31 that lake and you might want to, sometime in your
32 reports, just give folks an idea of the size of the lake
33 because that's an incredibly productive system for such a
34 dinky little pond, almost.

35

36 MR. EDWARDS: Uh-huh.

37

38 MR. HOLMES: It's really incredible.

39

40 MR. EDWARDS: Uh-huh.

41

42 MR. HOLMES: And I'm really glad that you
43 folks could put in a weir there because Mr. Shawl and I
44 argued many years for doing that and, you know, with cut
45 backs with the State never got close to it. So I really
46 admire what you're doing and maybe you might want to tuck
47 into future reports, maybe some age composition
48 information and then a person could maybe do a little
49 deduction on their own. And of course most folks will go
50 out and set their net anyway.

1 And anyway, I salute you for doing that
2 work on that system. That's really important just
3 knowing what happens out there because that's the only
4 measure you got other than catch per unit effort and when
5 you've got a north facing stream like that that dumps
6 right in the ocean that isn't going to tell you anything
7 either.....
8
9 MR. EDWARDS: Uh-huh.
10
11 MR. HOLMES:because if you got good
12 weather you get good fish and if you don't you don't even
13 get near it.
14
15 MR. EDWARDS: No one gets near it, yeah.
16 And those huge escapements, that was a big reason for us
17 trying to get that thing funded for another three years
18 so we could see, we could actually get age data for a
19 whole brood cycle and see, you know, is 100,000 normal,
20 we didn't think so, but we had no idea.
21
22 So we'll see what happens next year.
23
24 MR. HOLMES: Well, it'd be really cool if
25 you could finagle somebody to bop over there once the
26 fish were spawning, although I don't see you getting
27 another 100,000, I just don't think that's going to
28 happen for a bit.
29
30 MR. EDWARDS: Yeah.
31
32 MR. HOLMES: But, you know, maybe build
33 that into your budget process if you do get a large
34 escapement to have some kind of evaluation because if
35 you're getting a huge number of fish up that little creek
36 then you should see super imposition of eggs.....
37
38 MR. EDWARDS: Uh-huh.
39
40 MR. HOLMES:and then, you know,
41 that would raise a little flag for five years out that
42 things probably aren't going to be so peachy keen.
43
44 MR. EDWARDS: Uh-huh.
45
46 MR. HOLMES: But anyway, thanks a lot.
47
48 MR. EDWARDS: Thank you.
49
50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other questions

1 for Mike.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Mike.

6

7 MR. EDWARDS: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair.
8 Thanks Council members.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Next. Item B,
11 Izembek. Anyone from Izembek National Wildlife Refuge.

12

13

14 MS. SIEKANIEC: Good afternoon. My name
15 is Sandra Siekaniec. I'm the new Refuge manager at the
16 Izembek Refuge. And I wanted to give you an agency
17 report. I've basically been at the Refuge for about six
18 months now. Before that I was in McGrath at the Innoko
19 Refuge and I worked with the Western Advisory Council
20 there.

21

22 A little bit of information. I know you
23 guys know Pat Gonzales, he moved on to Kansas in June and
24 we are trying to recruit for another deputy assistant
25 manager. We did add a toll free number for people to
26 call the Cold Bay office, for the villages to contact us
27 and give us information on what's going on with
28 subsistence needs, and I have included that in your
29 packet. The report here is on Page 87.

30

31 We did already talk about the caribou
32 herd somewhat so I'm going to briefly go over that. We
33 are concerned about the numbers, that's why we did two
34 counts this winter, this last winter. And I'll tell you
35 right now that we will work with the State to revise that
36 management plan. The other information that I didn't
37 have up with me at the front before was the bear
38 information, and from the survey we did on August 24th of
39 the Joshua Green watershed, there were a total 84 bears
40 including 65 adults and 19 cubs. Average number for that
41 area is usually about 119 individuals, give or take about
42 six. The cubs this year was the lowest number observed
43 in any of the surveys so the bear numbers are probably
44 definitely on the decline there.

45

46 Another thing that we worked with the
47 public on was the Migratory Bird Council didn't propose,
48 but the actually put in place a limit on the brant season
49 for the sport hunters. And they limited it to one month
50 only, before it was three months. So we worked to get

1 these new regulations out to the sport hunters, and it
2 seems like they're complying with that. It opened just
3 recently on September 17th and it will close on October
4 16th. These restrictions for the season were not only in
5 our area, but also they're occurring in Washington,
6 Oregon and in California because of the low numbers.

7
8 This summer, too, we had a new master's
9 student on board that was working on analyzing 20 years
10 of data that has never been analyzed before on the tundra
11 swans that breed there in the lower peninsula. It's a
12 local population, it does not migrate and we have
13 concerns about recruitment in the population and the
14 numbers that are dropping.

15
16 We also were trying to do some DNA
17 sampling, we did collect some egg membranes from hatched
18 eggs and we also got a permit from King Cove Corporation
19 to go on their lands to collect some of these membranes
20 as well.

21
22 We have been assisting the King Salmon
23 fishery office with their work on Mortensens and Blue
24 Bill Lake and Red Salmon as well.

25
26 Another thing that we finished up this
27 summer was we went out to all the villages, we also had a
28 public meeting in Anchorage to get input for our
29 comprehensive conservation plan and our next step is
30 we'll be working on the draft this winter and hoping to
31 get a draft plan out to the public next summer sometime.
32 At that time, too, we will also go back out to the public
33 to get comments on it before the plan becomes final. And
34 this is a 15 year management plan that we're working on.

35
36 One of the most recent things that we've
37 worked on is the off road vehicle closure that was
38 related to the King Cove access road. It was something
39 that was discussed in the final environmental assessment
40 closing a limited area surrounding the access road to
41 reduce effects of the extra traffic on the resources
42 there. And we went out to the communities of King Cove
43 and Cold Bay and got comments on our proposal, that was
44 in May, and we had a 30 day comment period through June.
45 I reviewed all the comments and then I made a final
46 decision and then I presented that final decision in
47 August. The final decision is included in your packet on
48 Page 89 and the map for the limited closure area is on
49 Page 98. It's basically a limited area of about four
50 square miles adjacent to the road corridor that will not

1 allow off road vehicle use for subsistence purposes.

2

3 And then we are actively participating in
4 the State management planning. They are also working on
5 the management plan for that area, basically the lagoon,
6 and every month we meet with them and other
7 representatives to discuss where we would like to go as
8 far as regulations on the lagoon and policies there as
9 well and that is proceeding.

10

11 Does anybody have any questions for me?

12

13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

14

15 MS. SIEKANIEC: Yes, Patrick.

16

17 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I was wondering what
18 the response was there in King Cove about the off road
19 vehicle closures?

20

21 MS. SIEKANIEC: Yes, we had about, I
22 would say about 12 individuals that showed up for the
23 initial meeting for the proposal, there was some concerns
24 but most of them agreed that this area is typically very
25 steep and has not been used in the past by off road
26 vehicles so it was basically an area that, you know, they
27 typically didn't use and it was not going to be a problem
28 for them.

29

30 MR. CRATTY: I have a question.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Al.

33

34 MR. CRATTY: I was wondering, have they
35 been doing any more studies on the emperor geese out
36 there to see if they could have a season, or a
37 subsistence season? Maybe you're not the one to be
38 asking.

39

40 MS. SIEKANIEC: Well, I can answer part
41 of that. The emperor numbers are still low and at this
42 time I do not foresee there being a season. But there
43 would have to be other, you know -- I do have some
44 information on the spring counts that were done for
45 waterfowl; would you like that information, if I can find
46 it.

47

48 MR. CRATTY: The only reason I bring it
49 up is because there's a lot of people out there that
50 depend on it for subsistence use and I was just wondering

1 if the numbers -- I've been hearing that the numbers have
2 been going up but there hasn't been nothing said or heard
3 about what's going on.

4

5 MS. SIEKANIEC: Yeah, as far as I know
6 the numbers haven't been going up to a significant point
7 where they can be harvested again. It's still fairly low
8 numbers where a harvest would not be able to be done.

9

10 MR. CRATTY: Okay, thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Do you have a
13 question, Paul.

14

15 MR. GUNDERSEN: Yes, good afternoon. In
16 lieu of some of these things that's happening with this
17 caribou situation that we talked about earlier, have you
18 got anything planned for this winter to visit these
19 communities and get some kind of a dialogue going? I
20 know in the past we've done that with a couple of the
21 other area managers and it's worked real well by making
22 your presence in the communities known and that you're
23 willing to work with them. From some past experience,
24 years back, there was a friction that got created between
25 the office and the local people and it wasn't a very good
26 situation. And I think it would be greatly appreciated
27 by all the people, the locals that live in the area.

28

29 And as for the emperor geese, we stopped
30 them at the lagoon this year, we wouldn't let them down
31 to you because we were afraid you might lose the numbers.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 MS. SIEKANIEC: I know there's more
36 emperor geese up by you than I think are down by us right
37 now.

38

39 As far as working with the communities, I
40 would really like to have a Refuge information technician
41 on board at the Refuge and put our presence forward more
42 in the villages, so that's one of my goals as being the
43 manager there is to go out the villages to get more
44 information because I think there's been a lack of that
45 and to improve those relationships.

46

47 MR. GUNDERSEN: Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other questions.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you.

4

5 MS. SIEKANIEC: Thank you for your time.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I'd like to back up
8 a little bit. I think we missed the marine water
9 jurisdiction maps, with Dan LaPlant.

10

11 MR. LAPLANT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
12 Members of the Council. There's a briefing for you on
13 Page 72 of your book and I'll just quickly go through
14 that. This is on marine jurisdiction and proposed
15 regulation.

16

17 It says here that in the Katie John
18 Decision the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals concluded
19 that the Federal Subsistence Management Program must be
20 crafted to reach waters of the United States as in
21 interest by virtue of the Reserved Water Rights Doctrine.
22 So subsequently regulations were published in 1999, this
23 was the beginning of the fisheries program, the Federal
24 Fisheries Program, which extended subsistence management
25 jurisdiction to all navigable and nonnavigable waters
26 within the exterior boundaries of Federal reservations in
27 Alaska. So as a result Federal subsistence regulations
28 now cover hundreds of thousands of acres of saltwater or
29 marine embayments within Refuge boundaries that were not
30 withdrawn prior to statehood. A proposed rule to revise
31 and clarify the regulations in coastal waters was
32 published in the Federal Register December 8th, 2004,
33 just not quite a year ago. During the comment period,
34 which closed originally on January 24th, 2005, and then
35 was extended to April 1st, 2005, one commenter indicated
36 that in order to make meaningful comments, the public
37 needed to know which specific bays would be affected and
38 needed access to maps of the affected areas. We agreed
39 with this comment and we're making maps available now for
40 review and have reopened the comment period until October
41 21st to accept comments on the maps as well as the
42 proposed rule.

43

44 The maps are on our website but they're
45 also in your book here beginning on Page 73. And there's
46 a series of maps that display all these embayments that
47 are proposed to be removed from the Federal Subsistence
48 Management Program. They're listed on the bottom of the
49 page on Page 72, they're within the Alaska Peninsula or
50 Izembek National Wildlife Refuge boundaries, that would

1 be within your region, is quite a long list here. And
2 then, of course, there are others within the Togiak
3 National Wildlife Refuge boundaries and some within the
4 Yukon-Delta National Wildlife Refuge boundaries.

5
6 So, Mr. Chairman, that's the briefing on
7 this subject.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Dan. Is
12 there any questions.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thanks, again.
17 Registration hunt news release, that's on Page 87.
18 That's for your information.

19
20 MR. GUNDERSEN: What was that?

21
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: On our agenda, we
23 have a registration hunt reporting, a news release on
24 Page 87 but it's something that Sandra already talked
25 about.

26
27 MR. CRATTY: It's on 86.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Oh, Page 86. So
30 that's for information. If we have an agency here that
31 wants to speak to that.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No. Okay. Dan.

36
37 MR. LAPLANT: Mr. Chairman, I guess I
38 could respond to any questions that you might have on
39 this instead of reading through it, we just provided this
40 for your information.

41
42 But it basically informs you that the
43 Board of Game, at their last meeting, passed a regulation
44 that says that hunters that fail to submit their harvest
45 reports in the future will not be eligible to receive
46 registration permits in future hunts. There's been a
47 record of poor harvest returns and they've passed that
48 regulation to try to address that and get better
49 management data.

50

1 We're passing this information on to you
2 because in the Federal Subsistence Management Program we
3 use State registration permits in many of our hunts, so
4 Federally-qualified hunters that are hunting under the
5 Federal program who use State permits could be affected
6 by this. So this is to inform subsistence users of this
7 recent change.

8
9 I'd also like to point out that this new
10 State regulation isn't much different than the existing
11 Federal regulation. We have similar language like this
12 in the Federal regulations that require that people using
13 a Federal registration permit submit a harvest report
14 after hunting and those who fail to do that are subject
15 to not receiving a permit in future years. Now, the
16 enforcement of that has been sketchy in the past, I'll
17 agree, but we do have language like that in the Federal
18 regulations as well. So this is just to inform you of
19 this recent change in the State regulations.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Questions. Pat.

24
25 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Dan, I think that's a
26 great idea. Obviously the Feds or the State can't manage
27 unless they've got good information. And like my
28 colleague, Paul, I have some wonders if over time the
29 amount of caribou removed on the Alaska Peninsula that's
30 in the data really reflects what went or what was taken
31 home or put in crab pots or whatever, but that's only
32 speculation on my part so tightening up on the report
33 process is the first step to getting better information.

34
35 MR. LAPLANT: Thank you. Yes, this, of
36 course, relates to those folks who get a registration
37 permit in the first place, but there's still the problem
38 of that harvest that takes place without the benefit of a
39 permit.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, thank you,
42 Dan. Item C, Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. We have,
43 I guess, Brian.

44
45 MR. SAITO: Thank you, Chair. Board. My
46 name is Brandon Saito from the Kodiak National Wildlife
47 Refuge. I'm a subsistence wildlife biologist.

48
49 MS. PATTINSON: I'm Beth Pattinson. I'm
50 a fisheries technician for the Fisheries Department of

1 the Kodiak Wildlife Refuge.

2

3 MR. SAITO: I'd also like to note that we
4 have a few Refuge employees here. We have Bill Pyle, the
5 supervisory wildlife biologist. Tonya Lee, a Refuge
6 information technician. And Leslie Kerr, the manager.
7 Do you want to start off.

8

9 MS. PATTINSON: I'm here representing our
10 fisheries biologist who's hunting today so he was unable
11 to make this meeting, you guys know what that's about.

12

13 The fisheries overview you've probably
14 already read it, all I can do is if you have any specific
15 questions about the projects we're doing, feel free to
16 grab me, I'll be here until about 4:00 today and back
17 tomorrow. Kevin will be in the office next week as well
18 and you can call him if you have any specific questions
19 relating to Kodiak.

20

21 But I'm here to tell you that for the
22 most part this year, since you saw me last year, I helped
23 for about five months on the oil spill out in Dutch
24 Harbor and this summer I've actually been assisting the
25 Alaska State Fish and Game Department, both commercial
26 fisheries at the Karluk smolt camp in June and I've been
27 working locally here, first time I've ever been in town
28 in the summer, here on the Buskin weir, which is
29 conducted by Fish and Game sportfish.

30

31 Those projects are both going really
32 well, you can probably smell the pinks from here. But
33 there will be an update on that from Don Tracy from
34 Alaska Fish and Game.

35

36 But if you have any questions right now
37 for fisheries I could try to answer them. If any occur
38 to you at 3:00 o'clock in the morning, don't call me, but
39 talk to me tomorrow.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Brian.

44

45 MR. SAITO: Okay, a few other things we
46 have, the sea otters, we had a marine mammal stranding
47 workshop in April. We had agency personnel come down to
48 discuss the proper procedure to use when a marine mammal
49 is stranded. The Refuge offered logistical support and
50 provided a sea otter for the necropsy at the end of the

1 workshop. There was a total of four stranded sea otters
2 reported to the Refuge this year.

3
4 The Alaska Stellar Sea Lion and Sea Otter
5 Commission held their annual board meeting in Old Harbor
6 this March. We reported the Refuge activities then.

7
8 Sitka black-tailed deer, this year we
9 completed our deer mortality survey in April. The
10 purpose of this survey is to index the trend of
11 overwintering survival of deer, measured by the number of
12 deer carcasses found in different regions on Kodiak
13 Island. To conduct the survey, two observers visit
14 different winter ranges and different range
15 concentrations along the coasts of Kodiak Island. Within
16 each site observers search preexisting routes for deer
17 carcasses and upon encountering a carcass records its
18 location, sex, age and condition of the leg femur fat
19 which is an indicator of the status at death.

20
21 Three sites were surveyed this year
22 including Chief Cove, North Sitkalidak Strait and West
23 Olga Bay. The surveys revealed that fewer deer died over
24 winter in these survey areas. Carcass counts by the
25 area, we had eight in Chief Cove, none in Sitkalidak
26 Strait and one in Olga Bay. To contrast that, in 2004,
27 we had a total of 37 carcasses and compare that we had
28 114 carcasses back in 1998 and '99. So the age
29 composition of those were -- so you can see the huge
30 difference in these milder winters.

31
32 We suspect that more fawns died than are
33 represented in the sample because small fawns that die,
34 their bones are often carried away by carnivores and we
35 don't count hair piles that don't have bones. So the
36 assessment of carcass condition indicates that most of
37 the dead deer we encounter probably died during March,
38 however, one doe died probably before -- the day before
39 we surveyed it in April. So four of the nine deer
40 carcasses included leg femurs and the sampling of these
41 indicated death by starvation. So in contrast to 2004,
42 virtually no differences were apparent in deer mortality
43 levels among the survey areas. Apparently a trend of
44 mostly mild winters has fostered the high year to year
45 survival and production in the eastern and southern
46 Kodiak Island. A mild 2005 winter also prevailed in
47 western Kodiak and likely promoted high deer survival.

48
49 Consequently the deer herd on the Refuge
50 has continued to increase and subsistence deer hunters

1 should find harvest opportunities the best they have
2 observed since 1998 when the deer bag limit on Federal
3 lands was five deer.

4
5 Another note is we're also participating
6 with the Department of Fish and Game on their deer
7 harvest survey and adding a question about how many deer
8 were taken on Federal land.

9
10 Brown bear. Every year the Refuge
11 participates with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
12 to assess the trends in bear density in one of the
13 several regions on Kodiak Island. These surveys used in
14 conjunction with the harvest data regulate subsistence
15 and sport hunts and is timed during mid- to late May.
16 This year in May we surveyed bears in the Kiliuda and
17 Shearwater Peninsulas. These surveys suggest that -- in
18 Kiliuda we observed 35 percent more bear groups in 2005
19 than in 1996 which was the last survey in Kiliuda, and in
20 the Shearwater we observed 55 percent more bear groups
21 than in 1995 which was the last survey then.

22
23 Comparisons of these results indicate
24 that Kiliuda supports an average density of bears, and
25 Shearwater supports a high density of bears which is only
26 second to the Karluk area. So this survey is presently
27 in preparation and copies of the report can be provided
28 to the committee.

29
30 Moving on to stellers eiders and black
31 scoter update. Black scoters were captured in Chiniak
32 Bay and fitted with satellite transmitters in March.
33 They've been located in Northern Bristol Bay and the
34 Alaska Peninsula in June. And stellers eiders were
35 captured and also fitted with satellite transmitters at
36 the same time and had been located in New Siberian
37 Islands breeding grounds as far west as the Kheta River
38 since the end of June. And during July the Refuge
39 personnel have assisted in a USGS study capturing and
40 banding more than a 100 molting mergansers predominately
41 commons on the Karluk Lake and River. Genetic feathering
42 samples were collected on the birds and plans are being
43 developed to repeat the capture effort next year.

44
45 Documentation on the harlequin duck use
46 on the Karluk Lake and Karluk River continued with one
47 brood of two found on the lake and two broods of one on
48 the river. Overall numbers of harlequin ducks in the
49 Karluk watershed are about 60 percent lower in 2005 than
50 they were in 2004.

1 The comprehensive conservation plan
2 revision. The finalized comprehensive conservation plan
3 and environmental impact statement is scheduled to be
4 released to the public in December -- December or January
5 2006. It is currently undergoing final editing and
6 layout and should be sent to the printing press before
7 the end of October.

8
9 Other cooperation, this past May the
10 Natives of Larsen Bay submitted a grant proposal with
11 logistical and technical support by the Refuge. The
12 grant was to support the funding for GIS equipment, GIS
13 training and high resolution digital orthophotos which
14 are satellite photos of the Karluk River and watershed
15 vicinity. And there's an update on that. The Natives of
16 Larsen Bay received the funding and also Port Lions was
17 incorporated into part of that and was granted funds for
18 a bear fence around their garbage dump. And the Refuge
19 is working with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
20 monitoring these programs.

21
22 The Refuge along with Kodiak Soil and
23 Water Conservation District is planning to meet with
24 interested citizens and Council members, local groups in
25 Larsen Bay, Old Harbor, Port Lions this summer. I guess
26 the main purpose was to inform the villagers of invasive
27 weeds concern survey, weed occurrences and advise them
28 weed control options.

29
30 The Refuge also recently completed a
31 monitoring survey on Camp Island, which now has three
32 years of treatment completed. Camp Island is also
33 partnering with the Soil and Water Conservation District
34 to do those surveys -- okay, at Camp Island, in addition
35 to the orange hawkweed and oxeye daisy, Canada thistle,
36 Canada thistle is another invasive weed that's been
37 identified in the village of Larsen Bay, although it
38 hasn't spread a great deal yet, under the right
39 conditions all invasive weeds have the potential to take
40 over a given area. The Refuge's primary goals include
41 offering public awareness and exchange information with
42 others and preventing invasive weeds from extending their
43 range beyond residential areas and onto Refuge lands.

44
45 And the final thing we have is another
46 cooperation program, the Salmon Camp. This year we had
47 our 10th Annual Kodiak Summer Science and Salmon Camp.
48 The Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge in cooperation with
49 the Kodiak Island communities, Alaska Natural History
50 Association developed salmon camp to educate Kodiak youth

1 about natural cycles and processes that sustain salmon
2 and other natural resources. Eight sessions were offered
3 in Kodiak and four additional one day sessions were held
4 in Larsen Bay, Old Harbor, Ouzinkie and Port Lions.

5
6 That's all I have.

7
8 MS. PATTINSON: I do apologize, I didn't
9 know we were going to go into such depth so if you would
10 like I could go over the fisheries report that Kevin
11 wrote and just see if that brings up anything.

12
13 (Council nods affirmatively)

14
15 MS. PATTINSON: Yeah, alrighty. Kevin,
16 along with Mike Gettman, our deputy manger went out to
17 the Ayakulik River to do a steelhead tagging trip and
18 partnered up with Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
19 We've done that in the past. I know it's a project he
20 would like to conduct in the future as well and possibly
21 even on some other systems. It works on the Ayakulik
22 really well because we can go out in early April, catch
23 these steelhead, insert a tag in them and the Fish and
24 Game employees at the weir can count them as they're
25 departing the freshwater for the ocean. And we can
26 establish a population from that. It's good to know.
27 And we have a strong population, study population in
28 Ayakulik but we'd like to know what's going on in some
29 other systems. But we'll have to see where that goes
30 from here.

31
32 And then, of course, just what I was
33 doing this summer.

34
35 He's worked closely with Fish and Game
36 over all the escapement goals for all of the rivers on
37 the system that have weirs conducted by Fish and Game.
38 And I'm sure that Fish and Game will talk about this as
39 well, but the sockeye escapement to the Karluk exceeded
40 the upper end even though they try to catch it and open
41 it again on June 1st, they tried to catch it but it was a
42 big run early. In Alitak, the upper station, early run
43 was within the escapement goal range and that's a good
44 change. The Ayakulik sockeye salmon run was weak with
45 escapements being below the number needed to achieve the
46 lower escapement goal despite there being no commercial
47 fisheries.

48
49 Minor sockeye system escapements and run
50 strengths were variable.

1 The Buskin River sockeye system count was
2 above the upper escapement goal despite heavy subsistence
3 fishing and increased sport bag limits.

4
5 I do believe there will be somebody here
6 to talk about Afognak today as well.

7
8 And let's see Malina sockeye escapement
9 was fairly low, although the lower goal has been
10 achieved. Waters closed to commercial fishing at Malina
11 Creek have expanded.

12
13 The Pasagshak sockeye run was strong and
14 the number of sockeye recently observed in Saltery Lake
15 was greater than in all but the strongest years.

16
17 There's little to no information on
18 sockeye runs at Uganik, Little River, Pauls and other
19 minor sockeye systems, and that's pretty much due to
20 budget cuts.

21
22 Both the Ayakulik and Karluk chinook
23 salmon escapements were low throughout the migration
24 period. Non-retention of chinook salmon greater than 28
25 inches had been mandated for the inner and outer Karluk
26 sections for the commercial fisheries. And the chinook
27 salmon sport fishery bag limits were reduced in the
28 Karluk and Ayakulik systems to one fish.

29
30 Let's see on Page 100 the Refuge
31 supported a Federally-funded subsistence fisheries
32 harvest assessment project and you've heard about that
33 from Liz.

34
35 And I think that's about it. So we
36 talked about steelhead and some of the escapements. Did
37 those trigger anything for you guys.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Questions.

42
43 MR. SAITO: Does the Board have any
44 questions.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: You have any
47 questions Pat.

48
49 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, it's been several
50 years since you folks had a weir there at Uganik and I

1 believe that the State, of course, didn't have funds to
2 put one in. And I know in the past you folks have done
3 some field work on dogs on the west side and it's good
4 that, at least, you can get your surveys in there on the
5 steelhead in the spring and then I know that when Tony
6 was at the Refuge and now, Kevin, it's good to kind of
7 have a counterbalance point to sit down and for the State
8 to have someone else to chat with about fish and what
9 seems right. And so it's great that the Refuge is still
10 trying to help out on salmon for the Island because
11 they're obviously really important to people for
12 subsistence and commercial and also for the critters.

13
14 And I would like to thank your colleague
15 there for all his help there on doing the salmon camps, I
16 know it's well received in the villages and in town it's
17 really well received and having your troops help out with
18 some of the projects that I'm involved with in town on
19 the salmon awareness is really swell so thanks to both of
20 you.

21
22 MS. PATTINSON: Thank you.

23
24 MR. SAITO: Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Al.

27
28 MR. CRATTY: Yeah, I'd just like to -- I
29 talked to Bill and Leslie that if there's no bear
30 problems this year they must be awful full.

31
32 (Laughter)

33
34 MR. CRATTY: They haven't been around the
35 village down there which is great. And I noticed going
36 out to Ocean Beach around out there there's a lot of
37 silvers out there now so they must have gotten their fill
38 on the pinks because they ain't worried about that.

39
40 I had one question on, I had a couple
41 people question me through the summer about the upper
42 station system being kicked out of there, telling them
43 that they couldn't subsist there and I was wondering what
44 was -- because of the people that owned the land there, I
45 was just wondering what was -- the people have the rights
46 up to the tideland waters; isn't that right? Maybe you
47 could answer that for me Leslie.

48
49 MR. MCCULLOUGH: Mr. Cratty. Jim
50 McCullough, Fish and Game. I think that was some wrong

1 information that the land owner had there as far as his
2 extended authority out in subtitle lands. I think he did
3 tell a couple people that it was not open to subsistence
4 fishing and he was in error and it was pointed out to
5 him.

6
7 MR. CRATTY: Okay, thank you. I was just
8 wondering.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead, Pat.

11
12 MR. HOLMES: I have one more question
13 Brandon. I wonder if you had a chance to talk to Denny
14 about the harlequins, the survey here in the Karluk
15 watershed is 60 percent lower than last year, I wonder if
16 that's Island wide, because there are some concerns
17 statewide on harlequins, and I know the other State group
18 for managing critters has had that topic up for
19 discussion on who's shooting what and, you know, duck
20 soup is pretty important to folks, so what's the status
21 of harlequins, do you have an idea?

22
23 MR. SAITO: I've heard a little bit about
24 it. And from what I know, feel free to correct me, Bill,
25 if I'm wrong, but Denny's done a few different surveys in
26 Uganik and Afognak, and Uyak Bay and the populations in
27 Afognak and Uganik seem stable and the populations in
28 Uyak have decreased about the same level as the Karluk,
29 about 60 percent.

30
31 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, thanks, Brandon. I
32 guess my concern is, you know, when things get to the
33 point with the sport hunting of ducks for mounts in
34 Europe, I don't want to see that outweigh the desires of
35 some of the oldtimers to have their traditional pot of
36 soup in the wintertime just because somebody's flying
37 over from Germany to take home a cute little trophy duck.
38 So anyway keep us posted.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MR. SAITO: Okay.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Iver, you have a
45 question.

46
47 MR. MALUTIN: Yeah, Iver Malutin, KANA
48 again. I just got a comment in talking about the deer, I
49 thought that that was kind of interesting and he was
50 talking about the mortality rate.

1 And one of the things that I think that,
2 only for general information, I went to the State
3 Troopers to find out what they did with all the roadkill,
4 with all the illegal kill of different animals, and it
5 was interesting to find out that they put me on their
6 list to give the deer and whatever they have so I could
7 give it to the needy people and to the elders in Kodiak,
8 and would you believe that I got 10 deer so far.

9
10 (Laughter)

11
12 MR. MALUTIN: And I want you to know that
13 with the road paved, you have to have a new category on
14 your list, because this winter I can assure you that I'm
15 going to get a lot of deer.

16
17 (Laughter)

18
19 MR. MALUTIN: And one of the interesting
20 things, the guard on the airport, Alaska Airlines was
21 coming in and there was a deer on the runway so he shot
22 it, and he gutted it, he cleaned it, and he called the
23 Troopers and they called me and it was one of the best
24 deer I got.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 MR. MALUTIN: But anyway I just wanted to
29 tell you that there are some other concerns out there and
30 one of the things I would like to point out to you is one
31 of the things I'm going to be working on really heavily
32 besides getting the benefits for the elders is
33 communications, unity and respect for elders. And if we
34 can answer those three we're going to answer a lot of
35 questions. And one of the things that we need is
36 communication, and the best way I think to get
37 information, State, Federal or local is to use the people
38 that are involved that are right on the spot and normally
39 speaking that's the tribal council.

40
41 The Halibut Board is working with the
42 tribal councils to try to get them, in each village to
43 implement their own subsistence permit, not their own,
44 based on the Federal regs, the permits that they want to
45 get out and have them get the information and we're not
46 sure yet, to have it brought into Fish and Game or
47 whoever, but have them document it after the tribal
48 council administers that.

49
50 And if you think about that as an initial

1 program to begin a lot of these other programs, what it's
2 going to do is it's going to save a lot of money, and
3 what it's going to do also is it's going to have more
4 eyes on the spot where we aren't going to have the money
5 available to do all these things and now with Rita coming
6 in right behind this other behind hurricane, you know
7 something, we're going to really be strapped for bucks in
8 the next few years to come whether we like it or not.

9
10 So thinking on those lines, I think that
11 we should try to use the tribal councils more and let's
12 get our communications going and that's one of the
13 reports I have to make to the Halibut Board when I get
14 back later on, in December, is what progress I made with
15 the villages, the tribal councils as far as them
16 implementing their own program.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Iver.
21 Bill.

22
23 MR. PYLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
24 members of the Council. Just a comment for your
25 consideration regarding deer.

26
27 Brandon talked about the status as we
28 know it, and one observation I want to share with you is
29 that don't know whether there was any proposals that may
30 have been submitted on this go-round opportunity to
31 request changing any Federal subsistence deer regulations
32 here in Unit 8, probably won't know that for some time.
33 But one possibility that may promote further subsistence
34 opportunity without adjusting the bag limit would be to
35 change the regulation that has antlerless deer take.
36 Under Federal regulations currently stands, it's November
37 1st versus the State regulations which is October 1st.
38 So there's a little difference and right now the Federal
39 regulations are more conservative than the State
40 regulations, which does present a little bit of an
41 enforcement consideration, but also for those individuals
42 who wish to harvest deer under Federal regulations, it's
43 more limited than it is under State regulations.

44
45 So I would just want to point that
46 difference out because we've had a regular increase in
47 the deer population and we're probably up to a level that
48 is similar to what it was before the big winter die-off
49 of '98/99, close to what Fish and Game has said is its
50 objective levels. Say between 65 and 80,000 deer. We

1 don't have an objective assessment of that population
2 level but it's based on, you know, a variety of
3 information sources and reports from people in the field.

4
5 So I'm not proposing that, for example,
6 on behalf of the Refuge -- the Refuge submitting a
7 proposal as much as perhaps the Councils and the members
8 and the people that they talk to would be interested in
9 doing so given that we are in a window now. Of course we
10 don't know what the deer population will do in the winter
11 and maybe it will be a big winter but this is the nature
12 of deer management. If, for example, there was a big
13 winter kill this year, you could pull back this spring.
14 But we're always a little behind with respect to -- and
15 we don't know what the forecast will be but this is an
16 opportunity given the population change that's happened
17 and the recovery over the last few years to potentially
18 promote, not only better enforcement of State and Federal
19 regulations but also to increase some opportunities for
20 Federal subsistence deer hunters.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Bill.
25 But I've got to say that we do have bear problems. I had
26 one at my house last night. Due to fuel shortage, I turn
27 the powers off at night and my house was pitch black and
28 my wife and kids were in there wondering what's pushing
29 on the house.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: So we do have bear.

34
35 I did have a question, though, regarding
36 the register hunt for goats. I know we're supposed to
37 register within a certain time, is there a way to have a
38 person register that can't make it to the village, like
39 if I was stuck here in town and I have to register in
40 Akhiok, can I register here or does it.....

41
42 MR. HOLMES: Mitch, having been through
43 the goat study group forever, I suspect that if you were
44 in town or one of your folks were that -- and that the
45 line was coming up, you could probably go down and talk
46 to Larry Van Dale and he probably would make an exception
47 and make it work for you. That would be my educated
48 guess is that you could probably get it done in town with
49 the local ADF&G on the State registration hunt for goats.
50

1 And I think that they were going to be
2 fine-tuning that as things go long so that would be
3 something, I think, the next time they have the goat
4 study group, which is a function of this board and the
5 local advisory committee and the Refuge and also with
6 Fish and Game, and I think that's a good point. But I
7 would just bet he'd make some accommodations, wouldn't
8 you, Bill, I mean usually he's pretty flexible on that
9 sort of thing.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: One other question.
12 The deer population coming up to the level that it was
13 back in the time before the die-off, would it be okay to
14 suggest if we produce a proposal to increase bag limits
15 or I would like to see the deer harvested rather than
16 wait until they just die-off. Do you think it's prudent
17 to introduce a proposal to increase deer harvesting
18 limits?

19
20 MR. PYLE: If I may, I think that's a
21 matter that merits consideration, whether to do that and
22 frankly I've -- it's increasingly my expectation to see a
23 proposal by somebody in the community given that the herd
24 has increased such as it has with few exceptions across
25 the Island. So, you know, could the population support
26 an increased bag limit on Federal lands, I would suspect
27 so. I don't have any firm data to say that. You know,
28 you guys spend a lot of time in the field yourselves, I
29 don't know whether my observations are consistent with
30 yours but we've been in a lot of places on the Island and
31 we've seen, you know, good production and good survival
32 and an increase in the population, and, you know, it's
33 probably analogous to what it was back in the late '90s
34 and my discussions with my colleagues at Fish and Game,
35 they agree. It's essentially, you know, we've had a
36 routine increase with few exceptions and it's probably at
37 objective level.

38
39 Now, the objective was set by them a few
40 years ago at around 75,000 animals and, you know, I
41 haven't -- and we don't have an objective assessment what
42 it is but that's on the basis of best available
43 information so regarding your question, Mr. Chair, I mean
44 I think that it's in the proposal period, I would
45 encourage you to examine the possibilities of increased
46 opportunity for harvest to subsistence users.

47
48 The initial item that I mentioned is the
49 modest approach initially but questions of bag limit are
50 certainly fair game from my perspective.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: One more comment.
2 I've talked with several local hunters in the village and
3 every time they ask me a question about raising the bag
4 limit for harvesting deer, they said that will be good
5 but they said there are already so many hunters there,
6 you know, you got to wade through the hunters to get to
7 the deer and you got to go high up on the mountain or way
8 back inland and you're competing with people who are
9 looking for trophies and, you know, we're out to get meat
10 and we got to go miles and miles. They want it but they
11 said the distance you got to go to get it, it's almost
12 not worth it.

13
14 You understand what I'm saying, the
15 competition with sport hunters is so great that it almost
16 don't matter to them whether they get it or not.

17
18 MR. PYLE: Interesting.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat, did you have
21 something.

22
23 MR. HOLMES: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I went
24 out last year with a friend of mine with a tender and we
25 kind of did the good old geezer drive around the Island,
26 played a lot of cards and a lot of talking and watching
27 and trying to find places where the deer were on the down
28 side of the mountain for us and we lucked out in a few
29 places. I think on the west side, I don't think it's
30 quite up to where it was prior to the big '89/90 nasty
31 winter and that was sort of an over population at that
32 time, there's some places that are still short on deer.
33 I do agree with Mitch in the places we went there just
34 wasn't much snow and a lot of the deer were up above my
35 wheezing line, as I call it, as far as I can go up a
36 mountain for deer hunting.

37
38 But I would like to propose a thought for
39 our Council, at least, on the Federal lands to maybe do a
40 generic type of proposal like we're going to do for
41 caribou out west and put forward some kind of a generic
42 proposal to review the deer management for Kodiak and
43 under that would be to, I think, at a minimum, align the
44 antlerless season so that folks can shoot does earlier, a
45 month earlier with the State season and also consider --
46 we're at three now, aren't we, going back to a four deer
47 limit on Federal lands.

48
49 So I guess when we get done chatting,
50 I'll, maybe make a motion along that lines to at least

1 get the ball rolling because that would come up for us
2 for discussion in March and then would be implemented
3 next fall and then if we were to, at this point, make our
4 thought process known then that would give the State side
5 a little chance to reflect on it as well and if, you
6 know, what Larry and Bill are in agreement that the
7 populations are approaching a level where we might want
8 to consider more harvest I think it wouldn't hurt for our
9 Council to take the lead in reviewing that information.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat. Al.

12

13 MR. CRATTY: Yeah, I feel the same way as
14 my buddy over there, the old geezer.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 MR. CRATTY: I feel the deer, you know,
19 talking to people around Old Harbor and stuff they feel,
20 you know, with what they're seeing we could probably go
21 up on more deer or something. They're getting abundant.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Ivan.

24

25 MR. LUKIN: I think the deer are
26 plentiful around Port Lions and I think maybe we need to
27 set a high number at four or whatever and a low number,
28 meaning that on good years when there's no winter kill we
29 can move that number up to four or whatever we figure we
30 come up to and then maybe drop it on bad years.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I think if the
33 populations are up there I think we should probably
34 entertain the idea of producing a proposal to increase
35 the bag limit. Would we charge this board to produce
36 that, what do you think, Al?

37

38 MR. CRATTY: Yeah.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We can get together
41 with the Staff.

42

43 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

46

47 MR. HOLMES: I believe at this time I
48 could probably make a motion for our Council to submit
49 for the next cycle here a review of the Kodiak deer
50 management program with the thoughts towards equalizing

1 the time period for harvest of antlerless deer and also
2 review the concept of increasing the bag limit by one
3 deer or what might ever be appropriate once we talk with
4 both biologists.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: That was a motion,
7 do I hear a second.

8
9 MR. CRATTY: Second.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and seconded.
12 Any discussion.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
17 discussion, is there any objection to the motion.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
22 objections then the motion carries. We'll find a way to
23 produce a proposal for you.

24
25 Any other questions for Brandon and Bill.

26
27 MR. CRATTY: I have one more for Bill. I
28 want to get back on the geese, Bill. Has anything more
29 come up on them honkers we got down.....

30
31 MR. PYLE: If I may defer to the
32 authority on the possibilities, Mr. Patrick Holmes.

33
34 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, the possibility guy,
35 don't tell that to my wife.

36
37 (Laughter)

38
39 MR. HOLMES: Last I chatted with Larry
40 and then with the State migratory waterfowl guy was the
41 -- he had given head's up to the Migratory Council down
42 in the states about the State would be opening a sport
43 hunt for Canadian geese here on Kodiak Island and that we
44 would probably be making a request to have a limited
45 harvest and bag limit so that we could get things going
46 and see what potential is there. There is some question
47 in some people's minds if the 1,500 at Shuiak are the
48 1,000 down at your neck of the woods or not, but
49 nonetheless there's been stable populations for a long
50 time.

1 He has had some serious discussion with
2 the migratory waterfowl folks with the Fish and Wildlife
3 Service and has pointed out, they had some concerns about
4 the Aleutian Canada geese in one of the islands south of
5 Sand Point that wasn't quite meeting their goal of 200
6 birds or something, but he pointed out to them that
7 potential of those birds having any impact by a harvest
8 in Kodiak would be essentially 'nil or very limited, and
9 so they will probably be -- Larry will let folks know
10 that we're participating in that Canadian group. But
11 they'll probably go forward, it won't even require a
12 board action either by the Federal Subsistence Board or
13 the State Board because the State closed that season when
14 they did the original transplant of those Vancouver
15 Canadians, and so in his mind it's a stable population
16 and that we'll be able to have a limited hunt.

17
18 Probably, the birds, the first couple
19 days they are hunted, they will wise up quickly when they
20 see Al Cratty hop in his skiff and boogie someplace else.

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 MR. HOLMES: So anyway things are
25 progressing very well on that, sir. Is that your basic
26 understanding, Bill?

27
28 MR. PYLE: That is. And so it sounds
29 like we're talking about a potential season as of, what,
30 fall of 2006, correct, Pat?

31
32 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, 2006.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other questions.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing none, thank
39 you.

40
41 MR. PYLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
42 Council members.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Item E, Draft
45 Outreach Plan and Final Rule on Sea Otter Listing, that's
46 information only.

47
48 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, that was just an
49 informational item that was provided by Doug Bern out of
50 the Marine Mammals Office for the Council.

1 Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Alaska
4 Department of Fish and Game, EVOS, Subsistence Use Final
5 Rule.
6
7 MR. CRATTY: We did it.
8
9 MR. HOLMES: I think Liz did that
10 earlier.
11
12 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, Liz did give her
13 presentation earlier, the powerpoint presentation that
14 she gave.
15
16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.
17
18 MS. CHIVERS: And then for Afognak Lake,
19 I'm not quite sure if Steve was going to give a
20 presentation but for the Buskin River, I know Don Tracy
21 is here to give a presentation.
22
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.
24
25 MR. TRACY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 Members of the Council. I do have a short powerpoint
27 presentation that will take me a minute or two to set up
28 on the computer if you'll bear with me or if you'd like
29 to take a short break for a minute or so.
30
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. We'll take a
32 five minute break.
33
34 (Off record)
35
36 (On record)
37
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Ivan and Pat. We'll
39 call the meeting back to order. You can go ahead with
40 your presentation Don.
41
42 MR. TRACY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again,
43 my name is Don Tracy, I'm with the Alaska Department of
44 Fish and Game here in Kodiak with the Sportfish Division.
45 And this afternoon I just want to provide the Council
46 members with a brief update and overview of our Buskin
47 River Sockeye Salmon Stock Assessment project, which is
48 funded by the Office of Subsistence Management and has
49 been since the year 2000.
50

1 The Buskin River, as most of you know is
2 the drainage running outside the window here near Kodiak,
3 and the Buskin River supports a fairly large sockeye
4 salmon run and that run provides subsistence opportunity
5 for folks living in the community of Kodiak and other
6 adjacent areas and the subsistence fishery takes place in
7 marine waters in front of the river mouth generally in
8 this area very close to where we're at right now.

9
10 Of the reported subsistence harvest
11 occurring in Federal waters in the Kodiak area the Buskin
12 harvest comprises 51 percent of the total, most of that
13 harvest is sockeye salmon, there are a few fish of other
14 species harvested out here incidentally. There is a
15 targeted harvest of silver salmon as well, but most of
16 the subsistence harvest at the Buskin is sockeye salmon
17 and that harvest does comprise a fairly large proportion
18 of the total reported harvest in Federal waters within
19 the Kodiak area.

20
21 The other major user group of the Buskin
22 River sockeye salmon resource is the sportfishery and you
23 can see looking at this table that the estimated harvest
24 during a typical year is about 2,000 fish. The
25 commercial fishery also harvest Buskin River sockeye
26 salmon but in very small amounts. Some years the
27 reported harvest is no fish, is zero, and in other years
28 it's very small. So really the two major consumers of
29 that sockeye salmon resource are the subsistence fishery
30 and then to a lesser extent the sportfishery.

31
32 The Buskin River weir is, as I mentioned,
33 funded by the Office of Subsistence Management and has
34 been since 2000. The weir on the Buskin has been
35 operated by the Department of Fish and Game since about
36 1985 and the importance of the weir in terms of the
37 sockeye salmon run is that monitoring the sockeye salmon
38 escapement allows for in-season management of the
39 subsistence fishery and also the sportfishery and
40 preservation -- accordingly preservation of primary
41 harvest opportunity by subsistence users. Sampling of
42 the fish going through the fish going through the weir
43 allows for an analysis of the stock composition and
44 development of a biological escapement goal which will
45 provide for sustained long-term productivity of that
46 sockeye salmon run.

47
48 The weir also provides an educational
49 platform for subsistence users to learn about fisheries
50 management and some of the research that we're doing.

1 And our OSM funding provides for capacity building
2 through a high school intern program and also through the
3 Kodiak Salmon Camp, which I'll touch on briefly at the
4 end of the presentation.

5
6 The stock assessment study that's funded
7 by the OSM, as I mentioned, has the primary goal of
8 establishing a biological escapement goal which is based
9 on a population model that uses weir counts combined with
10 the known harvest figures and then the estimated age
11 composition of the annual sockeye salmon returns to the
12 Buskin, and that model has currently produced an
13 escapement goal of 8,000 to 13,000 fish. The escapement
14 goal, according to Board of Fisheries policy was recently
15 reviewed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game during
16 the Board's January 2005 meeting and the most
17 contemporary data that we have from the Buskin for Buskin
18 sockeye was used, was inputted into the model and the
19 actual range that was calculated in this most recent
20 review is about 6,000 to 9,000 fish but because we don't
21 yet have a lot of years of data that we can use to input
22 that model, the precision of the model wasn't that good.
23 The consensus was that we weren't quite confident enough
24 in that new escapement goal to discard the current goal
25 and we'd like to collect a few more years worth of data
26 and reevaluate the escapement goal using that model and
27 maybe get a little more precise estimate of what the
28 optimal goal for that sockeye population should be.

29
30 The goal will be reviewed again in the
31 Board of Fisheries cycle in the year 2008.

32
33 Looking at some statistics from this
34 years sockeye run we actually have a weir on the Buskin
35 River and also on a little tributary stream that flows in
36 just down river from where we're at, it doesn't really
37 have a name, we call it the Lake Louise tributary. And
38 since receiving OSM funding in 2002 to add that component
39 to our in-season escapement monitoring and stock
40 assessment we've operated a weir on Lake Louise, and you
41 can see we've gotten some surprising counts. If you've
42 seen the creek and the lakes that the creek flow out of
43 are fairly large but the creek itself, it's just a little
44 trickle and we were very surprised in 2002 when we put a
45 weir on the creek to discover that we were getting as
46 many as 4,500 sockeye salmon going up that tributary
47 annually.

48
49 The average escapement on the Buskin has
50 been, at least based on the most recent five year

1 history, is up around 19,000 fish so our average and our
2 annual escapement, as you can see, looking at that table,
3 have been at or above the upper end of our current
4 escapement goal. This year's escapement through August
5 31st was about 15,400 fish. A little below the most
6 recent five year average but still over, as Beth
7 mentioned previously, over the upper end of our current
8 escapement goal of 13,000. And you can see at Lake
9 Louise through August 31st, and we did pull the weir at
10 Lake Louise at that time, we're funded to operate the
11 weir until August 15th but a lot of the escapement into
12 that tributary is driven by environmental factors. The
13 creek is so small that unless we get a good rain fall,
14 often times fish, sockeye salmon that have entered the
15 Buskin River will hold down below the creek and wait
16 until we get a freshette that comes through and they'll
17 move up into the creek at that time. And so we actually
18 have kept that weir in the last couple of years through
19 the end of August longer than we're funded for just to
20 make sure that we captured as much of that escapement as
21 possible. And as you can see this year we're about 2,000
22 fish by that time, below what we saw the first two years
23 in the system but comparable to what we had last year.
24 And right now the lake, because it's a new component to
25 the -- at least in terms of our monitoring it, it's a new
26 component to this run, that Lake Louise escapement is not
27 part of our current escapement goal, we really haven't
28 enough information to evaluate that and fold it into the
29 Buskin drainage, the overall Buskin drainage escapement
30 goal and so we're still collecting information on that.
31 Right now we're just finding out what the capacity of
32 that portion of the drainage is to produce sockeye
33 salmon.

34
35 The graphs on the right side just show
36 the same thing as the table and they're a little bit
37 small, at least for me, without my reading glasses, they
38 show the same thing. I'm not going to dwell on those.

39
40 This table just shows the composition of
41 the total sockeye salmon return to the Buskin for the
42 last five years. And part of that stock assessment
43 analysis consists of rebuilding the run each year or
44 adding up all of the known components of the return which
45 include the weir count and then the various harvest
46 sources. In this case, as I mentioned, primarily those
47 harvest sources are primarily the subsistence fishery and
48 to a lesser extent sport harvest. But adding all those
49 together to rebuild the total run or the total return of
50 fish to the watershed during that year, and you can see

1 that our five year average shows that about 32 percent of
2 the run each year is harvested by the subsistence fishery
3 and about -- during most years, as I mentioned, there's
4 virtually no commercial harvest, and the sport harvest is
5 averaging around six percent of the run at this time.
6 Our spawning escapement is about 62 percent. And you can
7 see that on average our total known return to the Buskin
8 is just about 30,000 fish.

9
10 So right now at the harvest levels that
11 we have we're getting good productivity, we're obviously,
12 as that previously showed, we're above our escapement
13 objective during just about each -- have been just about
14 during each of the last five years and so it appears that
15 the run's sustained and in pretty good shape even though
16 we do have a major removal of that resource by the
17 subsistence fishery.

18
19 The other component of our project which
20 I mentioned briefly earlier was our capacity building and
21 since 2001 we've used the Buskin weir in cooperation with
22 the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge to conduct the Kodiak
23 Salmon Camp Program and it's a great program for the
24 local kids. We get about 200 kids a year that come out
25 to the weir, they come out a couple times a week in
26 groups during the peak of the run and learn about
27 fisheries and about salmon and just have a real good
28 time. It's just an excellent science platform and
29 learning environment for that salmon camp program.

30
31 And we also, since 2002, we started an
32 intern -- a high school intern program. And each year we
33 select two high school interns to work on the project, on
34 the Buskin and Lake Louise weir and work with our
35 Department Staff and those two interns are selected
36 through a screening process which is based on academic
37 achievement and career interest in resource management.
38 And the program has been so successful so far that it's
39 been a tremendous benefit to the Alaska Department of
40 Fish and Game, in that, we currently have three of our
41 former interns employed now as seasonal ADF&G employees.
42 So the intern program has provided some excellent career
43 opportunity for the participants and as I mentioned, it's
44 been a great benefit for the Department of Fish and Game
45 because it provides us with qualified candidates for
46 regular employment with the Department.

47
48 That was it. I just wanted to give a
49 brief overview and I'd be happy to answer any questions
50 from Council members if you have any.

1 MR. MALUTIN: I have one.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Iver, go ahead.

4

5 MR. MALUTIN: Tell us a little bit about
6 your program that you have within the schools.

7

8 MR. TRACY: Well, we've got, in addition
9 to our sockeye project, we have a coho salmon classroom
10 incubation project which we conduct annually and that's
11 not part of the OSM funded project, it's a project that's
12 funded by Sportfish Division through Federal aid grants
13 that are generated from licensed sales and excise taxes.
14 And that program is conducted in Kodiak annually and it
15 consists of trained Staff from the Department traveling
16 to Kodiak district schools, including schools here in
17 town and all the village schools and conducting egg
18 takes, coho salmon egg takes with the school kids and
19 those eggs are reared in the classroom in aquariums and
20 incubated and in the springtime the kids release the eggs
21 into the local streams and have an opportunity to learn a
22 lot about fisheries biology and salmon lifecycles in that
23 hands-on participation.

24

25 And that project is actually coming up
26 here shortly. This year, I believe, that the Department
27 Staff will be traveling to the village schools during
28 about the third week of October, second and third week of
29 October and then doing an egg take here in Kodiak for the
30 city schools in early November.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

33

34 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Don, I'd like to
35 compliment you on your report. I don't know how many
36 tens of board meetings and -- I think your presentation
37 is one of the best that I've seen either at Board of Fish
38 or Subsistence Board. I mean you've got all the
39 information that a person would ever want to know.

40

41 And I was glancing at your age
42 composition here, and it looks like predominately one,
43 three's, two, three's in the Buskin basically five and
44 six year fish; and in Lake Louise are one two's and one
45 three's which is very parallel to the McLees Lake, little
46 shallow lake approach.

47

48 And I won't give away too much secret
49 stuff but a very dear elder that I used to like to fish
50 with for years named Moses used to tell me about how he

1 figured out some ways to fish into July and still catch
2 sockeye and he just had the knack of getting sockeye and
3 not too many pinks later than anybody I knew as well as
4 catching the first ones. He was always the first one to
5 catch sockeye here. And I just can't help but wonder if
6 looking at your timing there, I just bet you what he
7 figured out was when and where the Lake Louise fish came
8 in and so, you know, if that component is building then
9 that also provides a nice valuable subsistence resource
10 for the community.

11

12 And I guess I would ask you when is your
13 current OSM funding up because, you know, this is
14 probably the biggest subsistence project on the Island
15 and I'd sure like to see that it keeps on getting funded,
16 so how much more do you have to go?

17

18 MR. TRACY: Mr. Chair. Pat. We have one
19 more year of funding from our current contract and we
20 will be submitting a new proposal for funding during the
21 upcoming cycle, proposal cycle. I believe the call for
22 proposals will be coming out shortly and we will submit a
23 proposal for another three year contract at that time.

24

25 MR. HOLMES: Well, I sure hope that our
26 Council can continue to support you on that funding
27 because between that and Afognak, those are the two major
28 research programs going that affect subsistence in our
29 region. And anyway, I think you do a really swell job.
30 I was chatting with your boss, Len Schwarz and it sounds
31 like you're going to try to possibly expand your capacity
32 building with, you know, getting information out to the
33 village schools about your intern program so that folks
34 that are living out in Port Lions and the other villages,
35 for kids that might have an interest in that direction,
36 for them to possibly try out for your intern program.

37

38 So I think that you folks have done a
39 really remarkable job considering the Federal and State
40 EEO things that you have to go through and your intern
41 program is really innovative.

42

43 So, thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Iver, you have a
46 question.

47

48 MR. MALUTIN: Yeah. Mr. Chair, I have to
49 apologize I didn't use the mic last time. I was at the
50 East Elementary and I was at the other schools that they

1 have this projects and I was so amazed and I learned a
2 lot and I'm only 74 but I'm learning a lot even from what
3 they're doing.

4

(Laughter)

5

6
7 MR. MALUTIN: And I really want to
8 commend the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Kodiak.
9 I thought they were the best in Alaska and I think they
10 are but then I found out today that we have a weakness
11 and that weakness is technology. So just hope that they
12 can get on track with the technology that they presented
13 from out at the westward areas so that all the areas in
14 Alaska could get up to par.

15

16 And just to give you a little bit of
17 history, when I was a kid and my brother used to go out
18 to Buskin River and he used to get fish in January and
19 February and, you know, all these years, lived here all
20 my life, we didn't know that the red salmon went into
21 Lake Louise we didn't know that until -- I found out last
22 year when he gave his report last year and it was really
23 a good report. And now I see it again this year and it's
24 almost identical to what he gave last year.

25

26 So I just want to thank the management of
27 Fish and Game in Kodiak and their Staff because I think
28 they're doing one really heck of a job and looking at the
29 other areas and what they're doing for Alaska, it seems
30 to me like the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is
31 doing a good job. And even though we don't agree with
32 them all the time, I think they're doing a darn good job.

33

(Laughter)

34

MR. MALUTIN: Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Iver.
37 Any other questions for Don.

38

(No comments)

39

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you.

40

MR. TRACY: Thank you for your time.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, we have a
43 couple more items on our agenda. One is Exxon, and I
44 guess most of these are informational.

45

1 MS. CHIVERS: I think the only other
2 thing that we added to the agenda was member comments
3 that Pat asked that we add, and then also just confirming
4 the winter and the next meeting location.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I have a paper here
7 from -- I have public comment papers here from Olga, I
8 don't see her in the audience anymore.

9
10 MS. CHIVERS: We could probably set up
11 the same time for tomorrow morning for the people to come
12 back and testify, 9:00 o'clock in the morning.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. So the next
15 thing is just to have F & G, is that just information?

16
17 MS. CHIVERS: Those were just
18 informational only.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

21
22 MS. CHIVERS: And I am not sure where
23 Steve went, I was going to ask him if he wanted to give
24 an update as well but he's gone.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Then if
27 there's no other business we're down to time and place of
28 our next meeting.

29
30 MR. HONNAD: Mr. Chairman. Council
31 members. Steve Schrof is the project biologist for the
32 Afognak project and he had a medical situation he had to
33 take care of so I'm just here if there's any questions.
34 There's a report in the materials, in this booklet
35 starting on Page 126. But in the interest of time I
36 didn't plan to go over too much of it but I'll answer
37 questions.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

42
43 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I was wondering if you
44 folks have been able to come up with a hunch as to what
45 happened with the collapse there at Afognak Lake?

46
47 MR. HONNAD: Mr. Chair. Well, Pat, this
48 project is a three year project and we're hoping by the
49 end of the project we'll have a more comprehensive idea
50 based on all the data we've collected. But initially --

1 our initial look at the data and, I guess, this would
2 kind of be my opinion is that it was probably as a result
3 of too many fish, escapement a little bit higher than it
4 should have been during the late '90s. But that's just
5 supposition at this time until we really analyze the
6 data.

7
8 One thing I will say is the smolt
9 immigration in 2005 was the highest we've seen of the
10 three years that we've done the project. And the
11 condition of the smolt coming out of the lake has
12 improved. And all the lineological data we're collecting
13 also looks there's some stability in the lake as far as a
14 rearing environment for sockeye fry. So things are
15 looking better. The escapement this year was a bit
16 improved. And if these smolt estimates are close to
17 being accurate then we should see some increased runs in
18 the next several years.

19
20 Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

23
24 MR. HOLMES: I believe that this year you
25 were able to have a fishery, subsistence fishery without
26 restricting that even though the commercial fishery was
27 closed; is that correct, and I think that kind of spun
28 off of Steve when he started the project and got some of
29 the initial smolt information which would have been, some
30 little critters, some of them coming back this year, that
31 they were looking nice and fat and robust and I know you
32 had to fight to get your smolt project funded, and so
33 this is kind of the first good news of, what we say,
34 proof in the pudding, that what is some of his initial
35 hunches were correct. And I think that that makes quite
36 a bit of difference because if folks want to reflect back
37 to the pie chart that the sportfish biologist had for
38 Buskin you can see on that that Afognak is really
39 important island-wide, and even though it's around 18/20
40 percent at times for the villages of Port Lions and
41 Ouzinkie, that's really some important piece of water.

42
43 So I'm really tickled to see that you
44 folks are making such nice progress on your research and
45 being able to kind of give us some hunches as to what may
46 have happened and some positive outlook for the future.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other questions.

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Iver, you got a
4 question.

5

6 MR. MALUTIN: Yeah, my name's Iver
7 Malutin, Kodiak. One of the things I'd like to ask you
8 is I was born and raised here and I've lived in Afognak
9 near all my life, and Afognak, the bay and the river
10 supported 10 to 15 gillnets every summer, and they must
11 have had a heck of an escapement. And they lived off of
12 that, it supported their livelihood. And I'm hearing
13 from the villagers now, especially Port Lions and
14 Ouzinkie that the lake has a tremendous amount of Dolly
15 Varden. I'm just listening to the oldtimers there,
16 listening to the people. And at one time the history,
17 they had a bounty on trout, on Dolly Vardens, and do you
18 think that that still could be a problem, because it
19 seems to me that regardless of how high your escapement
20 levels are, when they meet your expectations they're way
21 lower than they used to be in the past.

22

23 MR. HONNAD: Mr. Chair. Iver. We don't
24 really have a lot of recent data on Dolly Varden from
25 Alitnik. There's a lot of anecdotal evidence that says
26 that the Dolly Varden population may be fairly robust
27 there but we really don't have any kind of funding source
28 to do any kind of Dolly Varden evaluation so I really
29 can't answer that with any certainty. But I guess if it
30 was true and there were a lot more Dolly Varden than
31 there had been in the past, then there would definitely
32 be some impact as far as predation because Dolly Varden
33 do eat juvenile sockeye. But we really don't have that
34 information at this time.

35

36 MR. MALUTIN: Yeah, it would be
37 reasonable to think that if there is a question by some
38 of the elders and the people that know what they're
39 talking about in that area, that maybe you could have
40 some kind of a test program, maybe a gillnet. Go into
41 the lake with a gillnet or something, that you're not
42 going to affect the salmon, but you will see if there's a
43 problem with Dollys in there. Because I hear this so
44 many times, so many years, year after year and I think
45 that the past history substantiates that Afognak Lake
46 have a much higher return or rate of fish than it has
47 today.

48

49 That's all I had to say.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Al.

4

5 MR. CRATTY: Yeah, just in listening to
6 Iver there, I'd like to share something with you guys. I
7 used to know Bill Pinnel and Morris, they lived down on
8 the south end of Kodiak and they had a bounty on the
9 Dollys way back in the '40s and '50s and they used to
10 tell me stories about how they used to seine them out of
11 the Ayakulik. I know we've got a problem in the Ayakulik
12 now. I've been salmon fishing here for 30 years on
13 Kodiak and it's got good escapement and it doesn't seem
14 like they're getting the reds back that they should be.
15 So I just wanted to put that in there.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you.

20

21 MR. HONNAD: Yeah, just one quick
22 comment. Last year Council asked similar questions when
23 I gave a presentation and Steve Fried was here, who is in
24 charge of the Fisheries Monitoring Program for the OSM
25 projects, and he did mention that, you know, we could put
26 a proposal before the OSM for the Federal Subsistence
27 Board to do some Dolly Varden work. You know, of course
28 there's no guarantee it'd get funding. But I guess if
29 the Council has a real interest in that kind of work, I
30 guess when you develop your issues and -- I don't know if
31 you still do that, develop issues for the region. I know
32 that a couple years ago before we proposed this Afognak
33 project, there was a list of the issues that the RAC was
34 interested in based on comments from the citizens and
35 Afognak was at the top of the list. So those kind of
36 things have a real heavy weight on funding if those -- if
37 there's a list and Dolly Varden was important, you know,
38 that might be an avenue to at least get a chance for that
39 kind of funding.

40

41 But it would be a pretty expensive
42 project, I can tell you that right now. If the
43 Department were to propose a Dolly Varden abundance
44 project or anything like that, it's fairly -- not only
45 time -- it takes a lot of time, probably several years
46 and it's real expensive. I know that the Division of
47 Sportfish did a population estimate on the Buskin for
48 Dolly Varden and that was a real long-term project and
49 cost quite a bit of money. They got a lot of good
50 information but it'd be a fairly big deal. I'd be a much

1 bigger project than the smolt project that we have there
2 now.

3

4 Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other questions.

7

8 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

11

12 MR. HOLMES: I was just reflecting back
13 to that study, I think Pete Murry did it and he ran it
14 five years and they found the Buskin Dollys, basically
15 that was the overwintering area for Dollys for a large
16 portion of -- well, all of Woman's Bay, Chiniak and they
17 even had some tags show up down there -- I don't know if
18 Al Cratty turned them in because he found them in a
19 sandwich or something.....

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 MR. HOLMES:but there even was one
24 or two that made it all the way down to Old Harbor. So
25 Dolly Vardens are a complex issue, that's for certain.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Iver, you have
28 something else.

29

30 MR. MALUTIN: Yes, just one more comment.
31 You know what really amazes me when I see the escapements
32 for Afognak and Alitnik, even when they're up at 100,000
33 everybody's all excited, and to me that's almost a
34 disgrace from what I saw in the past when I saw all the
35 gillnetters, all the people that made their livelihood
36 off of that. And regardless of what it's going to cost,
37 I think it's worth pursuing.

38

39 And the people that asked me -- they even
40 asked me to use their names when I come to the Board, or
41 whoever, the committees, Freddie Squartsoff, Harry
42 Kanagin, Theodore Ula, there's so many people that I talk
43 to and they're some of the top fishermen that were born
44 and raised in those areas and they've lived off Afognak
45 and lived off the lake and I just wanted to bring their
46 names forward because they're the ones that have been
47 bringing me to light on this because I don't know that
48 much about it. But I do know that when I was in Alitnik
49 and when I did fish there there was Dolly Varden. And I
50 think that it's something that maybe, even as expensive

1 as it is, that somehow we should at least pursue it to, I
2 don't know what extent, but I think it'd be worth doing.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Ivan.

7

8 MR. LUKIN: I personally don't see this
9 as a expensive project. I think that if the State was
10 willing to work with tribal people in the villages I
11 think we could solve this problem pretty quick.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other questions.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you.

18

19 MR. HONNAD: Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Confirming
22 time and place of our next meeting, March 21st meeting of
23 '06, we had Old Harbor. Do we feel like we need to
24 change the location?

25

26 MR. CRATTY: Can I speak, Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes, Al Cratty, go
29 ahead.

30

31 MR. CRATTY: I was wondering, I wanted to
32 bring to the Council since we're having this caribou
33 issue out west if we can go to King Cove in March and go
34 to Old Harbor next fall. I wanted to see what you guys
35 thought about it, to change the meeting.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Paul.

38

39 MR. GUNDERSEN: I think that might be a
40 good decision because of that issue.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. We all agree
43 then that we'll have our March meeting in King Cove.

44

45 (Council nods affirmatively)

46

47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, I'll
48 entertain a motion to have our March meeting in King
49 Cove, do I hear a motion.

50

1 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman, with Dr.
2 Cratty and Professor Gundersen's comments in mind, I'd
3 like to make a motion that we change or attempt to change
4 our location from Old Harbor in March to Cold Bay in
5 March.
6
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: King Cove.
8
9 MR. CRATTY: King Cove.
10
11 MR. HOLMES: I beg your pardon, I am
12 stumbling over my brain, King Cove.
13
14 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
15
16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Do I hear a second.
17
18 MR. CRATTY: Second.
19
20 MR. GUNDERSEN: Second.
21
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and seconded,
23 any discussion.
24
25 (No comments)
26
27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
28 discussion, is there any objections.
29
30 (No comments)
31
32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No objections, then
33 the motion carries.
34
35 The fall meeting of '06. We need to
36 establish a location, right?
37
38 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. On the very
39 last page the calendar is completely open to this Council
40 since you are the first Council meeting so you could
41 select a date and location anywhere from August 28th to
42 October 20th.
43
44 Thank you.
45
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Paul.
47
48 MR. GUNDERSEN: October works better for
49 me, the latter part of October, or like about this time
50 of the year.

1 MR. CRATTY: It's September.
2
3 MR. GUNDERSEN: So I don't know how that
4 fits with your other guy's schedule.
5
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: This time of the
7 year or.....
8
9 MR. CRATTY: The first part of October?
10
11 MR. GUNDERSEN: Excuse me, I'm off by a
12 month here, I mean September.
13
14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.
15
16 (Laughter)
17
18 MR. GUNDERSEN: I'll let somebody else
19 tackle this one.
20
21 MR. CRATTY: The end of September.
22
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We got the 25th or
24 what? Ivan.
25
26 MR. LUKIN: I would like to see this week
27 kind of left this way. We have our Afognak elk hunt,
28 that starts on the 25th of September so I'd like to see
29 this week left open.
30
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: So what about the
32 same time next year, the 22nd.
33
34 MR. CRATTY: It sounds good to me, that's
35 on a Friday.
36
37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: That's a Friday.
38
39 MR. HOLMES: You might want to make it
40 Thursday for the bureaucrats so they don't have to travel
41 on the weekend going home, September 21st, I would
42 suggest.
43
44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thursday the 21st of
45 September. Is that good enough for everyone.
46
47 (Council nods affirmatively)
48
49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Where? Here?
50

1 MR. CRATTY: Go to Old Harbor.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Old Harbor.
4
5 MR. CRATTY: I make a motion to go to Old
6 Harbor.
7
8 MR. GUNDERSEN: I'll second it.
9
10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The motion was to
11 have our fall meeting in Old Harbor on September 21st,
12 '06, there was a second. Any discussion.
13
14 (No comments)
15
16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No discussion, is
17 there any objection.
18
19 (No comments)
20
21 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No objections, then
22 the motion carries. Old Harbor, September 21st.
23
24 MR. HOLMES: And I assume, Mr. Chair.....
25
26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.
27
28 MR. HOLMES:if we have a -- if the
29 monsoon comes in on time then we'd probably have Kodiak
30 for the back up.
31
32 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes. Okay, Board
33 comments. Paul.
34
35 MR. GUNDERSEN: Well, everything we hit
36 we kind of addressed so I'm just feeling fairly good
37 about it, so I'll pass it on to someone else.
38
39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Ivan.
40
41 MR. LUKIN: I just appreciated all the
42 information here, especially that information the
43 gentleman gave us on that new count, I appreciate that.
44 I'd like to see Kodiak get involved with that and it'd be
45 nice to get all our systems working with that same
46 procedure you're doing there.
47
48 Thank you.
49
50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Al.

1 MR. CRATTY: Yeah, I really enjoyed all
2 the reports today. There were some good reports there.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

5
6 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, anyway, I really liked
7 the Buskin River report and read through the Afognak one
8 before so we're making progress on both those things for
9 the Kodiak area.

10
11 I appreciate the focus out west, and
12 Izembek trying to bring us to date on caribou and
13 obviously we need to take a look at that management
14 program. And also Kodiak Refuge folks. And I thought
15 Bill's comments were kind of timely there to remind us
16 about thinking about deer again. I know several of my
17 colleagues here on the Council have been chewing on that
18 as to when we should start the process so I think we're
19 moving forward quite a bit.

20
21 And I believe the quality of the reports
22 has picked up a lot since I started this project.

23
24 And I'd like to formally thank the
25 Chairman, and get down on my knees.....

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 MR. HOLMES:for being brought back
30 into place and understand the Federal process works a
31 little different than I thought, so, thank you. And I
32 guess tomorrow we're going to have public hearings.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes. Tomorrow we'll
35 start with the public hearing on the rural determination.
36 I did have a note here for the board, we have -- we told
37 Bill that we'd produce a proposal somewhere along the
38 lines of increasing the bag limit for deer.

39
40 (Council nods affirmatively)

41
42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: And we have until
43 the 21st. Can you write something up Pat?

44
45 MR. HOLMES: Yes.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

48
49 MR. CRATTY: And, Mr. Chair, public
50 hearing tomorrow will be at 3:00.

1 (Laughter)
2
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Well, I'd like to
4 start in the morning.
5
6 MR. CRATTY: I'm just teasing.
7
8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Public hearing on
9 the rural determination will start at 9:00 in the morning
10 right here.
11
12 Do I hear a motion to recess until
13 tomorrow morning.
14
15 MR. GUNDERSEN: So moved.
16
17 MR. CRATTY: Second.
18
19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We're recessed,
20 4:41.
21
22 Thank you everyone, we'll reconvene at
23 9:00 a.m., tomorrow.
24
25 (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:

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THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 1st day of October 2005.

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