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KODIAK/ALEUTIANS FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

VOLUME II
PUBLIC MEETING

Buskin River Inn
Kodiak, Alaska
September 23, 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

1 P R O C E E D I N G S
2
3 (Kodiak, Alaska - 9/23/2005)
4
5 (On record)
6
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Let's call the
8 meeting back to order.
9
10 REPORTER: Mitch.
11
12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: It's.....
13
14 REPORTER: Mitch. Mitch, your
15 microphone.
16
17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Let's call the
18 meeting back to order.
19
20 REPORTER: Thank you.
21
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: It's 9:16. Before
23 we get into the rural determination we have two proposals
24 that I'd like to pass before the board and get them out
25 of the way. The board has copies, and I'd ask Pat if
26 you'd like to read them, and then I'll entertain a
27 motion.
28
29 MR. HOLMES: Okay, this was a draft put
30 together.....
31
32 REPORTER: Pat, your microphone.
33
34 MR. HOLMES:for us by staff.
35
36 REPORTER: Pat.
37
38 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Push the button.
39
40 MR. HOLMES: It's a draft put together
41 for us by staff. This is Pat Holmes. And so the
42 subsistence proposal for caribou Unit 9 and Unit 10
43 Unimak Island, that's the regulation that we would
44 propose to change.
45
46 How should the new regulation read?
47
48 And then this is just paraphrased at this
49 point. Close Federal public lands to all
50 but Federally-qualified subsistence users

1 and reduce the Federal subsistence
2 harvest to address the declining SAPCH.
3 It probably would be good to put that in
4 parenthesis and then write it out because
5 a lot of folks aren't good for acronyms.
6 But anyway moving on.

7
8 Why should this regulation change be
9 made?

10
11 The Council recognizes that the existing
12 management plan is no longer a viable
13 management tool. A new planning process
14 should be initiated to identify
15 population thresholds whereby future
16 management actions would be taken in
17 response to available resource
18 information.

19
20 What impact will this change have on
21 wildlife populations?

22
23 The proposed changes should facilitate
24 population growth of the Southern Alaska
25 Peninsula Caribou Herd. Ah, that's what
26 SAPCH, there we go, we just need to move
27 that Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou
28 Herd up on to line two in front of SAPCH.
29 Okay. This change will provide for long-
30 term subsistence use of properly managed
31 resource, that's how it will affect
32 subsistence users.

33
34 How will this change affect other users,
35 sport, recreational, and commercial?

36
37 The action may result in restrictions of
38 other users necessary to provide for a
39 rural priority under Title VIII.

40
41 And do you want me to read the other one,
42 Mr. Chairman, or do you want to deal with this one first?

43
44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Go ahead.

45
46 MR. HOLMES: Okay. The other proposal
47 would be in reference to deer. This was put together by
48 Staff, which is very fortunate because I left my homework
49 sitting by my chair so my wife will probably pop in with
50 it, but we can work with this just as well.

1 What regulation do you wish to change?
2
3 Unit 8 deer...three deer, however,
4 antlerless deer may be taken only from
5 November 1st to January 31. That's the
6 way it reads now.
7
8 It was suggested by Bill Pyle that we
9 change that date to align with the State one, and so also
10 we discussed the potential of increasing the harvest of
11 deer.
12
13 How should the new regulation read?
14
15 It would read Unit 8...four deer,
16 however, antlerless deer may be taken
17 only from October 1st to January 31st.
18
19 Why should this regulation change be
20 made?
21
22 To provide additional harvest opportunity
23 for rural residents with a positive C&T
24 determination.
25
26 What impact will this change have on
27 wildlife populations?
28
29 There should be no negative impact on the
30 population. The population has increased
31 providing additional harvestable surplus.
32
33 How will this change affect subsistence
34 users?
35
36 This action will provide a direct benefit
37 to subsistence users allowing an
38 antlerless deer harvest equal to State
39 regulations and a total harvest that
40 exceeds State regulations.
41
42 How will this change affect other users,
43 i.e., sport, recreational, commercial?
44
45 The action should have no affect on other
46 users. Harvestable surplus is sufficient
47 to provide for additional use without
48 affecting the other users.
49
50 So I guess to discuss these proposals

1 that I've read I'd like to make a motion that the Council
2 adopt the caribou proposal for the sake of discussion,
3 and then I guess when we're done adopting and discussing
4 that then we'll move on to deer, Mr. Chairman.

5
6 So I'd like to make a motion that we
7 adopt the Federal subsistence proposal as written by
8 Staff for the purposes of discussion, caribou on the
9 South Peninsula Unit 9(D), and Unit 10 Unimak Island.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Do I hear a second.

12
13 MR. GUNDERSEN: I'll second it.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: It's been moved and
16 seconded. Discussions. Paul.

17
18 MR. GUNDERSEN: By reading this over, I
19 think it covers all the issues that we had spoke about
20 yesterday. What it does is open the door to set up some
21 of the other dialogue that I think that's got to be put
22 together in the proposal and include some of the numbers
23 or triggers or whatever I was calling them to make it
24 operate. So it's sufficient.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any further
27 discussion. Pat.

28
29 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I think this
30 will address some of the issues that we discussed
31 yesterday. While I do have some different opinions, I
32 think eventually this will get to it as far as providing
33 local access and it is very apparent that the management
34 plan does need to be redefined and set up with different
35 thresholds for different levels of actions. And I would
36 assume that even though, at this point, weren't keen on
37 -- as a total, on separating out Unimak from the rest of
38 Unit 9(D), I think that probably will end up being one of
39 the options to discuss in the whole picture of things.

40
41 So, anyway, I think this has good merit
42 and this would be a good point for us to put together,
43 submit this proposal for public comment, particularly for
44 the villages and the folks that live out on the Peninsula
45 as well as other users involved in the harvest of the
46 critters.

47
48 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any further

1 discussion.

2

3

(No comments)

4

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

7

8

(No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
11 objections, then the motion carries.

12

13

The other proposal on deer harvest.

14

15 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. A few moments
16 ago I read the draft proposal from Staff for the Kodiak
17 management area, Unit 8. And that proposal would change
18 the antlerless season for Federal lands from November 1
19 to January 31st to October 1 to January 31st and also
20 make a proposal to increase the harvest on Federal lands.

21

22 So I'd like to place that motion on the
23 table for sake of discussion.

24

25

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Do I hear a second.

26

27

MR. CRATTY: Second.

28

29

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and seconded.
30 Any discussion. And I guess we have Mr. Van Dale here.

31

32

33 MR. VANDALE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
34 My name is Larry VanDale, I'm the area biologist for the
35 Alaska Department of Fish and Game here in Kodiak. I'm
36 open for any questions you may have. Unfortunately I was
37 not able to attend yesterday. So if there's anything
38 you'd like to have help with in your discussion I'll be
39 glad to pursue that.

39

40

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

41

42

43 MR. HOLMES: Mr. VanDale, I was
44 wondering, obviously our populations are up, but I do
45 recall when we had a seven overall deer limit on the
46 island, that that seemed to be the time when we started
47 getting a whole lot of bear problems, bears coming into
48 hunting camps, into communities and really chowing down.
49 And my experience then, being out hunting over near
50 Ivan's turf there and having some big boat haul in there
and dump a bunch of hunters off and I was wearing my red

1 wool shirt and had people popping off in the brush at me
2 and anyway sometimes when you get the high limits or
3 higher limits, it does cause other problems.

4
5 Do you foresee any problem management-
6 wise on a four deer limit, positive or negative things on
7 that, sir?

8
9 MR. VANDALE: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Holmes.
10 As you guys know we do not have objective numbers for our
11 deer populations. We manage them by information we
12 gather from hunter questionnaires and from people who are
13 actually out in the field like yourselves and our
14 advisory committee and our transporters and air taxi
15 operators. All indications are that the deer population
16 here on Kodiak has increased since our dramatic crash in
17 '98/99. It's probably not as high as it was prior to
18 that but it's on its way back. We're also seeing an
19 increase in the number of bucks, which is healthy and a
20 good doe population.

21
22 So all indications are we have a healthy
23 deer population right now. In and of itself, the deer
24 population could handle another deer on the bag limit. A
25 four deer bag limit is not a concern for the deer
26 themselves.

27
28 Mr. Holmes, as you indicated, though,
29 bears are something we need to be watching out for. In
30 the early and mid-80s when we had a real explosion of
31 deer on the island, we had high bag limits, anywhere from
32 five to seven. And what we saw was an increase in the
33 number of people from off-island come in and an increase
34 in the number of bears that learned that they could eat
35 not just gut piles, but also deer that were recently
36 killed by hunters and that equated into a more dangerous
37 situation for the hunters and more bears killed in
38 defense of life and properties.

39
40 One of the things we've been working with
41 the Board of Game and the local advisory committee on is
42 finding ways to liberalize the harvest, to make it so
43 more people could take deer, but do it in such a way that
44 we don't train these bears again that it's a good, easy
45 way to get food in the falltime, particularly when
46 there's a bad berry or a bad salmon year.

47
48 So I would urge caution in increasing the
49 bag limit too much around here for that reason, even if
50 it is just for subsistence.

1 Things that you might consider -- well,
2 first off, the first part of the proposal, aligning he
3 Federal and State timing for antlerless and antlered
4 deer, no problem, I think that's an excellent idea.
5

6 Things you might consider as well as the
7 four deer bag limit or instead of is perhaps increasing
8 the number of proxy permits that are issued. Right now
9 the Federal system is very liberal in allowing people to
10 hunt for someone else. And perhaps someone from the
11 Refuge could answer this question, but I don't know how
12 many deer are taken right now under that proxy system but
13 I'm sure they have their numbers right at hand. But we
14 could increase that by a simple tasking of Refuge Staff
15 to go out to the villages and issue more of those permits
16 because that's what that was initially designed for so
17 families could be provided for by hunters in the village.
18 Right now, I believe, most of those proxy permits are
19 issued here in Kodiak just out of this office. So that
20 would be a way without making any regulatory changes, you
21 could increase the number of deer that are harvested and
22 do it in the areas that you really need to have it done.
23

24 Another thing which is incredibly more
25 complex would be a daily bag limit. Have a four deer
26 seasonal limit, but you can only take two per day, for
27 instance. That would reduce the temptation of climbing
28 1,500 feet up, finding a bunch of deer and shooting four
29 of them and trying to pack them back before the bears got
30 it.
31

32 In the late 1980s the Refuge biologist
33 did a study on bear/deer, deer/hunter interactions on the
34 west side of the Island, and he found that 25 percent of
35 the deer that were shot by hunters were eaten by bears.
36 In other words, before the hunters could come back, 25
37 percent of those deer had at least some of them taken
38 away by bears.
39

40 So again to summarize, I don't believe
41 that we have a problem with the number of deer. We could
42 increase the bag limit, increase the take without a
43 problem. However, I do think we need to be cautious with
44 regard to the bears as you alluded to Mr. Holmes, that's
45 something to think about.
46

47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Larry.
48 Pat.
49

50 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. In the past

1 10, 15 years since the deer populations have gone up and
2 down I have observed some very positive relationships
3 with the Fish and Game Advisory Committee and this
4 Council and yourself and Al Cratty and Ivan have
5 participated in a lot of those discussions where we have
6 folks from all the villages and Mr. Carlson from Larsen
7 Bay, and I think one time we even got Ronny Lind over at
8 Karluk, and so I think in submitting this proposal, I
9 think it's a good place to start discussions.

10

11 And I might suggest that we request the
12 Chairman of the Board, if we could do another study group
13 to work on refining this because whenever we get
14 everybody on the same -- at the same table, figuratively
15 speaking, using the phone, we can come up with some good
16 thoughts.

17

18 I think that Larry's options here of
19 increasing proxy permits, that might be a first step and,
20 you know, the daily bag limit of four, I can't help but
21 agree that maybe considering a daily bag limit approach
22 because one of the discussions, part of our duties here,
23 are do we have enough critters for people to hunt and
24 managing them in a good way, and then the other duty of
25 our Council, I see, is providing for the most equitable
26 distribution for rural residents for food. And along
27 with that does come some social judgments. And in some
28 respects there are a lot of impacts and competition that
29 come from folks beyond our local area and, yet, you know,
30 as far as the State Constitution, you don't -- kind of
31 with Federal law we can be more discriminative and
32 honestly I think like a lot of folks, I'm a bit
33 provincial and like to see my friends and neighbors get
34 their food. So that daily bag limit could also have
35 social implications as well as the bear safety issue.

36

37 So when we do come around to, you know,
38 final discussions on bag limits, I don't know if we do it
39 today or when we do our final submission, but I think
40 that, you know, considering a split harvest of two per
41 day might be a rational way of addressing social issues
42 because then people have to slow down on their hunting
43 and also address the safety and it gets more deer back
44 home in the freezer or out in the smoker.

45

46 So I'll probably support this proposal,
47 so thank you, Mr. Chairman.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat. Al,
50 you have something.

1 MR. CRATTY: Yeah, I'd just like to say,
2 Larry, I agree with you a lot on this proxy permit
3 system. Larry, in the villages it really helps the
4 elders and the single home families, women that can't go
5 out, there's a lot of men there that are there to help
6 the families, you know, when they need the deer or
7 whatever.

8
9 You know, I transport hunters also and I
10 get a lot of guys that come in with proxy permits, I kind
11 of wonder about that, though, if the deer limit goes up,
12 but I guess they get the same advantages we do, that's
13 the only thing I had a question on.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any further
18 discussion. Pat.

19
20 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman, I just had
21 another thought. Larry, when is the Unit 8 game cycle,
22 that's not until next year?

23
24 MR. VANDALE: March 2007 will be when we
25 address Southcentral again.

26
27 MR. HOLMES: Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, I
28 might suggest a strategy. And maybe an approach would be
29 for us to, one request, you know, going ahead with the
30 study group process. And then approaching this in a
31 step-wise approach with our proposal to the Federal
32 Subsistence Board with our first step being increase in
33 proxy permits and then we could make a joint proposal in
34 the State side to increase the bag limit at that point,
35 and then that way we could address local needs at this
36 point, and then have sort of a progressive action to take
37 in case, you know, something happens.

38
39 Myself, being's this is the first year in
40 30 that we haven't had our fall monsoon come in, less
41 this week, I am quite anxious because when we have a
42 really dry fall things get really cold in the winter and
43 so we could have a crash between now and then.

44
45 But I'd like to present a friendly
46 amendment to this proposal, that under Item 2, that we
47 leave the harvest limit at three and have some discussion
48 in there for philosophy for the Refuge to increase proxy
49 permits as the first step in increasing harvest.

50

1 So I'd like to put that amendment out for
2 discussion before we deal with the main motion.

3
4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, did you get
7 that Michelle.

8
9 MS. CHIVERS: (Nods affirmatively)

10
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Ivan.

12
13 MR. LUKIN: Well, I'd just like to throw
14 a little comment here. Thank you for your words Larry
15 and I would just like to add that us, out in the village,
16 we try not to take any or haul more than one animal out
17 at a time. I guess once or twice I did it, I hauled two
18 out and I paid for it, four days on my back.

19
20 So just to let you know what's going on
21 out there in Port Lions.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. We have an
24 amendment to this proposal and that means there's an
25 amendment on the motion, so I need to hear a second on
26 the amendment to the motion for this proposal.

27
28 MR. GUNDERSEN: I'll second it.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Any other
31 discussion on this proposal.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If there's no
36 further discussion we'll vote on the amendment. All
37 those in favor say aye.

38
39 IN UNISON: Aye.

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

43
44 (No opposing votes)

45
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Motion carries. And
47 the main motion to support and submit this proposal, all
48 those in favor say aye.

49
50 IN UNISON: Aye.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Those opposed.
2
3 (No opposing votes)
4
5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Motion carried.
6 Thank you, Mr. VanDale.
7
8 MR. VANDALE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
9 And I brought along a copy of our most recent deer
10 management report for your benefit and also copies of the
11 graphs of the various populations of animals we have
12 here, big game animals that I presented to the Board of
13 Game, so I'll bring that up to you if I may, or to one of
14 your Staff.
15
16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, thank you.
17 Pat.
18
19 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman, I was
20 wondering if I could continue on and make a motion, I and
21 I hope I'm doing it the right way this time, that we
22 request the Chairman of the Federal Subsistence Board for
23 permission for us to reimplement our problem-solving
24 study group to discuss deer daily bag limits with the
25 local Fish and Game Advisory Committee.
26
27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: That group doesn't
28 exist Pat.
29
30 MR. HOLMES: We don't have to -- how do
31 we do that?
32
33 MR. CRATTY: Just do it.
34
35 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: A letter, they said
36 they.....
37
38 MR. CRATTY: Just write them a letter.
39 You're on the advisory group.
40
41 (Pause)
42
43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, his motion is
44 to request from the Federal Subsistence Board if they can
45 appoint a committee. Michelle.
46
47 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, would that be in
48 the form of a letter from the Council?
49
50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes.

1 MS. CHIVERS: Okay, thanks.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I need a second.
4
5 MR. CRATTY: Second.
6
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and seconded.
8 Any discussion.
9
10 MR. HOLMES: I'd just like to reiterate
11 if our coordinator could put in the letter that, you
12 know, this process has been very successful with deer and
13 in particularly with goats, and we'd like to adhere the
14 proper protocols to continue our informal coffee cup
15 discussions on problem-solving.
16
17 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
18
19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
20 discussion. Tonya, you have something.
21
22 MS. LEE: Yeah, as far as the Refuge and
23 designated hunter permits, you know, you have to be on
24 the Refuge to utilize that system. But there's a
25 difference between the designated hunter permit and
26 proxy. So Brandon and I would like to sit down with you
27 guys and just make sure everything's clear on that.
28
29 Because we issue about 40 and 60
30 designated hunter permits on Refuge lands every year and
31 that includes villages.
32
33 So we'd like to just help you with this
34 as well as with Larry, and make sure that that designated
35 hunter program is utilized to the fullest.
36
37 Okay, thank you.
38
39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.
40
41 MR. HOLMES: Tonya, could you, for our
42 sake and, mine, having foggy brains, define the
43 difference between a proxy hunt and a designated hunter,
44 and would you think the Refuge would recommend that we,
45 instead of saying, proxy permit, say designated hunter or
46 both? I guess we need a definition and then a
47 recommendation on what's the correct action?
48
49 MS. LEE: Well, correct me if I'm wrong,
50 but designated hunter, you're allowed to hunt for anybody

1 else, any family member or friend as long as they have a
2 State hunting license. With a proxy you need a -- it's
3 meant for elders or disabled people and you have to have
4 a medical note.

5
6 And it seems to be a lot easier for some
7 people to get the designated hunter permit, but you do
8 have to be on Federal lands for that one.

9
10 MR. HOLMES: Uh-huh. So it sounds like,
11 at least, from the philosophy we were trying to approach
12 of trying to slightly increase hunting effort and to
13 focus it in the rural areas that perhaps, Mr. Chairman,
14 we should consider bringing that deer proposal back on
15 the table and then amending the word, proxy, to
16 designated hunter.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Let me
19 understand this. Now, you said a proxy permit is
20 designated for people with medical disabilities.

21
22 MR. VANDALE: Mr. Chairman, if I may.
23 Larry VanDale again. I misspoke when I was up here, I
24 meant designated hunter, I just used the vernacular
25 proxy.

26
27 The difference is the proxy system is the
28 State system to allow for people to hunt for other folks,
29 and as mentioned it is much more tightly controlled.
30 It's for elders that can't hunt and for disabled people,
31 but you can use that permit to hunt anywhere in the area.

32
33 The Federal system that is parallel to
34 that is the designated hunter system. It is available to
35 any subsistence hunter who has a permit, it doesn't
36 matter if they're disabled or they're elder, you can hunt
37 for them, but it is restricted to Federal lands.

38
39 And, Mr. Holmes, is correct in that what
40 we were discussing earlier was the designated hunter
41 system and it was my error in saying proxy just because I
42 guess I'm getting to that elder stage maybe.

43
44 (Laughter)

45
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

47
48 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman, with that
49 recent information in mind I think we used the wrong
50 descriptive word and so I'd like to make a motion that we

1 bring the deer harvest proposal back on the table for
2 purposes of amendment, so I need a second.

3

4 MR. GUNDERSEN: I'll second.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and seconded.

7 Any discussion.

8

9 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman, I would like
10 to place a motion for consideration on the deer proposal
11 that we change the word proxy to designated hunter, and I
12 believe that will achieve the objectives of the Council.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Now, we got to clear
15 this up again because he just said it can be used
16 anywhere, if we use designated hunter it can only be used
17 on Federal land.

18

19 MR. HOLMES: Right. Well, that kind of,
20 I thought, was our objective was to use the Federal one
21 because a person can still do your proxy on State land
22 for elders and people that are physically handicapped,
23 but we were hoping to make some increased harvest
24 availability to rural hunters, or rural folks, and so if
25 we -- instead of saying increase the number of proxy
26 permits for the Refuge, we have that worded as being
27 increase the number of designated hunters, then that
28 would allow Al Cratty to go out and shoot a deer for
29 geezer Holmes here if my arthritis acts up, but I can't
30 get a certificate from a doctor.

31

32 MR. CRATTY: You've got Iver back there.

33

34 MR. HOLMES: Or maybe Iver will go shoot
35 my deer for me or something.

36

37 MR. CRATTY: No, he gets it free.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 MR. HOLMES: Anyway so my motion is to
42 amend our previous proposal for the word, proxy, delete
43 that and put in the words designated hunter and I believe
44 that will achieve the objectives of the Council for an
45 interim step to increase the harvest on Federal lands for
46 rural residents.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Paul, did you have
49 something.

50

1 MR. GUNDERSEN: No, I was trying to knock
2 the fly out of my nose.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. I was
7 sidetracked here, Pat. We're in discussion of the motion
8 to bring this back on the table and change the word from
9 proxy to designated hunter.

10
11 MR. HOLMES: Right.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Any further
14 discussion.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No further
19 discussion. Is there any objection to the motion.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no objection
24 then the motion carries.

25
26 Okay, thank you.

27
28 MR. CRATTY: Wait, Larry I have another
29 question for you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Al.

32
33 MR. CRATTY: I was just wondering how our
34 goats are doing, we never had no run down on the goats
35 yesterday.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Larry.

38
39 MR. VANDALE: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Cratty.
40 The goat population is doing exceedingly well. With help
41 from the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge we were able to
42 survey most of the Island this year and we estimate
43 almost 2,000 goats on the Island at this point in time.

44
45 The southern areas are doing the best as
46 you can imagine. And the road system seems to be holding
47 steady because we're able to get a high enough harvest
48 here. The middle areas, the places basically from Hidden
49 Basin up to Kajewiak are stable as they have been and
50 that is biologically what you'd expect, the place where

1 you initially put them will grow fast and then stabilize.
2 But these new areas that they're getting into are in that
3 grow fast stage right now.

4
5 We are planning to have a registration
6 hunt throughout the Island, coming up, the way our
7 harvest is going right now, we should have registration
8 hunts in all the areas. We've liberalized, as you know,
9 the registration hunt this year in that we have a two
10 week window now instead of a one week window for applying
11 for the goat hunts, for the registration hunts. We are
12 also allowing the use of aircraft for saltwater access
13 for the first time this year. So rather than just State
14 maintained airplanes, people can fly out to saltwater
15 areas and go after the goats.

16
17 Next year we intend to increase the
18 number of drawing permits to the maximum allowed by the
19 Board of Game which will be up to 500 permits we'll issue
20 for drawing hunts. And, again, we'll distribute those in
21 such a way that we hope to have a registration hunt in
22 all the areas again, so we're not going to flood an area
23 so we don't have any registration hunts in accordance
24 with the agreement of the joint task force that we've
25 had.

26
27 If the goat population continues at the
28 rate it's going in March of 2007, we are going to
29 approach the Board of Game with a proposal, again, this
30 will be with the joint task force, but I'm looking at a
31 proposal to have a registration hunt strictly for the
32 south end and not even have a drawing hunt. But that's
33 something, again, we'll have to discuss in-house.

34
35 But the goat population is doing great
36 and we want to utilize it as much as we can while it's in
37 this state.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Al.

40
41 MR. CRATTY: Yeah, Larry, have they -- I
42 know some other places in the state they have a spring
43 hunt, have you guys ever thought about that?

44
45 MR. VANDALE: No, I really haven't to
46 tell you the truth, Al. And, again, that's something
47 that we could discuss because the goats, of course, are
48 lower during that time of year. But right now, in fact,
49 if I may, just grab this graph that I showed to the Board
50 of Game in March, but if you look at this graph right

1 here, what you see are the goat hunting units in the
2 state with Kodiak being the yellow. So right now we're
3 the goat hunting capital of Alaska. We kill more goats
4 in Kodiak than any other unit does, almost twice as many
5 as the next highest unit.

6
7 And what that means is we've got a very
8 healthy goat population. But what it also means is other
9 people are going to start keying into Kodiak as a place
10 to come for goat hunting. So we're increasing our
11 harvest -- but we've really got it up high right now.

12
13 MR. CRATTY: Thank you, Larry.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Ivan, you have
16 something.

17
18 MR. LUKIN: You mentioned 500 possibly
19 next year, what is the number issued now?

20
21 MR. VANDALE: Mr. Chairman. Ivan, we're
22 issuing approximately 420 now, somewhere around that.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Iver, you have a
25 question.

26
27 MR. MALUTIN: I got a comment.

28
29 REPORTER: Mr. Malutin.....

30
31 MR. MALUTIN: And first of all.....

32
33 REPORTER:can you.....

34
35 MR. MALUTIN:I want you all to take
36 a look at the.....

37
38 REPORTER: Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Press the button on
41 there.

42
43 MR. MALUTIN: My name is Iver Malutin.
44 And I'm with the Kodiak Area Native Association.

45
46 REPORTER: Thank you.

47
48 MR. MALUTIN: Take a look at the color of
49 my hair and then you can understand where I'm coming
50 from.

1 We're talking about proxy hunts and one
2 of the things I don't understand is why we have to
3 increase the proxy hunts, is there a limit on proxy
4 hunts, on proxy, or are we talking about a campaign to
5 get the people to start using them, I'm not sure.
6

7 But that's not where I'm really coming
8 from. Where I'm coming from is why can't we get a proxy
9 hunt on goat, on any of the food animals that we have in
10 Kodiak and stay within the guidelines with of the ADF&G
11 or the Fish and Wildlife? There's no reason that if I
12 put my name in and I get drawn and because of my
13 condition, my hips or whatever, I can't get up in the
14 mountain and I can't get that goat, but Larry can go and
15 shoot it for me if he has the right piece of paper, so
16 what I'm saying is, if we could do it with deer, and if
17 we can do it with many other species and different
18 things, why can't we do it with goats, why can't we do it
19 with elk or any other drawing permits.
20

21 And I just want you to take that into
22 consideration. I think it's a valid point to increase
23 the food source for the seniors in the villages and also
24 Kodiak.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Iver.
29 Larry.

30
31 MR. VANDALE: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Malutin.
32 A couple things that are different with goats than they
33 are for deer and so forth. One is goats are not
34 considered a Federal subsistence species, therefore the
35 designated hunter rule does not apply for goats just.....
36

37 MR. MALUTIN: But proxy would?
38

39 MR. VANDALE: But proxy would. Right now
40 proxies are only available for moose, caribou and deer.
41 They're not available for elk, goats, sheep, et cetera.
42 And that is an issue that could come before the Board of
43 Game and I'll be more than happy to help you with a
44 proposal for that at the appropriate time, but that's not
45 something that this group can address.
46

47 MR. MALUTIN: I think in my way of
48 thinking, what I heard you just say about the healthy
49 population of goats in Kodiak, there seems to be like
50 absolutely no reason why we couldn't include the elders

1 in the drawings, even if they're unable to go out and
2 hunt and get a proxy permit.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

7

8 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I have a
9 question for Larry and then a question for yourself and
10 our coordinator.

11

12 My question to Larry is yesterday we had
13 an inquiry on behalf of one of the villagers and was
14 wondering about the goat village registration and in the
15 event that something happened and they were caught in
16 Kodiak and couldn't get back to their village during that
17 two week window for registration, how could that be
18 handled if they wanted to get a goat? Could they come in
19 and see you, that was my conjecture and that's the only
20 thing that we could deal with at the point, but I wonder
21 if you might address that.

22

23 MR. VANDALE: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Holmes.
24 We have expanded the time period for goat registration to
25 two weeks instead of one week this year with the idea
26 being that it will increase the number of people that can
27 go out there and also we're working around AFN, which was
28 a problem last year when many people were out of their
29 villages.

30

31 That being said, we have kept a very
32 tight line on who and where we issue permits to. If it's
33 a person from Anchorage who wants to come to Kodiak and
34 try for something down in Akhiok, we don't let them do
35 that. If it's a person from Akhiok that comes to Kodiak
36 and wants to get a permit from Akhiok we're not going to
37 do that either. We're going to keep a very fine line on
38 this.

39

40 And the reason behind that is two-fold.
41 One, is because it's the agreement that we had with
42 everyone around here and the Advisory Committees. And
43 secondly and, I think most importantly, this particular
44 hunt is under a microscope statewide. I got a large
45 number of questions from the Board of Game on this goat
46 hunt and what the bottom line was from the Board of Game
47 is they appreciate what we're doing. They really like
48 the way that we've worked together and the agreements we
49 have and, in spite of the folks that are trying to find
50 chinks in our armor here, the Kodiak/Aleutians Advisory

1 Committee and the Kodiak Fish and Game Advisory are held
2 up statewide as being the best as far as cooperation is
3 concerned, and this goat agreement is what's held up as
4 being the thing that has done that.

5
6 So I'm not going to do anything to
7 jeopardize it, even if it means inconveniencing one of
8 our villagers.

9
10 MR. HOLMES: Thank you, Larry. I
11 appreciate that clarification. And having gone to a
12 couple of the Board of Game meetings, I think they were
13 very gracious in accepting our proposal, and I can see
14 that that we have to be completely up front and fair
15 across the board to be able to keep this going.

16
17 Mr. Chairman, if I could go to my second
18 point. And I was wondering being as we're coming up on
19 the State cycle for goats, or for game issues and many of
20 our members have participated in the goat study group, I
21 wonder, and this is, I guess, a question jointly for you
22 and Michelle, is, I wonder if on our questions for deer
23 discussions with the local advisory committee, if we
24 should be considering also asking about goats so that we
25 can have the same people continuing in this discussion
26 of, you know, trying to come up with the best compromise
27 between folks in town and folks in the village and, you
28 know, the whole statewide approach. So I guess that's a
29 question, do we need to vote as a Council to ask for that
30 or can we just put that in a letter or what's
31 appropriate, Mr. Chairman?

32
33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Michelle.

34
35 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, you could submit
36 another letter as a request to the Federal Subsistence
37 Board so I'll go ahead and write that down as a second
38 letter.

39
40 MR. HOLMES: So we can put that in the
41 same letter or do we need.....

42
43 MS. CHIVERS: The same letter or another
44 letter, it's up to the Council.

45
46 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Mr. Chairman, I'd
47 like to make a motion that we send a second letter to the
48 Chairman of the Board of -- Subsistence Board, to Mitch,
49 asking if we can continue in the goat discussions because
50 it sounds like with the increasing populations that there

1 needs to be further discussion between our Council and
2 the local advisory committee to keep that process going
3 in a fair and even keel.

4
5 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I guess
6 that's a motion to do a second letter on goats.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: There's a motion the
9 floor, is there a second.

10
11 MR. LUKIN: Second.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and seconded.
14 Any discussion.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
19 discussion, is there any objections to the motion.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
24 objections then the motion carries.

25
26 Okay. If there's nothing further on
27 these two proposals then we'll take a short break and
28 then when we come back we'll get into the rural
29 determination issue. We'll come back in 10 minutes.
30 Thank you, Larry.

31
32 MR. HOLMES: And I'd like to point out
33 there's some Atka style ecra or salmon caviar for those
34 of you that need a fall boost for traditional knowledge
35 anti-depressant, it's really yummy.

36
37 (Laughter)

38
39 MR. HOLMES: And if anybody wants a
40 raffle ticket for the local Baranof Museum I have some of
41 those too.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay, we'll take a
44 short break.

45
46 (Off record)

47
48 (On record)

49
50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Let's call the

1 meeting back to order. At this time we'll go into the
2 rural determination issues. Maureen.

3

4 MS. CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5 Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the Council.
6 My name is Maureen Clark and I am the public affairs
7 person with the Office of Subsistence Management. Pete
8 Probasco had hoped to be here today to discuss this issue
9 but he could not be here so I'm sitting in for him.

10

11 This is an action item for the Council.
12 You have a written briefing on this subject on Page 61 of
13 your meeting booklet. I am here today to talk to you
14 about the Federal Subsistence Board's rural review
15 process. The Board is seeking comments through October
16 28th from the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory
17 Councils and also from the public on this list of 10
18 communities that are proposed for further analysis in its
19 review of rural determinations.

20

21 The Board is seeking comments on whether
22 or not communities should be added to this list, whether
23 communities should be taken off this list and also on the
24 rural or nonrural status of the communities on the list
25 and characteristics of communities on this list. And so
26 the Council can make a recommendation to the Board. The
27 Council can submit comments, whichever you prefer. And
28 there will also be additional opportunities for public
29 comment next year after in-depth analysis are completed.

30

31 A little bit of background. Under
32 Federal subsistence regulations a community with a
33 population under 2,500 is automatically considered rural
34 unless it's combined with other communities that are
35 considered nonrural or it has what the Board has
36 characteristics that make it significantly nonrural.

37

38 And for communities with a population
39 above 7,000, those communities are automatically
40 considered nonrural, again, unless they have significant
41 characteristics of a rural community.

42

43 Communities in between those population
44 thresholds are determined on a case by case basis.

45

46 And communities that are economically,
47 socially and communally integrated are grouped together
48 and considered as one.

49

50 And the Board is required to review these

1 rural determinations every 10 years beginning in 2000
2 with the new census data.

3
4 Earlier this year, the Federal
5 Subsistence Staff conducted an initial review of all
6 Alaska communities and the emphasis there was on
7 population and on what has changed since 1990. So the
8 review found that the status of most Alaska communities
9 does not need to change. But there were 10 communities
10 or areas that kind of rose to the top as perhaps needing
11 a little further analysis. And Kodiak is one of those
12 communities. Currently it's considered rural. It's
13 proposed for further analysis because it's population is
14 above 7,000 and it has risen further above 7,000.

15
16 The same thing with Sitka. It's
17 currently considered rural. It's population is above
18 7,000 and has gone further above 7,000.

19
20 Adak is also on this list. It's
21 considered nonrural. It's population was substantially
22 higher back in 1990 and it has gone down substantially.

23
24 So those three stood out as needing
25 another look.

26
27 There are also three communities that are
28 proposed for further analysis as to whether places should
29 be excluded from these groupings. When the Board
30 determined that the Fairbanks Northstar Borough, back in
31 1990 was nonrural it basically adopted the Borough
32 boundaries as a nonrural area and it's been proposed that
33 we take another look and perhaps bring those boundaries
34 in.

35
36 Kenai area. It's been proposed that
37 perhaps we look at excluding Calm Gulch from this
38 nonrural grouping and Clam Gulch would then be rural.

39
40 Seward. It's been proposed that we
41 remove the Moose Pass area from the Seward nonrural
42 grouping and let Moose Pass be rural.

43
44 Then there are three groupings where
45 further analysis has been proposed as to whether
46 additional communities should be included in those
47 nonrural groupings. For instance, Wasilla. It's been
48 proposed on this list to see whether or not Willow and
49 Point McKenzie should be included with the Wasilla area
50 and be considered nonrural.

1 The Homer area. We're looking at whether
2 or not to include Fox River and Happy Valley in that
3 nonrural grouping.

4
5 And also in the Ketchikan area, we're
6 looking at whether Saxman and certain areas beyond
7 Ketchikan, areas of development outside of Ketchikan
8 should be included again in that nonrural grouping.

9
10 Finally the 10th area on the list is kind
11 of a potential new grouping and that's Delta Junction,
12 Big Delta, Deltana and Ft. Greely. So we're looking at
13 whether or not those communities should be grouped and
14 also whether or not the rural or nonrural status of that
15 grouping should change if, in fact, it should be grouped.

16
17 So this is a two-step process. And this
18 call for comment is part of this first step. This first
19 step basically ends December 6th when the Board meets.
20 The Board will meet December 6th and if necessary
21 December 7th to determine which communities on this list
22 of 10 should go forward for further analysis. And so we
23 have a public comment deadline of October 28th. The
24 Board will meet December 6th and I need to let you know
25 that Council Chairs are invited to that meeting. And
26 then during the second step of the process, in 2006,
27 there'll be more detailed analysis of these communities.
28 And, again, there will be additional opportunities for
29 public comment.

30
31 We have more detailed information on this
32 in this report. I think you've received copies of that.
33 We also have some extra copies on the back table. And we
34 have a public information sheet, kind of a shorthand
35 version for folks.

36
37 So, again, this is an action item for the
38 Council. You can make comments or recommendations. You
39 could choose to make your comments now or recommendation
40 now. You could put them in a letter and submit them by
41 October 28th, whichever you prefer.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Maureen.
44 Before we go any further I'd like to remind the people in
45 the public if you want to make a public statement on
46 rural determination, these forms are back there on the
47 table, please fill them out and bring them up here and
48 I'll take them as they come in.

49
50 Would you be ready for any public

1 comments now?

2

3

MS. CLARK: Sure.

4

5

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.

6

7

MS. CLARK: Yes, they'd be included in
8 the record and they would go forward to the Board from
9 the record here.

10

11

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. So far I've
12 only got three -- oh, I'm sorry, Paul.

13

14

MR. GUNDERSEN: Yes, I was listening to
15 the list of communities and stuff that you were going
16 through. Are you asking us to make some sort of
17 determination on each one of these or just the ones that
18 we participate in?

19

20

MS. CLARK: You're welcome to make
21 comments on any and all. You may want to limit
22 yourselves to the ones that you're interested in but
23 you're welcome to make comments on any of these.

24

25

MR. GUNDERSEN: Oh, we're interested in
26 them all but we just have -- yeah, the ones that we're
27 more knowledgeable of, and I'd hate to be in a position
28 where I'd have to make a decision for somebody else
29 without knowing all the facts.

30

31

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Michelle.

32

33

MS. CHIVERS: My understanding on this
34 whole process and what is expected of the Council is the
35 Council can approve the list as is, you can add
36 communities to the list or you can remove communities
37 from the list as well. But that would be what the
38 Council would be making a recommendation on at this time.

39

40

Thank you.

41

42

MS. CLARK: In addition to that, if you
43 have knowledge that would be helpful to the Board in
44 making a decision as to whether or not a community should
45 come off a list or go on a list, maybe you have economic
46 data or data about use of fish and wildlife, you're also
47 welcome to offer that. Anything that would help the
48 Board make decisions.

49

50

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. At this time

1 then I'll ask for public comments and I have these green
2 forms up here and the first one I have on top is Bob
3 Polasky.

4

5 MR. POLASKY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
6 members of the Advisory Committee. Can you hear me now?

7

8

(Laughter)

9

10 MR. POLASKY: I'm so lucky to be first
11 here. I appreciate the opportunity. I just wanted to
12 make a few comments. I am the tribal administrator for
13 the Shoonaq Tribe of Kodiak. I want to tell you a little
14 bit about myself so that -- I know I'm going to get a
15 chance to meet some of you, I've only been in Kodiak
16 about two years, but I've spent most of my life in Alaska
17 since I was a teenager and I've lived in many rural
18 communities.

19

20

I've lived in Nulato on the Yukon River.
21 I've lived in Arctic Village for over a year. I've lived
22 in the rural community of Sitka for several years prior
23 to coming to Kodiak. And I spent several years between
24 the mid-80s and the mid-90s as the subsistence director
25 for RuralCap and traveled extensively throughout rural
26 Alaska and advocated for subsistence rights and spent a
27 great deal of time advocating during that period, some of
28 you might recall when there was a lot of emphasis on
29 implementation of Title VIII of ANILCA, it was a big
30 issue then as was the rural/urban determinations were
31 made during that period of time and that brought me to
32 Kodiak the first time. The first time I had been here
33 was about 15 years ago and one of the thoughts I've had
34 the last few days is since I've moved here permanently
35 two years ago is, what's changed since 15 years ago?

36

37

What has significantly changed other than
38 a notation by the Staff, the Board that the population
39 increased five percent? There's some reasons for that,
40 I'll get into that, that might be an impact to that.

41

42

But I did want to say we found out about
43 this meeting just a few days ago, almost through the
44 grapevine from other people that got onto it. I don't
45 think that there was very good public notice. All I saw
46 was a slight rewrite of the news release that the Service
47 had put out just mentioning Kodiak along with other
48 communities. There hasn't been any real notice about how
49 this could impact Kodiak and I think that's a shame
50 because I know there's a lot of people in the community

1 that have not had time to prepare even if they were aware
2 of it, it was of such late notice. A lot of people
3 travel. A lot of people are out doing their subsistence
4 themselves. So that's a real concern we have, that
5 proper notice hasn't been given to the community.

6
7 We believe that the Board, the
8 Subsistence Board made the right decision in 1990. And
9 we believe that because when we look around we don't see
10 that the characteristics of Kodiak have changed since
11 that original designation so we're really happy that the
12 Board made the right decision back then and we hope that
13 this is a short process, that would be our best hope,
14 that this Board would recommend that Kodiak be dropped
15 from further analysis.

16
17 I just looked around the other day and I
18 realized that we still live on a very isolated island.
19 That was one of the reasons that Kodiak and Sitka were
20 first designated rural. That they are far removed from
21 the urban centers of Alaska and have some unique
22 characteristics when we consider rural.

23
24 I looked at some studies recently, I hope
25 that you're aware of an economic review that comes out
26 periodically, the last one was in just last June, The
27 Alaska Economic Trends Report, that comes out
28 periodically. This last report in June by Dan Robinson
29 and Neal Fried covered extensively the cost of living in
30 Alaska, and I just wanted to make a couple points there
31 because I think it reinforces the rural nature of Kodiak.

32
33 The report shows that for a family of
34 four in Kodiak -- to buy a weeks worth of food it's \$107
35 in Anchorage to buy a weeks worth of food for a family of
36 four. In Ketchikan it's \$125. In Sitka it's 136. And
37 in Kodiak it's \$150 a week to feed a family of four.
38 When you look at that in percentage-wise, I think that's
39 a 30 or 40 percent higher cost of living for, at least,
40 the food value and of course subsistence means a lot more
41 than food but to replace that would be a substantial --
42 to replace subsistence foods you'd have to go to the
43 stores here, at the prices we have to pay, it'd be a
44 substantial burden on the whole community.

45
46 And of course we also know how gas has
47 affected, not just the United States, but in Kodiak.

48
49 I think if things continue to move
50 forward on this analysis that it would be critical that a

1 comprehensive study be undertaken to discern what the
2 real impacts would be if the nature of Kodiak designation
3 changed because we think it would be an extremely heavy
4 burden on families here.

5
6 That same study that I cited, I believe,
7 and back in 1990 there was an indication that Kodiak, the
8 average family had 150 pounds of harvest of subsistence
9 foods compared to it was somewhere around 20 pounds, or
10 30 pounds for Fairbanks, for example. It was a huge and
11 significant difference, and I think we need to know what
12 that is today. I don't know if anybody knows that but we
13 still need to develop some information because I don't
14 see anything in talking to people here that would
15 indicate that that's gone down at all. And as economic
16 times have gotten tougher, if it's done anything it's
17 probably gone up slightly.

18
19 One of the things I wanted to point out
20 and what was cited by the Staff for the Subsistence Board
21 was a slight increase in population of about five or 600.
22 I wanted to point out that that at the Shoonaq Tribe
23 we've seen a significant increase in people accessing our
24 services that have moved here from the villages on Kodiak
25 Island. And these are, of course, Alaska Native people
26 and these are people that have a heavy reliance on
27 subsistence resources and take that with them when they
28 come here, but it's still Kodiak Island. I'd like to
29 look further into those numbers, but we know that there's
30 a significant number and if you ask anybody from the
31 villages here they will tell you that there's a major
32 out-migration of people due to economic factors. You
33 know, people can't live on a purely subsistence lifestyle
34 anymore, it's a mixed economy. You can't send your kids
35 to school, you know, all those things have changed,
36 without buying them clothes and things like that.

37
38 So that's a real concern to us that how
39 ironic it would be if down the road here the designation
40 of Kodiak would be jeopardized because Alaska Native
41 people have moved here for economic reasons. You know,
42 we live in a state where the state of Alaska has not
43 treated rural Alaska very well. They've cut out revenue
44 sharing. They cut out the longevity bonus. They cut out
45 things that have hit rural Alaska extremely hard. And
46 you know that from reading reports of villages that can't
47 pay their electricity bills and so on right now.

48
49 So that's a serious issue. And the Board
50 needs to be aware of that.

1 In our view, the number of people that
2 have moved here, we know it, it's largely anecdotal but
3 we can work on some numbers, but we know that from our
4 everyday jobs down at the tribal center.

5
6 So that's a big concern.

7
8 It's also real important to note that the
9 whole borough population has gone down significantly
10 since 1990 when it was somewhere above 15,500 and it's
11 down 12,900 somewhere in that area right now, the whole
12 borough so we know that there's been factors involved
13 here and we know that they go up and down. I talked to a
14 fellow at the borough yesterday that works in the
15 development department about population and how it
16 fluctuates up and down, we don't really know what the
17 population of Kodiak is right today compared to 2000
18 even, that's a long stretch, but we know that over the
19 years it's gone up and down and the whole borough has
20 generally gone down for the last 15 years.

21
22 And we know that there's a big population
23 here with the Coast Guard and dependents, somewhere
24 around 3,000 people, and we know that many of them are
25 citizens and we love having them here but they don't have
26 that traditional customary use patterns of the resources.
27 And that should definitely be factored into the
28 population even if ANILCA has these hard numbers, there
29 are extenuating circumstances that the Board needs to be
30 aware of.

31
32 So I don't know what has happened so
33 dramatically that this would continue on. I think we see
34 the same community. Some of the issues have changed,
35 some of the population within the Island has moved and
36 shifted because of economics and, quite frankly, there
37 might be a day where some people start moving back out,
38 and that'd be a shame to be teetering on this rural/urban
39 ledge every 10 years because of a very insignificant
40 population increase.

41
42 So, again, we felt like it was the right
43 decision back then and we hope that the Board continues
44 on that vein. And we request that this Board -- we
45 respectfully request that you ask that no further
46 analysis be conducted on Kodiak.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Bob.

1 John Reft.

2

3 MR. REFT: I thought I'd have a little
4 more breathing room since I was the last one to hand in
5 the slip.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 MR. REFT: Anyway, I'm John Reft. I'm
10 the vice-Chair of Shoonaq Tribal Council and the Kodiak
11 Tribal Council which are two different entities.

12

13 We have written a resolution 2005-18.
14 And it's retaining Kodiak rural status. And the Shoonaq
15 Tribe of Kodiak is a Federally-recognized tribe and the
16 Shoonaq Tribal Council is governing body of the Shoonaq
17 Tribe of Kodiak and the ability to subsist on the lands
18 and waters surrounding Kodiak are essential to the
19 cultural and nutritional well-being of Shoonaq which has
20 1,400 members enrolled to it.

21

22 And they're, you know, Alaska Native,
23 American Indians and all residing in or around the city
24 of Kodiak. Now, within the definition of subsistence in
25 the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act,
26 ANILCA, our members have maintained a customary and
27 traditional use of the land and waters for thousands of
28 years as many of you know on the board, especially the
29 Natives. Congress so stated in the ANILCA findings that
30 in order to fulfill the policies and purposes of the
31 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and as a matter of
32 equity it is necessary for Congress to invoke its
33 Constitutional Authority over Native Affairs and its
34 Constitutional Authority under the property clause and
35 the commerce clause to protect and provide the
36 opportunity for continued subsistence uses on the public
37 lands by Native and nonNative rural residents. The
38 ANILCA established a Federal Subsistence Board to, among
39 other things, provide for regulations and make
40 determinations as to which communities in Alaska are
41 rural in nature and which communities are urban in
42 nature, and those determinations be reviewed on a 10 year
43 cycle and Kodiak was designated rural according to
44 regulations enacted by the Board which stipulate a
45 community with a population of more than 7,000 is
46 considered nonrural unless it possesses significant
47 characteristics of a rural nature.

48

49 The rural nature of Kodiak has not
50 changed since the initial designation. And the factors

1 considered in that designation in that the community is
2 located on an isolated island. The cost of living is
3 significantly higher than urban designated communities.
4 A large Native population exists and hunting and fishing
5 are a community mainstay with a household average of 150
6 pounds of subsistence resources harvested annually.

7
8 And the Federal Subsistence Board is
9 undergoing its required review and has made an initial
10 determination that the status of Kodiak shall be reviewed
11 for further analysis. And the reason given by the
12 Federal Subsistence Board for further analysis, if
13 Kodiak's rural designation is that it's population
14 increased further over 7,000 between the 1990 census
15 specifically from 12,230 to 12,855 or a five percent
16 increase which we believe is insignificant in the respect
17 to the continued rural nature and characteristics of the
18 community.

19
20 Approximately 3,000 residents in the
21 community are Coast Guard as Mr. Polasky stated earlier,
22 members and dependents. A transient population that does
23 not possess the customary and traditional uses cited in
24 ANILCA in the definition of subsistence.

25
26 And the loss of rural status would have a
27 devastating effect on the future cultural, nutritional
28 and financial well-being of Native peoples in Kodiak.

29
30 The Federal Subsistence Board may be
31 conducting hearings on rural/urban designations and the
32 Shoonaq Tribe of Kodiak asks the Federal Subsistence
33 Board to consider those factors that lead to the initial
34 designation of rural for Kodiak and consider that the
35 rural nature of the community of Kodiak has not changed
36 since the initial determination and withdraw further
37 analysis of Kodiak.

38
39 The Shoonaq Tribe of Kodiak requests the
40 Kodiak Aleutians Regional Advisory Council also request
41 Kodiak be withdrawn from further analysis.

42
43 The Shoonaq Tribe of Kodiak requests that
44 should the Federal Subsistence Board conduct further
45 hearings on the designation of Kodiak, that such hearings
46 be held in the community of Kodiak.

47
48 And as our business administrator cited
49 awhile ago that a little more advance notice would be
50 appreciated if there are any further hearings, you know,

1 later down the line.

2

3 But I'd also like to state that the
4 impact of the Exxon Oil Spill on the Kodiak community was
5 devastating, not just commercial fishing, price-wise, I
6 mean it involved so much that you never hear about, you
7 know, it involved families and divorces, kids that their
8 -- I don't know what happened to, I mean divorces, you
9 know what's involved in all that, and businesses going
10 bankrupt and people trying to divide this and that and
11 separations and all these things aren't brought out in
12 that. But the thing is that the impact then has carried
13 on for 16 years now and it's still not solved. But then
14 we get into this dilemma of the fuel and energy costs.
15 And being an island out in the Pacific everything that we
16 get here, the excuse is the cost, you know, freight. I
17 mean we are, according to something I read, we're the
18 second highest cost of living place in the U.S. is
19 Kodiak, Alaska to live in. I mean you put that in there
20 with the price of the fuel and the gas and, you know,
21 diesel for heating, gas for boats, whatever, I mean this
22 is devastating. And our people cannot afford to lose the
23 subsistence rights because the impact is tremendous.

24

25 I'll stop there.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, John.

28 Charlie Reft.

29

30 MR. REFT: Hi. My name is Charlie Reft.
31 I work for Koniag Regional Incorporated. But at this
32 time I'm going to represent myself. I didn't know about
33 the meeting until last night myself.

34

35 I'm new to this. And I will assure
36 everybody it will be a continuing full interest on my
37 part from now on.

38

39 The question I have is what determines
40 this magic number of 7,000 for a population to be
41 considered a review for the town of Kodiak.

42

43 If the Board would understand that
44 population changes over time and, you know, people come
45 in from the villages, they -- for education, health,
46 whatever reasons, income, you know, they can't afford it
47 out in the villages like Mr. Bob Polasky said. It's a
48 necessity at times that people come to Kodiak.

49

50 And in the time that I've been here and

1 subsisted, the Board should understand that a lot of the
2 family and elders are, you know, provided by those that
3 are able to go to subsist. For the ones that are not
4 capable of going out and getting fish, deer, berries,
5 it's been a life forever for us who have lived on this
6 Island. And, you know, just because a population of
7 7,000 and over -- you have to bear with me, I haven't had
8 time to review material and understand what is
9 designated, you know, to be considered rural and
10 nonrural, and when I have the time I will review and try
11 to understand more. But I'd like the Board to understand
12 that if you take the subsistence rights away from people
13 here in Kodiak or wherever, they need to realize that
14 there are a lot of families and elders incapable, you
15 know, getting what's necessary and their source of food
16 that it's been all their life.

17
18 I strongly suggest the Board understand
19 this. And hopefully the Board who reviews this spend
20 time out in these communities, see how much of the
21 subsistence is actually a good thing for the people, you
22 know, it's just people have to understand that the
23 subsistence, if it's used correctly, and not abused, it
24 benefits many, many, many people. And as, you know,
25 stated earlier, the cost and expense of living over here
26 is just high. And the subsistence here really does
27 provide a lot for the people that don't have the income.

28
29 But -- actually I think I'm done at that
30 point. But I just hope that the Board really takes its
31 time to review and think carefully about the city of
32 Kodiak and the other areas involved. It's a very
33 important factor that will be judged and they just really
34 need to sit down and think about this. There's a lot of
35 people in Kodiak here that rely on subsistence.

36
37 So thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you Chuck.
40 Iver Malutin.

41
42 MR. MALUTIN: I got something here that I
43 want everybody to see.

44
45 (Laughter)

46
47 MR. MALUTIN: My name is Iver Malutin.
48 And this is what we're talking about. This is salmon
49 eggs made into what we now call caviar, and it's a
50 traditional food that we ate all our life and it is

1 delicious.

2

3 (Eating)

4

5 MR. MALUTIN: Excuse me while I have to
6 munch on my caviar.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MR. MALUTIN: I appreciate what everybody
11 said and they're on target. And from my perspective I'm
12 going to repeat probably a lot what they said only
13 because I wrote this many days ago, weeks ago, months
14 ago, years ago.

15

16 And the word, Shoonaq is pronounced
17 Shoonaq, it was a word that was used ever since I was a
18 little kid, Shoonaq means Kodiak, Agwanag (ph) means
19 Afognak. And these people that are representing the
20 Shoonaq Tribe are doing a really good job. And little do
21 we know what's going to happen if this designation
22 changes from rural to urban.

23

24 The Shoonaq Tribe in itself and all the
25 other nonprofits stand to lose a lot of money in grants
26 that they are now eligible for by the change of
27 classification. Not only that the people, themselves, in
28 Kodiak stand to lose a lot.

29

30 And I heard somebody say before that they
31 can't take away our traditional lifestyle, you know
32 something they can't. They can't.

33

34 They don't have the enforcement here to
35 stop me from going and doing the same thing that I've
36 done all my life. And I think that I'm going to continue
37 to do that regardless of what their laws say. Because
38 the unwritten law said, and it gave me that right, that I
39 would get the lifestyle, the food that I needed to
40 survive.

41

42 And Harvey Samuelson, everybody knows
43 Harvey Samuelson, he said -- I won't use exact
44 terminology but I'll use some of the words that related
45 to the same thing. At one time we owned all the land and
46 we owned all the resources and blankety, blank, blank,
47 now we are fighting to get a small share back, and that's
48 where we're at today.

49

50 One of the things I'm going to give you

1 is some little history and you have to excuse my
2 repeating myself because it seems to me like I say the
3 same thing every time I go to testify, maybe I should
4 have a tape or a record or something, but I guess we have
5 to say this because it's going to hit some new ears.

6
7 When I was a kid, probably in 1937 there
8 probably was three or 400 people in Kodiak, maybe three,
9 four or five vehicles, if that many, we would go out to
10 where the Salvation Army is, Mission Beach and we would,
11 in March, April we would get Dolly Varden. There was one
12 little old man that lived out there in a barbara, his
13 name was Tikken and the lake out there is named after
14 Tikken and my dad would go up there and he would talk to
15 him in Russian because my dad was schooled in Russian and
16 then later on they'd come down and they'd talk in Russian
17 and then pretty soon the seines were brang [sic], then
18 we're making a haul and I'm just six, seven years old at
19 that time, we get a lot of trout, they're happy,
20 everybody's happy and then we load them into tubs, or
21 sacks, whatever they had take them to town and everybody
22 in Kodiak seemed to have communications because everybody
23 comes down and gets trout. It's the first fish.

24
25 And even though I did talk about trout
26 yesterday and tried to get rid of trout, trout are a
27 really, really good fish because at that time they were
28 the first fish, they smoked the trout, they did
29 everything with trout because trout was really good.
30 Everybody in town had trout. And that's the way the
31 people lived and that's the way they shared. And we
32 still do that today. And just because the laws change
33 it's not going to go away. They're going to have to make
34 bigger jails and from what I understand about the numbers
35 and dollars they're not going to have the money to build
36 a jail to keep us all there anyway.

37
38 (Laughter)

39
40 MR. MALUTIN: And to give you a little
41 bit about enforcement. They don't have enforcement they
42 don't have any money. But yet I got the designation of
43 the Salvation Army, Mission Beach changed to where we
44 could go out and we could subsistence fish, gillnet, now
45 they let us go out there on the 30th of September which
46 is horrible but at least we could go out there. And to
47 show you the extent of enforcement, last year when one
48 gillnet went out, when it opened, there was a SuperCub
49 landed, there were two Trooper cars on the beach and
50 there was boat that came there. Four different units all

1 within the close proximity of where the resource is. But
2 in the areas where it's not close you could forget about
3 them guys because they ain't going to be there, they
4 don't have the money. But right in their backyard
5 everybody's going to be there and they were.

6
7 So that just gives you an example of the
8 enforcement we have and how they work and how it's not
9 going to work in the future regardless of what the
10 reclassification does.

11
12 And one of the things that we're doing
13 today, the Native corporations, the Regional
14 corporations, the city of Kodiak, individuals, are giving
15 scholarships to our young and little do the villages know
16 that they're shooting themselves in the foot when they
17 give a scholarship to their young person in the village
18 because all that means is that that kid is going to go to
19 college, that kid is going to get a college degree and
20 they'll never return to their village because there's
21 absolutely no economic base or no reason for them to be
22 there. And that's reality. And it's the best thing that
23 could happen is to get the education for the kids, we
24 have to do that.

25
26 So all these things got to be taken into
27 consideration by this Board when they make this
28 classification. It's not only about Kodiak getting rural
29 or Kodiak getting urban, there's more to it than that.
30 And just let me give an example of when you interview,
31 say, an elder.

32
33 When somebody comes to interview an
34 elder, all you're getting is the top crust of that
35 interview of that person. How many people could really
36 remember their total life and try to give a person an
37 interview of your lifestyle, you can't do it. I know I
38 can't. You have to make five, 10, 15, 20 visits to that
39 person to get the true value of the interview of that
40 person. And here we are, although this is the beginning
41 stage and one of the things I'm really thankful and
42 grateful for is that I hear Pete Probasco's name is
43 involved with this, he does know the lifestyle of Kodiak,
44 he does know the foundation of Kodiak, probably better
45 than a lot of people that are going to be making these
46 decisions, I hope that he's one of them.

47
48 Talking about ANILCA again, and they
49 talked about ANILCA, those were rights that were given us
50 before ANILCA. And it's just a continuation of our

1 rights. And they can't be taken away from us regardless
2 of what the reclassification does, they can't.

3
4 And Katie John was a good example of
5 where we went, how we went, why we went and the decision.
6 And this decision almost has to be the same thing as the
7 Katie John in some respects.

8
9 And one of the things that has really
10 really critical here is that we are being penalized by
11 the Western influence. The whole United States of
12 America is choking us, they're killing us, when they come
13 to Kodiak and they're fighting for the same resource that
14 the traditional people are trying to get.

15
16 To give an example, in 1915, Afognak
17 Island, according to the Alaska Native Foundation book at
18 that time Emel Notti was the chairman and he published a
19 book, the Natives of Afognak could not get the salmon in
20 the streams because Alaska packers were taking the
21 salmon. So the Council or the chief of Afognak wrote a
22 letter to the Department of Interior, to BIA and told
23 them the problem and in 1916 Afognak Island was closed
24 totally to all fishermen except the Natives of Afognak.
25 They were able to take care of their lifestyle, keep
26 their lifestyle.

27
28 This is the first time I have had notes,
29 I have a hard time reading them. I usually speak without
30 notes and for whoever is reading this, I wrote a bunch of
31 notes and I just got to try to read them again.

32
33 One of the things that Kodiak is, like a
34 lot of coastal communities is people of the sea. Think
35 about that. People of the Sea. Why are we people of the
36 sea. We are people of the sea because we had no other
37 resource on the Island on upland other than bear. The
38 only other animal that was on Kodiak was a fox and they
39 didn't eat foxes. And if the bear was in hibernation,
40 they didn't bother them. So what does that mean, they
41 have to eat so where do they go, they go to the sea. And
42 I'm not saying that there are other communities in Alaska
43 that are not people of the sea because there are, there's
44 a lot of other places in Alaska that are people of the
45 sea. But Kodiak relies really heavily on the ocean. And
46 that is one of the big considerations that has to be
47 taken into consideration when this committee makes their
48 designation or Board makes their determination on Kodiak.

49
50 I think it would be horrible to say that

1 we are being penalized because the Coast Guard base or
2 other entities are moving to Kodiak. My wife works at
3 Arctic's Furniture and there's a really nice Coast Guard
4 gal working there and she's so happy because they just
5 bought a house in Kodiak. Under the new rules and
6 regulations the Coast Guard people can qualify for loans,
7 so what does that mean, they're buying houses in Kodiak
8 and there's a lot of them that are buying houses.
9 Another point that has to be taken into consideration by
10 this Board. It's not just a matter of making a decision
11 -- I think that without the facts they are going to have
12 one, as Harvey Samuelson would say, hell of a time, to
13 make a decision. They have to get all the facts.

14

15 And it sounds like the people that
16 testified before me have a lot of those facts.

17

18 And I don't have many facts but I do
19 know that the Borough Census 2000 there were 740 Natives
20 living in the villages, there was a 1,020 living in
21 Kodiak. Kodiak is the largest village of all the
22 islands. And because of the numbers and because of the
23 reasons that they're moving to Kodiak because of the
24 economic problems they're having, are we going to be
25 penalized by moving to Kodiak.

26

27 To give you an example, I'm on the
28 Halibut Working Group, and under the guidelines of the
29 Halibut Working Group, if you're in an urban community
30 you would get five hooks a day, 20 halibut a year. If
31 you're in a rural community you get 30 hooks a day and 20
32 halibut a day. And we're just lucky that we were able to
33 hold off a lot of the people and maintain a rural status
34 probably because of the designation that was there
35 before, I hope.

36

37 But anyway I think we still have a
38 chance. I'm not sure what the percentages are but
39 probably 50/50. And I just -- one other thing that I
40 think is pertinent to this conversation but I don't like
41 to say it but I have to. I was appointed by Governor
42 Murkowski as the Commission of Aging. And some of the
43 guidelines for the Commission of Aging is to protect the
44 lifestyle and to enhance the lifestyle of all the elders.
45 And that's another reason that I'm here. If we're going
46 to have a good lifestyle for the elders in Kodiak, the
47 worst thing you could do is to take away their
48 traditional ways.

49

50 And I think with that, I probably got a

1 lot more to say but there's going to be more meetings and
2 I've forgot a lot. Like I told you, I just only hit the
3 top crust. If I get 15 more times to talk then I'll have
4 15 more different things to say. And I really appreciate
5 this board and I appreciate the Fish and Game, I
6 appreciate the Feds, I'm getting a lot of information
7 because it's giving me some knowledge on where I must go
8 and what I got to do to get the Aging Commission's
9 guidelines established and one of the things that we
10 could do is if this board could get somehow permit
11 systems, proxies, designated hunts for the elders
12 regardless of how we do it it would be really appreciated
13 by at least me and the Aging Commission.

14

Thank you.

15

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Iver.

16

MR. MALUTIN: Any questions.

17

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We really appreciate

18 that.

19

MR. MALUTIN: I like questions.

20

MR. GUNDERSEN: You should tell Murkowski

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

(Laughter)

30

MR. MALUTIN: I never talked to the man.

31

32

33

34

35

36

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

37

MR. HOLMES: I heard a rumor that Iver

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

was going to go to Juneau to christen the new jet, the
Longevity Bonus.

(Laughter)

MR. MALUTIN: You know, just one of the

things, just for information I'm going to represent

Kodiak at the Elders Conference up at the Youth and

Elders and I was just called this morning to be the

person that's going to bless the new building at

Fairbanks and museum at Fairbanks, isn't that something.

1 MR. CRATTY: Right on Iver.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thanks, again, Iver.
4
5 MR. MALUTIN: You bet.
6
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Olga Malutin.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Not here. Ellen
12 Simeonoff.
13
14 MS. SIMEONOFF: Hi. My name is Ellen
15 Simeonoff, and hopefully -- no, I can tell you can hear
16 me now.
17
18 (Laughter)
19
20 MS. SIMEONOFF: I was born here a week
21 shy of 39 years ago. And I'm not very well prepared for
22 this. Like Charlie and Bob, I only recently, very
23 recently within the last few days learned about this
24 meeting. In fact, this morning has been probably the
25 best education I've received as far as the information
26 that I had in front of me about it.
27
28 I work for the Woody Island Tribal
29 Council. I am the environmental and natural resource
30 program director. And I am new to my position, about a
31 year and a half into it and still learning things as I
32 go. I've been primarily a mother of four children most
33 of my adult life and have been focused on raising my kids
34 so I am not as up to speed on issues or ANILCA and ANCSA
35 as Iver or Bob or some of you.
36
37 I'm up here speaking on this issue
38 because I am extremely concerned about Kodiak losing its
39 rural status. I think it would be an absolute shame. It
40 would be the potential destruction of a way of life for
41 residents here. The residents that have existed here,
42 you know, from families that go back thousands of years
43 as well as those who are relatively new and they have
44 chosen to stay here, for example, with the Coast Guard
45 families who choose to retire here because they prefer
46 this way of living.
47
48 And I'm nervous when I'm speaking because
49 it's emotional, it's very emotional for me, and I wish I
50 wasn't because you can be much more effective.

1 But, you know, like Charlie, I wonder,
2 reading the ANILCA determinations, what makes 7,000
3 people a determining factor to decide whether or not you
4 qualify for rural or nonrural status. I'm not sure that
5 with the large expanse of land that we are considering
6 here, I mean this is the second largest island in the
7 United States, that 7,000 people is such a large number
8 within a community that is so widely spread out to make
9 it look as though a population shift of 625 people is
10 such, you know, an enormous shift, that it's causing
11 potential detriment to a way of life that's been going on
12 here for thousands and thousands of years.

13
14 Especially when you consider that we have
15 one of the highest costs of living in the United States.
16 And I have a family of six and it costs me far more than
17 150, I know that's for four people but it's well over
18 \$200 a week to feed my family, especially if I'm trying
19 to feed them well rather than cheaply and inexpensively
20 and with poor low quality food.

21
22 I can't speak specifically on behalf of
23 the Woody Island Tribal Council, we have not yet drafted
24 a resolution in response to this. Although I can say
25 that we have just received a grant that we started --
26 which was activated in the middle of July, and it's an
27 environmental education grant through the EPA and how we
28 have chosen to implement it is through subsistence
29 practices. And we are extremely excited about the
30 opportunity to ensure that this is a way of life that we
31 are able to pass on to our children. The whole idea
32 behind it was mine, it stemmed from -- it stemmed from my
33 upbringing. I grew up out in Uganik, which was extremely
34 rural, no roads, and so, you know, I saw this as an
35 opportunity and the Council was in great harmony with it
36 and extremely supportive of it, that incorporated passing
37 on our way of living and teaching our children our values
38 and also empowering them and enabling them to feed
39 themselves and take care of themselves as well as
40 learning how to take care of the environment surrounding
41 them. And it would be, you know, an incredible shame to
42 lose our subsistence rights, especially when you consider
43 that there has been no drastic or devastating effects
44 that I can see whatsoever from a population shift of 625
45 people. And you also have to look at that was five years
46 ago, you know, that that time period ended, and I know
47 that the borough population has gone down, I believe by
48 several thousand people.

49
50 What else did I want to say here that was

1 pretty important. Just driving out here, for the most
2 part except within the immediate vicinity of the city of
3 Kodiak, everywhere you look you're surrounded more by
4 wilderness than you are by people. You drive into the
5 parking lot here and it's obvious that salmon are
6 spawning are everywhere because it smells so pungent and
7 that definition of rural is just, you know, screaming at
8 you everywhere, you know, and I have a hard time seeing
9 how 625 people over a 10 year period could potentially
10 devastate our way of life, or our right to a way of life,
11 you know, our right, your right to pass that way of life
12 on to your children. And also, you know, that right to
13 feed yourself, you know, especially when you consider the
14 cost of living.

15
16 So hopefully my comments have been
17 effective enough and clear enough and not too emotional,
18 but I would ask that you, you know, please take us out of
19 consideration for changing the rural status. I cannot
20 see at this point in time a need, you know, nor any real
21 cause for concern.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Ellen.
26 Leslie Kerr.

27
28 MS. KERR: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
29 Thank you, Council members. I'm here representing myself
30 as a resident of Kodiak. And I had the privilege of
31 moving here from Kotzebue which is, fortunately for them,
32 not on the list that's being reconsidered at this point
33 in time.

34
35 I think there are a lot of things that
36 are the same, though, between a place like Kotzebue and a
37 place like Kodiak. In Kotzebue you're on the mainland
38 but you have to fly to get there. But you're still an
39 island of sorts. When I looked out my window in Kotzebue
40 it was 550 miles before I could get to a road and it was
41 a gravel road for 100 miles and then finally you hit
42 pavement. You know, here we're on an island so you have
43 to take a boat. And it seems to me that just because I
44 can drive from here to Chiniak doesn't really mean that
45 we're on the road system.

46
47 When I look at these numbers, and the
48 packet that came out to me in advance didn't include the
49 entire document about the rural determination so I've
50 just been sitting here in the back while people have been

1 testifying and trying to make sense of some of these
2 numbers.

3
4 So the Kodiak city population has gone
5 down by 31 between the 1990 census and 2000 census. The
6 Coast Guard station has gone down by 185. Woman's Bay
7 has gone up by 70. And the Kodiak Island census subarea
8 remainder has gone up by 771, which comes out to an
9 overall increase of 625 and it's this 625 person increase
10 that has kicked Kodiak on to this list of coming up for
11 potential reconsideration.

12
13 So I was sitting back there trying to see
14 where this population comes from and what kind of sense I
15 can make out of it.

16
17 By looking at the fine print, you know,
18 there's a little footnote here that says the Kodiak
19 Island census subarea remainder is the population
20 remainder within the census subarea not attributed to the
21 above-named place or some other named-place in Appendix
22 1. So I went to Appendix 1 to try to see what other
23 places were there and here's what I found. And this
24 supports the things that other testifiers have said about
25 sort of a depopulation of the more local, more rural
26 communities because of the availability of jobs, because
27 of education issues, things like that.

28
29 Larsen Bay is down 32 people, or 22
30 percent. Port Lions is up 34 people, an increase of 15
31 percent. Old Harbor is down 47 people, a decrease of 17
32 percent. Ouzinkie is up 16 people, an increase of 18
33 percent. Akhiok is up three people, a four percent
34 increase. Karluk is down 44 people, a 62 percent
35 decrease. Chiniak is down 19 people, a 28 percent
36 decrease. And Kupreanof is the same.

37
38 Well, what about the village islands
39 where we have people who live all year round, what about
40 Port William, what about Port Baily, what about Amuk,
41 what about all these small areas around the Kodiak
42 Island, are these all lumped in and are they counting
43 against the city of Kodiak in this rural determination.
44 I can't tell from these numbers, but it sounds like
45 perhaps that's, in fact, true.

46
47 The other thing that I would like to
48 point out with respect to the Coast Guard station, is
49 here it says that 1,840 people live within the census
50 area in the year 2000 and that may well be true, however,

1 what's not apparent from these numbers and something that
2 requires local knowledge that our friends in Anchorage
3 who are reviewing these numbers may not have, is
4 something like a third of the active duty Coast Guard
5 families and dependents don't live on base, they live in
6 town, and these people are not qualified for subsistence
7 use. So, again, that population is counting against the
8 city of Kodiak.

9
10 So I think that the numbers are somewhat
11 limited in what they tell us about the rural character of
12 Kodiak and I think that there are a lot of problems in
13 relying too much on numbers exclusively.

14
15 So I thank you for your time. And my
16 recommendation would be that you ask that Kodiak not be
17 included in further review of the rural designation.

18
19 Thank you, very much, ladies and
20 gentlemen.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Leslie.
23 John Larsen.

24
25 MR. LARSEN: My name is John Larsen. I'm
26 the tribal administrator for the Native Village of
27 Afognak.

28
29 First, before I make my comments I would
30 like to point out that we like, some of the other
31 commenters here, received rather late notice of the
32 meeting. We found out the afternoon before the meeting
33 so the comments I'm making here are not comprehensive as
34 far as the tribe and the tribal council, we do need more
35 time to, you know, comprehensively address the issues.

36
37 Most of our membership does live in the
38 Kodiak area, the road system area which is under question
39 right now. And because of that, we are certainly
40 concerned about the possibility of a change in
41 determination. The comments I have to make really do
42 just substantiate or are in agreement with those who have
43 come before me as far as many of those who spoke before
44 me really did address these issues eloquently.

45
46 But I do want to reiterate the fact that
47 since -- well, between 1990 and 2000, and actually
48 between 1990 and today the rural character of Kodiak has
49 not appreciably changed, actually has not changed at all.
50 We continue to have the same seasonal employment cycles.

1 We remain geographically isolated. And so the additional
2 cost, transportation concerns, you know, all those issues
3 that are associated with that, you know, do remain to be
4 the case. And importantly our people do continue to rely
5 upon subsistence.

6
7 In addition, a few of the speakers have
8 talked about how there is population growth here which is
9 from people -- which is from people coming from the
10 villages, and, in fact, you know, that's -- you know,
11 that clearly is our understanding, too. It's very
12 important to point out that these are people who have a
13 strong, very strong tradition of relying upon
14 subsistence. And so that population increase is of a
15 population that is going to continue to rely on this --
16 is going to continue to need to rely upon this.

17
18 And, in addition, you know, I do think
19 it's very important to pay attention to the fact that,
20 yes, we have a regulatory -- there is a regulatory
21 threshold of 7,000 people for what the presumption of the
22 character of our community is going to be, as was just
23 pointed out, it's truly important to be aware of the fact
24 that the Coast Guard personnel and their families make up
25 a significant proportion of our community and that these
26 are people who are not eligible for practicing
27 subsistence, so the effect really is to decrease the
28 number. And the growth in Coast Guard personnel is not
29 obvious from census data because, in fact, a much larger
30 percentage of Coast Guard families are living off of the
31 base.

32
33 For these reasons, you know, we certainly
34 would like to see the committee recommend that Kodiak be
35 taken from the list from those who are going to be given
36 further scrutiny. And also we'd like the committee to
37 also recognize the fact that Kodiak still has the same
38 rural character that it did from the last determination
39 or at the time of the last determination.

40
41 That's all my comments, thank you very
42 much.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, John.
45 I'd like to ask if somebody knows how to get a hold of
46 Olga Malutin, if not, we'll go on to asking our agencies
47 if they have comments. Alaska Department of Fish and
48 Game, do you have public comment on this issue. Liz.

49
50 MS. WILLIAMS: Marianne See, our current

1 acting director of Division of Subsistence -- I'm sorry,
2 I'm Liz Williams, asked me to say that right now it's
3 still preliminary as Maureen said. But the Department
4 still goes with the joint Board of Fish and Board of Game
5 decision that Kodiak was rural last time they made that
6 decision. She said it's too early to make an official
7 statement but that's how she feels at this point.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Liz.

12 Other agency comments.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: InterAgency Staff.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Fish and Game

21 Advisory Committee.

22

23 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

26

27 MR. HOLMES: You might want to ask Mr.

28 Cratty, he's still on the Fish and Game Advisory

29 Committee, he might have some suppositions or hunches

30 even though the Advisory Committee hasn't met formally on

31 it, he might be able to shed some philosophical

32 prospective as to how they might respond.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Al.

35

36 MR. CRATTY: Well, I'd just like to say I

37 think the Advisory Committee would vote to have Kodiak

38 taken off the determination list and be left rural just

39 like I'm going to do here.

40

41 I'd just like to let everybody know, you

42 know, a lot of people from Old Harbor moved here and they

43 still depend on their subsistence way of life a lot. And

44 what's happened with this crab rationalization has put a

45 lot of people out of jobs and they're going to be

46 depending on subsistence use also. So me speaking for

47 the Regional Advisory Council, and speaking on behalf of

48 the Kodiak/Aleutian Regional Council my decision is to

49 have Kodiak taken off the determination and be left

50 rural.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Al.
2 Other comments. Michelle -- no, Pat or Paul, I'm sorry.

3
4 MR. GUNDERSEN: The only comment I was
5 going to make is that I think there's two island
6 communities in our region, one being Sand Point and the
7 other one being Kodiak. And being a mainlander, I guess,
8 or whatever you want to call me, when we refer to the
9 Island -- or to any community in Kodiak, you said they're
10 from Kodiak, it's just everybody accepts the idea that,
11 you know, it may be -- you might be from Ouzinkie, Port
12 Lions or Old Harbor or whatever, and it's like Sand Point
13 is comprised of Sinik Island, Unga Island and Popov
14 Island and it all became one community and you just say
15 Sand Point. The same thing as we relate to here in
16 Kodiak, is you're from Kodiak, but you could be from the
17 south end or whatever. And it's something that's been
18 accepted in the local community, all over the state, I
19 believe, and it's hard to imagine that they have to make
20 this determination if it's rural or nonrural.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Paul. Do
23 we have any written comments, Michelle.

24
25 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
26 going to go ahead and read the comment into the record
27 from Vince Tutiakoff, he was unable to attend the
28 meeting, he is in Washington, D.C., attending to other
29 issues. I'll read his letter verbatim.

30
31 I am sorry that I could not attend the
32 fall meeting of the Regional Advisory
33 Council and would like to make a
34 recommendation on the Adak rural/nonrural
35 designation. In 1995 the Department of
36 Defense put Adak Naval Station on the
37 BRAC list. In 1996 the Aleut Corporation
38 entered into negotiations with the Fish
39 and Wildlife Service and the Navy for
40 transfer of ownership and land exchange.
41 In 2002 the land transfer was completed.

42
43 The population base of Adak in 1995 was
44 9,500 plus, in 2000 the population base
45 was 300. Today the year-round population
46 base is 70 to 100. The economy of the
47 community has changed from military to a
48 fishing community. With an on shore
49 processing year-round, the community has
50 seen up's and down's in population and

1 economy.
2
3 We, the residents request that Adak as a
4 community be removed from nonrural status
5 to rural status. The residents are
6 highly subsistence users today. We have,
7 on the island, a herd of caribou, there
8 is upwards of 2,700 animals on the
9 island. We, as a community will be
10 working with the Fish and Wildlife
11 Service and the State of Alaska to get
12 the herd under control.
13
14 A plan is in discussion phase at this
15 time and we will bring a subsistence plan
16 to the Regional Advisory Council at a
17 later date.
18
19 Our request is to designate Adak as a
20 rural community would be greatly
21 appreciated. The analysis phase in our
22 minds is not necessary. To do an
23 analysis of whether Adak is rural would
24 only waste the Service's valuable
25 resources. The facts are these are no
26 longer military and dependents of Adak of
27 9,000.
28
29 There are families and only 70 to 100
30 year-round residents at Adak today.
31
32 Thank you for your consideration of our
33 request.
34
35 Sincerely, Vincent Tutiakoff, Mayor of
36 the city of Adak.
37
38 Thank you.
39
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Michelle.
41 Before we go into Regional Council deliberations, I'd
42 just ask if there is anyone else who would like to make a
43 public comment on this issue.
44
45 (No comments)
46
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If not then this
48 Council will go into its deliberations. What is the wish
49 of the Council. Pat.
50

1 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman, it seems like
2 we've got two topic areas relating to this, one is Kodiak
3 and the other is Adak. And so we'll need two motions,
4 but I'd suggest we deal with Kodiak first.

5
6 I'd like to make a motion, based on
7 public testimony, and then we can get to discussion,
8 recommend the withdrawal, the community of Kodiak,
9 whatever that is, from the reexamination for loss of
10 rural status. I believe it should remain classified as
11 rural and have no further discussion.

12
13 So I'd like to make that a motion.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Do I hear a second.

16
17 MR. LUKIN: Second.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and seconded.
20 Discussion. No discussion -- Pat.

21
22 MR. HOLMES: Well, you know me I can
23 always talk about something.

24
25 I'm just reflecting back, I didn't hit
26 the beach here, I'm just a newcomer and didn't get here
27 until '63. And I'd just like to take a few phrases that
28 I've highlighted from the testimony that we have, all of
29 which were good justifications to recommend withdrawal.

30
31 And maybe starting with numbers first
32 because I spent hours on the computer doing different
33 printouts from the census, the borough and the city and
34 as Leslie Kerr, speaking for herself mentioned the
35 numbers don't match the rationale for review, and that was
36 pretty much stated, I think, by everyone that discussed
37 the topic.

38
39 Depending on what numbers you look at
40 since 2000 the population's dropped by 300. And so that,
41 you know, what do these numbers mean, what do these
42 classifications mean. This process is looking at
43 withdrawing some communities on the mainland because of
44 the Kenaitze Decision and what not, and if you take and
45 exclude all the areas on Kodiak, you know, Woman's Bay is
46 far from the city of Kodiak as some of -- as Clam Gulch
47 is from Kenai, so what's the point.

48
49 And I think the numbers just don't add up
50 to justifying a change.

1 Then taking that thought and going back
2 to points raised by Johnny, Charlie, Iver and Ellen, and
3 I think particular Iver, if I can paraphrase him, a
4 change in numbers of people or change in demographics
5 does not change the moral need and necessity for
6 subsistence for Kodiak.

7
8 Actually I believe the population has
9 been declining. I think the points that were raised by
10 John Larsen about the residents significant number of
11 folks in town being Coast Guard and Coast Guard
12 dependents, you know, a lot of what our population is are
13 not subsistence users. And, you know, you look at
14 changes in the racial composition in town, more than 40
15 years ago it was almost half Alaska Native and the rest
16 were Russians and Scandinavians, and so that's changed
17 because we have a lot of Filipino folks that work in the
18 canneries year-round now, but most of them are so poor
19 they can't afford a boat, so I just question the numbers
20 and the rational.

21
22 And I think I'd like to summarize it up
23 with Ellen's statement which sounds like something that
24 might have come from maybe Dennis Kenagin, if it smells
25 rural it's rural.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 MR. HOLMES: Oh, and one other thing, I
30 think, and not to embarrass Johnny because he's one of
31 the toughest son of a guns I've known in town and I've
32 seen him toe to toe with the Commissioner and the
33 Governor on philosophical issues but you could sense his
34 passion about this and the depths of this belief and his
35 cultural feelings when I -- that's the first time I've
36 ever seen Johnny cry and he's a tough dude and I think
37 that this is a darned important issue and I think we
38 ought to deal with it by the way rural smells.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat. Any
43 further discussion. Ivan.

44
45 MR. LUKIN: I think Iver said it like it
46 needs to be said. Every one of us sitting on this
47 Council up here are in full support of and we stand by
48 you, I know I do, personally, I've always stand by our
49 people and I will continue to stand by our people for all
50 these issues that we're fighting. A word that keeps

1 coming to mind is they. It's -- we're constantly up
2 against a wall and our back is -- we're looking at
3 continuing to try to move forward, our own people and our
4 own ways that we were raised and taught and some of the
5 systems that I felt like, yesterday, was put on the back
6 burner and we seen films of the Buskin and we just had a
7 written report on Alegnik that many of us grew up around,
8 many of you in Kodiak here, but I just want you to know
9 that I, from Port Lions, will continue to stand by you
10 people as long as I am here.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Ivan.
13 Any further discussion.

14
15 (No comments)

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

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no objection
23 then the motion carries.

24
25 Do we want to recommend any action on
26 Adak.

27
28 MR. CRATTY: Yes.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

31
32 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman, I guess it
33 seems like at this meeting I'm doing motions here because
34 my colleague, Mr. Cratty, keeps pointing at me.

35
36 So I would like to move that Adak receive
37 rural determination because of the tremendous change in
38 the population there. Most everybody living in that
39 small population of 700 folks are basically folks from
40 Atka, Unalaska and the Pribis and a few cannery workers.
41 And so I think that's about as rural as you're going to
42 get anymore, so I would recommend that our Council adopt
43 a motion to consider Adak of rural status for
44 subsistence.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Do I hear a second.

47
48 MR. GUNDERSEN: I'll second that.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and seconded,

1 any discussion.
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
6 discussion, is there any objections to the motion.
7
8 Michelle.
9
10 MS. CHIVERS: Just for clarification, Pat
11 made a motion to have Adak receive a rural determination,
12 does that also mean that you would like to have Adak
13 removed from this list?
14
15 MR. HOLMES: Michelle, I don't know if --
16 I mean can we do that, if we can remove -- I don't know
17 that we can remove them from the list and then have them
18 become rural. I guess I need some input.
19
20 MR. CRATTY: We just did with Kodiak.
21
22 MR. HOLMES: Well, it's.....
23
24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Maybe it's something
25 we could ask Leslie -- or I mean, Maureen.....
26
27 MR. HOLMES: Because Kodiak is rural
28 until it's determined not.
29
30 MS. PETRIVELLI: Maybe you could just
31 recommend receive rural status without the necessity of
32 further study. Because like Vince pointed out, why waste
33 money studying something that you know. So you could
34 just say receive rural status without further study.
35
36 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Michelle, a friendly
37 amendment if that's acceptable by the second, verbiage
38 here.
39
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Well, in clarifying
41 the motion -- just clarifying the motion.
42
43 MR. GUNDERSEN: Yes, clarified.
44
45 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, clarified the motion.
46
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I don't think we
48 need to amend it.
49
50 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Is there any
2 other discussion then.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no other
7 discussion, is there any objection to the motion.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no objection
12 the motion passes.

13
14 Does the Board want to make deliberation
15 or recommendation on any of the other communities that
16 are listed.

17
18 MR. HOLMES: I don't particularly, but
19 I'd like to support those communities, particularly Sitka
20 has gone through some similar changes as Kodiak, and I
21 know some of the Tlingit folks from down there and people
22 who have lived there for 50 or 60 years and I just would
23 like to personally give my moral support to them. But I
24 don't think that -- we're kind of getting out of our
25 turf.

26
27 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.
30 Paul.

31
32 MR. GUNDERSEN: Yeah, I agree with Pat.
33 I would like to see them maintain their rural status and
34 the whole thing but i'm a little bit off my tundra so I
35 don't really know, you know, all the particulars. So the
36 ones that they -- the Federal Subsistence Board looks at,
37 I guess, if there's another comment period and look at
38 some of the remarks that comes out of it, I think at that
39 point we'll be able to make some type of determination,
40 but at this point I don't want to go there.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Then this
43 would end our deliberation on this. I would like to say
44 that the comments made from the public are pretty well
45 taken and understand. Coming from a rural area, I know a
46 lot of our residents have moved either to Kodiak or
47 Anchorage and some of them are already experiencing a
48 nonrural status by not being able to go out and subsist.
49 One thing they talk about most when I visit them is, did
50 you bring any food with you, you know, because if they're

1 in Anchorage they got to go to Homer or Seward or even
2 come here to Kodiak it get it and they're experiencing a
3 hard time in trying to practice their subsistence way of
4 life.

5
6 I do appreciate all the comments that
7 were made from the public and the Board.

8
9 So if that concludes our deliberations,
10 John, do you have something.

11
12 MR. REFT: Yes, I'd just like to thank
13 the board for giving us the opportunity to.....

14
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Can you come to the
16 mic.

17
18 MR. REFT: Yeah, I'd just like to thank
19 the Board for giving us the opportunity to express
20 ourselves here. It really means a lot. I'm sorry I lost
21 my composure but a lion in the sea could be a lamb on
22 shore, and that's where I'm at Pat.

23
24 Ever since, I guess a real quick surmise
25 would be since we were a territory and we changed into
26 statehood, we had the freedom to hunt, fish whatever, you
27 know, and nothing was wasted it was always shared amongst
28 ourselves, Native, nonNative, I mean friends, neighbors,
29 and then you take statehood and all the laws from the
30 State and Feds, they all come in on us and we have
31 complied with all those but to lose this status of what
32 they call subsistence is our traditional way of life in
33 my opinion, that's devastating, we can't lose it.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, John. If
38 there are no further comments then we are at the end of
39 our agenda.

40
41 If there's nothing more, a motion to
42 adjourn.

43
44 MR. CRATTY: Make a motion to adjourn.

45
46 MR. GUNDERSEN: Second.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We're adjourned at
49 11:45. Thanks everyone for coming.

50

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

MR. GUNDERSEN: Good meeting.

MR. CRATTY: Yes, good meeting.

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you everyone.

(Off record)

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

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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