

1 KODIAK/ALEUTIANS FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME I

7
8 Kodiak, Alaska
9 February 27, 2007
10 9:00 o'clock a.m.
11

12
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

14
15 Speridon M. Simeonoff, Sr., Chair
16 Pete M. Squartsoff
17 Patrick B. Holmes
18 M. Richard Zacharof, Jr.
19 Alfred B. Cratty, Jr.
20 Jim J. Hamilton
21
22
23 Regional Council Coordinator, Michelle Chivers
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Kodiak, Alaska - 2/27/2007)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Let's call the meeting to order. My time says 9:06. Can we have the roll call, please.

MR. SQUARTSOFF: Speridon Simeonoff.

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Here.

MR. SQUARTSOFF: Vince Tutiakoff. Jim Hamilton.

MR. HAMILTON: Here.

MR. SQUARTSOFF: Al Cratty.

MR. CRATTY: Here.

MR. SQUARTSOFF: Sam Rohrer. Richard Zacharof.

MR. ZACHAROF: Here.

MR. SQUARTSOFF: Pat Holmes.

MR. HOLMES: Here.

MR. SQUARTSOFF: Pete Squartsoff. Here. Quorum is established.

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Peter. I'd like to welcome everyone to our meeting here in Kodiak. I was hoping Vincent would make it. We haven't had contact with him I guess. I'll do the best I can. So at this time we'll -- do we need introductions? Does everybody know everybody else? Is there anybody new out here?

MR. SQUARTSOFF: No, we need introductions. There are some new people.

CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. We'll start it with Pat.

MR. HOLMES: I'm Pat Holmes. I'm from

1 Kodiak, and I've been active in this committee. This
2 is the end of -- coming up on the end of my second
3 term. And I also have about, oh, six years on the fish
4 and game advisory committee, and also an additional
5 five years on there as the secretary. And I'm a
6 retired biologist from Kodiak and pretty much have
7 visited or worked in every place from Douglas to St.
8 Paul.

9

10 MR. ZACHAROF: My name is Richard
11 Zacharof from St. Paul Island. I've been on the Board
12 for -- the Council for 7 years.

13

14 MR. CRATTY: I'm Al Cratty, Old Harbor.
15 I've been on the Board 12 years. I'm a subsistence
16 user, commercial fisherman and commercial charter
17 operator.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I'm Speridon
20 Simeonoff from Akhiok, and this is my third term, and
21 representing subsistence.

22

23 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Pete Squartsoff, Port
24 Lions. I'm just completing three terms. For my last
25 term for the sport charter, but I guess that's going
26 out now, so -- I sold my charter boat anyway, so I'm
27 going back to reapplying for subsistence.

28

29 MR. HAMILTON: Jim Hamilton. I live
30 here in Kodiak. I'm a hunting and fishing guide. My
31 first term.

32

33 MS. CHIVERS: Michelle Chivers, Council
34 coordinator.

35

36 MS. DOWNING: Meredith Downing, the
37 court reporter for this meeting. And I would ask
38 anyone who has not signed in to please to so,
39 preferably legibly. Otherwise I get creative with
40 names.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We'll start with
43 you.

44

45 MS. SIEKANIEC: Sandra Siekaniec, the
46 manager of the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge.

47

48 MR. URBAN: Val Urban, I'm Sandra's new
49 assistant manager.

50

1 MR. WHEELER: Gary Wheeler, new manager
2 of Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge.

3
4 MR. PYLE: Bill Pyle, supervisory
5 wildlife biologist, Kodiak Refuge.

6
7 MS. GREFFENIUS: My name is Laura
8 Greffenius, and I'm a wildlife biologist in the Office
9 of Subsistence Management in Anchorage.

10
11 MS. WILKINSON: Ann Wilkinson, Office
12 of Subsistence Management, and I oversee the Regional
13 Council system.

14
15 MR. CHERVENAK: I'm Paul Chervenak, and
16 I'm vice chairman representing the Kodiak Fish and Game
17 Advisory Committee.

18
19 MS. PETRIVELLI: Pat Petrivelli, and
20 I'm an anthropologist with the BIA Subsistence Branch.

21
22 MR. STERRITT: Dave Sterritt with the
23 Department of Fish and Game, fish management biologist.

24
25 MR. SAITO: Brandon Saito, subsistence
26 wildlife biologist with the Kodiak Refuge.

27
28 MS. LEE: Tonya Lee from the Kodiak
29 Refuge, the RIT there, local person.

30
31 MS. WILLIAMS: Liz Williams,
32 anthropologist, Office of Subsistence Management.

33
34 MR. BUTLER: Lem Butler, Fish and Game
35 area wildlife biologist for Units 9 and 10.

36
37 MR. CRYE: John Guy -- John Crye,
38 (indiscernible, laughter) Kodiak.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Again, welcome.

41
42 I guess we have testimony forms if
43 anyone wants to make -- do we? No? Okay. Not.

44
45 Any announcements we need to make.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Then we'll
50 move on with the agenda, and the next one is the

1 election of officers, so I'll turn it over to Michelle.

2

3 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
4 will open the floor for nominations for the Chair. The
5 Chair will serve a one-year term, and may serve more
6 than one year, but the Chair will conduct the Regional
7 Council meetings, attend and represent the Regional
8 Council at the meetings of the Board. And the Chair is
9 a voting member of the Council who signs reports,
10 correspondence, meeting minutes, and other documents
11 for external distribution.

12

13 So at this point I'll open the floor
14 for nominations for Chair.

15

16 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I nominate Mitch for
17 Chair.

18

19 MR. ZACHAROF: Second.

20

21 MR. HOLMES: Call for the question.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Maybe just make a
24 motion to close if you.....

25

26 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Make a motion to
27 close the nominations.

28

29 MR. CRATTY: I'll second.

30

31 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. Mr. Chair. At
32 this time then we will open the floor for the
33 nominations for vice chair.

34

35 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
36 nominate Richard Zacharof.

37

38 MR. HAMILTON: I'll second that.

39

40 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I'll move nominations
41 be closed.

42

43 MR. CRATTY: Second.

44

45 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. Mr. Chair. At
46 this time we will open the floor for nominations for
47 Secretary.

48

49 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I'd like to
50 nominate Jim Hamilton.

1 MR. CRATTY: Second.
2
3 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I'll move nominations
4 be closed.
5
6 MR. ZACHAROF: Second.
7
8 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. Mr. Chair. It
9 looks like we have Mitch Simeonoff for Chair, Richard
10 Zacharof for Vice Chair, and Jim Hamilton for
11 Secretary. The nominations are now closed.
12
13 Thank you.
14
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you
16 very much for the vote of confidence.
17
18 And we'll move on. It's review of the
19 agenda. Is there any additions anyone would like to
20 make to our agenda at this time.
21
22 (No comments)
23
24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If there are no
25 additions, then a motion would be in order to accept
26 the agenda as is. Do I hear a motion to accept the
27 agenda.
28
29 MR. SQUARTSOFF: So move.
30
31 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Do I hear a
32 second.
33
34 MR. HAMILTON: I second that, yes.
35
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and
37 seconded. Any discussion.
38
39 (No comments)
40
41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
42 discussion, is there any objections to the motion.
43
44 (No comments)
45
46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
47 objections, then the motion carries. There are no
48 additions.
49
50 The minutes of our September 22nd, '06

1 meeting in Kodiak. A motion is in order to accept
2 those minutes.

3

4 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I so move.

5

6 MR. ZACHAROF: Second.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and
9 seconded. Any discussion.

10

11 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I have a
12 couple points on the minutes of our last meeting. One
13 is on Page 6 on the discussion about McLees and the
14 500-yard closure. I don't think that that's been
15 effect out there the whole time. I think that happened
16 sometime in the late 1990s.

17

18 And then on Page 7 I was curious on the
19 first, second, third paragraph. Chairman Mitch
20 Simeonoff stated the Kodiak Aleutians Council remained
21 neutral on the issue, and that related to support of
22 the Southeast Regional Advisory Council's positions on
23 subsistence. And did we have a vote on that motion, or
24 did we just discuss it and remain neutral on it as far
25 as statewide?

26

27 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: It doesn't say in
28 here that there was a motion.

29

30 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Thank you. And on
31 Page 8, first, second, third paragraph, it's a quote of
32 me. Pat stated that he wanted to show the Southeast
33 that the Council was in support of their decision, and
34 I'd like to amend that line to say, he wanted to show
35 support for the Southeast RAC. Oh, that's where we
36 came around to the discussion and did have a vote.
37 Okay. So that would be -- I'd like to have that
38 comment in there, with the insert of support of the
39 Southeast RAC.

40

41 And then on two paragraphs down, Pat
42 made a motion requesting the Federal Subsistence Board
43 to consider modifying or adding another category, and
44 it says for rural subsistence in hub communities. And
45 I guess where I was going on that was a request to
46 adding another category or discussions thereof and
47 eliminate for, but say category of and then rural
48 subsistence, hub communities. So that would be the
49 name of the new category. And that would just make it
50 a little neater as to what I had intended.

1 And that concludes my comments. Mr.
2 Chairman.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Any other
5 discussions on the minutes of our September 22nd
6 meeting.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no further
11 discussion, is there any objection.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
16 objections, then the motion to accept the minutes of
17 September 22nd with Pat's comments.

18
19 Chair's report. I guess, Pat, you
20 attended a meeting?

21
22 MR. HOLMES: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I have
23 a written report, and I'll just quickly summarize that.
24 At the Federal Subsistence Board meeting on the 12th
25 and 13th in Anchorage, they were charged with
26 discussing, particularly in relation to Kodiak, the
27 change of our subsistence access status from rural to
28 non-rural. The Board had earlier followed their Staff
29 recommendations to include several outlying areas
30 around Kodiak, and to consider Kodiak as a non-rural
31 community.

32
33 I went up on my own hook. We were down
34 visiting my wife's folks in Seattle, and I went up to
35 testify, because I'm co-chair of the local Kodiak Round
36 Table. And as it ended up, Vince didn't make it to the
37 meeting, and so Michelle asked me to sit in for the
38 RAC. And so I tried to keep my comments separate from
39 my personal lives as a community member versus what we
40 had discussed at the RAC.

41
42 What happened at this, I guess the best
43 comparison would be shooting a deer with buckshot and
44 wondering which pellet killed the deer, because this
45 was a 16-month endeavor that really included our entire
46 community. And basically everybody pulled together,
47 and we had support from all of the native groups in
48 town, KANA, Koniag, Natives of Afognak, you name it,
49 fish and game advisory committee, all of the government
50 groups, and basically the community's testimony fell

1 along four categories.

2

3 One was quantitative. As we know,
4 bureaucrats love numbers and hard things they can hang
5 on. And so depending on whether one looks at it as a
6 bureaucrat or as an anthropologist, or as a person
7 depends on how you look at those numbers, but basically
8 they had some errors in which we corrected them, one
9 particularly in terms of community decline in the
10 economy, and that the labor stats that were used to
11 compare things for Kodiak and other areas, that they
12 don't include fishermen's jobs. And our group put
13 together some data that we reviewed with Fish and Game
14 and found that there was a loss of over 1,000 fishing
15 jobs on the Island in the last 15 years.

16

17 We had good numbers, high average
18 harvest rates in comparison to other rural communities,
19 extremely large range of species, over 200. And even
20 including the Coast Guard Base, 155 pounds per person.
21 Plus we had the highest, one of the highest rates of
22 sharing in the entire state, greater than Kotzebue and
23 a lot of small towns up in Northwest Alaska. And you
24 combine that with the rural criteria of remote
25 location, high fuel cost, et cetera, I think we pretty
26 much won the day on those comments.

27

28 And then we had wonderful passionate
29 and sincere discussions of what the feds call unique
30 rural characteristics. We had some of the elders, Ivar
31 and Julie Kenagan from -- you know, who had their
32 origins on Afognak, people from town. The fish and
33 game advisory committee folks testified. Natives and
34 non-natives really pulled together a very strong
35 discussion about the characteristics of the Kodiak
36 community.

37

38 We also -- the tribe attorney for
39 Sho'naq compiled a lengthy legal review of ANCSA and
40 ANILCA and called in all her cards with her colleagues
41 and put together some good arguments.

42

43 Or was it all just politics? We don't
44 know. But I think the community tried everything. And
45 the Board came back on the morning of the second day
46 after the coffee break, and even the members that had
47 been inclined against Kodiak remaining rural, basically
48 came down to all of them stating that Kodiak should
49 stay the way it is, not lump in any additional areas,
50 and it died for lack of a motion.

1 And I also tried to comment on issues
2 in other parts of the state where our RAC had given
3 support for local folks' positions on different items,
4 and our support for the Southeast RAC in their
5 attempts.

6
7 So that's it in a nutshell. Mr.
8 Chairman.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any questions.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No questions, then
15 a motion would be in order to accept the Chair's
16 report.

17
18 MR. HOLMES: If I could add one
19 addendum, I think it was really an honor to be able to
20 participate in this community effort. It really makes
21 a person feel humble. And I think like Larry Matfay
22 (ph) used to say, it gives you a sense of place and
23 know where you fit. Anyway, it was really an emotional
24 experience.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you,
29 Pat.

30
31 MR. HAMILTON: Ready for a motion?

32
33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah.

34
35 MR. HAMILTON: Yeah. I'd like to make
36 -- excuse me. I'd like to make a motion to accept, and
37 I'd also like to take this time to thank Pat for all
38 the work he's put into this, and all the passionate
39 attention he's put into this over the last few months.

40
41 MR. ZACHAROF: I'll second that.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Moved and
44 seconded. Any discussion.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: If there's no
49 discussion, is there any objections.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: There being no
4 objections, then the motion carries.

5

6 Council members reports. I haven't got
7 one. What do you like, Michelle?

8

9 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. If you'd
10 like, you can go around the table and have each of the
11 members talk about their concerns within their
12 communities, if they'd like -- if they have something
13 to report. If not, that's fine, too.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Would you
16 like to speak on it, Pat.

17

18 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I think
19 most of my comments will come out as we go through the
20 agenda. I'll probably have some questions for the
21 folks attending on deer status, the goat hunt and some
22 advisory committee questions. And then for the
23 Council's review, I wrote up a letter that expresses
24 some of the concerns that we raised over the last six
25 or eight years on travel for some additional discussion
26 when we get to the travel section.

27

28 That's all. Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.
31 Richard.

32

33 MR. ZACHAROF: Yes, I don't have any
34 issues or concerns on St. Paul Island at this time.

35

36 MR. CRATTY: Yeah. I'd just like to
37 say the goat hunt went good I think at Old Harbor this
38 fall. The registration hunt, and also the goose hunt.
39 I see a lot of people eat more geese. And it looks
40 like our deer are going to survive. the weather has
41 gotten a lot better down there, and the snow's going
42 away, so.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thanks, Al.

45

46 I thought of something to add. The
47 registration goat hunt that happens late in the season,
48 a lot of adults have registered children that, you
49 know, they don't need a license, but they couldn't take
50 them out because of the time of the year, and the

1 weather was bad and the mountains were full of snow and
2 they didn't want to take their kids up there. I was
3 thinking maybe we could work on maybe moving the hunt
4 back to when the weather is still good during the
5 permit time. So I hope we could start working on that,
6 so that they guys can start taking their kids out
7 without having to worry about them getting hurt up on
8 the mountain.

9

10 Peter.

11

12 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. I'd just like
13 to thank everybody for their support and work on
14 getting the goose season open on Kodiak. I think it
15 was very successful. I went down there two different
16 times and there wasn't -- I didn't see very many
17 hunters, but it was -- it worked out really well, and I
18 think really didn't affect the numbers very much.

19

20 MR. HAMILTON: Mr. Chair, I don't have
21 any concerns at this time.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Item 9 is
24 public testimony, and we don't have any. Do we have
25 any public testimony?

26

27 MR. CHERVENAK: Mr. Chairman, I'm not
28 sure. I'm representing the advisory committee.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Will you come up
31 here, please.

32

33 MS. CHIVERS: And state your name.

34

35 MR. CHERVENAK: Mr. Chairman and the
36 Board. I'm not sure if this is the time for comment or
37 not. I represent the advisory committee, and I don't
38 know if you would like comment on some of the Board of
39 Game proposals now, or if you're going to be discussing
40 them later.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The proposal for
43 the Alaska Board of Game?

44

45 MR. CHERVENAK: Well, one of them
46 listed in here I think is No. 90 on elk.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We'll get to that
49 I think, the Alaska Board of Game proposals.

50

1 MR. CHERVENAK: Yeah, on the Board of
2 Game proposals.
3
4 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah.
5
6 MR. CHERVENAK: If you're going to get
7 to all that, I guess I don't need to comment right now.
8
9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: We'll get to that
10 I think. Just save your comments for when we get to
11 that agenda item.
12
13 MR. CHERVENAK: Thank you.
14
15 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I think
16 Iver Malutin was planning on coming, but when I talked
17 to him on Friday, his voice sounded like he was getting
18 a cold, so he may show up at any time, or he might not,
19 but he always likes to get his two bits worth in. So
20 maybe when he comes, if it's near a break or something,
21 we could find some time for him to be able to provide
22 his thoughts.
23
24 Thank you.
25
26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. We'll make
27 a note that if we're -- when Iver shows up, we'll try
28 to fit him in I guess. Okay.
29
30 Item 10, wildlife proposal review,
31 Regional Council recommendations. And that was --
32 there are four of them listed on the agenda.
33
34 (Pause)
35
36 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hi, Liz. Are you
37 here for the first proposal, 07-08 -- 01, sorry.
38
39 MS. WILLIAMS: Yes.
40
41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay.
42 Introduction I guess. Go ahead.
43
44 MS. WILLIAMS: Good morning. I'm Liz
45 Williams with the Office of Subsistence Management.
46
47 And first we'll go over WP07-01. It
48 was submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and
49 Game, and essentially they want to change the Federal
50 definition of fur. They'd like to take claws out of

1 the Federal definition of fur.

2

3 And also they want to make sure that
4 handicrafts made from claws, bones, teeth, sinew and
5 skulls of black and brown bears are only allowed for
6 sale between Federally-qualified subsistence users.

7

8 And the State just opposes this in
9 general. They've submitted requests for
10 reconsideration, as well as this proposal, to change
11 what a lot of the Regional Councils and the Board has
12 continually approved, which is to have claws available
13 for sale as handicrafts in certain regions of the state
14 where it's warranted.

15

16 So the State believes that if the
17 definition of fur isn't changed, it will allow for
18 unconstrained commercial sale of handicrafts, and
19 create market incentives for poaching.

20

21 Like I mentioned though, between 2002
22 and 2006 the Board considered six proposals about the
23 sale of handicrafts, and they've supported them all.

24

25 Black bear, you can sell handicrafts
26 statewide made from skin, hide, pelt or fur, and brown
27 bear you can only do it in three regions that wanted
28 it. So Kodiak would not be affected.

29

30 So in essence, this is something that
31 the Board and the Councils have already voted on. The
32 State doesn't like it and they're asking you to change
33 it. But because the Board and the Councils have
34 already worked on this and come to agreement it
35 appears, Staff has decided to oppose this proposal.

36

37 And if you want more information, I can
38 give it to you, but it's on Page 17 in your book.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. We'll just
41 follow the list I guess. I guess we'll ask for
42 Department of Fish and Game comments.

43

44 (Pause)

45

46 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair, members of the
47 Council. Again my name is Lem Butler. I'm the area
48 wildlife biologist based out of King Salmon.

49

50 I wasn't involved with developing this

1 proposal or writing the comments so I've little
2 additional to add. I can read the comment into the
3 record if you'd like. I'm again just going to skip
4 through to the conclusion which sums up the State's
5 position.

6

7 Adoption of this proposal is necessary
8 in order to reduce incentives for illegal harvest of
9 bears in Alaska and in other states; prevent sales of
10 high value parts of bears taken for subsistence
11 purposes from becoming significant commercial
12 enterprises, because the current Federal regulation is
13 unenforceable; and improve the enforceability of
14 Federal regulations by eliminating differences in
15 permissible uses based on area of harvest, which is
16 particularly important in the absence of a harvest
17 tracking mechanism.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: All right. Thank
20 you, Lem.

21

22 MR. BUTLER: Sure.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other Fish and
25 Game comments on this proposal.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Federal, State or
30 Tribal agencies.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: None? InterAgency
35 Committee comments.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Fish and game
40 advisory committee.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: None. We don't
45 have members of the public here, but I'll ask any
46 public comments.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Summary, yeah. We

1 don't have any -- if there's any members of the public,
2 can fill out a for public -- for comments, testimony.
3 Okay. Deliberation and recommendation.

4

5 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. I do have a
6 couple of written public comments that are in the book
7 on Page 29. And I won't go over those, since you guys
8 have probably already seen these. But we did receive a
9 couple of new comments from the Bristol Bay meeting,
10 and these are coming from the SRCs out there.

11

12 The first one is from Aniakchak
13 National Monument Subsistence Resource Commission, and
14 they opposed this proposal, because it restricts the
15 opportunity for subsistence users to maximize the value
16 they can derive from selling handicrafts made from
17 parts of legally taken bears.

18

19 And the other proposal, which was also
20 in opposition, is from the Lake Clark National Park
21 Subsistence Resource Commission. And they oppose this
22 proposal, because it restricts the opportunity for
23 subsistence users to maximize the value that they can
24 derive from selling handicrafts made from parts of
25 legal bears. It's kind of almost the same comment.

26

27 Those are the two written comments we
28 received outside what was already printed in the book.

29

30

31 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you,
34 Michelle.

35

36 What do we do next? We've got
37 deliberation and recommendation. What's the wish of
38 the Board. Pat.

39

40 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I move that
41 we adopt this proposal for purposes of discussion and
42 deliberation, WP07-01.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Do I hear a
45 second.

46

47 MR. HAMILTON: Excuse me, Mr. Chair.
48 Could you repeat that again, Pat.

49

50 MR. HOLMES: For the purposes of

1 discussion so we can discuss the merits of this
2 proposal, I'm making a motion that we adopt so that we
3 can discuss it.

4

5 MR. HAMILTON: Oh, I'll support that.
6 I don't have anything to add, but I'll support that for
7 discussion.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Moved and
10 seconded. Discussion. Pat.

11

12 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. In the past
13 our RAC has discussed this type of philosophy before.
14 And has expressed a concern that I heartily agree with
15 in that it's important to reduce the incentive for
16 illegal harvest of bears in Alaska, because, you know,
17 it has such an intrinsic value not only to folks that
18 use them for subsistence, but also in the guiding
19 industry and outfitting in which a lot of folks in our
20 Island participate in. And so I would be in favor of
21 this proposal, because it would act more to prevent the
22 sale of high value parts, would still allow the
23 traditional exchange within qualified users, but would
24 remove -- it just would make it a lot better, make
25 enforceability of Federal regulations better by
26 eliminating the differences of use based on area of
27 harvest. And previously when we've discussed this, we
28 voted against it for our area, and kind of let it go
29 for the rest of the state. But I'm in favor of
30 adopting the proposal, because of those reasons.

31

32 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.
35 Any other comments from the Board. If no further
36 comments from the Board -- okay. Yeah, Pete.

37

38 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. You know,
39 we've discussed this a lot of times, and we have
40 opposed this type of a proposal before, especially for
41 our region. And I don't think -- I don't support this
42 proposal.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat.

45

46 MR. HOLMES: Pete, I'm wondering if you
47 might be looking -- this is being presented the
48 opposite of the way around -- the way that it usually
49 comes to us. And so the general description is that --
50 let's see. Claws be removed from the Federal

1 definition of fur, and that the sales of handicraft
2 articles from claws, bone, teeth, sinew, skulls of
3 black and brown bears be allowed for sale only between
4 Federally-qualified subsistence users. Because the way
5 it's set up now, in the past we have endorsed this type
6 of narrow restriction on sales, because of it's
7 implications for abuse, and so it's kind of done a
8 different way around from where we've looked at it
9 before.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MS. WILLIAMS: Would it be helpful for
14 me to clarify?

15

16 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes.

17

18 MS. WILLIAMS: It is kind of like one
19 of those ballot propositions in elections where yes
20 means no and no means yes.

21

22 But the way the Board and the Councils,
23 at least some Councils have worked before is that this
24 does allow the sale of bear handicrafts in certain
25 places where the Councils have opted for that. In
26 other places Councils have not opted for it. And so,
27 as I mentioned, for black bear, people can make
28 handicraft sales from the skin, hide, pelt or fur and
29 for brown bear only in three regions: Eastern
30 Interior, excuse me, Bristol Bay and Southeast Alaska.

31

32 I think the -- I mean, there have been
33 a lot of proposals about bear and bear parts, and it is
34 very controversial and there are conservation concerns.

35

36 What the regions who do want it say is
37 that it's not going to increase bear harvests. It
38 shouldn't. I mean, theoretically it could if people
39 start making a lot of money off of selling claws or
40 stuff, but theoretically it's only supposed to allow
41 people to sell all the parts of one bear or whatever
42 the limit is that they legally harvest.

43

44 So, let's see. Under current Federal
45 regulations, brown bear hides with claws can be used in
46 handicrafts for sale if the bear were harvested from
47 Eastern Interior, Bristol Bay and Southeast Alaska.
48 Other parts, such as bones, teeth, sinew, or skulls can
49 only be used from brown or black bear taken in
50 Southeast Alaska. So that's the kind of stuff that the

1 Councils and the Boards have gone ahead and approved,
2 because for whatever reason, in that region, it's okay,
3 whereas in many other regions of the state it's not.

4
5 Now, as far as enforcement, it is hard,
6 because how do they know where this stuff came from,
7 but I think the Board and the Councils have tried to be
8 sensitive to each region's preferences. And I know
9 that this Council has not wanted any sale of parts for
10 handicrafts at all, because, you know, there are only
11 brown bear here anyway, and because there's such a
12 conservation concern.

13
14 So maybe -- I was trying to summarize,
15 but maybe I should to through this in more detail. I
16 apologize. I was just trying to make it short, because
17 I didn't know if you felt the bear stuff had been done
18 to death or not. But I'll just go over it again in
19 detail by detail.

20
21 And so like I said, this -- the reason
22 it's a yes means no, no means yes, is because the Board
23 and the Councils have done things, and the State
24 opposes it. The State does not include claws in their
25 definition of fur, whereas now the Federal definition
26 does.

27
28 So the sales of handicrafts made from
29 claws, bones, teeth, sinew, skulls of black and brown
30 bears, the State only wants it for sale between
31 Federally-qualified subsistence users, but a lot of
32 people, because of fuel prices and stuff like that,
33 want to be able to sell it to a wider market if they
34 do, because, you know, other subsistence users they
35 feel have this stuff already. What's the point in
36 selling it to them? I don't know.

37
38 But anyway, so that's the thing, the
39 two things that the State wants out. Claws taken out
40 of the definition of firm, and they only want people
41 that are Federally-qualified subsistence users to be
42 able to sell it with each other.

43
44 So as I noted, between 2002 and 2006,
45 the Board considered six proposals regarding the sale
46 of handicrafts made from some parts of bears, and
47 they've always supported them.

48
49 The other problem with this is, is that
50 ADF&G's language for the Federal definition of fur

1 would require the removal of claws from all hides, such
2 as fox and mink, not just bear.

3
4 Under current Federal regulations,
5 brown bear hides with claws can only be used in
6 handicrafts, I've said this one about three times, I'm
7 sorry, from brown bear if they were from Eastern
8 Interior, Bristol Bay or Southeast Alaska.

9
10 So one of the things that this proposal
11 would do is it would take away, like I said, the unit-
12 specific stuff that the Councils and the Board have
13 voted on. I mean, and there are very specific
14 prohibitions about anything with bear in some places,
15 yet in Southeast it's different. So the State wants it
16 statewide because of the ease in enforceability whereas
17 the Councils and the Board have looked at region-
18 specific stuff because of different cultures throughout
19 the State.

20
21 But, I mean, the bottom line about
22 selling bear parts, which concerns Pat is also an
23 issue.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: So if you remove
26 the claws from the definition of fur, that the claws
27 still remain in possession of the subsistence user, is
28 that correct?

29
30 MS. WILLIAMS: I think so, yeah. You
31 just can't sell them.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Any other
34 discussion or questions.

35
36 MS. WILLIAMS: And Joel, if you have
37 some help with these definitions? I mean, don't you
38 have to leave them on? I mean, that's the thing,
39 right? In the State definition?

40
41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: And this is a
42 statewide proposal.

43
44 MS. WILLIAMS: It's a statewide
45 proposal, but it's different in different regions of
46 the State, and we don't have the same exact
47 definitions.

48
49 MR. CRYE: My name is John Crye.

50

1 I can just quote you right out of the
2 regs, but I'm confused about the claw. I'm kind of
3 confused about the claw issue on this proposal, but I
4 think, you know, as far as bear skulls and everything,
5 I mean, it says, buying, selling and bartering any big
6 game animal skull, except for wolf and wolverine taken
7 under a hunting license is exempt, where you can't do
8 it. That's pretty much all I can add to this. With
9 the skull -- I mean, with the claw issue, I'm a little
10 confused on this proposal. I'm not up on it.

11
12 MS. WILLIAMS: Well, in the State you
13 have -- you can't sell claws. You have to leave them
14 on the hide, whereas under this -- under current
15 Federal regulations, like I said, that the Board and
16 the Councils have voted on for certain areas of the
17 State, you can remove the claws and sell them as
18 handicrafts only in certain areas. And so the State
19 wants that to go away. They want the definition --
20 they want claws to come out of the Federal definition
21 of fur so that you can't use claws to make handicrafts.
22 But the Board and the Councils, again like I said, have
23 voted in certain places that you can do that only with
24 Federally-harvested subsistence bears where you eat the
25 meat. I think a picture would be better in some cases.

26
27 Are you still confused?

28
29 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No.

30
31 MR. HOLMES: No. I wasn't.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Oh, Pat. Pat, do
34 you have a question.

35
36 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Just as a point of
37 clarification, from reading on Page 15, it looks like
38 presently our Unit 8 and also the Peninsula, basically
39 everywhere we have bears in our RAC region, are already
40 excluded under Federal law, right?

41
42 MS. WILLIAMS: In your area?

43
44 MR. HOLMES: Yeah.

45
46 MS. WILLIAMS: Yes.

47
48 MR. HOLMES: And so the State is trying
49 to make an approach based on finding some way to reduce
50 the potential for illegal harvest throughout the whole

1 state, and so they're going for a whole statewide
2 approach, whereas the Federal Board has gone through a
3 series of discussions and compromises with different
4 regions, and is allowing at the present some regions to
5 use claws as a device.

6

7 So if we took no action on this as far
8 as our group would go, then we are just supporting
9 status quo, and if we endorse the proposal, then we're
10 looking at stronger enforcement statewide. Does that
11 sound reasonable?

12

13 MS. WILLIAMS: Well, uniform.

14

15 MR. HOLMES: Uniformity.

16

17 MS. WILLIAMS: Uniform regulations
18 statewide, which it's just kind of differences in
19 perspective. I think the State has a legitimate claim
20 to want to make sure that bears are not exploited, but
21 also because unit by unit people have different,
22 totally different beliefs about bear and what you can
23 and can't or should and shouldn't do with them, the
24 Federal program has made unit-specific recommendations,
25 whereas the State, for valid conservation concerns,
26 would like to have a statewide thing. But that's kind
27 of why there are two different programs because of, you
28 know, these different perspective where one might look.

29

30 And the thing is, the effect of the
31 proposal, most people don't think that there will be an
32 increase in bear harvest illegally. I mean, and it's
33 going to be watched. You know, I mean if suddenly
34 there's a surge in the market, I think somebody's going
35 to notice.

36

37 And, you know, we should also note that
38 in Unit 20E and Unit 12, the State allows right now in
39 this predator control area the harvest and sale of bear
40 hides with claws attached.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. But this
43 proposal, it just removes claws from the definition.
44 It doesn't remove a subsistence user's ability to use
45 the claws if he so chooses?

46

47 MS. WILLIAMS: It would not allow the
48 subsistence user to sell the claws as a handicraft, and
49 it would -- but, I mean, I think they could still trade
50 them. I don't know. I'll need help, Pat.

1 MS. PETRIVELLI: Yeah. The sale of
2 claws is only authorized as listed as in Eastern
3 Interior, Southeast, and Bristol Bay. That's it. What
4 this proposal would do, it would like -- and Bristol
5 Bay users have spoken against it, because then -- now,
6 people can use the claws, and our regulations allow the
7 barter of claws. And I guess what they say, on Page
8 17, it says that it would be allowed for sale only
9 between Federally-qualified users statewide, so -- but
10 I'm not quite sure how they propose to regulate that.
11 I mean, the tracking mechanism.

12
13 But technically -- I guess the
14 important part is like on Page 20 where it says the
15 effect on the proposals, and it's just -- there's the
16 point that Liz was talking about, just under current
17 regulations, brown bear hides with hides can only be
18 used in handicrafts for sale if the bear was harvested
19 from Eastern Interior, Bristol Bay and Southeast. And
20 then Southeast has that other provision.

21
22 And then Liz gave the reason she
23 opposes this proposal, and part of it is when you look
24 at the justification, there's been no evidence provided
25 that either current Federal regulations adversely
26 affect bear populations. There's no evidence to
27 indicate that current Federal regulations have lead to
28 an increase or illegal harvest of bears. And then the
29 proponent's language would require removal of claw from
30 all hides, such as fox, mink, and not just bear.

31
32 I think part of it is because the
33 regulations, we have a different approach under the
34 Federal system with the way we define hides, and it's
35 just starting with the wording from the very beginning
36 of permissive or prohibitive. But it's true, like Liz
37 said, we've spent five years now or six years trying to
38 set up a system to accommodate regional differences,
39 and this regulation would get rid of the regional
40 differences. But there's been no proof that those
41 regional differences has caused harm anywhere. Or at
42 least the State has not provided that.

43
44 So I don't know if that answered your
45 question or not. We keep saying things, and I don't
46 know if it really answers the question.

47
48 It is legal under the State and Federal
49 regulations to barter stuff, and so the claws would be
50 available for barter. It's just that cash sale, but

1 the cash sale of claws only is legal in Eastern
2 Interior, Bristol Bay and Southeast currently. If this
3 proposal passes, that would be illegal.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah. What's the
6 customary and traditional? What's -- how is that
7 affected? My perception is bear parts used by my
8 people is to show like stature i the community. It's
9 not -- I don't recall anybody in my village talking
10 about trading or selling bear parts. You know, bear --
11 like we use the teeth, the claws and the skin, all
12 other part. The meat was eaten, the bones are taken
13 back into the wilderness. Sale and barter of bear
14 parts, we're for my area coming into a new -- something
15 new, you know. So what is the customary and
16 traditional come in on that.

17
18 MR. PETRIVELLI: Mr. Chair. I guess
19 because we went through this a couple years ago, and
20 that's why Kodiak/Aleutian Region is not included in
21 the sales, because people said this is not customary
22 and traditional. Generally when the Federal Board
23 makes a customary and traditional use determination,
24 they don't address this a lot. But we just get into it
25 when we start allowing cash sales. And -- but
26 generally when someone harvests the bear, it's just the
27 non-wasteful use by a family or individuals for
28 personal consumption. Personal, family consumption.
29 And whatever you do with the bear after its harvest,
30 usually that's you're -- whatever you do, it's not
31 regulation until we get into the cash sales. And we
32 discussed the cash sale, I forget, three or four years
33 ago, and the only regions that allowed cash sales are
34 Eastern Interior, Bristol Bay and Southeast. And all
35 the others said, no we do not do cash sales on bear
36 claws, and so they were not allowed. But the bear --
37 the handicrafts from furs, that's -- but even the State
38 allows that. But it's -- I think the Council said they
39 don't do it, and the Board didn't allow it.

40
41 But this regulation would tell Eastern
42 Interior, Southeast and Bristol Bay they can't do it.

43
44 MS. WILLIAMS: Yeah, the customary and
45 traditional is different for different parts of state.
46 So Southeast had a history apparently of selling or
47 trading or using these parts in a different way. I
48 know here you have to leave the head facing a certain
49 way up in the mountains and things like that. And
50 other parts of the State it's different. And so the

1 State proposal wants everybody to have everything the
2 same, whereas the way the Federal regs are now, it's
3 different for the different cultures within the State.
4 Or the different areas.

5

6 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Pat.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.
9 Any other discussion from the Board.

10

11 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. To get my
12 thoughts out, I'm still -- it raised more questions in
13 my mind, because the Federal Board has made attempts to
14 provide for regional approaches to things. And I guess
15 I'd like to hear some of you folks think about it,
16 because I'm almost inclined to reverse my original
17 notion, and, of course, being a former State
18 bureaucrat, I'm sure a bunch of people will be kicking
19 my grave when I'm gone. But I'm almost inclined to
20 just leave status quo and let other folks argue this
21 out. But I'd like to see what, you know, Jim thinks as
22 a guide, and Pete as an outfitter and, you know,
23 yourself, what you feel about this issue
24 philosophically before I vote.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Pat.

27

28 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Well, Pat, you know, I
29 have always and I always probably will oppose any sale
30 of any subsistence taken, regardless of what it is. I
31 mean, that's just the way I am. I'm like Mitch down
32 there from Akhiok. We just don't support any sale of
33 any subsistence-caught anything. I mean, it's for your
34 own personal use, your community or whatever. It's not
35 to go and sell to make money off of. I just don't
36 support it.

37

38 MR. HAMILTON: Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yeah, Jim.

41

42 MR. HAMILTON: I oppose it for
43 basically the same reasons as Pete. It's pretty simple
44 for me.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: I would oppose it,
47 too, but I'm moving into new area. I do not want to
48 tie the hands of our subsistence users. You know,
49 there are people out there that are going to sell to
50 each other in their village, you know, but I wouldn't

1 agree with somebody taking it here to Kodiak and
2 putting it in a store and saying that this is for sale.
3 No. But barter, you know, if I wanted to trade for
4 something, for, you know, somebody in my village, get
5 something of -- get something from them. But I've
6 always maintained my position, that my subsistence way
7 of life is not for sale, you know. I don't sell my
8 fish, I don't sell my dried fish, my smoked fish, my
9 seal. And now we're talking about taking bear parts
10 and selling it to my neighbor. You know, I don't -- I
11 use subsistence as a way of life and for survival. I
12 don't need my neighbor's money to do that.

13

14 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, I feel like if I
15 had a bear and Mitch needed some parts, I would give
16 them to him, I wouldn't sell them to my friends or the
17 people in my community.

18

19 MR. CRATTY: Yeah, I'd like to also say
20 I oppose it. I think we went through this two years
21 ago. I think Pat has a good idea. We should leave it
22 for the people there that are -- that need it. and in
23 Kodiak, I believe we don't need it.

24

25 MR. ZACHAROF: I also concur with
26 everybody, but I understand Mitch's concern at the
27 same, too, and I suggest just status quo like Pat
28 suggested and go with that.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any further
31 discussion. Peter.

32

33 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I have just a quick
34 comment. You know, I always have a hard time when it
35 comes to these statewide proposals, because we're
36 living here on Kodiak Island and representing
37 Kodiak/Aleutians, and then proposals are coming from
38 Southeast or up in Interior, and we don't really know
39 how them people actually live or we don't know -- even
40 people in our own region now, we can't go to their
41 villages and meet these people and see how they live.
42 We're getting pushed into the hub areas. I would like
43 to know how people live in different areas. I mean,
44 it's different from Kodiak to Adak to St. Paul. I
45 mean, we live a total different life style, and here we
46 are making -- voting on regulations for subsistence
47 users in other areas. It's very hard for us to do
48 that.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other

1 discussion. Comments.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Could we
6 take a roll call vote on this motion? Peter -- or Jim.
7 Or we could have Michelle do it, too.

8

9 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, what we could
10 do is go back to the original motion, which was Pat's
11 motion to support. And you can do one of two things.
12 Go ahead and vote on that motion, and see how people
13 vote, or he can extract that motion and redo a motion.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Can you
16 read the motion? The motion is just to support this?

17

18 MS. CHIVERS: The motion, the original
19 motion that Pat made was to adopt, and he did state for
20 the purposes of discussion, so I'm not sure if he meant
21 to adopt the proposal as written, or if that was just
22 to get things started, so.....

23

24 MR. HOLMES: Well, to get it started,
25 but as written would be fine. And then I would assume
26 that if you vote no, then it's a vote against this
27 proposal and leave things at status quo would be kind
28 of my perspective.

29

30 MS. CHIVERS: So, Mr. Chair, would you
31 like me to do a roll call vote then and see how
32 everybody votes on this proposal.....

33

34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Yes.

35

36 MS. CHIVERS:on Pat's motion?
37 Okay. Pete Squartsoff.

38

39 MR. SQUARTSOFF: No.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat Holmes.

42

43 MR. HOLMES: No.

44

45 MS. CHIVERS: Richard Zacharof.

46

47 MR. ZACHAROF: No.

48

49 MS. CHIVERS: Al Cratty.

50

1 MR. CRATTY: No.
2
3 MS. CHIVERS: Jim Hamilton.
4
5 MR. HAMILTON: No.
6
7 MS. CHIVERS: Mitch Simeonoff.
8
9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: No.
10
11 MS. CHIVERS: So, Mr. Chair, this
12 motion, the original motion fails.
13
14 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you. It
15 means that we just voted not to support this proposal.
16 Okay.
17
18 Okay. Moving on.
19
20 MS. WILLIAMS: Michelle, Laura has
21 requested that I go ahead and do Proposals 3 and 4.
22 She has No. 2. But since I'm up here, I might -- is
23 that all right with the Council?
24
25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Say again, Liz?
26
27 MS. WILLIAMS: Oh, thank you, Mr.
28 Chair. Laura Greffenius had Proposal WP07-02, but I
29 have Proposals WP07-03 and 07-04, and Laura requested
30 that I just stay here and do 3 and 4, and then she can
31 do 2 after. Is that all right with the Council?
32
33 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: That's fine. So
34 we're on 07-03.
35
36 MS. WILLIAMS: And WP07-03 is on Page
37 46 of your book. And a lot of these proposals I have I
38 think your discussion's going to be similar. They're
39 about the sale of parts of subsistence harvested
40 animals. And I think with fuel prices and things
41 people are just looking to use the animals they harvest
42 as much as they can, and as much as -- I don't know,
43 cash is part of a subsistence economy these days I
44 think is the way people are approaching these.
45
46 So WP07-03 is a combination of three
47 separate proposals submitted by Eastern Interior Alaska
48 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, the Upper
49 Tanana/40 Mile Fish and Game Advisory Committee, and
50 the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence

1 Resource Commission. So again, Pete, these are all
2 from somewhere else.

3

4 The proponents request Federal
5 regulations that allow the sale of raw, untanned hides
6 and capes of goat, sheep, caribou or moose that have
7 been legally harvested on Federal public lands by
8 Federally-qualified subsistence users. So this isn't a
9 request for an increase in harvest, it's just another
10 way to use the animals that are harvested.

11

12 The proponents state that the adoption
13 of this proposal will align Federal subsistence harvest
14 regs with State of Alaska hunting regs which allow for
15 the sale of these raw and untanned hides and capes from
16 legally harvested animals.

17

18 Current Federal subsistence regulations
19 don't allow the sale of any unmodified animal
20 byproducts of fish and wildlife that are harvested.
21 They must be made into handicrafts first. So the regs,
22 Federal, as we have it now, it has to be a handicraft
23 before you can sell it for cash. And raw and untanned
24 hides and capes don't fit the definition of handicraft;
25 however, the sale of these items could be considered
26 consistent with the Federal definition of customary
27 trade, which is the exchange of cash for fish and
28 wildlife resources regulated and not otherwise
29 prohibited by Federal law to support personal and
30 family needs, but does not lead to a commercially
31 significant enterprise.

32

33 As far as the C&T, there's a long
34 history of untanned hides and capes being exchanged all
35 across Alaska between Siberia, Alaska, Canadian people.
36 Just, you know, some people only had deer and they
37 liked caribou skin better. But as you pointed out,
38 this was barter, it wasn't cash.

39

40 And like I said, it's already legal for
41 State of Alaska residents to harvest goats, sheep, et
42 cetera under State of Alaska hunting regs on other
43 Federal lands and sell these. However, it doesn't
44 apply to national park or national monument lands,
45 because they have separate things where you can't do
46 subsistence anyway, only preserves.

47

48 So the proponents of this proposal
49 state that it would not increase harvest, it would only
50 include animals that are already legally harvested

1 under Federal subsistence regulations. The proponents
2 said they want to be able to sell these untanned hides
3 and capes mainly for cash to access their traditional
4 hunting areas.

5
6 And if there are regional variations as
7 in with the bear, we could work that out on a Council-
8 by-Council basis.

9
10 The preliminary conclusion is to
11 support the proposal.

12
13 Previous Councils that have heard this
14 proposal have said, why aren't tanned hides and capes
15 included, and the only reason they're not is because
16 the proponents didn't ask for tanned hides and capes,
17 they only asked for raw.

18
19 So again, this is not an increase in
20 harvest anywhere. People are just trying to use as
21 much of the animals as they harvest for as many
22 purposes as they can. And that's according to the
23 proponent.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Questions.
26 Comments.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Rick -- I'm
31 sorry, we ought to follow our procedure here. We have
32 comments from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

33
34 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. Members of the
35 Council. For the record, my name is Lem Butler.

36
37 Similar to the other proposal, I'll
38 just read in the Department's conclusion.

39
40 ADF&G recommends against adopting this
41 proposal, because the opportunity to sell raw/untanned
42 hides is already provided under State regulations.
43 State regulations are already adopted into Federal
44 regulation by reference, and adopting this proposal
45 would increase regulatory complexity and create
46 duplicative regulations. However, if the Federal Board
47 moves forward with this proposal, ADF&G recommends that
48 the Board make customary and traditional use
49 determinations and limit the Federal regulations to
50 those areas of the state where evidence of long-term,

1 historical patterns of community use exist.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you,
4 Lem.

5

6 MR. BUTLER: Sure.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Other agency
9 comments.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: None. InterAgency
14 Staff.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: None. Fish and
19 came advisory.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any written
24 comment.

25

26 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. chair, there were no
27 written comments submitted at the time of the book.
28 However, at the Bristol Bay meeting, a couple of SRCs
29 did submit their comments on this proposal.

30

31 The Aniakchak National Monument
32 submitted their recommendation to support the measures
33 to create opportunities for subsistence users to
34 maximize the value they can derive from selling parts
35 of legally taken animals.

36

37 And the Lake Clark Subsistence Resource
38 Commission, they supported the proposal with
39 modification. The modification was to remove the
40 reference -- the reference to raw/untanned hides should
41 be deleted to allow sale of any hide so subsistence
42 users may maximize the value they can derive from
43 selling parts of legally-taken animals.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you,
48 Michelle. If we don't have any public testimony, it's
49 Council deliberation. Any Board members. Pat, do you
50 have something.

1 MR. HOLMES: I guess I would move to
2 adopt so we can have some discussion on this issue.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The motion has
5 been made. Is there a second.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: The motion dies
10 for lack of a second. Move on. No action has been
11 taken on this proposal by this Board.

12
13 Liz, 07-04.

14
15 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
16 WP07-04 is on Page 58 of your book.

17
18 And this is the combination of two
19 similar proposals submitted by the Eastern Interior
20 Alaska Regional Advisory Council and the Upper
21 Tanana/40 Mile Fish and Game Advisory Committee. And
22 they request Federal regulations that allow the sale of
23 antlers, horns of goat, sheep, elk, deer, caribou,
24 moose or muskox that have been naturally shed or
25 removed from the skull of an animal harvested on
26 Federal public lands under Federal subsistence
27 regulations by Federally-qualified subsistence users.

28
29 So again it's not a harvest increase.
30 It is a another dimension of use for the legally-
31 harvested animals on Federal lands.

32
33 The proponents state that adoption of
34 this proposal will align Federal subsistence harvest
35 regulations with State of Alaska hunting regulations
36 which allow for the sale of antlers or horns that have
37 been naturally shed or if legally harvested, completely
38 removed from any part of the skull of the animal,
39 except in Unit 23.

40
41 And Unit 23 is the Kotzebue area, and
42 in that area they have had a local activity to stop any
43 sale of caribou antler because of Korean market buyers
44 who came and were sort of leading to an exploitation
45 possibly of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. And
46 there's a lot of extensive information on this, but it
47 was definitely a conservation concern in that area,
48 because antler brokers were specifically focusing on
49 that area in the 90s. Some people say because of
50 synthetic drugs that replaced the need for antler in

1 some places, this is not as much of an issue, but some
2 people only like the natural solution and not the
3 synthetic one, so I'm not sure. But anyway that was
4 Unit 23.

5
6 Currently Federal subsistence
7 regulations do not included the gathering of any
8 naturally shed antlers, and naturally shed antlers or
9 horn don't really fall under the jurisdiction of the
10 Federal Subsistence Board anyway, because it's not from
11 a harvested animal. It's an animal part that's just on
12 the ground. It's already prohibited on national park
13 lands, because those are living museums where you don't
14 pick up anything. And even on refuge lands, most
15 refuges do not allow you to pick those up. Once in a
16 while if you have a permit you can, but it's pretty
17 rare, because they don't want people just taking
18 everything, because they, too, believe that it has
19 natural value on the landscape.

20
21 Current Federal subsistence regs, just
22 like the last proposal, you can't just sell any
23 unmodified animal park. You have to modify it and make
24 it into a handicraft to sell it, but theoretically this
25 could fall under the definition of customary trade
26 which allows you to sell cash -- use cash to sell fish
27 and wildlife resources to support personal and family
28 needs, but not a significant commercial enterprise.

29
30 If you look at the C&T, people have
31 traded horn and antler. You know, different people
32 have different stuff in different regions of the state.
33 Again, that's barter, but in modern subsistence
34 economies, cash is a component, so it is not outside of
35 the realm of possibility.

36
37 And again the proponents state that it
38 would not lead to an increase in harvest. It would
39 just help them maximize their use of the animals they
40 do legally harvest to pay for ammo and gas and stuff
41 like that.

42
43 The Staff analysis conclusion is to
44 support this proposal with modification, and remove the
45 shed antler and only have the antler or horn that are
46 removed from a harvested animal, because like I said,
47 anything that's just shed isn't under the jurisdiction
48 of the Federal Subsistence Board anyway. And because
49 it's already not allowed, or it is prohibited on Park
50 Service and Fish and Wildlife Service lands, we just

1 ought to exclude the shed antler provision and only
2 allow people to sell the ones that are from an animal
3 they've harvested.

4
5 So the preliminary conclusion is to
6 support this proposal with modification to address only
7 horns and antlers from animals harvested under Federal
8 subsistence regulations.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Liz.
11 Fish and Game comment.

12
13 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair, members of the
14 Council. My name is Lem Butler.

15
16 I can read the conclusions. They're
17 identical to the last proposal conclusions, but I can
18 read them again if you'd like. All right.

19
20 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game
21 recommends against adoption of this proposal because
22 this opportunity is already provided under State
23 regulations. State regulations are adopted into
24 Federal regulation by reference, and adopting this
25 proposal would increase regulatory complexity and
26 create duplicative regulations. However, if the
27 Federal Board moves forward with this proposal, Fish
28 and Game recommends that customary and traditional use
29 determinations be made and that the Federal regulations
30 be limited to those areas of the state where evidence
31 of long-term, historical pattern of community use
32 exists.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Thank you, Lem.
35 Other agency comments.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: InterAgency Staff.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Fish and game
44 advisory committee.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any written
49 comments.

50

1 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair..
2 There was one written public comment submitted at the
3 time of printing the book from the Ahtna Tene Nene'
4 Subsistence Resource Commission in support.
5
6 And then at the Bristol Bay meeting
7 there were two commented submitted, one from the
8 Aniakchak National Monument in support of the proposal.
9 They support the measures that allow subsistence users
10 to maximize the value they derive from legally taken
11 animals.
12
13 And the Lake Clark National Park SRC
14 also submitted the same comment, to allow the sale of
15 horns and antlers from goat, sheep, deer, elk and -- am
16 I on the right one? Okay.
17
18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19
20 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Okay. Thank you,
21 Michelle.
22
23 No public testimony. Council
24 deliberation. Pat.
25
26 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I move to
27 oppose this proposal, because there's already
28 provisions to sell horns and antlers under the existing
29 regulations. And I don't have any problem with folks
30 doing that. I'd sure had to see places where there
31 hasn't been customary and traditional folks have this
32 to sell the horns.
33
34 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Pat, I'm sorry.
35
36 MR. HOLMES: I'm sorry. Back. I'm
37 mixing things up.
38
39 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Make your motion
40 and then we'll get into discussion.
41
42 MR. HOLMES: I make a motion to oppose,
43 and I should shut up. Thank you.
44
45 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I'll second.
46
47 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Most and seconded.
48 Discussion.
49
50 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Here we go. I'll

1 go back to my discussion. I would oppose this because
2 there's already existing regulations that would provide
3 for the opportunity to sell horns and antlers.

4
5 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Any other
8 discussion.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no other
13 discussion, is there any objections to the motion.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN SIMEONOFF: Hearing no
18 objections, then the motion carries.

19
20 We'll take a break, come back in about
21 10, 15 minutes.

22
23 (Off record)

24
25 (Chairman Simeonoff departs due to
26 family emergency. Vice Chairman Richard Zacharof takes
27 over as Chair.)

28
29 (On record)

30
31 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Yeah, I'll be
32 chairing the meeting of the agenda here. Mitch had a
33 family emergency, so he'll be gone for the rest of the
34 day.

35
36 Moving down to Proposal WP07-02.
37 Laura.

38
39 MS. GREFFENIUS: All right. Good
40 morning, Mr. Chair and members of the Council. My name
41 is Laura -- for the record my name is Laura Greffenius,
42 and I'm wildlife biologist in the Office of Subsistence
43 Management.

44
45 This one begins on Page 32 in your
46 book, and for those of you in the audience. And again
47 this is a statewide proposal. Liz presented the ones
48 -- I had her just -- she asked about doing hers all
49 together. They were kind of along the same topic
50 somewhat.

1 And this particular one is also a
2 statewide, and so all of the Councils are having this
3 presented to them, and then making recommendations that
4 the Federal Subsistence Board will take into
5 consideration at their meeting in April and May.

6
7 So this one, Proposal WP07-02, was
8 submitted by the Bureau of Land Management and would
9 change the regulatory wording in the Federal
10 regulations from calendar year to regulatory year. And
11 I will provide a synopsis of the excellent analysis
12 that was authored by Tom Kron on the OSM staff that's
13 in your book. There's a lot of case histories and
14 details in your book, and I'll present the main books,
15 and then any questions that get generated from my
16 presentation, I'll be happy to answer them.

17
18 So the proponent for this particular
19 proposal believes that this change would increase the
20 compliance with the regulatory requirement and
21 facilitate improved harvest data collection and lead to
22 better management, resulting in a positive impact on
23 the resource.

24
25 The existing Federal regulation is in
26 your book there on Page 33, if you want to look at
27 that. I'll read it into the record. It states, if the
28 return of harvest information necessary for management
29 and conservation purposes is required by permit, and
30 you fail to comply with such reporting requirements,
31 you are ineligible to receive a subsistence permit for
32 that activity during the following calendar year unless
33 you demonstrate that failure to report was due to loss
34 in the mail, accident, sickness or other unavoidable
35 circumstances.

36
37 And then the proposed regulation you
38 can see has the -- on Page 33 has the cross out for
39 calendar and has regulatory year.

40
41 I was at the Bristol Bay meeting last
42 week, and so I was involved and just heard some of the
43 discussions there, and just hearing the concerns and
44 discussions, I just want -- as we go through this, I
45 just want to emphasize the reporting information that
46 is used is for wise management, and the intent of the
47 proposal and the proponents is emphasize the aspect of
48 educating the permit holders, and the permit reporting
49 requirements, and what the harvest reports are used
50 for, and this proposed change would help facilitate

1 that process. I guess what we were trying to emphasize
2 is more the educating those have the permit holders and
3 how that information is used, and it wasn't a crack
4 down law enforcement issue. So we kind of wanted to
5 distinguish that. So I just wanted everyone to keep
6 that in mind as we go through this, and how it will
7 help the process of what the intent of the proponent
8 is.

9

10 Just some background information on
11 this. The consequence for failing to report was
12 originally derived from state regulations and when the
13 -- and has been in Federal regulations since the
14 inception of the Federal Subsistence Management Program
15 in 1990. And this is the first proposal since then
16 concerning the Federal regulatory ineligibility clause
17 and the history of the Federal Subsistence Management
18 Program.

19

20 Right now, just to make sure everyone
21 understands, the regulatory year versus calendar year.
22 For wildlife, our regulatory year goes from July 1 to
23 June 30th. And for fisheries, it's slightly different.
24 The fish regulatory year is from April 1 to March 31st.

25

26

27 So the proposed change would have the
28 most effect on situations where Federal subsistence
29 permits overlap the calendar year. For example, and
30 just making up a season, if there was a season that
31 goes from November to March in the wildlife regulatory
32 cycle, it would overlap. That's what we mean by
33 overlapping the calendar year.

34

35 Right now the current situation allows
36 individuals that did not comply with the permit
37 reporting requirements in a particularly regulatory
38 year, those that I mentioned, that they can still
39 legally participate in subsistence harvest later in
40 that calendar year during open seasons through December
41 31st. So, for example, like I said, if there was a
42 November to March season, someone didn't make their
43 reporting requirements in March, that spring, they
44 would still be able to do the fall harvest that
45 following fall, because it's still within that calendar
46 year. So the regulatory year would influence that.
47 The person wouldn't be able to do it in the following
48 regulatory year.

49

50 And on Page 33, at the bottom of Page

1 33, and at the top of Page 34, the State of Alaska has
2 different regulations for their hunting and fishing
3 subsistence permits, but they do use -- the current
4 State of Alaska hunting and fishing use the word
5 regulatory word and it parallels -- this would parallel
6 that provision.

7
8 Some background information, and
9 there's a really good long, detailed description in the
10 analysis, and I'll just point out a summary of that.
11 Since the inception of the Federal Subsistence
12 Management Program in 1990, there's been very limited
13 enforcement of this Federal regulation. An example is
14 the BLM Glennallen field office has begun enforcement
15 of this regulation for hunting permits more recently.
16 And as I said, the case history is in detail in your
17 book. And the main reason for that was for more
18 closely monitoring and management of the local caribou
19 herd there. And to facilitate the better management
20 there. And they've also done a big letter writing
21 campaign in order to have people submit their reports.

22
23 And over the years different Federal
24 field offices have sent out different numbers of
25 reminder letters, and that's been very helpful, and
26 some as well have collected harvest permit reports by
27 going to the permit holders homes and meeting with
28 hunters one-on-one. So what we wanted to mention here
29 is that it isn't always a piece of paper that's mailed
30 in, that's what's required on the permit and what it
31 says on it, but there is some flexibility in that
32 people have phoned in their reports, people go to the
33 person's home and get the information, so what was most
34 important is get the harvest information and get it
35 reported for using for management decisions.

36
37 The effects of this proposal is that it
38 would affect all Federal public lands and waters in
39 Alaska where the Federal permits are used for
40 subsistence hunts or fisheries. And as I mentioned
41 above, the proposed change would have the most effect
42 on situations where Federal subsistence permits overlap
43 the calendar year, as I gave an example if a season's
44 from November through March, so it's overlapping the
45 calendar year, but it's within one regulatory year.
46 There are Federal permits -- there are a number of
47 Federal permits for multiple species of fish and
48 wildlife that do overlap the calendar year.

49
50 And if adopted, this proposal would not

1 change the regulatory consequences for failure to
2 comply with the permit conditions. Those are on the
3 backs of the permit, whatever the conditions are. And
4 this proposal would not allow individuals to legally
5 participate in subsistence harvest later in the same
6 regulatory year if they did not comply with the permit
7 reporting requirements.

8

9 And the preliminary conclusion for this
10 one is to support the proposal. And the reasons are
11 ones that I've already mentioned, and just to
12 reiterate, the Federal Subsistence Management Program
13 regulations and monitoring needs have become more and
14 more complex. There are 77 different hunt and fishery
15 permits across Alaska for the regulatory year last
16 year, and over 5,000 permits were issued.
17 Approximately 93 percent of the permit reports were
18 returned. So we just can't emphasize enough the good
19 harvest data is critical to sound management of fish
20 and wildlife resources, and we had some discussions
21 last week at the Bristol Bay meeting where having that
22 harvest reporting information was very crucial to
23 making a decision on whether or not the recommendation
24 from the Council was to oppose or support, because we
25 needed to just have some reporting -- harvest
26 information from a certain geographic area. And so it
27 is very crucial.

28

29 And the land management agencies, the
30 Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
31 Service, the National Park Service, the Forest Service,
32 all of these field staffs across the state are working
33 closely with subsistence users to facilitate the
34 subsistence harvest reporting through their local
35 areas.

36

37 The ineligibility provision allows
38 considerable flexibility for Federal field staff and
39 enforcement officers to consider the importance and
40 time sensitivity of harvest information and the wide
41 range of rural Alaska issues, traditions and cultures.
42 There's some flexibility in adjusting the wording on
43 the permits to the situation. The permits have
44 different deadlines. It might be a five-day reporting
45 requirement, or it might be a couple weeks. It just
46 really depends on the circumstances.

47

48 And the current regulation allows field
49 staff and enforcement officers to be responsive to the
50 differing circumstances.

1 It's important to balance the need for
2 harvest information while working with the Regional
3 Councils and the subsistence users, and sensitive to
4 rural Alaska issues.

5
6 And as far as -- I mentioned that the
7 Bristol Bay area, they -- the Bristol Bay Council, they
8 favored this particular proposal after some discussion,
9 getting an understanding of the issues. They did vote
10 in favor of it just to let you know what the other
11 councils have done for updates.

12
13 So thank you, Mr. Chair and members of
14 the Council, and I'll do my best to answer any
15 questions you have as you proceed with your
16 discussions.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Thank you, Laura.
21 At this point we'll take some comments. Alaska
22 Department of Fish and Game.

23
24 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair, members of the
25 Council. My name is Lem Butler.

26
27 Fish and Game comments are such
28 accurate and timely harvest reporting is an important
29 component of wildlife management. Fish and Game
30 supports programs that obtain accurate hunting and
31 harvest data for agency use that may be necessary for
32 management decisions. This is equally true for hunts
33 that are administered under either State or Federal
34 regulation.

35
36 We also note that it's important to
37 have these administered consistently statewide.
38 Currently there are inconsistencies in the
39 administration and enforcement of Federal subsistence
40 hunts that require Federal registration permits.

41
42 In the best interest of collecting
43 harvest data, the Staff analysis recommends modifying
44 the proposal to allow for flexibility regarding the
45 application of the penalty clause in this regulation.
46 Fish and Game recommends further discussion of when,
47 where and how such discretion would apply. The
48 proposed level of flexibility in the application
49 appears to undermine the purpose of the failure to
50 report program.

1 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Thank you, Lem.
2
3 Other Federal, State and Tribal agency
4 comments.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: InterAgency Staff
9 Committee comments.
10
11 (No comments)
12
13 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Fish and game
14 advisory committee comments.
15
16 (No comments)
17
18 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Summary of written
19 public comments.
20
21 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 There was one written public comment received before
23 the print of the book, on Page 43. It was Ahtna Tene
24 Nene' Subsistence Resource Commission, they supported
25 this proposal to change the wording from calendar to
26 regulatory, because it would clear up confusion of
27 ineligibility provisions for those failing to turn in
28 moose and caribou permits at the end of the hunting
29 season to BLM.
30
31 And then at the Bristol Bay Council
32 meeting, the Aniakchak Subsistence Resource Commission
33 submitted their comments, saying they supported the
34 proposal. It supports the changing of the permit
35 compliance from a calendar year to regulatory year to
36 encourage more timely returns of harvest reports.
37
38 And the Lake Clark Subsistence Resource
39 Commission also submitted the same comment, the SRC
40 supports changing permit compliance from calendar year
41 to regulatory year to encourage more timely returns of
42 harvest reports.
43
44 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
45
46 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Thank you,
47 Michelle.
48
49 Public testimony.
50

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Regional Council
4 deliberation, recommendation and justification.
5
6 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I would
7 move that we adopt this proposal.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Motion by Pat to
10 adopt the proposal.
11
12 MR. CRATTY: Second.
13
14 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Second by Al
15 Cratty.
16
17 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Question.
18
19 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Question, Pete
20 Squartsoff.
21
22 MR. HOLMES: We are on no discussion
23 then?
24
25 MR. SQUARTSOFF: No discussion, yes.
26
27 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Well, I'm no quite
28 ready for the thing. I won't discuss much except that
29 I'm going to support the proposal.
30
31 MR. HAMILTON: Mr. Chair. Pat, are you
32 asking to support it with or without the ADF&G, I guess
33 the mod -- Lem called it a modification, is that
34 correct? Was that as it or.....
35
36 MR. HOLMES: I'd go with the
37 modification.
38
39 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Yes, Laura.
40
41 MS. GREFFENIUS: I just need you to
42 clarify, because we -- if you're going to adopt as it
43 is in the book. as the Staff analysis is in the book,
44 or if you're going to make -- adopt with modification,
45 just to specify very clearly, because that's -- it's
46 not an OSM modification. If you have a modification
47 you want to put on it, you just need to say
48 specifically what that is so it's clear.
49
50 MR. HOLMES: Tim, would you reiterate

1 the modification, and then maybe we need to.....

2

3 MR. HAMILTON: Mr. Chair. My
4 understanding was that Lem wanted to modify, he wanted
5 some latitude to approach things case-by-case or
6 region-by-region. Was that my -- did I understand that
7 correctly?

8

9 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Lem.

10

11 MR. HAMILTON: Please.

12

13 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair, members of the
14 Council. I don't think this was a modification
15 necessarily by the State. The State would like to see
16 it consistent -- a consistent application of these
17 policies, not on a case-by-case or individual level,
18 again to be equal to all resource users.

19

20 MR. HAMILTON: Mr. Chair. So you're
21 supporting a proposal as it's written here, is that
22 correct?

23

24 MR. BUTLER: As it's written, and I
25 think it's encouraging the Federal agencies, OSM and
26 Federal Staff to work on some of the specifics of how
27 this applied, when, where and how, and in what cases,
28 what is allowed as an excuse and what isn't for when
29 people don't report.

30

31 MR. HAMILTON: Okay. I'm clear now.
32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Okay. Thank you,
35 Lem.

36

37 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
38 have my motion read that we adopt WP07-02 as written.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Okay, Pat.

41

42 MR. CRATTY: I'll second.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Second by Al
45 Cratty.

46

47 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I once again will call
48 for the question.

49

50 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Question's been

1 called by Pete Squartsoff.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: I'd still like to get a
4 couple of comments if I could. I don't which direction
5 you're going, Pete, I have a guess, but -- I think that
6 it would be important to have consistency on this. I
7 was looking at Appendix 02 for this one on Table 1, and
8 just looking at a couple areas for Kodiak and
9 Peninsula, caribou in 9D, out of 103 permits, they had
10 63 that didn't report. And elk in Unit 8, 15 were
11 issued, and 13 folks didn't respond. So, you know, I
12 think the one really important thing I got from our
13 series of hearings was how important it is for folks to
14 turn in their information so that you can manage the
15 fish and critters well, and it also defends a person's
16 traditional use patterns by making sure that that
17 information is there, so that's why I would support
18 this proposal. Mr. Chairman.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Thank you, Pat.

21

22 The question's been called. All those
23 in favor, signify by -- I'm sorry, were you going to
24 say something?

25

26 All those in favor of the proposal
27 signify by saying aye.

28

29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30

31 (No opposing votes)

32

33 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Motion passes. Or
34 proposal passes.

35

36 Moving down the agenda to number 10,
37 Alaska Board of Game proposals. A is Proposal No. 90,
38 State elk hunting regulation that allows no closed
39 season, no bag limit, and same-day-airborne hunting of
40 elk on Kodiak and Uganik Islands.

41

42 Any comments. Okay. Laura.

43

44 MS. GREFFENIUS: Yeah. Mr. Chair. If
45 I could just -- I just want to provide some
46 introduction for some procedures that would help for
47 the Council making recommendations, and then as we go
48 through these, you know, the other folks as needed
49 would come up, and then just what your Council
50 recommendations are.

1 I just wanted to direct everyone to --
2 in your packets there's the OSM recommendations on some
3 of these proposals, and they're also on the table back
4 there if people in the audience would like those. And
5 so our office had put together some of the
6 recommendations as far as how it -- as they're affected
7 and influenced on the subsistence regulations.
8

9 And then what we'd like to have is the
10 Council -- yours probably has a letter on top of it, so
11 there's a letter on top of it, and then there's one
12 that says the OSM recommendations on the Board of Game
13 proposals.
14

15 MS. CHIVERS: They're inside this
16 packet.
17

18 MS. GREFFENIUS: Pardon?
19

20 MS. CHIVERS: They're inside this
21 packet.
22

23 MS. GREFFENIUS: They're inside your
24 packets.
25

26 MR. HOLMES: Is this it, for
27 preliminary recommendations?
28

29 MS. GREFFENIUS: Right. Exactly. So
30 on the agenda in the book, it mentions No. 90 and then
31 there's also for other. We wanted to discuss -- or we
32 wanted to, as the Council wishes, if you'd like to get
33 some Council recommendations on No. 79 and 206 is the
34 Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd, and my
35 understanding is that Sandra Siekaniec and Lem Butler
36 would most likely be making some comments on that one
37 just for information purposes, and then for the Council
38 to make recommendations. And then there's also several
39 others that aren't listed here that are in your packets
40 that as you wish to go through to make recommendations
41 on each of those.
42

43 Thank you very much.
44

45 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Yeah. Thank you,
46 Laura.
47

48 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. When we go
49 through these, I would like to talk about Proposal 91
50 in addition to the elk.

1 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Okay. Looking for
2 some comments. Alaska Department of Fish and Game
3 comments.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Other Federal,
8 State and Tribal agency comments.

9
10 MR. PYLE: Bill Pyle, Kodiak Refuge.

11
12 Mr. Chair, I'm wondering whether I
13 should defer what I may cover to a time that allows for
14 Ms. Greffenius to make her presentation.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Go ahead, Laura.

17
18 MS. GREFFENIUS: We're on No. 90 right
19 now, correct? Okay.

20
21 I did not have a presentation per se
22 other than to just point out in your information on the
23 OSM recommendations. We had put that -- the
24 recommendation on this proposal is to take no action,
25 and then there was some additional information, a
26 letter provided from the Kodiak National Wildlife
27 Refuge, and I'll let the Staff from each of the
28 respective agencies elaborate on that.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Thank you.

33
34 MR. PYLE: Mr. Chair. Kodiak Refuge
35 submitted Proposal 90 for consideration by the Board of
36 Game in its current cycle. And I guess it seems
37 appropriate given that you've been informed of this
38 fairly recently to provide a little bit of background
39 and just summarize what the proposal would do if
40 adopted.

41
42 If adopted, it would liberalize elk
43 hunting on Kodiak Island. There would be no closed
44 season or bag limit, just like the current caribou
45 regulation, State regulation.

46
47 In the case of this Proposal 90,
48 hunting in our view would be used as a tool to prevent
49 the establishment of a wild elk population on Kodiak
50 Island. And as a matter of clarification, our proposal

1 did not include Uganik Island. That was an oversight.
2 It should have said Kodiak and Uganik Island. The
3 current Federal regulation for elk addresses everything
4 from Afognak on down through the major island groups,
5 Kodiak and Uganik.

6
7 And specifically this proposal pertains
8 to Kodiak Island. It does not address the situation up
9 on Afognak. We don't have a concern there. And so
10 there's no proposed changes there. And we actively
11 support the Department's management of the elk herd,
12 and we share responsibility for elk management on
13 Federal lands up there. There's a portion of the
14 refuge up on Afognak Island.

15
16 So with respect to this proposal,
17 what's our concern. We think that it's important to
18 prevent elk from establishing on Kodiak Island to avoid
19 a potential conflict with our refuge purposes, and Fish
20 and Wildlife Service policy. We have a conservation
21 concern about if elk did become established, that
22 ultimately there would probably be proposals to hunt
23 the population, and once that happened, there would be
24 a likelihood that some elk -- or some bears would be
25 taken in defense of life and property incidents, such
26 as occurs where elk and bear occur together up on
27 Afognak Island. And our proposal gives a little
28 background on the history of that, say between 1980 and
29 2000 where there was a total of five DLP bear deaths
30 that were attributed to elk hunting incidents.

31
32 And we do believe that if elk were
33 established on Kodiak Island, and we have -- you know,
34 we have the habitat for elk down here that could
35 support them, that given the fact that there are many
36 more bears here in on Kodiak Island than there are on
37 Afognak Island, that we would likely see a much higher
38 rate of defense of life and property incidents, and
39 more bear deaths. And ultimately that may cut into
40 either the sport hunting harvest quota or the
41 subsistence quota.

42
43 You know, this is a very strong concern
44 of ours in relation to -- granted it's hypothetical,
45 but we're looking at potential preventative action in
46 this case. But it seems to be, from our view, a
47 legitimate concern.

48
49 We also, as I stated, have a concern
50 with conflict with refuge purpose. And Service policy

1 is a concern. Service policy basically says in terms
2 of new introductions of species, we will not willingly
3 support that.

4
5 And I need to clarify to say that
6 what's happened with respect to we have non-native
7 mammals well established on both Afognak and Kodiak
8 Islands, and in those cases that has happened. You
9 know, there are some restrictions to what we can do
10 relative to those populations in terms of actually
11 actively supporting habitat management practices that
12 could increase them. But, you know, we accept the fact
13 that these populations are established, and our role
14 with respect to those populations is to provide
15 subsistence opportunities, but at the same time to
16 minimize any type of habitat impacts. So I just want
17 to make a clarification between the existing situation
18 and what potentially could be a new situation with a
19 new introduction if elk successfully -- you know, if
20 they swim across from Raspberry or Afognak Islands,
21 and, you know, are not harvested by hunters, and then
22 they eventually establish.

23
24 I mean, there's a record of, you know,
25 those types of actions occurring with deer here in the
26 Kodiak Archipelago, and with elk. Small numbers have
27 made it across and some of them have been harvested,
28 and, you know, we don't know the exact status of elk on
29 Kodiak Island. The presumption is that there aren't
30 any right now, but, you know, there may be a set of
31 events where for whatever reason a herd makes it
32 across, they're not harvested and they eventually
33 establish. We have all the habitat that could support
34 them, and under, you know -- if there was limited
35 hunting on them, such as the current elk regulation is
36 -- I mean, that's one of our concerns is that, you
37 know, it is very conservative, and really if you have
38 any elk roaming around, you limit the opportunities for
39 -- if your goal is to prevent elk from establishing,
40 then there's only limited opportunity to potentially
41 harvest elk here, because it's a limited, you know,
42 combined drawing and registration. The hunting seasons
43 are 66 days long in the fall. And the limit under the
44 current State regulation is one elk.

45
46 And you may have elk that make across
47 right now in the winter out of season. What happens?
48 I mean, there's much opportunity for a few animals to
49 elude hunters either during the season or outside the
50 season, and that could potentially promote

1 establishment of the herd.

2

3 So in any case, we made this proposal.
4 And then subsequently we had some discussions there at
5 the most recent Kodiak Advisory Committee meeting. And
6 that was on February 13th. And that's the next step
7 I'd like to go and describe just briefly the outcome of
8 the meeting as far as we were concerned.

9

10 And, you know, what we heard was a
11 strong concern about this proposal along the lines of
12 -- I mean, the committee did not support it, Fish and
13 Game did not support it for reasons that had everything
14 to do with a law enforcement concern. And our
15 understanding of that was because of the close
16 proximity of Raspberry and Afognak Islands to Kodiak,
17 that in terms of allowing harvest outside the current
18 fall hunting season, that it could present a fairly
19 serious law enforcement issue with folks taking elk
20 that actually in fact came from Afognak or Raspberry
21 Island and then later saying that they actually came
22 from Kodiak, because they're so close together.

23

24 So, you know, from the Refuge's
25 perspective, I mean, either way we really don't know
26 what level of enforcement problem there is. I mean,
27 this is a concern that voiced by the Alaska Department
28 of Public Safety, the Troopers, and we respect that
29 concern. From our perspective, we don't believe that
30 it would be that high, but, you know, in either case we
31 really don't know. I mean, they're also coming at it
32 from a preventative concern, and we respect that.

33

34 I think -- and the Kodiak Advisory
35 Committee, it was clear to us that they agreed with the
36 Department and with both departments, Fish and Game as
37 well as Public Safety. And on the other hand, they
38 also, speaking with several members, voiced their
39 support for the conservation objective that we're
40 trying to achieve.

41

42 So it seems to be a question about
43 methods. And acknowledging the departments, we -- on
44 February 16th the Refuge submitted a letter to the
45 Chairman of the Board of Game withdrawing our support
46 for the proposal that we had submitted. We want to get
47 it right is the point, and there's disagreement about
48 the best means to achieve this conservation objective.
49 There needs to be a discussion about how can we best
50 achieve our prevention objective, and we need -- we

1 would suggest that we need to go into discussion with
2 the Department of Fish and Game and the Department of
3 Public Safety to see what can be done to derive a
4 consensus about the appropriate approach to -- from our
5 view achieve that conservation objection and to prevent
6 elk establishment on Kodiak Island.

7
8 So like I said, we wrote that letter to
9 the Chairman of the Board of Game. We sent copies to
10 the Department of Fish and Game, to the Office of
11 Subsistence Management. There's copies on the table.
12 You have a copy of it. And so, you know, we made the
13 proposal, we withdrew our support. The Board of Game
14 is going to be meeting next week. They will look at
15 the proposal. They have the information.

16
17 And I guess, you know, our next step is
18 after the -- after you take action, whatever that is,
19 and then the Board of Game meets, then we'll just --
20 the Refuge will see where things stand, and we presume
21 that the -- presuming that the proposal did not go
22 through, then we would go to the step that we propose
23 here, and that is take up the conversation with the
24 Department of Fish and Game and Department of Public
25 Safety.

26
27 And on the basis and the outcome of
28 that discussion, we would keep the Council members
29 advised of, you know, what was the results. And I
30 would like to apologize for a potential, you know,
31 oversight in contacting you about this matter before,
32 but I guess initially when we developed the proposal,
33 we thought that, you know, the main concern was, you
34 know, the first place that I'll come to was Kodiak
35 Island on State and private lands. And then it wasn't,
36 you know, immediately, you know, a concern of Federal
37 lands further west on the Refuge. But I think the
38 approach, if this were to be done again, would be to
39 essentially work in consultation with you as well as,
40 you know, on the State side, the fish and game advisory
41 committee members. So there's a little -- you know, a
42 little disconnect in our process.

43
44 And I want to restate that we fully
45 support the conservation of objective of this proposal.
46 You know, we believe that it's very important for the
47 sake of protecting our resources here on Kodiak Island
48 to do whatever we can to maximize the prevention of elk
49 establishment.

50

1 At the same time I would once again
2 like to state that in terms of the existing elk
3 regulations on Afognak Island, on the State side,
4 that's fine. The State's doing a good job with elk
5 management over there.

6
7 And then on the Federal side. You
8 know, we don't have any proposal to change what's going
9 on with respect to the Federal regulations as they
10 pertain out there. It seems to be working.

11
12 And in closing, we would appreciate the
13 Council's support of the conservation objective that we
14 cite in the proposal. I'll leave it at that. I'll be
15 glad to entertain any questions.

16
17 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Thank you, Bill.

18
19 InterAgency Staff Committee comments.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Fish and game
24 advisory committee comments. Bill, if you can just
25 move over.

26
27 MR. CHERVENAK: Mr. Chairman and the
28 Board. My name is Paul Chervenak, and I'm with the
29 local Kodiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

30
31 This might be a hair out of order, I
32 should have done this this morning. I'd just like to
33 say thank you for the RAC committee's support on the
34 rural determination of Kodiak's rural status, and also
35 acknowledge Pat, Tonya, and the other people on the
36 round table for all their hard work.

37
38 Regarding Proposal 90, the advisory
39 committee did unanimously oppose this. I guess mostly
40 based on the way it was written. Philosophically we
41 did support, as Bill mentioned, we do support the U.S.
42 Fish and Wildlife Service in protecting the integrity
43 of the Refuge and stemming the introduction or
44 establishment of new species.

45
46 But in this case we don't think it's a
47 problem at the current time and actually this would
48 create a bigger problem as Bill mentioned with
49 enforcement, potential abuse, and the illegal harvest
50 of elk year round. We think the current -- there are

1 no elk currently here, and the current season would
2 stem that, but we'll stay on top of that.

3
4 So at this time we were unanimously
5 opposed.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Thank you, Paul.

8
9 Summary of written public comments.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Public testimony.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Regional Council
18 deliberation, recommendation and justification.

19
20 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. I'd like
21 to make a motion to oppose the proposal.

22
23 MR. HOLMES: Second.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Motion by Pete
26 Squartsoff, second by Pat Holmes. Discussion.

27
28 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. In my
29 recollection, and it's pretty foggy as Pete can
30 testify, but it seems like there's been elk in Afognak
31 -- they first tried doing that about 70, 80 years ago,
32 and it's only really been the last 30, 35 years that
33 there's been any numbers.

34
35 But I remember shooting the breeze with
36 Benny, and he's the game biologist who passed away
37 recently that was involved in a lot of that. And
38 there's only been four elk that ever have been shot on
39 Kodiak Island, mainly up in Kupreanof Straits area.
40 And I think there was one a little farther south one
41 time, and that was the gossip I heard probably 30 years
42 ago from Gary Atwell. One of his seasonsals shot one
43 and called in and asked for a bunch of canning jars and
44 a canner.

45
46 And so it doesn't happen a lot, and I
47 have full confidence in the Department of Fish and Game
48 and their ability to use their registration hunts to
49 focus on any critters that might happen to get there.
50 And I'm sure Pete and all his relatives will be more

1 than glad to make sure that that doesn't go any
2 further. So I'm going to be strongly against this
3 proposal.

4
5 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Thank you, Pat.
6 Further discussion.

7
8 MR. HAMILTON: Mr. Chair. I had a
9 question earlier for Bill or John Crye or somebody
10 here. I was just curious what's the most southern
11 known range of the animals at this time? I mean, what
12 -- are they -- it seems like they're not on refuge
13 lands. It hasn't been proven or been observed at this
14 time? And I'm just curious if anybody can answer that.
15 I'm just trying to get a scope of the problem. It's
16 pretty complex.

17
18 MR. CRYE: Yeah. This is John Crye.
19 Yeah. Mr. Chairman.

20
21 Like Bill mentioned and Paul, I mean,
22 there's been hearsay elk taken, and the farthest south
23 I've heard that hearsay take was probably down on Uyak
24 Bay, and it was maybe 15, 20 years ago. And like I
25 said, it's pretty much hearsay. I don't really have
26 any proof that they were taken or anything.

27
28 MR. HAMILTON: John. Mr. Chair. But
29 recently it's been more like the Pasagshak. And, I
30 mean, what I've heard, is kind of more like Hidden
31 Basin, Uyak Bay in more recent years here, or has it
32 been further south than that?

33
34 MR. CRYE: Yeah. A few years ago we
35 had two bull elk that were at Port Lions by the
36 airport, and some goat hunters kind of saw them up
37 coming down Kizhuyak and over the Crown Mountain, and
38 they popped into Hidden Basin. Those -- both those
39 bulls were legally taken, one during a drawing hunt in
40 Hidden Basin, and one during the registration hunt at
41 Rough Creek. Those were the only two that people have
42 seen.

43
44 We currently -- registration hunts are
45 over the counter. We currently have about 400
46 registration hunts. Quite a few of those people report
47 elk hunting on, you know, the road system in Kodiak. I
48 haven't had any sightings, and the Fish and Game does
49 not know of any herds established on Kodiak.
50

1 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I was
2 wondering if this proposal was enacted the way it was,
3 would that mean that the elk that Burton has on his
4 ranch would be open to hunt.

5
6 MR. CRYE: Currently Fish and Game has
7 authority to, if any elk get out of Burton's pens,
8 you're pretty much under the gun to get rid of them
9 quick, because of disease concerns, Krock (ph) waste
10 disease. With our hunting season, his elk would fall
11 -- for the public to take elk, it would have to fall
12 under the current hunting regulations with a
13 registration or drawing permit to be legally taken.

14
15 MR. HOLMES: Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Thank you, John.

18
19 MR. HAMILTON: Just one final comment.
20 Yeah. I'm pretty sympathetic to kind of the dilemma
21 that refuge is in, but I will oppose. It just seems
22 like we're not quite there yet on a problem. I'm just
23 -- I'm trying to establish a time line of the potential
24 problem. I mean, now -- you know, when could this
25 conceivably happen and how much time, you know, through
26 emergency order or through some regulatory process
27 could we deal with it, and it seems like we're not
28 there yet. So I'm going to oppose.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Thank you, Jim.

31
32 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I
33 really oppose this proposal, because I really feel that
34 the Fish and Game does have it under control with the
35 remainder of Game Unit 8, and the registration. And I
36 haven't heard of any other elk besides the two that
37 were taken down at Hidden Basin that could have been
38 taken in Port Lions. The guys had permits, but they
39 didn't know if it was legal or not. But they were
40 there, and there were two bulls. But that's the only
41 ones I know of. And I just can't support this proposal
42 at this time.

43
44 MR. HOLMES: Call for the question, Mr.
45 Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Call for the
48 question by Pat Holmes. Any further discussion.

49
50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Hearing no
2 discussion, it passes unanimous.

3
4 Going down to number 10, item B, other
5 Alaska Board of Game proposals. Item B, other Alaska
6 Board of Game proposals.

7
8 MS. GREFFENIUS: By way of
9 introduction, some of the other ones, they're in your
10 packet here, and one of the other ones that was going
11 to be addressed by some of the agency Staff was 79 and
12 206. It's the Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd
13 in 9D. We're going down in numerical order. We were
14 going to consider the 9D and the Southern Alaska
15 Peninsula Herd and the other ones in addition, and what
16 I -- is that okay, we just proceed with that one?

17
18 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Yes. Let's
19 proceed.

20
21 MS. GREFFENIUS: Okay. On this
22 particular one, it's Page 5 in your -- on the OSM
23 comments. And as I said, I would just provide
24 introduction. And the proposed -- and you also have
25 copies of these proposals in the packet. They're
26 photocopied out of the Board of Game proposal book.

27
28 And this is No. 79 and 206. No. 79 was
29 submitted by ADF&G and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
30 Service. And the proposed actions would reduce the
31 harvest of the Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd
32 to address a conservation concern and providing long-
33 term benefits to all users of the resource.

34
35 OSM's recommendation is to adopt
36 regulations which would reduce harvest of the herd.
37 And our rationale for that recommendation was we concur
38 with the ADF&G and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
39 And the proposal will provide for the subsistence use
40 priority for harvesting caribou by removing opportunity
41 for non-resident hunters and making it a Tier I
42 registration permit hunt for residents.

43
44 Further background information can be
45 provided by the agency Staff.

46
47 And we also really -- I just want to
48 mention we appreciate getting the Council's
49 recommendations on these. And I didn't mention before,
50 but we'll take this back to our office and make sure we

1 pass it on to Dan LaPlant, who is our liaison with
2 ADF&G, and he attends the Board of Game on proposals.
3 So the Council comments do get submitted. Your
4 recommendations and your comments do get submitted
5 before the Board of Game goes through their
6 deliberation process.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Thank you. Are you
11 recommending going over Proposal 79 and 206 at this
12 point? Is that what.....

13

14 MS. GREFFENIUS: That's correct. The
15 next one as far as covering, I discussed what our
16 recommendations were for this particular one, 79 and
17 206, and then we can deal with the others after you go
18 through your recommendation.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Okay. Thank you.
21 I guess we'll go through for public comments. Alaska
22 Department of Fish and Game comments.

23

24 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. Members of the
25 Council. My name is Lem Butler.

26

27 I can answer any questions you might
28 have about this proposal. Obviously it was submitted
29 by the Department in combination with Izembek National
30 Wildlife Refuge, so we obviously support it. It was
31 submitted in response to concern for the continued
32 population decline, and particularly the chronically
33 low calf recruitment. We feel that it's time to limit
34 non-resident participation, so we're proposing a Tier I
35 hunt, registration permit hunt.

36

37 I'll probably tell you more about the
38 status of the herd and what we're doing to look into
39 what's actually going on later during the Staff
40 reports, but again I'll answer any questions you might
41 have..

42

43 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Do we have any
44 questions for Lem at this time?

45

46 MR. HOLMES: Lem, could you just
47 basically touch on the population change there? I know
48 you've addressed it to us before, but just for the
49 record, there's kind of been a long down-hill slide,
50 hasn't there?

1 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. Members of the
2 Council. That's correct. Izembek National Wildlife
3 Refuge conducts winters counts, that's mostly how we've
4 been monitoring population trend. The herd's
5 fluctuated in size historically. It's most recent peak
6 was in 2002, at least according to the surveys when
7 4,200 caribou were counted. In recent winters, the
8 population in Unit 9B on the mainland has decreased to
9 approximately 1600 during the last count during the
10 winter of 2005/2006 according to surveys. To my
11 knowledge Sandra Siekaniec might be able to tell you a
12 little bit more about what the refuge has been doing
13 recently in terms of their activities, but we don't
14 feel like we have a good count from this winter at this
15 point, so we don't have a new number to update that
16 with.

17
18 But again, given the chronic low calf
19 recruitment, we during the fall composition surveys
20 estimated the calf ratio to be one calf per 100 cow.
21 We looked at about 800 caribou, saw about 4 calves, so
22 that's just dismal. Obviously it doesn't allow for any
23 sustainable harvest. The question is what's allowable
24 at this point. And we need to reduce the harvest as
25 much as possible to prevent further harm to the
26 population.

27
28 MR. HOLMES: Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Any further
31 questions for Lem.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Thank you, Lem.
36 Other Federal, State and Tribal agency.

37
38 MS. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair. My name is
39 Sandra Siekaniec. I'm the refuse manager at the
40 Izembek refuge.

41
42 And I worked with Lem on this proposal.
43 The herd is declining. The last count we did, we only
44 counted 770 animals. We don't feel that that was a
45 good count, so we're trying to do another, but the
46 conditions have not been favorable. So we want to make
47 sure that we get a good count and evaluate what's going
48 on with the herd.

49
50 Until then though, you know, we tried

1 to reduce harvest last year with the committee. We got
2 down to two bulls. We feel that we need to reduce
3 harvest even further, and so we decided to work with
4 Lem to get something to the Regional -- or to the Board
5 of Game, to propose something else.

6

7 So this is our proposal. We're trying
8 to reduce other harvests rather than subsistence first
9 before we come back to the Board. Our concern is that
10 the population may drop to the point where we have to
11 do an emergency closure, and we'd rather not get to
12 that point, but it may happen.

13

14 What we'd like to see the Board do, the
15 Federal Subsistence Board did write a letter of support
16 for this proposal. And I believe it's in your packet.
17 It came from Mike Fleagle. So, you know, we're
18 presenting this proposal to you to see if you would
19 also like to lend your support to the proposal.

20

21 Any questions.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Any questions.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Thank you, Sandra.

28

29

30 InterAgency Staff Committee comments.

31

32 (No opposing votes)

33

34 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Fish and game
35 advisory committee.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Summary of written
40 public comments.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Public testimony.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Regional Council
49 deliberation, recommendation and justification.

50

1 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman. I'd move
2 that we adopt Proposal 79 and 206.
3
4 MR. CRATTY: I'll second.
5
6 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Motion made by Pat,
7 seconded by Al.
8
9 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I'll call for the
10 question.
11
12 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Call for the
13 question. All those in favor of the proposal signify
14 by saying aye.
15
16 IN UNISON: Aye.
17
18 (No opposing votes)
19
20 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Motion passes.
21
22 Okay. For more -- going down Alaska
23 Board of Game proposals. Do we do this now? Are we
24 still. We're on 91?
25
26 MR. HOLMES: Actually, probably we'd
27 want to hit 81, because that's Unit 10, Unimak Island.
28
29 MS. DOWNING: Your microphone, please.
30
31 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair, we probably
32 might want to hit 81 first and then 91.
33
34 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Yes, we'll go with
35 81 and then 91. Thank you, Laura.
36
37 MS. GREFFENIUS: Okay. This one,
38 there's a brief summary for Proposal 81 for the OSM
39 comments on Page 5. And this concerns hunting seasons
40 and bag limits for caribou in Unit 10. The current
41 Federal regulation is listed right there.
42
43 The main issue that we were concerned
44 with on this one, the OSM recommendation is to adopt
45 the proposal with modification to allow for the limits
46 that have been discussed in the State proposal to apply
47 only to Adak Island. The concern would be that it not
48 apply to Unimak Island, so it wouldn't impact the
49 management of the Unimak Island Caribou Herd.
50

1 So that's the brief summary on that on.
2 Thank you.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Thank you, Laura.

5
6 Any discussion.

7
8 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Mr. Chair. I just
9 have a question I guess. Federal position/recommended
10 action, is on this 2 bull and 10 cow bag limit, is that
11 total, or is that per hunter?

12
13 MS. GREFFENIUS: Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Yes, Laura.

16
17 MS. GREFFENIUS: I'm looking at
18 Proposal 81 from the Board of Game proposal book. And
19 this one, it -- we don't list it all right here,
20 because we've only listed the current Federal
21 regulations.

22
23 The proposal is for Unit 10, Aleutian
24 Islands, six cow caribou every regulatory year, no
25 closed season, and one bull every regulatory year,
26 September 10 to December 31. And so -- and then the
27 issues and the whole write-up in here is for Adak
28 Island. But the way it's written is Unit 10, Aleutian
29 Islands. So what we wanted to make sure that we point
30 out is the proposed action as it's written is to apply
31 to all of Unit 10 and it would severely impact the
32 Unimak Island Caribou Herd. And continuing the State
33 regulations for hunting on Unimak Island would
34 alleviate this conservation concern.

35
36 And so the recommendation is to adopt
37 the proposal with modification to apply only to Adak
38 Island. And so -- and this modification recommends the
39 two bull and 10 cow limit for Adak Island.

40
41 Does that answer your question?

42
43 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Thank you, Laura.

44
45 Any further discussion.

46
47 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Pat.

50

1 MR. HOLMES: The harvest limit then for
2 Unimak Island would be four caribou, and then would
3 that be consistent with the State recommendation for
4 Unimak?

5
6 MS. GREFFENIUS: The current Federal
7 regulation, we're not address -- we're just giving that
8 information right now, the current Federal regulation,
9 and there's not any proposal for changing that. It's
10 just showing that it's for caribou.

11
12 And then on the next page after -- I
13 didn't go to the next page, on Page 6 at the top of
14 Page 6, I should just read that. Although residents of
15 Adak will continue to have an unlimited harvest
16 opportunity on Federal lands, the proposed bag limit of
17 one bull and six cows may not provide adequate harvest
18 opportunities near the community where most of the
19 harvest by Adak residents occurs. Also, any regulatory
20 changes should apply only to Adak Island so as not to
21 impact management of the Unimak Island Caribou Herd.

22
23 And so that modification where it was
24 for the 2 bulls and 10 cows would be for Adak Island.
25 And that was just a modification from the -- what was
26 originally put forth in Proposal 81.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 MR. HOLMES: Okay. So it doesn't
31 relate to Unimak Island. This would be requesting the
32 State Board to modify their proposal and address it
33 only to Adak Island, that's correct?

34
35 MS. GREFFENIUS: Well, as it's written
36 right now, it applies to -- the way the State proposal
37 is written right now, it says Unit 10 and it would
38 include Unimak. Our OSM recommendation is to make sure
39 -- our recommendation is to make clear that it would
40 apply only to Adak and not include Unimak so that there
41 wouldn't be any management of the herd there.

42
43 MR. HOLMES: Thank you. And I guess I
44 would ask Lem. On Adak, the 2 bulls and 10 cows
45 wouldn't be a problem?

46
47 And then I would ask another question
48 as long as I'm talking. Adak Island, the northern half
49 of the Island where the base was, wasn't that
50 transferred to the Aleut Corporation or something, and

1 is that still Federal lands? Because some of the hunt
2 does take place on the base side of the island and some
3 of it takes place on the other side, so therefore it
4 would seem that we would want to have coordination of
5 State and the Federal bag limits so that they wouldn't
6 be contradictory. That's my question.

7

8 So two parts.

9

10 MS. GREFFENIUS: Yeah. As a former
11 resident of Adak, I can -- I don't know the exact land
12 status on the northern half. The southern half is
13 Federal lands. As far as the northern half, there have
14 been some land transfer issues. And so the Federal
15 regulations that are currently in place then, the
16 subsistence Federal regulations would apply to that
17 southern half, the Federal lands.

18

19 If the State ends up -- whatever the
20 State ends up passing on this one, this particular one
21 right here, then the Council can choose to submit
22 during the wildlife regulatory cycle, excuse me, can
23 choose to submit a proposal that if it's increased, and
24 if they want to submit a proposal that would increase
25 the harvest for the Federal lands on the southern half
26 of Adak Island, then you would have that opportunity in
27 the fall.

28

29 Does that answer your question?

30

31 MR. HOLMES: Yes. To change the
32 Federal regs would be in the fall, but right now we
33 could put in our two bits worth to the State, because
34 they've got it on the table, and they can modify it
35 whatever way they should desire, right?

36

37 Okay. So, Lem, is there a problem with
38 2 bulls and 10 cows?

39

40 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. Members of the
41 Council.

42

43 First, for clarification this proposal
44 was misprinted in the proposal booklet, so it actually
45 only applies to Adak. That was a correction the
46 proponent informed the Board of already. So that
47 Unimak really isn't an issue with this proposal.

48

49 From my point of view, the challenge of
50 Adak is we have an island population of caribou that's

1 rapidly increasing, and eventually it's going to max
2 out carrying capacity and the population's going to
3 diminish. The history of island caribou populations is
4 that it usually falls to about 300 or 400 animals and
5 it stays at low levels for a long period of time.

6

7 So we're trying to encourage harvest of
8 the population to slow that population growth and
9 provide as much opportunity for resource users as
10 possible.

11

12 On the other hand, a lot of the harvest
13 pressure that we need comes from non-local hunters, so
14 the intent of this is to modify the no closed season,
15 no bag limit, to encourage some non-local participation
16 to manage the herd. We don't want to necessarily
17 impact subsistence users, so we're not going to submit
18 a similar proposal to the Federal Board. At least
19 that's not my intent. I would like to see that remain
20 a no closed season, no bag limit on the Federal lands
21 down there.

22

23 The proposed season that the proponent
24 offers, 1 bull September 10 to December 31, is seen as
25 to limiting for a lot of users. A lot of the access is
26 by boat. I'm told that conditions can get pretty
27 rough. Several of the transporters wanted to see an
28 earlier season. We're also trying to promote trophy
29 potential to attract hunters, so we're restricting the
30 bull season simply to allow the antlers to grow to
31 maturity and provide good opportunity.

32

33 So I think the amendment that OSM's
34 referring to, the two bulls, August 10 to December 31
35 and a total bag limit of five caribou is, from my
36 perspective, the best balance in all those options.
37 We're trying to get some cows harvested to slow the
38 population growth. We're trying to get as much harvest
39 as possible over all to again reduce the impacts on the
40 habitat.

41

42 And, of course, the Alaska Maritime
43 National Wildlife Refuge is also concerned about the
44 implications of large populations on this island, so --
45 and the potential of spread to other islands, I want to
46 say Kagalaska, but that's -- is that right?

47

48 MR. HOLMES: Right.

49

50 MR. BUTLER: Yeah. Okay. Good. That

1 was what was coming to mind is right there, 30 meters
2 away, and so far the caribou haven't moved to that
3 island, so they're trying to work within those limits
4 as well.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: And what's the
7 population of the caribou herd?

8
9 MR. BUTLER: Again, Alaska Maritime
10 National Wildlife Refuge has the largest presence out
11 there. In 2005 they counted 2700 caribou on the
12 island. In the 60s Fish and Game was more involved i
13 cooperation with the military and the Federal
14 Government, and during that period of time they
15 estimated that the island could sustain 1,000 caribou,
16 so, you know, that hasn't been updated, but it's likely
17 already past what's sustainable long term at this
18 point.

19
20 MR. HOLMES: You know, when I was out
21 there in '82, I gave the refuge a day's helicopter
22 time, and I'm not exactly sure what the count was, but
23 it seemed to me it was like around 1100 or something
24 like that in '82. And they had thought there had been
25 a big drop, but in actuality, the -- well, actually it
26 had dropped, but there had been a big build-up between
27 the 60s and '82, and the base skipper was very
28 concerned about the decline. So it's gone through a
29 down and an up and it looks like she's still climbing
30 up. And that's rather amazing for the amount of area
31 there for the caribou.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Currently the Fish
34 and Wildlife Service is managing the herd on Adak
35 or.....

36
37 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. Currently the
38 Fish and Wildlife Service is monitoring the herd and
39 participating in a cooperative management of the herd.
40 It largely isn't managed though again. You know, the
41 management is based on harvest pressure that's
42 available, and that's increased rapidly according to
43 reports in just the past few years, but there really
44 hasn't been much of a management program for this
45 particular population.

46
47 The long term management plan that was
48 developed cooperatively between the State and Federal
49 Government is to maintain a population of less than 600
50 caribou.

1 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Thank you, Lem.
2 Any further questions or discussions.
3
4 MR. HOLMES: Well, a tongue in cheek
5 comment, we should probably have a meeting at Adak so
6 that the RAC could help reduce the population.
7
8 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Yeah. You know,
9 it's unfortunate Vince wasn't here. He would have had
10 a lot of comment or questions, or answers, you know.
11
12 Any further discussion or questions.
13
14 (No comments)
15
16 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: And you mentioned
17 that there was a misprint in the.....
18
19 MR. BUTLER: That's correct, Mr. Chair.
20 The proposal was submitted by a guide on Unimak, Mark
21 Wagner, and he's contacted the Board and the Department
22 of Fish and Game to clarify that the proposal addresses
23 only Adak and not the other Aleutian Islands.
24
25 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Thank you.
26
27 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair, unless I'm
28 mistaken, I think that we probably should just go along
29 with a motion to adopt this proposal as we've gotten
30 from the OSM's recommendation and ask that it be
31 forwarded to the State Board. Am I correct in my
32 thinking?
33
34 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: There's a motion
35 made by Pat Holmes.
36
37 MR. HAMILTON: I second it.
38
39 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Seconded by Jim.
40 Any discussion.
41
42 (No comments)
43
44 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: All those in favor
45 signify by saying aye.
46
47 IN UNISON: Aye.
48
49 (No opposing votes)
50

1 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: I think it's lunch
2 time. At this time we'll take a lunch break, and be
3 back here at 1:00 o'clock, or is that too early? 1:30?
4 It means we get out of here early, too. Okay. We'll
5 be back -- we'll just start at 1:15.

6
7 (Off record)

8
9 (On record)

10
11 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: I'd like to call
12 the meeting back to order.

13
14 We're on Proposal 91. Unit 8
15 registration permits for goats. Laura.

16
17 MS. GREFFENIUS: Thank you. Laura
18 Greffenius with the Office of Subsistence Management.

19
20 On the packet of OSM recommendations,
21 it's on Page 6. The State Proposal is 91, which
22 addresses Unit 8 registration permits for goat.

23
24 And the main thing that we do with
25 these OSM comments is to address how it affects
26 subsistence users, and so the impact to Federal
27 subsistence users would be that making Kodiak goat
28 registration permits available in Kodiak and Anchorage
29 during the open season may have negative impacts on
30 local residents as they attempt to harvest goats during
31 the November season.

32
33 So the OSM recommendation is to reject
34 this particular proposal and those of you from Kodiak
35 are familiar with this issue, and there had been work
36 between this Council and the local Kodiak Fish and Game
37 Advisory Committee. So the current State registration
38 permit regulation is viewed by local goat hunters as a
39 locally derived solution that addresses the management
40 of goat subsistence on Kodiak Island, and as I
41 mentioned, that was already developed by local users
42 here.

43
44 So that's the OSM recommendation, and
45 then we'd like to get the Council's recommendation as
46 well.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50 MR. HOLMES: Don't we need to have

1 staff comments and stuff? Oh, we need it on the table?

2

3 Okay. I guess to get it on the table,
4 to get comments and everything, I'd like to move that
5 we do not adopt Proposal 91, and we send a
6 recommendation to the Board of Game against this
7 proposal.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Excuse me, Pat.
10 Can you repeat that again, please?

11

12 MR. HOLMES: Okay. I would like to
13 propose that we do not adopt or endorse Proposal 91 on
14 State hunting regs, and that we send a statement to the
15 Board of Game that we're against this proposal.

16

17 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Second.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Motion by Pat and
20 seconded by Pete Squartsoff.

21

22 MR. HAMILTON: Mr. Chair. I was just
23 wondering if we're going to hear from John Crye or
24 anybody on this from the State.

25

26 MR. HOLMES: And also the advisory
27 committee rep is here, too, Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: John, do you have
30 any comments.

31

32 MR. CRYE: John Crye. Mr. Chairman.
33 Yeah, this proposal was submitted by the Anchorage
34 Advisory Committee and it's kind of a surprise to us.
35 But, yeah, we're recommending do not adopt. We work
36 really well with the RAC and the advisory committee on
37 this goat registration hunt.

38

39 And we're kind of affronted by it.
40 It's almost like if the local advisory committee put a
41 proposal in to change the moose hunt in Anchorage.
42 That's how we kind of feel with this.

43

44 But the advisory committee on the 13th
45 voted not to adopt this proposal.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Thank you, John.

48

49 MR. HAMILTON: That's all, Mr. Chair,
50 from me. Thanks.

1 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Thank you.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. Maybe the
4 advisory committee rep could add a little bit to this,
5 because he was part of the goat study group that worked
6 with members of our committee on developing our
7 compromise.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: And the advisory
10 committee.

11

12 MR. CHERVENAK: Mr. Chairman and
13 Committee. My name is Paul Chervenak. I am with the
14 advisory committee.

15

16 We did unanimously oppose this. I also
17 co-chair with Pat the goat subcommittee, which is still
18 in existence, and this would be very counter to what we
19 have worked so hard to enact. It would really endanger
20 the registration hunt as it is now, and potentially the
21 sport hunt also.

22

23 I will be representing the advisory
24 board at the Board of Game and will be opposing this.

25

26 And what we have has worked out really
27 well so far, and is giving us opportunity. And we will
28 be having a meeting here in March to continue to sort
29 of fine tune this. But we want to take it in small
30 steps so as we don't endanger the whole process.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Thank you, Paul.

33

34 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Question.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: The question's been
37 called by Pete Squartsoff. Any further discussion.

38

39 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I could go on
40 a long time. Our community island worked on this. Now
41 we've probably put three winters worth of work into it,
42 and it really represented where we're at in the Sate
43 regs as, you know, a great compromise and example of
44 how the RAC and advisory committees work together. And
45 I think that this would greatly jeopardize the
46 relationship that we have. And I'd be totally against
47 it. Now, if we could work something out where we'd
48 have a registration hunt for Kodiak folks for moose on
49 Mountain View in Anchorage and priority to Anchorage,
50 maybe we could talk about it. But I'm totally against

1 it.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: The question's been
4 called. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

5

6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7

8 (No opposing votes)

9

10 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Motion passes.

11

12 Moving on here to Proposal 51 or 50 --
13 49, 50, 51 and 52. And it's hunting seasons and bag
14 limits for brown bear in Unit 9 D and unit 10; a
15 special provision for Unit 10 brown bear permit hunts.
16 Laura.

17

18 MS. GREFFENIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 The OSM recommendation is on Page 3.

20

21 What I want to say, just to preface
22 this, this is just a really general recommendation
23 here, because we really only address what affects
24 subsistence issues. And so the Council can carry forth
25 as they wish. But if you were to look at the actual
26 State proposals, they go into much more detail just as
27 far as the seasons and drawing permits and allocating
28 resident, non-resident, and that's not our purview. We
29 don't get into that. So as far as OSM, we're just
30 addressing how it affects the subsistence users. I
31 just want to make sure I make that clear, because
32 there's a lot more in the actual proposals themselves.

33

34 So overall, just lumping these
35 together, 49, 50, 51 and 52, they all address some
36 aspect of seasons, bag limits, and some provisions
37 dealing with permit hunts of brown bear in Unit 9D and
38 Unit 10.

39

40 So looking at the current Federal
41 regulation, there are seasons for ceremonial purposes,
42 and so as far as the impacts to Federal subsistence
43 users, the Federal subsistence regulations have a
44 ceremonial harvest by Federal registration permit as
45 noted under the special provisions. Any actions
46 relating to the hunting seasons and harvest limits may
47 have an impact on those who are harvesting for
48 ceremonial purposes.

49

50 So the OSM recommendation is neutral on

1 these proposals, and as I said, there's much more
2 details pertaining to the actual content of them, and
3 this primarily addresses how it would affect
4 subsistence users.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Any public comments
9 on Proposals 49, 50, 51 and 52.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: No public comments.
14 How about InterAgency comments or anything on 51, 52.

15
16 (No comments)d

17
18 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Regional Council
19 deliberation, recommendation, and justification.

20
21 (Pause)

22
23 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I'd like to make a
24 motion that we take no action on these proposals.

25
26 MR. HAMILTON: I second that.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Motion by Pete, no
29 action. Seconded by Jim. Any further discussion.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Hearing none, the
34 motion passes. I guess we'll do a vote on this since
35 there's no discussion. Okay. All those in favor
36 signify by saying aye.

37
38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39
40 (No opposing votes)

41
42 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Passes.

43
44 Okay. Moving down the agenda, number
45 11, call for proposals to change Federal subsistence
46 fishery regulations. The proposal period ends March
47 23rd, 2007. Anybody to comment on this proposal.

48
49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Hearing none,
2 moving down the agenda, Council composition. Ann
3 Wilkinson.

4
5 MS. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman. Council
6 members. Good afternoon. I'm very pleased to be here
7 with you and get to know your Council a little bit
8 today.

9
10 We're going to be talking about the
11 Council composition issue that is before the Councils
12 and will be before the Board at their April and May
13 Board meeting. If you would look in your book on Page
14 69, there is a printed briefing, it's one page,
15 followed by a summary of the written public comments
16 that we received last fall. There's also one page that
17 just covers the Councils' powers and duties taken out
18 of the regulation. And following that, on Page 74 and
19 75 through 77, there's the Federal Register notice
20 regarding our request for public comments.

21
22 In 2003 the Secretary of the Interior
23 amended the Council charters to stipulate that Council
24 members would represent either subsistence or
25 commercial and sport users. He also set a goal of 30
26 percent representation for commercial and sport users
27 on each Council. I would like you to remember that
28 that was a goal and not an absolute. And to set up the
29 Council membership numbers at 10 and 13. Southeast,
30 Southcentral, and Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Councils were
31 given 13 members, all the rest 10. And OSM was given
32 three years in which to completely implement the new
33 system.

34
35 In August of 2006, the court ordered
36 the Board to stop using the 70/30 system at the end of
37 that calendar year, and to promptly begin developing a
38 plan for balanced membership that will meet ANILCA and
39 FACA requirements. The judge said that the Board had
40 not provided enough justification for choosing that
41 70/30 measure of balancing the Council representation.

42
43 The Office of Subsistence Management
44 promptly published a request for public comment, which
45 is in your book, and sent out news releases requesting
46 public comments. A summary of the comments are also
47 there in your book.

48
49 The Board is now seeking the Council's
50 official recommendations regarding Council membership.

1 As you develop Council recommendations, please consider
2 the following things.

3
4 The Federal Advisory Committee Act says
5 that the points of view represented on the Council must
6 be balanced with the functions to be performed --
7 excuse me, to be performed by the Council. That's why
8 I included a list of Council functions.

9
10 The court said that a fairly balanced
11 Regional Council must include consumptive users of fish
12 and wildlife on public lands other than subsistence
13 users, because those users are directly affected by the
14 subsistence priority, and that not every user group
15 needs to be represented on the Councils to provide a
16 balanced membership.

17
18 The Court also said that while 70/30 is
19 one way of meeting FACA requirements, the Board should
20 consider other ways of achieving balanced membership.
21 The judge said, if there ever was a situation that
22 called for thinking outside the box, this is it. He
23 also noted that 70/30 tends to be a confrontation and
24 divisive measure.

25
26 The Board will develop its
27 recommendation to the Secretaries at its April 30
28 through May 2nd, 2007 meeting. This is the Council's
29 only opportunity to form a recommendation to the Board.

30
31 So I'm here to answer any questions or
32 discuss this with you if you like. Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Thank you.
35 Discussion or comments, questions.

36
37 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. I guess I
38 would ask again like when we had the determination in
39 2003 is what's broken and what doesn't work, because
40 2003 we had some few different folks, but we pretty
41 well covered the industry. And we've added on Jim and
42 Sam Rohrer and, you know, they're just regular old
43 Kodiak and Western Gulf of Alaska folks like everybody
44 else. And it seems to be working.

45
46 So say quit changing it. Just leave it
47 alone.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Thank you, Pat.
50 Any questions or comments. Yes, Pete.

1 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I
2 don't see anything wrong with what we have right now,
3 but I definitely would like to see a little more
4 representation from out the Chain. I mean, nothing
5 against my friends here in Kodiak, or the people in
6 Kodiak, but it seems like we're really building up on
7 the Kodiak part of the board and nothing out west. We
8 have one member now from St. Paul, and that's basically
9 it. So I definitely would like to have some
10 representation from out the Chain.

11
12 MS. WILKINSON: Mr. Chair. Yes, I
13 think it was three years ago this Council -- or two
14 years ago this Council recommended changes to your
15 charter that would allow a certain number for Kodiak
16 and a certain number for the islands and the Peninsula.
17 And I think that was a fine plan.

18
19 The only thing is that we can only deal
20 with what applications we get. So if you know people,
21 you know, who are out there and would make Council
22 representatives, please to not hesitate to encourage
23 them to apply.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. You know, we
28 do have Vince from Adak and if he steps down, I'm sure
29 there are some good folks at Unalaska or Atka or Adak.

30
31
32 And then we had Rick Koso, but it took
33 so long for him to finally get his approval that he
34 basically only came a couple times and he was off. And
35 Rick's a King Cove boy and, you know, lives at and
36 works out of Adak now.

37
38 And so I guess what would help us a lot
39 as a Council is if you could somehow streamline the
40 appointment process.

41
42 And I would like to have an answer to
43 our request to the Federal Board at I think our last
44 meeting. I think Pete made it. It was if we end up
45 having a vacancy and someone resign, to allow the
46 Subsistence Board Chairman to appoint someone,
47 particularly if they've got the endorsement of our
48 committee, to take a temporary position to fill out,
49 because, golly, I mean, I kind of like Rick's point of
50 view and he had a different way of looking at things a

1 little bit than Vince, and a little different than some
2 of the folks here. And we do need someone from the
3 Alaska Peninsula. But we do need some mechanism
4 whereby we can have vacant positions filled in a timely
5 manner.

6
7 And I know the first time that I was in
8 review for this Advisory Council, the fish and game
9 advisory committee endorsed me and sent in a letter,
10 and it took about eight months, and then I was
11 interviewed by a guy that had only been in Alaska four
12 years and didn't even know where half the places are.

13
14 And, you know, it takes 18 months or
15 two years sometimes for someone to fill a slot, and
16 that's a ridiculous amount of time for us to be able to
17 function in any reasonable way.

18
19 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Thank you, Pat.
22 Any further?

23
24 MS. WILKINSON: Excuse me.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Yes, Ann.

27
28 MS. WILKINSON: Thank you. In response
29 to Mr. Holmes, the Secretary has reserved to himself
30 the right to make Council appointments. We did try to
31 get the authority given -- have the authority given to
32 the Board to be able to appoint people in term, but the
33 Secretary will not allow that.

34
35 And it is quite a lengthy, bureaucratic
36 process that involves a great number of people, many of
37 which are not here. I mean, this is a Federal process.
38 And there just really isn't any way of shortening that.
39 I'm sorry. I've tried, and it's still a priority for
40 me to make things work as smoothly and as quickly as
41 possible, but it does take nine months to 10 months to
42 get this process worked through the way it is now.

43
44 And that's as good as it can get until
45 the Federal Government changes its way of operating I
46 guess, but Washington, D.C. is where the decision-
47 makers abide, and it does take a lengthy amount of
48 time.

49
50 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Pat.

1 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. I appreciate your
2 efforts, Ann, and it was nice having lunch with you so
3 that I kind of have -- at least we know each other
4 better. And I know you're doing your best.

5
6 But was that with the prior Secretary
7 or was that with Ken Thorne or is that just what Drue
8 Pearce said?

9
10 MS. WILKINSON: That was with the prior
11 Secretary and this Secretary both.

12
13 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I'd like to make
14 another -- if you've seen on the packet here that
15 there's four seats up in 2007, plus we have two
16 vacancies, so that's over 50 percent of the Board, or
17 the Committee.

18
19 MS. WILKINSON: I realize that, and
20 this is not the only Council that has that situation.
21 And that's one reason why, too, it's very urgent for
22 the Board to come up with a Council composition plan
23 that satisfies the law and court system so that we can
24 proceed with our nominations this year. If we don't
25 get something by May, then we won't have any
26 nominations made this year. So it is a timely concern.

27
28 And for filling the slots, yes. I'm
29 sorry, this is something that is with me all the time.
30 And so I'm always looking for people and trying to get
31 these things resolved as quickly and as efficiently as
32 possible. And I think we will be able to do that this
33 year.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: How are the slots
36 filled, let's say, for a vacant seat?

37
38 MS. WILKINSON: If there is a vacancy,
39 then it waits until the regular cycle. So, say, if
40 someone quits in May, then we have to wait until the
41 following fall when the appointment -- or the
42 application period opens. And then it would be -- they
43 would go through the regular nominations process and
44 wouldn't get appointed until the following fall. So it
45 would be 18 months conceivably if there's a vacancy.

46
47 And that is a long time, but like I've
48 said, we've tried to get authority from the Secretary
49 to have the Board make an interim appointment, and
50 that's just not allowed.

1 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Yeah. I think
2 there's like application process from different
3 regions, you know, like I hear there's eight applicants
4 for the six slots. And let's say that, you know, the
5 applicants that are, you know, from the region,
6 prospective from the Aleutian region, you have
7 applicants that submitted applications there. And that
8 we're filling the Aleutian region with a vacant
9 applicant. Would you go through a whole process, an
10 application process to fill Aleutian region area, like
11 for me, for example, or would you select another person
12 from our region? Am I confusing you?

13

14 MS. WILKINSON: Yeah, a little bit.
15 Let me see if I've got this straight. So let's say if
16 you resign.....

17

18 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: On a vacant seat,
19 yeah.

20

21 MS. WILKINSON: On a vacant seat. It
22 would be really nice if we could just pick up someone
23 who had applied previously that was highly qualified
24 and we could recommend them. But we'd still have to
25 recommend them to the Secretary and they would go
26 through the entire lengthy process.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: All right. That's
29 what I was trying to get at is that there's an
30 application from an individual from the Aleutian region
31 who's applied, and didn't make it on, but his
32 application is still there somewhere, and that you
33 would supposedly select his application or some kind of
34 process like that.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 MS. WILKINSON: Well, I haven't given
39 up. I think the Secretary was still fairly new, and so
40 I'm hoping that we could, you know, make this attempt
41 again, and I'm working with the office in Washington
42 that advises him to see if we can't do it in a more --
43 you know, more speedily. They told me at one point
44 that they could do it in two weeks, but I found out
45 that they were just joking. I was really happy there
46 for a brief time. But, yeah, I'm working on that, but
47 it's going to take a while I think.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Okay. Thank you,
50 Ann.

1 Any other questions. Pete.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair. Ann, is there
4 any space in this whole process where the Council can
5 provide some advisory input or suggestions as to
6 potential members that we felt might be good folks and
7 compromise and consensus builders, or is that not
8 acceptable in the Federal spirit to have a Council
9 recommend members? It works well on the State side,
10 but does that violate some mining laws or something.

11

12 MS. WILKINSON: I don't believe that it
13 violates any laws. It's just been a long-standing
14 policy with the Board that Council members not be
15 consulted regarding potential Council members. So if
16 someone who applies lists a Council member as a
17 reference, we go ahead and accept that, because that's
18 that person's reference, but we do not address any
19 Councils regarding applicants to the Council.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Pete.

22

23 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. Wasn't it in
24 the past where there was alternates for areas?

25

26 MS. WILKINSON: Yes, there was, but
27 when the Secretary made changes to the Councils in
28 2003, she also eliminated all the alternates statewide.

29

30 MR. HOLMES: Well, that's unfortunate,
31 because I thought having an alternate helped out, and
32 that's how we ended up with Richard on our Boar, and
33 he's a really good fellow.

34

35 I was wondering, could we make some
36 type of a recommendation as far as composition, and I'm
37 just trying to think of geographic relationships first.
38 And from the get-go there's been like a town/road
39 system rep, two from the villages on Kodiak, because
40 Kodiak Island has the largest number of subsistence
41 users over all, and probably the town or village of
42 Kodiak tops that, but I think I'll get -- roll back
43 that. Maybe have one from the Alaska Peninsula, one
44 from the Aleutians, one from the Pribilofs, and then
45 have four seats -- that gives us six, and then have
46 four seats guides, sport fish, com fish, outfitter, and
47 those could be at large from any location. I mean, we
48 could have a commercial halibut fisherman from Adak
49 or, you know, a guide like Jim from town, or, you know,
50 Dick Rohrer falls into the sport fish guide as well,

1 you know. That's just kind of maybe one approach. And
2 we could talk about what numbers belong in each one or
3 some category, you know, because sometimes it does get
4 a little bit out of balance. I'm just sort of tossing
5 those things out as a consideration.

6

7 Is that the type of feedback that you
8 need from our Council.

9

10 MS. WILKINSON: Mr. Chair. Mr. Holmes.
11 What you're speaking of is particular to your Council,
12 and that can be addressed through your charter which is
13 on the agenda today.

14

15 But what the Board is looking for here
16 is something that would apply to all regions. This
17 would be a general regulation for how we operate.

18

19 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Well, that's my
20 understanding of what just got thrown out, the 70/30
21 thing. So it's referring to the same thing, right?

22

23 MS. WILKINSON: Well, the 70/30 is a
24 balance measure. The idea of having people solely
25 represent certain user groups is okay. 70/30 is what
26 got knocked out. So, you know, you could be in any
27 other kind of measure you want to. You could say just
28 about anything, but not 70/30. Well, you could say
29 whether you approve it or not and why I guess, but
30 they're looking for any kind of ideas.

31

32 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Well, what are you
33 saying? We can't say 70/30, but we could say 50/50?

34

35 MS. WILKINSON: No, I'm sorry. I
36 corrected myself there, because you can make comments
37 about 70/30. But what they're looking for is you have
38 a different idea than that, this would be the time to
39 say so. If you don't like 70/30, this is the time to
40 say so. If you do approve of it, this is the time to
41 say so.

42

43 MR. HAMILTON: Mr. Chair. I'll just
44 speak for myself here. I don't see why we really need
45 to get locked into these hard formulas. I mean, most
46 of us are pretty -- we come from pretty diverse
47 backgrounds. If you're a guide, there are very few
48 guides that can make it guiding, you know, year round.
49 I mean, I'm just thinking of a subsistence user usually
50 has some career, or some form of a career, or some

1 occupation. I mean, most of us have really crossed a
2 lot of boundaries, you know, throughout our lives, and
3 I think we -- I don't really see factions here, or I
4 really don't see really -- I haven't seen a whole lot
5 of opposing trains of thought. I don't see a whole lot
6 of conflict as far as the make up of the Board. Most
7 of us kind of rule ourselves by common sense, and I
8 kind of like what I see here.

9

10 So just speaking for myself, it seems
11 like we don't need to get boxed into this hard formula,
12 and we can just kind of play things by ear. I mean, I
13 think we can work towards a diverse make up and always
14 encourage it, and do our best to try and fulfill that,
15 but it seems like our problem at this point is more
16 just getting qualified applicants or really encouraging
17 people to participate in this process.

18

19 I mean, personally I see that as kind
20 of how we should operate more than say, well, you know,
21 we're not doing things right, because we only have one
22 guide or two guides or three guides, or one subsistence
23 user. I think most of us are pretty diverse in our
24 minds and diverse in our backgrounds to begin with. So
25 I'll just leave it at that.

26

27 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Jim, I agree
28 with what you're saying, Jim, but I also feel that, you
29 know, like when we're discussing the caribou out on
30 Adak or Cold Bay or whatever, and none of us live out i
31 that area, and we're not really, you know, familiar
32 with what's going on with those animals out there and
33 with the people that work out there, where somebody
34 from the local area does know what's going on out
35 there, and that's my concern about trying to keep it
36 sort of balanced where we have people from different
37 areas.

38

39 Like I said, I have nothing against --
40 we end up with everybody from Kodiak on the whole thing
41 and we have no representation from out west. I don't
42 want to see it go that way.

43

44 MR. HAMILTON: Mr. Chair. No, I agree
45 with a regional -- having a broad regional base. I
46 agree with you, Pete.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Yeah. You know,
49 with the Board and the amount of Board members, you
50 know, being vacant or moving on, I'm the only person

1 from the region, you know, at this meeting, and, you
2 know, Mr. Tutiakoff, Vince Tutiakoff, you know, not
3 knowing what he's going to be doing, I'm just referring
4 to the process. Let's say, suppose he doesn't want to
5 be on the Board any more, so there's another vacant
6 slot that we have to fill. And for the timely fashion
7 and manner, you know, for getting another selection,
8 you know, that takes time. So, you know, not knowing
9 where Vince is today, and I'm not saying that he's, you
10 know, stepping down from the Board, but if that still
11 does happen, then we're back, you know, we're stepping
12 backwards again, and that would be one of my concerns
13 for the Board.

14

15 MR. HOLMES: Oh, go ahead, Pete.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Yes.

18

19 MR. HOLMES: Well, I think we need -- I
20 think I'm looking at this as what's made our committee
21 effective, and we have had fairly broad geographical
22 definition. Sometimes it changes and gets a little out
23 of proportion, or we get a representative from some
24 place that whenever they get to Anchorage, they never
25 make it to the meeting for one reason or another, or
26 don't represent their community. But I see having a
27 broad geographic range of membership, I see people that
28 do try to represent their communities and go out and
29 talk to them regardless. You know, this whole rural
30 thing sure -- I ended up meeting a whole lot of folks.
31 And, you know, you have to talk to everybody in your
32 community, even ones that you don't agree with. And
33 then having, as Jim mentioned, you know, a broad range
34 of experience.

35

36 And, you know, if you look at -- you
37 know, when we had this imposed on us, I presented an
38 agreement that, gee, we already have that distribution,
39 because we've got Al's a commercial fisherman, but he's
40 a village rep, and he's also been on the advisory
41 committee. Pete's been on the advisory committee, and
42 he's a sport guide, an outfitter and a lodge owner, and
43 also used to commercial fish. And then we had people
44 that guided. And so you need this broad spectrum of
45 experience that comes with it.

46

47 And one other thing that I'd noticed
48 that our Council does well, and it's because I think,
49 and it's not that I'm saying that fish and game
50 advisory committees are best, because you need both to
address both different arenas of thought, but some of

1 the better Council members that I've seen -- Pete has
2 been on it, Al, I was on both committees, Vince was on
3 both committees, Rick was on both committees, Paul was
4 on both committees. And so if a person has -- it
5 doesn't have to be an advisory committee experience,
6 but a broad community experience where they're
7 comfortable and work as problem solvers and consensus
8 folks beyond their own personal range of experience, I
9 think that's equally important and more so.

10

11 And I'm really sorry that, you know,
12 the Secretary doesn't want to have our input as to who
13 we think are functional committee folks, because I
14 still don't see how in this process they can judge who
15 best sit on our group, and it's a bizarre process.

16

17 But I think those criteria:
18 geographic, broad range of personal experience, but
19 primarily having a good knowledge of subsistence for
20 the area that they live in, and then having, you know,
21 consensus building or previous committee experience, be
22 it on the Council or advisory committee, I think those
23 are important criteria that should go into evaluating
24 who's a decent person on here.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Any further -- yes.

27

28 MS. WILKINSON: If I could take a
29 minute to just explain the process that we use, would
30 that be good?

31

32 It is lengthy, for one thing, because
33 it's very thorough. And when we receive applications
34 from people, those are given to panels throughout the
35 region. And they're made up of local Federal Staff.
36 And, true, some of them haven't been here long and
37 don't know very many people, or may not know a lot of
38 the communities' value systems or whatever. But they
39 interview the applicants, the applicant's references,
40 and usually key contact people throughout the region,
41 and get information about them. Then those panel
42 members all meet together.

43

44 And we do have a set of rating
45 standards that addresses people's qualifications for
46 being on the Council. People who apply to e on the
47 Council have to meet five criteria. They have to be
48 knowledgeable of the region, they have to be
49 knowledgeable of subsistence uses in the region, of
50 commercial and sport uses in the region, have

1 leadership skills, and communication skills. And the
2 leadership skills we look at as being proven leadership
3 skills, and usually demonstrated by either community
4 respect for that person, by going to them to get
5 answers to questions and problem solver person, or by
6 someone who has a lot of experience sitting on councils
7 and boards and whatnot. Usually those are the same
8 people, but not always.

9
10 And so each individual applicant is
11 rated according to those standards. They are looked at
12 by how they stack up with those standards. And then
13 the panel members make a recommendation to the Board
14 for who they think would be best according to the
15 standards, and then because we did have the separation
16 of the subsistence user applicants and the
17 commercial/sport user applicants, they were ranked
18 separately who they thought should be number 1, number
19 2, to represent this group, number 1, number 2,
20 whatever, to represent this group. Of course, now we
21 don't have that separation this year, so it's all
22 lumped together.

23
24 Anyway, so once the panels make their
25 recommendations, the InterAgency Staff Committee looks
26 at it, then the board looks at all of it. And they
27 look at it very thoroughly and then they make their
28 recommendation and it goes then to the Secretary.

29
30 So you can see that it takes quite a
31 while just here in Alaska for this process to get
32 worked through. Then it goes to Washington and goes
33 through a number of different offices, and those people
34 all have something to say about it. But generally the
35 Secretary with very, very rare exception accepts the
36 Board's recommendations for applicants. And we always
37 look for people who are the most qualified, who have
38 the broadest range of experience in every kind of use
39 in their region. We want the people who are the most
40 knowledgeable, who are the most respected that we can
41 find among the applicants.

42
43 And so that's the basic process.

44
45 And then I didn't do it last year,
46 because I've been caught up with the Kenai subsistence
47 fishery issue, but usually every summer I evaluate the
48 process that we use and if I have been told of anything
49 that people would like to have changed, then I
50 recommend that the Staff Committee and the Board look

1 at the process and see if we can make changes to make
2 it better. So that will be happening again this coming
3 summer, I hope, and at that time I will bring up some
4 of the things that I've heard here.

5
6 But I just wanted to let you know the
7 process that we use now I think is very efficient and
8 thorough. I know it's long, but it's -- we want to get
9 the best people possible.

10
11 And so if we have five seats open and
12 we have seven applicants, and only three of them are
13 well-qualified to sit on the Council, then there will
14 only be three people appointed to sit on the Council.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 MR. CRATTY: Like when you guys do the
19 process, like the people that are up for 2007, they're
20 already prequalified, so if they submit their
21 application, they're going to get back on more than
22 likely? Because then -- what I'm trying to look at is
23 a way to speed up the process. It's just, you know, if
24 you knew that these people wanted to stay on there, you
25 know, instead of losing them, if there was some way to
26 speed up the process. Because I feel just like these
27 guys do. I think we need more people from the Chain.
28 We've got a good show from Kodiak here, but we need to
29 have their voice, too, because a lot happens out there
30 that concerns this Council.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Any further
33 questions. Pete.

34
35 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, I have another
36 comment for you I guess. You know, on the unexcused
37 absences, we've had problems with that in the past
38 where I believe it's two meetings and you're supposed
39 to be out, unexcused. And I've seen Board members
40 unexcused for two meetings, and then show up at the
41 next one.

42
43 MS. WILKINSON: Excuse me, Michelle,
44 did you bring copies of that new policy with you? You
45 didn't?

46
47 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Yeah, we've
48 actually been through that.

49
50 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Writing letters and

1 everything.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. If I
4 could build off of Pete's comment is we have had
5 occasionally members that don't show up for a year or
6 more, and it would be nice in this evaluation process
7 if they would have a list of people on standby or some
8 politically acceptable way of alternates so that we
9 could have a list to tap or someone that could fill in.
10 And, you know, I'm just thinking of somebody like Emil
11 Berikoff from Unalaska who, you know, if he were on a
12 standby list, and only was coming one meeting a year,
13 it would be nice to have somebody from the Aleutians
14 when our other colleagues can't make it. And there
15 needs to be some way to either go back to an alternate
16 system or a list of pre-approved folks so when there is
17 a vacancy coming up, then the Chair could say, well,
18 gee, so and so has gotten drunk for the last six
19 meetings, and we just don't want him here, and we need
20 somebody put in, and have the -- Mike say, okay, here's
21 our list and here's the guy I want. I want, you know,
22 whoever. That I think would help our process a lot.

23

24 MS. WILKINSON: I'm sorry that I didn't
25 bring it. I thought I had copy, but we do have a new
26 set of guidelines that are written out for the Council
27 members' conduct and addressing unexcused absences,
28 what's acceptable and what isn't. I'm very sorry that
29 I don't have it here, but I'm just taking a minute to
30 think back on it.

31

32 The portion about member conduct is
33 very simple. It just has to do with, you know, that
34 there are certain modes of behavior that are acceptable
35 in public, and then there are some that are not. And
36 it just lays that out somewhat clearly for people to
37 know that there are some behavior that will not be
38 acceptable to the Board on the part of Council members.
39 And then that Board -- I mean, excuse me, the Council
40 members can be removed for certain behaviors. Yeah.
41 Everybody knows that. But that would happen so rarely,
42 you know. So rarely.

43

44 For unexcused absences, it lists what
45 is considered an unexcused absence -- what would be an
46 excused absence. It would be, you know, for an
47 illness, either the Council member or someone in the
48 Council members family that the Council member must
49 care for. You can't even just say, well, my
50 grandmother's ill, and therefore I can't come, and then

1 you have nothing to do with your grandmother. So those
2 two things. If your employer just won't let you go,
3 that's a good reason why not to come. Or if you, you
4 know, need to do some subsistence activity, you know,
5 provide for your family, and that's your opportunity to
6 do it is when the Council member is occurring, then
7 that's an excused absence.

8

9 Anything else would be unexcused. And
10 especially if some Council member came to the Council
11 meeting, showed up in town, or didn't come to the
12 meeting, that is not acceptable. So those people can
13 be removed very easily then with this guidelines.

14

15 But then the snag goes back to getting
16 someone to fill their seat, and like I said, I'm
17 working on that to get it so we can have someone more
18 quickly. But I'm going to have to be able to convince
19 more I think Board members to seek that authority. Me
20 asking for it doesn't seem to have any effect, so I'm
21 going to have to try a different tack.

22

23 But there is something in place now
24 that will more clearly define what is acceptable and
25 what isn't, what's an unexcused absence, what isn't. I
26 mean, what's excused and what isn't so that you won't
27 have to go through so many loops and hoops to get
28 people removed. It's just getting them replaced that's
29 the problem.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Yeah, we've
32 experience that. We had a couple of executive sessions
33 in regards to that and went over the rules and stuff
34 like that, too, as well.

35

36 Any further questions or comments.
37 Pete.

38

39 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I just had one more
40 quick one. You know, to the newer members, I have been
41 on here for three terms already and I have always
42 gotten along well and worked well with them. We always
43 seem to get to be a really close committee, and I
44 really appreciated being a volunteer board. And I'm on
45 a bunch of other committees and boards where I get paid
46 very well for, but this one here is a volunteer one.
47 And that might have something to do with getting some
48 of the people from rural areas. They're on so many
49 boards and committees from their community that, why
50 should I go, you know, to an unpaid board when I'm

1 getting good pay on another board. But I feel that our
2 Kodiak/Aleutians RAC has always gotten along really
3 well and worked together well.

4

5 MS. WILKINSON: I really appreciate all
6 this information and the discussion. When we go back
7 though to the Board, I want to make sure that I present
8 on the Council composition the right information. And
9 basically what you're saying is you think that the
10 system that is in place now works for you, and so you'd
11 just pretty much leave it. Then if I understand this
12 correctly, that you don't want to get locked into hard
13 numbers, and the phrase that we have now, that there's
14 a goal of, would work for that. And that you want to
15 be sure that we have diverse make up of Council
16 members.

17

18 Okay. I just want to make sure I have
19 the right recommendation. Okay.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: And the vacancy,
22 filling in the vacant areas.

23

24 MS. WILKINSON: Yes. Right. That's
25 another issue for me to address with the nominations
26 evaluation I'll do this summer, and I will be sure to
27 bring that before the Board at one of their work
28 sessions this summer so we can try to develop a better
29 way of doing this. Okay.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 Because we do have a new Board
34 Chairman, too, so that always a little twist. And
35 sometimes things can happen differently, and so it may
36 -- who know. A new Board Chairman, new Secretary. WE
37 might bet something different this time.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Yes. Thank you,
40 Ann.

41

42 MR. CRATTY: So I had -- Ann, they'll
43 have a review on this once you've met with all the
44 different Councils and the suggestions that were put
45 in, so we can overlook it? Or so we could see what
46 other suggestions there were from the other regions.

47

48 MS. WILKINSON: What I'll do is, I get
49 all the recommendations from the regions, then I will
50 write it up, and I'll send it to all the coordinators

1 to make sure that I have summarized it correctly, and
2 then they can send it all out to you. And it will also
3 be in part of the Board book for the April/May meeting.
4 When they address wildlife issues, this will be an
5 issue on that agenda, so it will be in the Board book
6 and part of that materials. Okay.

7

8 MR. HOLMES: One last word for your
9 list of goals, and that would be geographic diversity
10 along with the diversity of experience.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Thank you very
13 much, Ann.

14

15 Moving down the agenda, we're on number
16 13, agency reports. Office of Subsistence Management,
17 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Information.

18

19 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. That item
20 where it's regarding the letter from AFN regarding OSM
21 budget. That is an informational item that the Council
22 can review, and if they would like -- if they do have
23 any questions, we do have Staff here to answer those
24 questions.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Any questions from
29 Council.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: No questions.
34 Moving down to B. Izembek National Wildlife Refuge.
35 Sandra.

36

37 MS. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chairman, Council
38 members. I'm Sandra Siekaniec from the Izembek Refuge.

39

40 And I'll briefly go over the report
41 that I provided you in your brochure here.

42

43 Basically we still have concerns about
44 the 9D Caribou Herd. I did work with the Department of
45 Fish and Game to put that proposal forward to the Board
46 of Game to reduce it so that non-residents were not in
47 the population for hunting.

48

49 As I mentioned before, the last survey
50 we did, which was in November, we got about 770

1 caribou. Because when Lem did the composition he
2 counted around 800 animals, we feel we didn't get all
3 of the animals counted, so we're trying to do an
4 additional survey.

5
6 The composition count that Lem did, of
7 course, came up with one calf per 100 cows. As I
8 mentioned before, it takes about 20 cows (sic) per 100
9 cows just to maintain your current population, so we
10 are definitely on a decline.

11
12 We also -- when they did that
13 composition, the bull ratio dropped as well. Last year
14 it was 30 bulls to 100 cows, and in October they found
15 16 bulls to 100 cows, so we definitely have a decrease
16 in the population.

17
18 I guess I -- we're moving forward
19 trying to reduce the harvest. However, if surveys from
20 this winter and this summer show that the herd has
21 decreased to the point where we need to close the
22 season, I do have the authority to do an emergency
23 closure, so I want to make sure the Board is aware that
24 I'm going to use as much information as I have and wait
25 until the last possible moment to decide if we close it
26 or not. But there is that potential.

27
28 We are also tracking the caribou that
29 were collared, and we have found some in the area,
30 hoping to find more, of course. And then Lem is also
31 going to come out in the spring to determine how many
32 of the cows are pregnant and also in the summer to
33 determine how many calves were actually born.

34
35 I am also trying to work with the
36 subsistence users to do better reporting. I will be
37 sending out postcards to advise them that they are
38 required to send in their hunt reports. And if that
39 does not get sufficient response, I will be telephoning
40 them directly. So I'm hoping to improve -- I don't
41 know if you noticed, but in one of the charts in your
42 book it actually shows that we're one of the lowest
43 reporting rates, and we need to improve that. So I am
44 attempting to do that. And I have made sure that they
45 are aware when they get their permit that this is
46 something they have to do, and it may affect their
47 ability to hunt in the next year.

48
49 So that's the update on the caribou.
50

1 Brown bears, just a brief mention. A
2 lot of the proposals in the Board of Game were
3 concerning brown bears, and the road hunt that we had,
4 there were a lot of concerns of the local residents,
5 because there were more bears taken than normally.
6 Normally it was two. Lem decided to allow them a
7 little bit more harvest due to the numbers of bears,
8 and it did cause a lot of concern for local residents.

9
10

11 Normally the season for taking two
12 bears would have been open maybe 24 hours. This time
13 it was open about 10 days, so there was a lot more
14 impact on other users in the area as far as folks that
15 wanted to go out and do wildlife observations. They
16 felt they were severely impacted as well. So we still
17 have to work towards that, make sure that all the users
18 are provided for.

19

20 Let's see, what else. Brandt, of
21 course, the numbers again were strong with young
22 recruitment for this fall. A little bit less than last
23 year, but we are encouraged that the population numbers
24 are increasing.

25

26 Emperor geese are improving as well,
27 although they still are not at that three-average where
28 hunting can be considered. We are hoping they're on
29 the upward trend, and eventually that may occur, but,
30 of course, it needs time for the population to gain.

31

32 Let's see. Avian influenza. We did
33 quite a bit of testing this year, and we did swans,
34 Stellar's eiders, pintails and brandt. And we had a
35 few birds that had the low pathogenic avian influenza.
36 For most of the birds -- you know, we had no H5N1, the
37 one of concern, so we're pretty happy with that. We
38 will continue probably to do additional testing this
39 year. And then I have provided for you again the
40 information on where to get updates for your
41 communities.

42

43 We are also working on a comprehensive
44 conservation plan. Of course, it's a slow process, so
45 we're still working towards that, hoping to have a
46 draft in the fall. If that is available, I'll present
47 it to the Board at that time.

48

49 Any questions. Of course.

50

1 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Hi, Sandra. I want to
2 go right to the emperor geese and your chart here on
3 the average birds. And I know we're looking at the
4 80,000 average for five years before there can be a
5 season open. And I just did a little bit -- the total
6 -- I totalled all these up. For 10 years the average
7 was 40,338. So that's pretty low, you know, for a 10
8 year average, but then I did a five-year average, first
9 the top five and then the bottom five, left the middle
10 one out, where the top five was 58,801 and the bottom
11 five years was 63,000. And in looking at those
12 numbers, they changed so drastically, I'm just really
13 thinking about it, and I just wonder if their wintering
14 habitat is sustaining these birds. Maybe we need to
15 look at something lower than an 80,000 average to have
16 a season on them.

17
18 MS. SIEKANIEC: Yeah. I guess -- the
19 management plan was done with Pacific Flyway Council,
20 so you could either make recommendations to that
21 Council as far as changing their management plan, or
22 you could also talk to the Migratory Bird Comanagement
23 Council who would have some say in that as well.

24
25 In the management plan it specifies a
26 three year average, so they would take the last three
27 years to average it to determine if it's at that 80,000
28 at which that they can then consider opening a hunting
29 season. It doesn't mean they have to. They would
30 consider it at that point.

31
32 MR. SQUARTSOFF: And I had one other
33 thing, on this avian influenza stuff. I heard on the
34 news not very long ago that there was a case in Russia.
35 Is that true or do you know anything about it?

36
37 MS. SIEKANIEC: I guess I haven't heard
38 of that case.

39
40 MR. HOLMES: Pete, I read about that,
41 and I think it was more towards the western part, the
42 Ukraine or somewhere, and I'm not sure, but I think it
43 was in relation to somebody that was handling a lot of
44 poultry, but I don't -- at least in the abstract that
45 I've seen, I don't know that it's been attributed to a
46 wild bird.

47
48 MS. SIEKANIEC: And, Mr. Chairman, to
49 date there have been no cases of H5N1 in the United
50 States at this time.

1 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Any further
2 questions or comments. Yes, Pete.

3
4 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I have one more on the
5 caribou thing, and then also, of course, the King Cove
6 road.

7
8 But the caribou, know the numbers, are
9 we going to be able to -- or you said you can issue an
10 emergency order if you have to closing it, if the
11 numbers just weren't there this spring, the cow/calf
12 ratios?

13
14 MS. SIEKANIEC: Yes, both Lem and I
15 both have the authority to do emergency closers. I
16 have the authority to close Federal lands, and he has
17 the authority to close the State regulations. So if we
18 determine that we do not have enough animals, we can do
19 that at that time.

20
21 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. I'd definitely
22 support, because we definitely do have to watch the
23 numbers.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Yeah, what's the
26 status on road? Sorry to ask.

27
28 MS. SIEKANIEC: Okay. To date
29 apparently the Aleutians East Borough has worked with a
30 lawyer to draft legislation to be presented to the
31 Senate on a potential exchange between King Cove
32 Corporation, Aleutians East Borough and the Fish and
33 Wildlife Service. We are expecting Lisa Murkowski to
34 present that legislation within the next two weeks, and
35 at that time the Fish and Wildlife Service, once they
36 are provided the proposal, will respond to it. But at
37 this point there's no stand that the Fish and Wildlife
38 Service is taking.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Thank you. Any
41 further questions or comments. Pat.

42
43 MR. HOLMES: I assume on the caribou
44 first, critters on Unimak Island from your last report
45 in 10 -- anyway, Unimak Island, they weren't as
46 adversely -- their population isn't down to the extent
47 as 9E, is that correct?

48
49 MS. SIEKANIEC: Yeah, that is true. I
50 think our last survey over there we found about 1,000

1 animals. We did notice, however, that the cow/calf
2 ratios were dropping. It is, of course, a challenge to
3 get out there to even do surveys, but at this point
4 it's rather -- it's more difficult to get out there to
5 access the caribou. And the State season only allows
6 one caribou for State harvest and four for subsistence.
7 And at this time we feel that that's managing the herd
8 sufficiently.

9

10 MR. HOLMES: Okay. That's what I was
11 thinking about, because the folks I know in False
12 Pass, they're as a rule a little lower, quite a bit
13 lower income than some of the other communities on the
14 Peninsula, and, you know, they -- that's the area that
15 they do a lot of their hunting in, and so it sounds
16 like that's covered at least for the moment, and I'm
17 glad that those herds aren't -- I'm sorry to hear the
18 cow/calf is dropping there as well. That's indicative
19 of something going on besides range, habitat, I don't
20 know.

21

22 And then I'd like to just close with a
23 compliment. I think you've done the best job of any of
24 the Izembek managers of keeping our Council abreast on
25 what we'd like to know about, and when we have a
26 question that we don't know, you say -- or you don't
27 know, you say, gosh, I'll get to you, and you do come
28 back with it. So I'm -- I'll put my hat on and take it
29 off.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 MS. SIEKANIEC: Thank you. One other
34 thing, Mr. Chairman, too.

35

36 I have been working with Lem as well to
37 do the caribou management plan, and we will present
38 that this afternoon for you guys to review. A draft
39 plan or the 9D herd. And it will give you a little bit
40 more guidelines as far as when we think the season
41 should close, and where we can be more liberal with the
42 seasons.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Okay. Thank you,
45 Sandra.

46

47 MS. SIEKANIEC: Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Down to C. Kodiak
50 National Wildlife Refuge. Brandon.

1 MR. WHEELER: I guess I'll start out.
2 I'm Gary Wheeler, refuge manager of Kodiak National
3 Wildlife Refuge. With me, Brandon Saito, subsistence
4 biologist for the refuge.

5
6 I just wanted to start out, Mr.
7 Chairman, members of the Council, to say I'm very happy
8 to be here, and to be able to present a portion of this
9 report to you. I just wanted to cover a couple of
10 items of kind of general interest from the refuge
11 perspective. This is under refuge news in our report.

12
13 In addition to myself, we have a couple
14 other new staff members coming on at the refuge, Jim
15 Traub coming to us from National Park Service as our
16 new refuge officer and pilot. And Sue Noth, a new
17 hire, will be -- her position title is training
18 instructor, but she will be director of our salmon camp
19 and will be working with school children in
20 environmental education both in Kodiak and in the
21 villages as well.

22
23 The next item there talks about
24 completion of our comprehensive conservation plan.
25 This is the plan that guides our management of the
26 Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, and will guide that
27 management for the next 15 years. It's taken us six or
28 seven years or so since we began the process of updating
29 our plan. And it was just signed off on February 8th
30 by our regional director in Anchorage.

31
32 I don't believe that you're going to
33 see much in the way of change in terms of management
34 and opportunities for subsistence uses on the refuge.
35 There will be -- there are some changes proposed in,
36 oh, the possibility of constructing a couple more
37 public use cabins and opening up the O'Malley area to
38 bear viewing. But it's going to take some time to get
39 to those particular areas of the plan, and get that
40 adopted. And that will be through public input and a
41 public process as well.

42
43 Our Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge
44 visitor's center project here in the City of Kodiak is
45 well underway. We had the slab poured for the building
46 last fall, and now steel is arriving, so that is being
47 erected. We expect that the 8,000 square foot facility
48 will be completed around the end of September or first
49 part of October. And we think that will be a great
50 facility both for our visitors as well as the Kodiak

1 community. We have a number of rooms that will be
2 available for meetings and presentations and we think
3 it will be really good for a wide variety of the public
4 to learn about the refuge and the natural resources
5 here in the Kodiak Archipelago.

6
7 And with that, I'll turn the report
8 over to Brandon.

9
10 MR. SAITO: Hello, Mr. Chairman.
11 Board.

12
13 Just to go over the species management
14 account. For brown bears last May the Refuge and the
15 Department surveyed bears in the Terror Lake region,
16 and data indicates little change. No change.

17
18 Another multi-year study, the upper
19 Karluk River, was initiated last fall, a multi-year
20 project which will provide guidance for the public use
21 management.

22
23 And this year the Refuge issued six
24 subsistence bear harvest permits to Old Harbor, Larsen
25 Bay and Karluk. And also this year the State harvest
26 are being slightly modified to increase hunter success
27 due to an increase in the bear population estimate from
28 3,000 to 3,500. So just kind of wondering if the
29 villages could also benefit from a modified harvest.

30
31 Moving on, deer, we suspect that this
32 winter might have had a substantial impact on the deer
33 population and mortality surveys are scheduled for
34 April. The Refuge continues to support the Department
35 with the deer harvest surveys. This year we're going
36 to be using an updated area map. And 68 subsistence
37 deer permits were issued.

38
39 Moving down to elk, in July the Refuge
40 will be cooperating with the Department to collar elk
41 on Afognak in order to continue tracking herds,
42 estimating composition, population and harvest quotas.

43
44 Sea otters. The recovery team met last
45 year and began the draft recovery plan, and the next
46 meeting is scheduled for April 10th and 11th.

47
48 Migratory birds. Surveys are being
49 conducted in Akhiok, Karluk, Larsen Bay, Old Harbor,
50 Ouzinkie, and this year we're doing it also in Kodiak.

1 And I'll skip down to inventory project
2 at Mt. Glottof. We're doing a base line inventory, and
3 this year we've found 13 plant species previously
4 undocumented to Kodiak. And also found the first
5 Kittlitz's murrelet nest, one of North America's rarest
6 and least known seabirds.

7
8 Invasive weeds. In addition to
9 collaborative efforts with the Kodiak Soil and Water
10 Conservation District, the Refuge will implement a
11 skiff based survey to map targeted weeds among remote
12 set net sites.

13
14 And finally, salmon camp. This will be
15 salmon camps 12th year, running June to August, 10
16 sessions in town, all six villages, an art intensive
17 session and a combined session with Dig Afognak.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Thank you, Brandon
22 and Gary.

23
24 Any questions or comments for Brandon
25 or for Gary.

26
27 MR. HOLMES: Brandon, I have questions
28 about two critters, Harlequins and deer. And in the
29 report here it discusses that Harlequin densities are
30 significantly lower than the previous census period due
31 to high hunting pressures, and what I'm concerned about
32 is if it comes down to a question of Harlequins for
33 duck soup in Larsen Bay versus somebody from
34 Switzerland coming to shoot them for a trophy, are you
35 folks are looking at -- do you have a management plan
36 or a trigger at which you start active management on
37 Harlequin ducks?

38
39 Also it's noted here some changes in
40 populations in Uyak not recovering, and I'm just
41 wondering what the Service is thinking about if the
42 populations drop lower.

43
44 MR. SAITO: I might have to turn that
45 over to Bill or Gary.

46
47 MR. CRATTY: Yeah. Bill, I'd like to
48 also state if that's going to have an effect on Larsen
49 Bay, is it going to affect Old Harbor, too. I mean, if
50 there's a decline in the duck population in Larsen Bay,

1 is it going to affect my subsistence users, or our
2 villagers over in Old Harbor.

3

4 MR. PYLE: Bill Pyle, Kodiak Refuge.

5

6 Mr. Chair. In response to questions,
7 the decline in Harlequins is pretty localized, because
8 we survey both various west side and east side
9 locations, Uganik, Uyak, Sitkalidak country, all the
10 way down to Alatak Bay. And in any case it's primarily
11 Uyak, and it appears to be in response to over-harvest.
12 And the way we measure this is on the basis of
13 specifically looking at survival band returns. We band
14 multi Harlequin ducks, and then we get the returns, and
15 then we also have the counts that we're performing both
16 in winter and during summer in these bays. It's quite
17 a bit of information. And generally Harlequins Island-
18 wide are doing okay. The population's static. Uyak is
19 the exception, and that's been going on for the last
20 few years.

21

22 And so we don't a -- you know, I mean,
23 migratory bird management is often a regional
24 consideration, and this -- you know, this is a very
25 small segment of the population. We have expressed our
26 concern both to this committee before as well as the
27 fish and game advisory committee. And our approach has
28 been essentially to try and address it on a voluntary
29 basis by getting the word out to -- at this point it's
30 pretty much been guides, hunting guides, waterfowl
31 hunting guides in that area to indicate, well, this is
32 what our information indicates is the case, and we
33 recommend that you consider a reduction in the harvest
34 of this species. Now, I guess we'll just have to see.'

35

36 I don't have a report for you in terms
37 of, well, what does the follow up indicate on the basis
38 of getting out to those folks. We don't track it very
39 closely, but I guess, you know, another year or so and
40 you should see whether it's making a difference in
41 terms of the population I would hope.

42

43 I can say that we haven't really done
44 anything in terms of working with the folks in Larsen
45 Bay, other than those that are waterfowl hunting
46 guides, in terms of residents, to give them additional
47 information as to, you know, what the status of that
48 population is, and to try and actually pursue more of
49 an informational effort, to let people know, well,
50 there's this concern, and at stake is potentially one

1 of your subsistence resources. And so we're open to
2 suggestions as to how we could approach this.

3

4 MR. HOLMES: Well, Mr. Chair, if I may.

5

6 Yeah, I don't know what significantly
7 lower is to me, but as a retired biologist, when
8 somebody says something's significantly changed, that's
9 usually -- it's, oh, my God, things are really
10 different. And I would suggest that you should be --
11 that's why I asked if you had an active management, so
12 I guess indirectly you said you don't. It would seem
13 that you'd almost need to, even though it's a small
14 area, because of the impacts on subsistence, I would be
15 looking at, you know, a log book for the folks that are
16 guiding there, and see what are they taking. And then
17 Tonya and Brandon or whoever's handling your
18 subsistence work or, you know, it might take a year or
19 so to get money from our Board, or from the State, is
20 an actual -- because it's really hard to get
21 subsistence information on waterfowl unless you go and
22 talk to folks. And so I know if I wanted to know, I'd
23 call up Dora Hagga, but she's dead, so, you know, you
24 need to talk to folks in the community and say, well,
25 is this reducing their opportunity or potential for
26 food. And that could really be a hot button item, and,
27 you know, I don't think I'd like to create any
28 conflicts between there, but you need to be looking
29 ahead if the populations are dropping, because I don't
30 think the amount of people there that are putting
31 Harlequins in the pot have increased at all. There's
32 probably more folks living in town from Larsen Bay now
33 just because it's a touch place to live, but I'd hate
34 to see the ones that live there lose access to
35 something that's pretty darn important for particularly
36 the elders.

37

38 That would be my two suggestions to
39 cogitate on. And It wouldn't have to be particularly
40 expensive or something. You could probably go to the
41 village council for their help. Just a thought. What
42 do you think of that, Pete? Oh, he's busy.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MR. CRATTY: Well, Bill, I'd just like
47 to say I'd hate to see what's happening on the west
48 side affect Akhiok and Old Harbor, because they depend
49 on the birds as more of a subsistence food than a
50 beautiful bird to mount, because they are a beautiful

1 bird. And I know you've got a lot of lodges over at
2 Larsen Bay, and that's got to contribute to the problem
3 you're having over there. I just don't want to see a
4 problem in the future where we're going to be shut down
5 because of the sport user, which is a conflict. But
6 we've got a lot people that eat the birds down in Old
7 Harbor and Akhiok.

8

9 And I know we have one guide that
10 currently works in the winter. You guys know who that
11 is, that's Jeff. He doesn't have that very many
12 hunters.

13

14 MR. PYLE: Thank you for suggestions.
15 And we'll go ahead and see what we can do about them.

16

17 And in fact, the second one regarding
18 you might want to talk to folks, to kind of gauge what
19 the level of use is, we have a harvest survey actually
20 going on right now. And this is something that gets
21 repeated every couple of years, and we're just
22 finishing the 2006/7 effort with the completion of this
23 winter quarter. Tonya isn't here, but if she were
24 here, she'd go into it in detail, because she's
25 actually the one that is charged here locally to
26 execute it, and it's a very large collaboration with --
27 you know, I mean, Fish and Game, their Subsistence
28 Division is largely responsible for the analysis, and
29 that information goes back to the Fish and Wildlife
30 Service.

31

32 But in any case Larsen Bay, correct me
33 if I'm mistaken, Brandon, is one of the community's
34 that being evaluated, you know, and we'll be able to
35 contrast that with some of the communities here, so we
36 can take a look at the survey results and see what that
37 indicates. But it's a very thorough survey compared
38 to, for example, you know, the national survey that
39 targets sport hunters.

40

41 And partly because of our asking, we
42 requested that the survey not just be a spring and
43 summer survey, because the pattern of harvest here is
44 not just harvest in the spring or a combination of egg
45 and live bird harvest say that occurs more prominently
46 in Interior Alaska. Here on the coast of Alaska, and
47 especially Kodiak, and Mr. Squartsoff and I were
48 talking about this before, you have the live bird
49 harvest that has traditionally occurred in the fall and
50 winter, and, you know, concurrent nowadays with a sport

1 hunting season. So we had to ask to have the survey,
2 the subsistence harvest survey extended through the
3 fall and winter. It's kind of the exception as far as
4 the way it works for the harvest surveys, because so
5 much of it is in so much of Interior Alaska is
6 primarily driven by the spring and summer harvest.

7
8 So we think that's important. We look
9 forward to seeing the results, and hopefully that fills
10 in some of the gap in the information relative to
11 Larsen Bay in particular. And on the basis of that
12 evaluation we hope to follow up.

13
14 But we'll certainly keep the Council
15 apprised, and our next time that we have to meet with
16 you in September, we can give you a little bit of
17 assessment. I would expect that the results from that
18 harvest survey would be out by then.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 MR. WHEELER: I might just respond
23 briefly to Mr. Cratty's comment about the drop in the
24 west side affecting east side harvest levels. And as
25 Bill mentioned previously, these birds are very
26 faithful to their areas, and so it's not likely that
27 harvest on the east side would be changed due to a
28 decrease in birds on the west. So that's where we are
29 at this point in time.

30
31 MR. HOLMES: And then my second
32 question to Brandon, but he'd probably defer to you,
33 and that gets Brandon off the hook, is last year he
34 came and chatted with us about Sitka black-tail deer,
35 and had a proposal for increasing the deer harvest.
36 And then we discussed it here with our Council and with
37 the State and kind of came up with an idea of
38 liberalizing the delegated hunting program that the
39 Refuge handles, and had quite a bit of confusion over
40 that versus the proxy hunt of the State. And Tonya
41 finally got us all squared away after 45 minutes of
42 arguing.

43
44 And I was thinking in terms of that
45 program. I can see that as being -- right now the
46 focus is, you know, designated hunter primarily within,
47 you know, the village system, but we have -- with the
48 change of the declining economies, so many more people
49 that we found in our work on the rural preference have
50 moved into town from the villages, particularly older

1 folks, and, you know, unless they have their kids or
2 cousins or nephews or something in town to go out to
3 refuge and sign the chit for the designated hunter,
4 it's a little bit more difficult. And it would be nice
5 to see that maybe be a little more flexible in some
6 manner, because then when you did want to encourage
7 hunting, that's a very selective way to encourage your
8 harvest on the refuge.

9
10 Whereas with the State proxy hunt when
11 we discuss that, there's been quite an abuse of that,
12 of folks coming down from Anchorage and going to the
13 senior center and getting a whole handful of proxies
14 and coming and, you know, there's much more impact in
15 that manner.

16
17 And so I think what we had discussed
18 last time on maybe liberalizing or making the Refuge
19 proxy hunt a little more flexible would help a lot or
20 facilitate it easier. Because I think the other
21 alternative is to have somebody from the village fax in
22 their license and their application, you know. So if
23 let's say I called up my buddy Brad over in Larsen Bay,
24 because, you know, I broke my leg this fall and
25 couldn't get out hunting, you know, it's sort of tricky
26 for me and him to get together in the same place to do
27 the paperwork. And I think the same -- it's probably
28 more so from, you know, some of the older Kodiak
29 families that, you know, have multi-generations, but
30 grandma and grandpa live in town.

31
32 Anyway, just a thought. Thank you.

33
34 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. On that
35 subject, I was just, you know, thinking about it a
36 little bit, too, and I don't know if we might want to
37 propose a subsistence proxy hunt so the proxies can
38 come from people on the island within the game unit.

39
40 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, we have that no. On
41 the refuge they have a delegated hunt.

42
43 MR. SQUARTSOFF: So they're not coming
44 from Anchorage or Kenai.

45
46 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. They can't do it
47 from Anchorage.

48
49 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Well, I've seen people
50 come over that are proxy hunting.

1 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, on the State proxy
2 thing, I think there's been a lot of abuse of that. On
3 the Federal subsistence one for Federal lands, you
4 physically have to reside in the archipelago, and then
5 you basically physically get together and go to the
6 Refuge or Brandon or Tonya are out and they can do the
7 paperwork. I guess a case in point might be maybe the
8 village council or something, you could maybe have a
9 designated person that could assist in the paperwork or
10 something, just much like I know Fish and Game several
11 years ago increased subsistence harvest reporting by
12 having designated folks at the village council
13 distribute permits, like Roy Jones does it, and goes
14 around and knocks on doors and collects them. And so
15 somebody like that might really help facilitate things,
16 and then make your job easier. And then we'd also end
17 up on the management thing of getting I think better,
18 accurate information on the harvest, because folks, if
19 they can't do it easy, you know, we know what we'd like
20 them to do, but they just often just go ahead and whack
21 the deer and bring it to grandpa. And if they don't
22 run into anybody from Fish and Game or somebody with
23 the Refuge, then it just is done. And anyway, that's
24 all off the record.

25
26 But anyway, I think you'd get better
27 reporting is the whole point.

28
29 MR. PYLE: Once again thank you for
30 your comments. And what I've heard in part is that,
31 you know, there is a value to the designated deer
32 program. And we recognize that and we'd like to see if
33 we can attract more interest in the program and
34 subscription to the program by the village communities,
35 because right now and through the past few years pretty
36 much the folks that use are those that are based in
37 Kodiak, clearly 90, 95 percent despite the fact that
38 they're the furthest away from the resource on the
39 Refuge. And so I've requested Brandon and Tonya to,
40 you know, work with the village councils to figure out
41 how we can provide the availability, you know, the fact
42 that this program is available to help address the
43 subsistence need in the villages. You know, there are
44 just some basic requirements in terms of having a
45 hunting license, and the person you would be hunting
46 for has to have a hunting license, and they also have
47 to have harvest tickets. So in order to actually get
48 the permit in the permit in the village, you know, you
49 need -- well, to facilitate the process, you really
50 need a village-based effort, and that may be -- you

1 know, you have to walk through the steps. That means
2 that you have to have a place you can get a license, a
3 State hunting license, as well as the harvest tickets.
4 If it can all be done locally, all the better.

5
6 But, you know, it seems to be a program
7 that's increasing in popularity, but there is a really
8 big and prominent disparity between the use here and
9 the use in the field where folks are actually right
10 there next to the resource and more reliant on it.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I have one more for
15 Brandon on the deer, about this completion in April of
16 your survey. Is it possible, I'd like to see the
17 results of that as soon as possible.

18
19 MR. SAITO: Yeah. We'll try to get the
20 results out as soon as we can and give you a copy.

21
22 Another thing I'd like to add on the
23 designated deer, is that, yeah, we are increasing the
24 outreach that we're doing, and we've already -- we
25 already have, like Old Harbor, we have Christiansons
26 putting out the designated deer harvest permits, and
27 we've been linking it with other programs, so we an get
28 more outreach and more users from the villages.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Any further
31 questions or comments.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Thank you, Bill,
36 Gary and Brandon.

37
38 Let's take a 10-minute break if we can.

39
40 (Off record)

41
42 (On record)

43
44 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Call the meeting
45 back to order, please.

46
47 We're on 13, item D, and that's Alaska
48 Department of Fish and Game.

49
50 MR. TRACY: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair,

1 Council members. I'm Donn Tracy from the Department of
2 Fish and Game here in Kodiak.

3

4 And this afternoon I'd like to give you
5 a brief update on our Buskin River sockeye salmon
6 project which has been funded by the Office of
7 Subsistence Management for about seven years now.
8 There's a written status report on this project I
9 believe on Page 89 in your meeting booklet.

10

11 As I mentioned, this project's been
12 funded for about the last seven years. The last year
13 of funding for the current contract was 2006. I'm
14 happy to report that the Federal Subsistence Board
15 recently approved an additional three-year contract for
16 this project, which will carrying funding through 2009.
17 I think approval of that refunding was in no small
18 measure due to the continuing support for the project
19 by the Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Council.

20

21 In 206 we had another strong run of
22 sockeye salmon to the Buskin River drainage. At the
23 Buskin Lake weir we had a total weir count of about
24 17,800 fish, which is well above our current escapement
25 goal of 8,000 to 13,000 fish, so we had a real strong
26 run to the Buskin River or Buskin Lake portion of the
27 drainage this year. In fact, so strong that the
28 Department of Fish and Game ended up liberalizing the
29 sport fishing in-season once we had exceeded the upper
30 end of that escapement goal range.

31

32 We also had at the Lake Louise
33 tributary where we have a second weir, we had a strong
34 run or run component there. We had a total count of
35 about 4,600 fish in that tributary creek. That's the
36 highest on record so far, and well above the average.
37 I think the average is around 3,300, so they had a real
38 good run overall to the Buskin this year, and
39 reportedly good subsistence fishing opportunity. And
40 even so, as I mentioned, we still had such a high in-
41 river return that we ended up liberalizing the sport
42 fishery in-season to allow the take of some of those
43 surplus fish.

44

45 A major objective of this project is to
46 evaluate that escapement goal, that 8,000 to 13,000
47 range of escapement, spawning escapement that we're
48 currently targeting. The last time that evaluation
49 took place was in 2005. At that time the updated
50 analysis was within -- they recommended a range within

1 the current range, and so the decision was made to
2 maintain the current goal of 8,000 to 13,000 for the
3 time being until more data was available and more age
4 composition data, and more weir counts were available
5 to further assess the target spawning population, or
6 spawning escapement for that stock.

7
8 And the next evaluation will occur --
9 with updated information since 2005 will occur next
10 year during the Alaska Board of Fisheries cycle for
11 Kodiak. The Department of Fish and Game will be
12 providing an updated analysis to the Board as well as
13 the public which at that time will include a
14 recommendation to either maintain the current goal or
15 make some adjustment.

16
17 Another component of the project that's
18 been highly successful is our high school student
19 intern program. This last year we again hired two
20 students from the Kodiak School District, outstanding
21 candidates. One was Peter Olson's son, Jeremiah,
22 another was a young woman here in town Maggie Ingvy
23 (ph). Both were just outstanding employees. We were
24 real pleased with their performance, and we hope that
25 perhaps they'll come back to work for the Department of
26 Fish and Game in the future if that's their interest.

27
28 But the intern program is working out
29 well. We had -- again we integrated the weir with the
30 salmon camp, the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge salmon
31 camp. I believe we had about six different sessions
32 this summer where kids that were participating in the
33 salmon camp program came out to the weir and learned
34 about salmon fisheries and our Buskin River run. That
35 was a great success.

36
37 Some of the new things that we're doing
38 in 2007 with the renewed funding for this project is
39 we've -- in response to the current list of priority
40 information needs, we're going to be interviewing
41 subsistence users on the fishing grounds. We already
42 sample the subsistence harvest four age composition
43 data, so we have technicians out during the fishery
44 that are contacting subsistence users and collecting
45 biological data from the harvest. But this year we're
46 going to add interviews, an on-site interview with
47 subsistence users to determine or verify residency and
48 also determine the traditional patterns of use in terms
49 of what areas the fishers, subsistence fishers at the
50 Buskin have traditionally fished, to see if there's --

1 if we can identify any displacement from areas like
2 Litnik due to the recent downturn in the sockeye salmon
3 abundance there. And so that's an added component to
4 the project that we're going to institute in 2007.

5
6 Another change or another addition that
7 we're going to make is we're still trying, I think
8 members probably remember from the past reports, I
9 talked about the two run components that we have, one
10 to Buskin Lake and one to Lake Louise, and the fact
11 that we're still not certain if those two components
12 are in fact distinct runs, what the interaction is with
13 the subsistence fishery. We're still trying to make
14 that determination, and this year we're going to
15 actually institute a tagging project where we'll tag
16 adult fish in Buskin River, incoming fish, a little bit
17 later in the season, because at the lake location we
18 obviously wouldn't be able to tag fish that -- or
19 identify fish entering the Lake Louise tributary
20 farther downstream. So what we're going to do is tag
21 fish at the weir once we move that weir down to a lower
22 location on August 1st, and at that time we'll tag
23 adult fish and try to identify what percentage of those
24 fish are actually migrating, subsequently migrating
25 into the Lake Louise portion of the drainage as opposed
26 to those that are still heading up into Buskin Lake.
27 And that should help us better assess the -- what the
28 significance and interaction of those two run
29 components are.

30
31 The last change that -- or last new
32 item for 2007 is that in response again to the current
33 list of priority information needs the Department of
34 Fish and Game has submitted a proposal to seek funding
35 for a multi-year stock assessment study of Buskin River
36 coho salmon. That proposal is currently being
37 evaluated and will be voted on by the -- if it's based
38 on to the Federal Subsistence Board through the
39 evaluation process, will be considered and voted on at
40 I believe their upcoming meeting in December.

41
42 And that's all I had. If members have
43 any questions, I'd be happy to try and answer them.

44
45 MR. HOLMES: Well, Mr. Chairman. Donn.
46 When you folks go to look at your escapement goal
47 evaluation next year, I know that sometimes the
48 agencies stick pretty much with numbers of fish of
49 various age categories, but I think there's enough
50 information in the literature to show that we've had

1 some fluctuations in marine survival and I'm just
2 wondering, you know, because that could well skew your
3 escapement goal evaluation if the critters are going
4 out X number at a certain age in a certain year, and
5 they've got really great marine survival and come back,
6 you could end up setting your goal quite askew by not
7 knowing that. And I guess I might suggest the Sport
8 Fish Division and the Comm Fish folks take a look at
9 maybe a future proposal for funding to digitize sockeye
10 scales from the Buskin and see if there's been changes
11 in marine survival as a reflection of more growth per
12 annum.

13

14 And then also the escapements that
15 we've been getting I know puts you in a pickle as a
16 management person, you increase the sport fish bag
17 limit, and, you know, there's been some talk about
18 moving the markers.

19

20 But I guess what I'm worried about is
21 if we get too many big spikes back to back that we
22 could potentially end up with a collapse of the run
23 like we saw at Litnik. And with Litnik or like Afognak
24 production basically being down quite a bit and
25 struggling to rebalance, if Buskin Lake would take in
26 the shorts, that would really severely reduce the
27 sockeye harvest for most of the subsistence fishermen,
28 fisher folks in Kodiak. And so I might suggest that
29 you folks consider having a chat, because if -- the
30 Afognak smolt work really basically told us what was
31 happening there, and that might be something to build
32 into the overall Buskin perspective is potentially, you
33 know, doing some cooperative work with them on out-
34 migrating smolt, because if we get another year where
35 we get double the escapement goal, then you're going to
36 have two years, three years back-to-back possibly with
37 some of those fish or fry competing with each other in
38 the lake. And so if they start dropping out like
39 little tadpoles, then, you know, it would give folks a
40 little bit of preknowledge and adjust their planning on
41 starting to eat either more silvers or pinks in the
42 future because their sockeye's going to take a big
43 dump.

44

45 So those are some thoughts or
46 suggestions I'd suggest you look at.

47

48 And I was quite tickled to hear about
49 your tagging study, and it would be real interesting,
50 because I know in walking the river I'm starting to see

1 more in-river spawners up in the upper part of the lake
2 up above where the old pond is and whatnot. Or at
3 least some reds that look like they're getting ready to
4 do it.

5
6 And so I'll be -- I'm really tickled
7 that you folks have done such a bang-up job in tracking
8 the fish there, because it -- I think as a subsistence
9 harvester there, it really provides a lot of answers
10 for the community.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 MR. TRACY: Well, thank you, Pat. I do
15 want to mention that I believe last year the Kodiak
16 National Wildlife Refuge submitted a proposal, kind of
17 a complement -- for a complementary study of Buskin
18 Lake sockeye to do that out-migrant smolt work. I
19 don't that proposal made it through the process, but we
20 did talk to the Refuge Staff about that, and the
21 Department of Fish and Game volunteered to use our weir
22 materials, our weir facility to enable that smolt work,
23 and it was -- you know, it essentially would have been
24 a cooperative effort, even though the Refuge submitted
25 the proposal separate from our currently funded study.
26 I think it would have ended up being, you know, a
27 cooperative effort, just because the department would
28 have provided that materials necessary to operate that
29 project. But that proposal didn't make it through the
30 evaluation process last year, and I'm not sure if the
31 Refuge has plans of resubmitting another proposal in
32 the future. Maybe that's something that we need to
33 look at again.

34
35 MR. HOLMES: Well, I was wondering, Mr.
36 Chair, if it might be appropriate for our Council to at
37 least have an advisory resolution that if funding did
38 become available, or agency interest, that this would
39 be very complementary research for probably our most
40 important subsistence system on the island, and
41 probably the biggest one in the -- as far as number of
42 people using it in our region. So I guess I'm halfway
43 asking okay if I make a motion to support -- our RAC
44 supports research that would involve examining smolt
45 out-migrants from the Buskin in consideration for
46 future research proposals. And then that doesn't
47 really bind anybody to anything, but it would give
48 somebody wanting to do research the ability to say the
49 Kodiak/Aleutians Council thinks this is a good thing to
50 do, because basically by looking at smolt when they go

1 out, if they go out fat and happy, then that generally
2 means you're going to get a good return. But if you
3 had too many fish in the lake previously to where
4 they're competing with each other, then when they go
5 out they're skinny little guys. And so when we had the
6 collapse at Afognak, Comm Fish was doing smolt
7 research, and so they were able to look at the smolt
8 and say, yes, there was way too much escapement, and
9 then they were able to give folks in Kodiak an idea of
10 when the population would start rebuild and then it
11 wasn't a total crash.

12
13 So I guess that's my explanation once
14 again rather than waiting for a motion. Sorry.

15
16 So I guess briefly I'd like to make a
17 motion to -- sorry to get so excited -- that if a
18 research agency is desirous of looking at smolt work
19 for the Buskin River that they would receive from our
20 Council as being an important topic to consider.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: A motion made by
23 Pat.

24
25 MR. HAMILTON: I'll second it just for
26 a quick discussion and voyeur.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Seconded by Jim.
29 Discussion.

30
31 MR. HOLMES: Well, I guess I got all
32 excited and explained things, but I should put it in
33 the right place. Looking at smolt can give you an idea
34 of what's happened in the past, whether your escapement
35 goals are correct, and it gives you ideas or warnings
36 of what's happening in the future. And so we've had
37 some over-escapement in the lake, and I just worry that
38 we could have a repeat of Afognak Lake collapse, and
39 not have adequate time to think about it. And so my
40 motion would just simply allow, it doesn't commit any
41 funds or anything, but it would just say that this
42 would be an important bit of research to do if funding
43 were available. And, you know, I'm not on that
44 priority committee or anything for figuring out what
45 researches there are, but it just is saying that this
46 could help in the future.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Any further
49 discussion.

50

1 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, I guess I don't
2 really have a problem with that, but the Buskin is
3 doing really well, and I don't see anything at all in
4 here about Afognak Lake where we're having problems.

5
6 And then also I see that somewhere
7 there was something about Old Harbor at Big Creek doing
8 something with the coho. But you look at years and the
9 Buskin has been doing excellent, so, I mean, I'd rather
10 focus on some of these other areas like Afognak Lake
11 and Big Creek down in Old Harbor.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Any further
14 discussion. Pat.

15
16 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I was just looking
17 at for when Afognak phases out, because they've had
18 their funding limited and a way of basically keeping
19 the program doing, particularly Buskin is kind of
20 moving up just like Afognak did. And I certainly would
21 encourage the work at the south end, too. This isn't
22 saying that it has any priority over anything, other
23 than it's something worthy of merit for consideration.

24
25 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah, Pat, I
26 understand what you're saying, but Afognak Lake didn't
27 just build up on its own. It was a big enhancement
28 program by KRAA and they built it way up, and then all
29 of a sudden just cut it off, and my feeling at the same
30 time, when they built up that salmon run, the dolly
31 population built up. And now the dolly population
32 doesn't die off like the salmon.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Any further
35 discussion.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: There's a motion on
40 the floor here?

41
42 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, and there's a
43 second.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: A second.

46
47 MR. SQUARTSOFF: So I guess we can
48 vote.

49
50 MR. CRATTY: Yeah, I'd just like to

1 state the same thing that Peter said. I'm concerned of
2 the different areas also. Just to have it on the
3 record.

4

5 MR. HOLMES: Well, I guess what I was
6 saying is this can -- the same thing can occur
7 naturally, and that's the whole reason why they have
8 escapement goals is sometimes you can end up with too
9 many fish up the creek. And that's all I'm looking at
10 is somewhere down the line we may have a problem, and,
11 you know, I don't want this to defer from anything
12 happening at Old Harbor on the silvers or, you know,
13 the Litnik, but, you know, once the Litnik program is
14 winding down, then this was something to think about.

15

16 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Call for the question.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Do you want to do a
19 roll call vote on this? Okay. All those in favor
20 signify by saying aye.

21

22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23

24 (No opposing votes)

25

26 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: It passes. Okay.
27 Moving down to number 14, other business.

28

29 MS. CHIVERS: I believe we still have
30 one more ADF&G person giving a report. Come on up,
31 Lem.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Lem.

34

35 MR. TRACY: Thank you for your time,
36 gentlemen.

37

38 MR. BUTLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
39 members of the Council. Again my name is Lem Butler,
40 Fish and Game, King Salmon.

41

42 And I've asked Sandra to come up and
43 discuss a few issues with me as well.

44

45 But I hate to throw you back into
46 caribou, but I just want to acknowledge that the Office
47 of Subsistence Management is currently funding a lot of
48 our work on the caribou herd in 9D, and really making a
49 big difference.

50

1 Again we were able to capture 30
2 caribou this last fall. This herd's been lightly
3 monitored over the last few years, so we collected
4 biological samples that hopefully will give us some
5 insight into what's affecting the reproduction in this
6 herd.

7
8 Additionally they've given us funding
9 to look at parturition rates, to estimate pregnancy, to
10 see if it's a problem with calf production or survival.

11
12 So again it's really stepping up our
13 management efforts to assess what's happening in this
14 area. So a big help there.

15
16 And a lot of the work that's going to
17 be done this summer I think will give us a lot of -- a
18 lot more information for making good decisions in terms
19 of managing this population, whether the State wants to
20 continue a hunt even as early as this coming fall.

21
22 So I just want to acknowledge all that.

23
24
25 The other thing that Sandra and I have
26 been working on is a revision of the management plan
27 for the caribou herd. Currently under the current plan
28 that was developed in 1994 -- yeah, you guys should
29 have this in your packets. Sorry about that. Under
30 the current plan the Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou
31 Herd in 9D is managed in combination with the Unimak
32 Caribou Herd, and for a lot of reasons that really
33 isn't an ideal situation. The two areas have different
34 carrying capacities, very little interchange between
35 the populations, differences in population trend. And
36 right now what's happening is a prime example. You
37 know, we're considering whether we want to continue
38 hunting caribou on the mainland in 9D while on Unimak
39 we're at our maximum population objective, and if
40 anything the State should be liberalizing the season
41 there, not closing it down so we don't run into some of
42 the problems we faced historically with that herd.

43
44 So that's what led us to develop a
45 revision of this plan. And it's intended to document
46 or summarize the cooperative actions planned by the
47 Department and the Service that we use to coordinate
48 management activities between the two agencies.

49
50 As you scan through it, and I'm just

1 going to highlight a few things for you. I think some
2 of this you'll want to go through in a little bit more
3 depth, but section III does provide new population
4 objectives for the herd, and mostly that's just taking
5 out Unimak, is what you see currently. The objective
6 is 4 to 5,000 caribou, and this would set a new
7 objective of 3 to 3,500 with a fall bull to cow ratio
8 of 20 to 40 bulls per 100 cows.

9
10 It also details in section III the
11 monitoring activities that we'll be doing, estimating
12 total population size, sex and age composition,
13 survival rates and calving rates as well as monitoring
14 harvest and assessing range condition through
15 evaluating the body condition of the animals.

16
17 The responses that management agencies
18 will make are detailing under managing the SAPCH. It
19 lays out several objectives. The objectives are broken
20 into two categories, what's appropriate during a phase
21 of decline. The second step is how to liberalize
22 harvest during an increase, periods of increase. These
23 are all thresholds, and again we certainly encourage
24 decision-making bodies to act in the best interest of
25 the population before you reach these thresholds, but
26 if actions haven't been taken for whatever reason, and
27 we get to this point, you know, these should trigger
28 action at that point.

29
30 And, of course, the Council and the
31 Boards are still expected to rely heavily on
32 information provided by the Refuge and the Department
33 of Fish and Game to aid in their decision-making
34 process.

35
36 It again does base management on the
37 bull to cow ratio to make sure that we're keeping that
38 within appropriate range to not limit the population
39 through reproductive impacts. It sets a minimum
40 threshold.

41
42 And I should note that on Page 7, if
43 you turn to the very back, you have a figure there that
44 outlines this in a little bit more of a visual manner,
45 and you can see that as the population's increasing,
46 we'll go through a period where we're phasing in cow
47 harvest. When the population is above the management
48 objectives, we'll liberalize harvest to try to keep
49 them in that range.

50

1 This herd has a history of fluctuating
2 up to, you know, 10,000 caribou and crashing hard, and
3 that's what we want to avoid. It's an aggressive
4 management strategy. Typically harvests aren't
5 sufficient in this area to keep a population growth
6 under control, particularly when you get above, you
7 know, this 3,500 maximum objective, so we're trying to
8 keep it at a reasonable level to maintain that
9 opportunity for resource users. During decline, we
10 again phase out the cow harvest and enter a period of
11 subsistence priority before we actually go to closing
12 the season. And all of that's laid out in the section
13 III for managing and monitoring the population.

14
15 And then we also have the agency
16 responsibilities laid out.

17
18 And I'll let Sandra, if there's
19 anything she would like to add, to point out any of the
20 other highlights that I might have missed.

21
22 MS. SIEKANIEC: Yeah, Lem, I think you
23 covered most of them.

24
25 At this point what we're trying to do
26 is get input from both this Council and we're also
27 intending to go out to the villages themselves to
28 present this information. We don't want it to be a
29 surprise when we close the season. We want them to
30 understand where we're coming from and why we're doing
31 it. So that's why we're going to try to go out to the
32 villages as well. So we're looking for any comments
33 that you guys might have on this proposal. You can
34 give them now, you can look it over, contact us later.
35 That would be fine.

36
37 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I think it's a great
38 proposal, and I really support you on going forward
39 with it.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Yeah, I think we'll
42 review and get back to you folks later on it. Thank
43 you very much, Lem and Sandra.

44
45 MR. BUTLER: Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: We've got one more
48 report from Rob.

49
50 MR. BAER: Mr. Chairman, members of the

1 Board. Rob Baer with Fish and Game.

2

3 I actually don't have a report for you.
4 The last time we met in September I gave the report to
5 you on the Afognak Lake system and the study program we
6 have there. That was -- 2006 was the last year of that
7 project.

8

9 And just yesterday as a matter of fact
10 I received the draft comments back from the OSM office,
11 from Mr. Steve Fried. And I anticipate to have those
12 revisions made in the next week or so, and that will
13 complete that three-year study.

14

15 The great news is that we have three
16 more years of funding to continue that same project, so
17 we'll be going again this spring and obtaining a lot of
18 the same information and hope to better assess that
19 system. Thank you for your support on that. I really
20 believe that helped to obtain that funding.

21

22 And that's really all I wanted to
23 mention, and if you had any questions, I'd be glad to
24 address them.

25

26 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I just want to thank
27 you. That was very good news to me. That's what I was
28 very concerned about.

29

30 MR. BAER: Yeah. We were pleased to
31 hear that as well. I think that will really help.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Further questions,
34 further comments.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Thank you, Rob.

39

40 MR. BAER: Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Okay. Down to 14,
43 other business.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: If there's no other
48 business, let's move down to number 15, time and place
49 of our next meeting.

50

1 MR. CRATTY: Excuse me, Mr. Chair. I'd
2 like to go back to other business.

3
4 I think it's real important that we
5 address a letter to our very good buddy Vincent and see
6 where he's at and what's going on, because of how long
7 it takes to get Council members on here.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Yes, I agree with
10 you, Al.

11
12 Okay. Time and place for our next
13 meeting.

14
15 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. If the
16 Council members would turn to Page 104 in your book,
17 the Council had selected September 25 and 26 for our
18 next meeting in Cold Bay with Anchorage as the backup.
19 And what we need to do at this time is confirm those
20 meeting dates or select another date and location. So
21 we're just reconfirming everything if you guys are fine
22 with that. but if you want to change it, now is the
23 time to do it.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Yeah, Michelle.
26 Under discussion, we would like to suggest King Cove
27 for meeting and Cold Bay as backup. And sticking with
28 the same dates.

29
30 (Pause)

31
32 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chairman.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Yes.

35
36 MR. HOLMES: Before we have a -- I know
37 I'm lost on my campaign, but I would like you folks, if
38 you'd take a moment to review this draft letter I wrote
39 on travel. And this addresses several of the issues
40 that our Council's raised in the past verbally, and
41 we've gotten verbal answers to some of it, and other
42 points not. And like our other Councils, we need to be
43 as frugal as we can.

44
45 But we have in the past had offers from
46 local governments at St. Paul and Adak to pay room and
47 board if our Council were to go to those communities.

48
49 And also I think if most of the Staff
50 were left in the Anchorage teleconference, that would

1 provide more travel funds for our RAC to go to more
2 remote places.

3

4 And it's interesting a Peninsula
5 meeting in March, we had our stalwart recorder and our
6 coordinator, and one biologist show up from the Staff,
7 and our refuge lady from Izembek. However, the last
8 time we were in Cold Bay, we must have had at least 15
9 folks come and some didn't even say anything. So I
10 would again say that some of them can stay home and let
11 the RAC travel.

12

13 And please forgive the typos in number
14 2 at the bottom

15

16 And I think another criteria is
17 bureaucratically streamlining the way that
18 reimbursement takes place, because I know Pete's
19 mentioned several times in trying to get places that
20 some small lodges and B&B don't want to -- they're
21 intimidated by the process of getting registered to be
22 a vendor, and I don't wonder if sometime that OSM might
23 find a way of just simply paying a travel advance to
24 RAC members so they can directly reimburse a person or
25 even pay them off their credit card so that you
26 wouldn't have to have a, quote, Federally-approved
27 vendor. Heck, sometimes I slept in school gyms and
28 things. It's really important as Pete and Al had
29 mentioned before getting out to meet folks.

30

31 And I did a little look on the internet
32 last night on the Pen Air and the Alaska Airlines web
33 site. And just as a comparison of Anchorage to Cold
34 Bay, just the travel costs, not the housing, was \$818
35 round trip. Anchorage Dutch Harbor is 898. And
36 Anchorage to St. Paul is \$884, so that's, what, 74
37 bucks more to go to St. Paul Island. And if the
38 community up there, the tribal council is willing to
39 put us up in their ship, then, you know, I think it's
40 -- maybe once every 10 years or something. It's just
41 so important to get out to other places.

42

43 And we've also -- let's say Adak. Now,
44 that's the expensive one, 1332 round trip. But again
45 if the community was willing to host us. You know, we
46 had quite a bit of discussion about the caribou
47 management plan there.

48

49 Anyway, it's just some thoughts for
50 consideration for the future. And if you folks would

1 concur, it would be nice to formally have some of these
2 questions answered in writing.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Yes, Pat. We did
5 discuss a little bit at lunch, and I know we all think
6 it's a great idea to travel. We've been through this
7 discussion many a time. You know, we submit or make a
8 proposal, or talk about it, and it gets up to the
9 higher folk, and they just don't see it.

10

11 Although it's very important for
12 communication and understanding communities in general,
13 such as St. Paul Island or, you know, other communities
14 that we do represent, I think it's very important that,
15 you know, as much as our Board members, or the folks
16 here today to come to our islands and observe our
17 lifestyle and our communities, and get a better
18 understanding of where we come from from Council
19 members and folks in regards to subsistence.

20

21 But we've been down that road. I think
22 this is our fourth -- if we were to bring it up again,
23 Pat, this is our fourth attempt to convince the higher
24 up personnel that it is important that, you know, we
25 visit other communities, interact with the community
26 members in, you know, Bush Alaska, and to better
27 understand what's going on in the communities.

28

29 And, of course, the participation from
30 folks in the community is very critical and important,
31 too, because I've been to a lot of meetings, you know,
32 in the communities that Pat mentioned, and, you know,
33 there's very little folks that attend these meetings.
34 But, you know, from living on St. Paul Island, and the
35 community in general, I'll tell you, we'll probably --
36 we would have 20 people, 30 people participating in our
37 meetings there, from a community perspective.

38

39 But, you know, I don't know where we're
40 going to go with this, Pat. If there's anyone with the
41 Council wants to suggest on that, or any comments in
42 that record, but, you know, it's just tough, you know,
43 beating on the bush trying to get to St. Paul Island,
44 and, you know, if we want to do our fourth attempt on
45 it, Pat, I guess we can. but let's have a little talk
46 about it first.

47

48 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. I think
49 Michelle should explain a little bit to us on the
50 budget cutting process, and also with the mention of

1 King Cove, Cold Bay, I would like to, you know, on the
2 -- we also have Anchorage there. I'd like to leave
3 there, that everybody goes to Anchorage, and if we
4 can't make it to Cold Bay or King Cove, then we have
5 our meeting in Anchorage, so get everybody together in
6 Anchorage first before we go to -- out to King Cove or
7 Cold Bay.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Yes, Michelle.

10

11 MR. HOLMES: Oh, I agree on that
12 strategy, Pete. I'd just like to -- we've never done
13 this formally in writing and so I'd like to at least
14 have this -- there's some typos, but ask to have those
15 questions answered. And, you know, we have a new
16 Chairman, and, yeah, we cut budgets, but my point is we
17 go to St. Paul, if the council is paying for us, is
18 cheaper than going to Cold Bay and paying for the whole
19 gang to stay in the lodge. And if we go to King Cove,
20 that's another 300 bucks a head to get there.

21

22 And so all I'm offering is that there
23 are some outside the box ways of getting to places, and
24 I'd just like to send this note off to them with, you
25 know, our Council's questions. And we'll probably
26 jolly well go on doing what we do, and I think if too
27 many Staff come to Cold Bay and I'm listening to them
28 saying, gees, boy, what a good time. I just came to go
29 fishing, nuts, and I'll call up our little old lady
30 here that handles that sort of stuff and just say, gee,
31 this is unethical. I've never seen this person come to
32 our meeting, you know, and all of a sudden they show up
33 and talk two minutes. I guess I'm just being a
34 curmudgeon, and I'd like to, you know, try one more
35 time, and then I'll let it go.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Pete.

38

39 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. Before Michelle
40 comes on, I totally support what you're saying, Pat. I
41 mean, you know I've said that for years. I mean, I
42 just feel now, and talking -- spending some time with
43 Michelle and talking to her about the budget cuts and
44 stuff, it's just -- our chances of going anywhere else
45 is -- I'm thinking it's just going to be Anchorage and
46 Kodiak is probably where we're going to be having our
47 meetings.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Yes, go ahead,

50 Michelle.

1 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, if I may. I
2 know at this time our office is preparing a
3 presentation for the Council members, each of the
4 Councils, and it has to do with the budget cut. I know
5 they're asking that all Councils start holding their
6 meetings in hubs because of the budget cuts. It was my
7 understanding that there would be something ready for
8 today for our meeting, but I didn't see anything before
9 I left, and nor had Ann. And it was to be presented to
10 the Council. But I know it's coming down the road.
11 Every Council's going to have to travel hubs for their
12 meetings, and, you know, like for Northwest Arctic,
13 it's always going to be Kotzebue, North Slope, it's
14 always going to be Barrow, and for this Council, it was
15 stated that it would most likely be Anchorage and
16 Kodiak.

17
18 But that's just to inform you guys
19 that's probably coming. I mean, you can submit what
20 you want to put down here. I mean, you guys are
21 certainly welcome to do that, but I just want you to
22 know that, you know, that may end up being what you're
23 going to end up, and I apologize for that, but that is
24 something that is coming down the road, the budget cut.
25 And it's here now, it's just I don't have anything to
26 present to you.

27
28 MR. HOLMES: Oh, I realize that. It's
29 just that, you know, occasionally we could think
30 outside the box. And I appreciate all our efforts.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Pete.

33
34 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Yeah. I have another
35 quick comment. And also, you know, I guess Michelle
36 could verify, it's very hard getting a quorum,
37 especially if we're going out to Cold Bay or some
38 place, or King Cove, because we don't have any people
39 on the Board from out that area, where we come to
40 Kodiak, and the guys are able to make it here, so that
41 does make a difference, getting a quorum.

42
43 MS. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman, I just
44 wanted to reinforce what Michelle is saying, that the
45 budget cuts are here, and they're not insignificant.
46 These are major, major cuts. It's going to completely
47 alter -- not completely alter, but definitely alter
48 the way OSM functions and the way the program operates.
49 It is something very significant.

50

1 I know in the past they've asked that
2 Councils meet in the hubs as often as possible, but
3 this is really not a, gee, we wish you would, but it's
4 very necessary.

5
6 So like she said, this will come up in
7 the fall and more definite information will be
8 presented.

9
10 But having said that, you know, if you
11 want to send a letter to the Board, thinking outside
12 the box is one of my favorite things, so, you know,
13 send a letter to the Board, give it a shot, see what
14 they say. If there's -- if it's more cost effective
15 to go somewhere else, and do it a different way, then
16 we can do it that way.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Yes. Just to
19 refresh people's minds, that in the Community of St.
20 Paul Island, we were offering free room and board and,
21 you know, space available. And the same thing as Adak.
22 Just to refresh people's minds there. Thank you.

23
24 MR. HOLMES: I would like this -- this
25 date I think is much better for trying to get on the
26 Peninsula. Generally that mid week of September in my
27 experience is very bad, because you always, always,
28 always, 9 times out of 10 you get the equinox storms
29 that come with the tides in mid September, and you can
30 just count on spending a week or more trying to get
31 somewhere on the Peninsula. And so having it at the
32 end of the month is a much better time than shooting
33 for the middle.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: What were you
36 proposing, what dates, Pat?

37
38 MR. HOLMES: Oh, the date that you have
39 down, September 25/26. The 25th/26th is a much better
40 time than -- you know, we've tried umpteen times to get
41 there in the week around the 15th, and just luck when
42 we have. And Jim's nodding his head, and he's spent
43 plenty of time out in that neck of the woods, and those
44 big deep southeasterlies come in and you're out of
45 luck.

46
47 MR. CRATTY: We already said we ain't
48 going there.

49
50 MR. HOLMES: Oh, we're not going there?

1
2 MR. CRATTY: No, that's what they said.
3
4 MR. HOLMES: Well, go into Anchorage.
5 We can get to Anchorage easier on the 25th I'm sure.
6
7 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Pete.
8
9 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I only had one thing
10 on the 25th is that's the opening day of the elk season
11 for drawing. So if I get drawn for that first permit,
12 I'm going elk hunting.
13
14 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. Pete, are you
15 -- would you prefer to move the dates or do you just
16 want to go ahead and stick with this date and see.....
17
18 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Well, I don't know if
19 I'm getting a permit or not.
20
21 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: The dates proposed
22 are.....
23
24 MS. CHIVERS: September 25th, 26th in
25 King Cove with Cold Bay as a backup, correct?
26
27 MR. SQUARTSOFF: If I get a permit,
28 I'll call you.
29
30 MR. HOLMES: And can we send in this
31 letter? I'd like to make a motion to that, that we
32 send them a letter and make one last try about thinking
33 outside the box.
34
35 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Yeah, I don't have
36 any problem with that. Let's just try it one more
37 time, see where it goes.
38
39 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I don't have a problem
40 with it, Pat.
41
42 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. If the
43 Council would now turn to Page 102 there is a winter
44 meeting calendar and we need to select a meeting
45 location and date for our next winter meeting. And I
46 can tell you right now the Bristol Bay Council has met
47 and the Seward Peninsula Council has met as well, and
48 they have selected that first week in February,
49 February 19th through the 22nd, so we're going to ask
50 that the Council not select that week. But if you

1 could select another week sometime after that within
2 the meeting window.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: The week of when?

5

6 MS. CHIVERS: The first week on the
7 calendar, the 19th of February through the 22nd.
8 There's a couple of meetings already scheduled, and
9 it's not shown on your calendar. We didn't have an
10 updated calendar before I left. So if you could select
11 dates after that, starting the week of March 25th or
12 anywhere between there and March 21st.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MR. HOLMES: Mr. Chair, I'd like to
17 consider March 18th and March 19th in Old Harbor with
18 good old Kodiak as a backup. And if we can't do that,
19 then we'll go to Anchorage or St. Paul.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: How do you guys
22 feel about those dates.

23

24 MR. CRATTY: 18th, 19th.

25

26 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I've got some
27 flowers. I haven't been down to visit with Larry for a
28 long time, and I wanted to bring something down to put
29 there on his grave.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Have we got all our
32 dates selected.

33

34 MR. SQUARTSOFF: Move to adjourn.

35

36 MS. CHIVERS: March 18th and 19th in
37 Old Harbor with Kodiak as a backup. Correct?

38

39 Okay, thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: A motion to
42 adjourn?

43

44 MR. CRATTY: Move to adjourn. I make a
45 motion to adjourn.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Motion made by Al.

48

49 MR. CRATTY: Oh, he seconded it?

50

1 MR. SQUARTSOFF: I made a motion about
2 three minutes ago.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Oh, you made a
5 motion.

6
7 MR. CRATTY: I'll second it then.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ZACHAROF: Seconded by Al.
10 I'd like to wish Mitch and his family, you know, well.
11 I know his wife got sick, so he was unable to fulfill
12 the meeting.

13
14 I'd like to thank all you folks for
15 coming to the meeting and participating in the meeting.
16 And we'll see you folks in King Cove, St. Paul,
17 Anchorage, or Kodiak, Old Harbor.

18
19 (Off record)

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21 (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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THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 9th day of March 2007.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 3/12/08