

1 BRISTOL BAY ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME II

7
8
9 City Hall Council Chamber
10 Dillingham, Alaska
11 October 13, 2011
12 8:30 a.m.
13

14
15 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

16
17 Molly Chythlook, Chairwoman
18 Peter Abraham
19 Alvin Boskofsky
20 Dan Dunaway
21 Daniel O'Hara
22 Richard Wilson
23
24 Regional Council Coordinator, Donald Mike
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S
2
3 (Dillingham, Alaska - 10/13/2011)
4
5 (On record)
6
7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Good morning.
8 I'm going to call the meeting to order. 8:31 is it.
9
10 And the first on the agenda this
11 morning number 12, review and make recommendations on
12 the draft 2012 Fisheries Research Monitoring Plan. And
13 is there somebody that's going to be presenting this.
14
15 MR. FRIED: Okay. Good morning. My
16 name is Steve Fried. I'm a fishery biologist with the
17 Office of Subsistence Management.
18
19 And I'll just provide a brief
20 introduction on the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan.
21 And it begins on Page 122. And then I'll turn it over
22 to Pippa Kenner and she can give you more details on
23 the projects that are being considered for funding.
24
25 So what's going to be before you today
26 is the draft 2012 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan.
27 And essentially this program provides funding to
28 various investigators to collect information that's of
29 use to the Federal subsistence management.
30
31 The program first started in 2000, and
32 it used to be funded -- we used to fund new projects
33 every year. In 2008 I believe we started funding new
34 projects every other year.
35
36 We have a Technical Review Committee
37 comprised of scientists from five Federal agencies and
38 three others from the Department of Fish and Game to
39 help review the proposals and the investigation plans.
40 And there's four factors that are used.
41
42 One is strategic priority. Essentially
43 needs to be a link with Federal subsistence management
44 and it also needs to be something important for the
45 program to fund.
46
47 And along with the call every year, we
48 do send out some information needs, priority
49 information needs to help focus the call. But we do
50 consider any project that comes in, you know, it's just

1 that the investigators need to make a case that it is
2 an important project and should be funded.

3
4 Besides the strategic priority, we look
5 at the technical scientific merit, the ability of the
6 investigator and his organization or agency to conduct
7 the research, and also the partnership, capacity
8 building of the project.

9
10 Since we went to a two-year cycle, we
11 tell people that we will fund the projects up to four
12 years, and then they need to come back to us if they
13 want to continue the project after four years. Some
14 projects only need one year, some need more. it
15 depends on the project.

16
17 What else. There's two types of
18 projects in general. There's stock status and trends
19 studies which address things like abundance, the
20 composition, run timing, behavior, and the status of
21 fish populations. And the other major category is
22 harvest monitoring and traditional ecological
23 knowledge, which address assessment of the fisheries.
24 It includes things like, you know, how many fish are
25 harvested, the effort, description of fishing use
26 patterns.

27
28 And we also fund projects by region.
29 We have several regions. There's a table on Page 125
30 that shows you in 2012 how many investigation plans
31 were received for projects by Region, and also what the
32 recommendations were from -- just numbers-wise from the
33 Technical Review Committee.

34
35 Essentially for 2012 there's a total of
36 32 investigation plans under consideration. 22 of
37 these are for stock status projects, 10 are for harvest
38 monitoring/ traditional ecological knowledge projects.
39 The total funding available we're estimating for new
40 projects in 2012 is about \$2.7 million. If all 32
41 projects were funded, it would cost \$2.74 million, so
42 just by chance it's pretty similar to what's available.

43
44 The Technical Review Committee actually
45 recommended 29 of the 32 projects for funding. And
46 these would have a total of \$2.18 million.

47
48 And what else can I tell you about it.
49 Any unallocated funds would be used to either forward
50 fund new projects, or go to continuing funding for

1 other projects that have been funded and aren't over
2 yet.

3

4 The 2012 draft monitoring plan that was
5 recommended by the Technical Review Committee would
6 provide about 28 percent of funding to Alaska Native
7 organizations, 47 percent to State agencies, 14 percent
8 to Federal agencies, and 11 percent to other non-
9 government organizations which would include things
10 like universities, private contracting firms, et
11 cetera.

12

13 So in a nutshell that's the overview of
14 the whole program. And I guess I'll turn it over to
15 you to just provide a brief overview of the Southwest
16 Region.

17

18 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Steve. Ms.
19 Chair. This Pippa Kenner with the Office of
20 Subsistence Management in Anchorage.

21

22 For the Southwest Region for the 2012
23 call, which is what we're doing right now, reviewing
24 proposals for research for the 2012 call, the Southwest
25 Region received proposals for three projects, and all
26 three were in the harvest monitoring and traditional
27 ecological knowledge category. Those kind of projects
28 are usually more normally done by anthropologists, and
29 I'm the anthropologist at OSM. And so I'll be
30 describing them.

31

32 Two of them are for the Aleutians and
33 Kodiak area. And the Kodiak/Aleutians Council has met
34 and approved the plan as it was. And so I'll go ahead
35 and just describe the one project that was proposed for
36 the Bristol Bay area. And then if you have additional
37 questions, I'll try to answer those.

38

39 The Office of Subsistence -- I mean,
40 the Subsistence Division at the Alaska Department of
41 Fish and Game has put in a proposal to conduct a two-
42 year project to investigate the declining whitefish
43 harvest and whitefish harvest more generally in the
44 context of non-salmon fisheries in a portion of the
45 Bristol Bay region. And for this project, they
46 propose working with the Bristol Bay Native
47 Association, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, and
48 the Nondalton Tribal Council. So it is a cooperative
49 effort.

50

1 The project will involve conducting
2 harvest surveys and doing -- going and fishing with
3 people and seeing how it's done and what they're doing,
4 as well as what we call key respondent interviews,
5 talking to elders and other knowledgeable people about
6 what they've done in the past, and how things are now,
7 and collecting their concerns.

8

9 That would be a two-year project. The
10 funding level over two years is estimated to be it
11 looks like about \$300,000 over three years.

12

13 I'd be happy to answer any questions.

14

15 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah. Dan.

18

19 MR. O'HARA: Yes. Pippa, the whitefish
20 research is in Lake Clark and Six Mile Lake? Is that
21 where the money's going to be going for the research
22 for the whitefish? You made a comment that there's a
23 declining stock of whitefish in Lake Clark. Maybe I
24 misunderstood you.

25

26 MS. KENNER: Thank you. Through the
27 Chair. Mr. O'Hara.

28

29 It's the Lake Clark area, but includes
30 Lake Clark and Iliamna Lake. The communities that
31 would be participating in the research are Igiugig,
32 Iliamna, Newhalen, Nondalton, and Port Alsworth.

33

34 MR. O'HARA: Yeah. That answers it,
35 because Richard and I both know there's a huge amount
36 of whitefish that goes down the Kvichak. You know, in
37 fact there's.....

38

39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan, your
40 microphone.

41

42 MR. O'HARA: There's a huge amount of
43 whitefish going down the Kvichak right now. They're
44 getting as many as 30 or 40 in net. They go there by
45 the thousands.

46

47 But I guess what caught my attention
48 was maybe you made a remark that there's a declining
49 amount of whitefish in Lake Clark.

50

1 MS. KENNER: Through the Chair.
2 There's appears to be a declining harvest. And it's
3 not clear in the write-up that that's is based solely
4 on declining populations of whitefish or for other
5 reasons. That's one of the things they'll be
6 investigating.
7
8 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair. Of course,
9 the population is so much bigger at Nondalton and those
10 areas. The user groups are way bigger than George
11 Wilson and two other people at Igiugig.
12
13 Thank you.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
16 other questions. Richard.
17
18 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Kokhanok.
19 Is it on the list? East side of Iliamna Lake? I know
20 that they have a run into that Gibraltar Lake system
21 there, and I was curious as to maybe if they'd gotten
22 any numbers or any historical numbers or anything being
23 done for that system. And also, since we're in the
24 southwest portion, Naknek River people also consume
25 whitefish out of the mouth of the Naknek, and I wonder
26 if there's any numbers associated with those systems.
27
28 Thank you.
29
30 MS. KENNER: Mrs. Chair. Mr. Wilson.
31 They're actually -- for Kokhanok first, there actually
32 have been a number of investigations with the community
33 of Kokhanok describing those runs and including harvest
34 estimates.
35
36 This time it appears that the people
37 putting in the proposal did not include Kokhanok. And
38 there might be a couple of reasons. One is that you
39 have to limit your investigations. If they start
40 including too many communities, the work gets --
41 sometimes the work can't get completed in a -- good
42 work can't get completed, because they've spread
43 themselves too thing. And the other thing may be
44 association with Federal public lands.
45
46 And for Naknek, there is much less
47 information about these -- written information about
48 the harvest level and the traditional use of non-salmon
49 fish. And that would be an interesting project for
50 someone to put in.

1 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Less
2 information from the Naknek meaning that nobody's
3 investigated that portion yet, or maybe the local guys
4 weren't willing to give up information. I don't know.
5 Which of the two do you think that might be?

6
7 MS. KENNER: I think from my experience
8 in the region, it probably has more to do with it not
9 being seen as a priority information need, because
10 there is some background information collected about
11 those fisheries. It was done earlier, in the 1980s,
12 but, you know, a lot of it is still relevant, and there
13 have been so-called harvest surveys there, collecting
14 additional information about overall harvest of fish
15 and wildlife, while not specifically focused on non-
16 salmon fish.

17
18 This project though and in the Kvichak
19 drainage, the Department of Fish and Game through the
20 Division of Subsistence has tried to organize
21 researchers in about every five to eight-year
22 increments to go back and collect the numbers and to
23 see how the fishery's going. Because of the --
24 probably for a couple of reasons, the association with
25 Federal public lands, which is an interest of ours, and
26 what we fund is projects that have a direct nexus to
27 our program. But also the diversity of fish that exist
28 and that are harvested, and the clear association of
29 the area with observations of climate change and
30 declining ice cover during the winter. So that's what
31 I can think of off the top of my head.

32
33 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Yeah, I
34 guess the reason why I mention is because it's
35 borderline with our park system now. The Park system
36 has consumed the mouth of the Naknek on the lake side.
37 And you're talking about decline of harvest here,
38 that's why your study is out there, is because of the
39 decline of harvest. And typically -- I would assume
40 that it's a decline because the people can't go into
41 this system and take the harvest. And so that's why I
42 was interested in some of that knowledge.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
47 other questions.

48
49 (No comments)
50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: If not, has
2 there been any studies on migration patterns of
3 whitefish, because I know that, you know, the Lake
4 Clark, unless they're resident fish, you know, there's
5 quite a lot of whitefish like Dan mentioned, even down
6 in the mouth of Iliamna -- not Iliamna, Igiugig area,
7 and throughout the lake system. And I know this from
8 doing baseline surveys for ADF&G when I worked for
9 Subsistence Division. And that's how the overall non-
10 fish items were collected was through baseline, which
11 collects all resources.

12
13 And then another issue that's always
14 been, and I worked with Fish and Wildlife, Mark Lesak,
15 to try to identify different species of whitefish,
16 because we have Yup'ik names for all the different
17 whitefish, but in general -- well, there are English
18 names also for different species of whitefish, but I
19 noted here that part of the reasons why this survey is
20 going to happen is because of the incorrect
21 identifications of this. And this one particular was
22 due to salmon -- excuse me, whitefish being caught in
23 the salmon net and maybe that's part of it. And they
24 just didn't misidentify the whitefish, it just was
25 combined with the harvest of the overall salmon
26 species.

27
28 But I guess my main -- getting back to
29 my main question is migration routes of whitefish
30 throughout the lake system.

31
32 MR. FRIED: Yeah, this is Steve Fried.

33
34 In answer to your question, Madame
35 Chairman, in 2005 we funded a Lake Clark whitefish
36 assessment study. It was done by the Park Service and
37 I think it was done by -- I don't know if it was -- it
38 was Caroline Woody, I don't know if she was a private
39 contractor at that point or still working for the
40 Federal government. But anyway they did some radio
41 tagging of whitefish in Lake Clark, and also took
42 scales and otoliths, looking for elemental composition
43 to decide whether some of them might have been
44 anadromous. And they also did some life history and
45 distribution studies.

46
47 And they've got a draft final report.
48 It's not been approved yet. And once it is, we'll be
49 putting it on our website, so everybody can -- it will
50 be available for everybody to read. And so that's the

1 one I'm aware of that we funded for whitefish migratory
2 patterns, and that was in Lake Clark.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
5 you. And another, and Richard brought this up,
6 decrease of the harvest. You know, if the residents
7 aren't able to or can't harvest certain areas, you
8 know, where there -- my understanding was that if the
9 whitefish are in a certain area and maybe within the
10 Park Service or area that they're not able to get into
11 to harvest. I think that needs to be identified so
12 that it won't identified as decreased harvest by local
13 people.

14

15 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mrs. Chair.
16 This is Pippa Kenner again with OSM.

17

18 And, Molly, as you know -- Mrs. Chair,
19 as you know, one of the things that is relevant
20 concerning that are harvest seasons and harvest limits
21 and enforcement, and that is definitely taken into
22 consideration during the research and fully discussed.
23 As well as in the past what's been an issue in this
24 area is the prohibition of different traditional
25 methods that have been revisited by the Board of Fish
26 and the Federal Subsistence Board to better address the
27 needs of the people who live in the area.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.
30 And then another thing that I know that any time we do
31 any surveys and elders are involved in it, that's
32 collecting traditional and ecological knowledge. And I
33 didn't see the TEK identified here, although it's in
34 here, because any time -- like I said, any time any
35 information is collected from local people, they will
36 automatically use their traditional knowledge. But
37 with the onset of TEK knowledge and climate change, you
38 know, I think we need to include or spell it out so
39 that it will be noted.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 Any other comments from the Board.
44 Richard. Or Pete.

45

46 MR. ABRAHAM: (In Yup'ik)

47

48 I'll interpret myself. I asked Molly
49 what species are we talking about at Lake Iliamna over
50 there, because there are certain kinds that go out in

1 the ocean that's on the Kuskokwim side. I don't know
2 anything about Bristol Bay side that goes out to the
3 ocean and then change the rivers.

4
5 In Kuskokwim side, there are two
6 species that goes out to the ocean and then come up
7 different rivers. You take Dolly Varden. It goes out
8 to the ocean and then change rivers. That's why it's
9 sort of like unpredictable decrease and increase in
10 certain areas there.

11
12 So I don't know about the whitefish
13 we're talking about, I don't even know what species
14 they are.

15
16 So the migration of those species, if
17 they change rivers, it's very critical that if the --
18 that decrease and increase of it. Why is this
19 affecting these here. What species are we talking
20 about.

21
22 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mrs. Chair.

23
24 Mr. Abraham. Well, first and foremost
25 we're talking about humpback whitefish. It appears
26 that there isn't a population or not a very large
27 population of broad whitefish up in Lake Clark.
28 There's (In Yup'ik), which is least cisco; however,
29 there appears to be a change in the Yup'ik work that's
30 used in different parts of the Kvichak drainage. So
31 the naming of fish changes a little bit. It's not the
32 same for Levelock probably as it is up in the lake and
33 at Igiugig.

34
35 So we have (In Yup'ik), which is the
36 round whitefish. There's probably a few pygmy
37 whitefish, which the late Ms. Hedland filled us in on.
38 And, Molly, I can't think of anything else. I think
39 that's it.

40
41 And because of the -- I was familiar
42 with the work up there up until a few years ago. There
43 has been work done since then. And actually it has
44 been the testimony of people living up there and
45 collecting information and listening to them that has
46 helped the biologists identify some of these runs that
47 are up there, and what their characteristics are.
48 Because what we forget about these whitefish species,
49 and other species, but whitefish, too, is that
50 different populations geographically have a little bit

1 different characteristics.

2

3 And indeed there are anadromous fish up
4 there who run back and forth between salt and fresh
5 water, but also there's probably large migrations that
6 occur within the fresh water. And it is a bit of a
7 puzzle to outsiders looking in. In my experience,
8 there's been a really nice cooperative effort between
9 biologists in the past and current biologists with
10 anthropologists in the villages to help piece that
11 puzzle together.

12

13 MR. ABRAHAM: Madame. You talked about
14 humpback whitefish. Well, there are two species of
15 humpback whitefish. Bristol Bay side over here is
16 different from Kuskokwim side. The scales and the fat
17 and the meat is different. Although the humpback on
18 Kuskokwim side goes out to the ocean and it change
19 rivers.

20

21 So is cisco whitefish goes out, but
22 doesn't stay in river in fresh water for long time,
23 because these spawn and then they go out again. And
24 they're very delicate species.

25

26 The round whitefish are congregated on
27 the lakes and river. They don't go out to the ocean.

28

29 The reason why -- I mean, these things
30 is -- the fish populations is our main food. No matter
31 where you go in Alaska, you check and study, you will
32 find out the main course, you know, on the table is
33 fish.

34

35 So I keep in touch with Nelson Island
36 area about the whitefish, because it's one of the
37 favorite, even Kasigluk area. Those are one of the
38 favorite foods they have over there. They'd rather
39 take the whitefish, humpback whitefish than the king
40 salmon dry fish. You know, things like that.
41 Nutritious-wise the humpback three-pound when you
42 compare it with a 10-pound moose meat, the whitefish
43 has more nutrient than 10-pound moose mean. I mean,
44 that's -- these things I'm not speculating to. I got
45 this through the biologist in Bethel area one time.

46

47 Qu yana.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
50 Pete. Richard.

1 MR. WILSON: I'm just stretching.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. And
4 then reading through the issues, and Pete brought it
5 back, that there's certain fish that can only be
6 harvested using -- to my knowledge, harvested with
7 jigging unless you accidentally -- and that's the round
8 fish.
9
10 The other species I've never --
11 traveling throughout Bristol Bay doing research, I've
12 never come across anybody harvesting using a hook and
13 line other than the round fish. So I think through
14 this survey identify the fish up there so that we'll
15 kind of have an idea of what species of fish are
16 harvested through jigging, because like I said, all
17 whitefish aren't harvested using hook and line.
18
19 Any more discussions.
20
21 (No comments)
22
23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Doy.
24
25 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mrs. Chair.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Oh, Steve, you
28 have a question, comment.
29
30 MR. FRIED: Well, I just wanted to say
31 that this is an action item, and what we're looking for
32 is whether or not the Council can make a recommendation
33 on whether or not to fund, you know, either that one
34 project in Bristol Bay; you can make a recommendation
35 on all three in Southwest Alaska.
36
37 And essentially what happens is, as I
38 mentioned before, the Technical Review Committee has
39 made their recommendations. Then the Councils will
40 make their recommendations. InterAgency Staff
41 Committee will make recommendations. And essentially
42 all these recommendations go in front of the Federal
43 Subsistence Board in their January meeting. And how
44 they usually do it, since there are so many projects,
45 is the projects that everybody makes the same
46 recommendations on go into one agenda item; and the
47 ones that people disagree on will go into another one.
48 And the Board will definitely discuss the ones that
49 people disagreed on to decide whether or not they think
50 it should -- those projects should be funded or not.

1 And at the end of the Federal Subsistence Board meeting
2 they make a decision and they approve a 2012 monitoring
3 plan which contains all the projects that they're
4 recommending for funding. That goes in front of the
5 Assistant Regional Director for Subsistence, Pete
6 Probasco, and he's got the final hand on the purse
7 strings, and makes that final decision on money and,
8 you know, whether or not there's enough funds available
9 to fund all those. But usually whatever the Board
10 approves has always been funded. So that's the
11 process.

12
13 So right now we're just looking for the
14 Council to take action on the projects in their region.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

19
20 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

21
22 I'm just curious on the funding scheme
23 of things, why a majority of it is in the Lake Clark
24 drainage, Six Mile Lake and Iliamna Lake. Is it
25 because of some of the possible mining activity in that
26 area is why it's getting concentrated over on that side
27 of the district, or is it just -- is it because of the
28 higher usage perhaps? Do you have an answer?

29
30 MR. FRIED: Yeah. I mean, essentially
31 we actually asked for, if you look at Page 126, there's
32 those information needs. And it actually was patterns
33 and whitefish harvest and use from Lake Clark
34 communities is one of the priority needs that was
35 identified for the Southwest Region. And there's, you
36 know, lots of reasons for that essentially as far as
37 interest goes.

38
39 But as I mentioned before, people can
40 submit proposals on any topic and they'll be given the
41 same consideration any project is given, even if it
42 addresses a priority need or not. And there will be
43 decisions made and recommendations made through the
44 line down to the Board. So just because something's a
45 priority need and listed as such doesn't mean other
46 things won't get funded. And in fact about 20 percent
47 of the projects that get funded every year don't
48 address the priority needs. There are other projects
49 that are still important.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan. Pippa.

2

3 MS. KENNER: I would just like to
4 quickly add to that. This is Pippa with OSM.

5

6 I concur with everything that Steve
7 said, and additionally would like to say there's a
8 strategic planning effort in the area, and it was made
9 up of villagers, anthropologists, biologists, and we've
10 been working through that strategic plan, trying to
11 fund what were considered priority information needs.
12 We're getting towards the end of the life of that
13 strategic plan, and now these are the items that are
14 floating to the top.

15

16 However, within the strategic plan it
17 also included priority information needs, recommending
18 that every five years surveys of whitefish user, non-
19 salmon fish use in general, but particularly whitefish
20 use, be done in all communities. But then we get a
21 limited number of proposals in. One of the reasons why
22 is in this HM/TEK category, there's only a handful of
23 companies, organizations and government agencies that
24 have the capacity to do that kind of research. And
25 that research is spread out throughout the state. And
26 if somebody -- we would really appreciate more
27 proposals coming in with research in the different
28 communities in Bristol Bay as long as there was that
29 Federal nexus. And Bristol Bay Borough does have a
30 Federal nexus.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan, do you
33 have.....

34

35 MR. O'HARA: Yes. Steve could you tell
36 us the three -- just refresh our memory on the three
37 items for Southwest Alaska that you said was available.
38 Just name the three of them.

39

40 MR. FRIED: Through Madame Chair.

41

42 Yeah, if you look at Pages 128 and 129,
43 there's -- all three projects are in tables 3, 4, 5,
44 information on those. And they're Aleutian Island
45 salmon and other subsistence harvest is one study.
46 Lake Clark whitefish, climate change trends is another
47 one. And Kodiak salmon fishery, changing patterns is
48 the third one. So essentially two are in the
49 Kodiak/Aleutians area and one is in the Bristol
50 Bay/Chignik area.

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. O'HARA: I think, Madame Chair,
4 because of the limited amount of funds, I think the
5 concentration is going to be Nondalton and Iliamna,
6 Newhalen. You know, I've never caught a whitefish in
7 my life. I think I did up on Pile Bay when I was
8 growing up there. And I never catch one now. But
9 George Wilson always sends me two or three from
10 Igiugig, so I get whitefish from Igiugig. And so this
11 subsistence thing is, you know, sharing a lot of these
12 things with other people who might not have
13 accessibility to some of these things.

14

15 And we name and number our sockeyes in
16 Bristol Bay. There's more information on sockeyes than
17 you could spend a lifetime reading on. And that's well
18 documented. I mean, it's just incredible.
19 Internationally, you know.

20

21 But I think the whitefish thing is
22 truly a subsistence issue for, you know, those people
23 there in those villages who will share with Newhalen
24 and Iliamna, you know, if they don't get them there.

25

26 And so I think in lieu of what we need
27 to do with money-wise, I think their recommendation for
28 the Lake Clark whitefish and that research, and then
29 some parts of Lake Iliamna is something I could
30 certainly agree on.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

35

36 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

39

40 MR. DUNAWAY: The other one. Thank
41 you, Madame Chair.

42

43 I'm very supportive of this whitefish
44 trends. A little bit like what Dan's saying. I think
45 sometimes we get too caught up in just salmon, salmon,
46 salmon. And to me all those other fish, grayling,
47 pike, are important. I think it's also really, really
48 important that we have projects in Bristol Bay. And
49 I've been on the phone pestering agency folks to come
50 up with more projects.

1 I think that there ought to be some
2 research on grayling in the Naknek area, even if it was
3 at like a grad student level. I don't know that
4 there's been much stud on them. There's been a lot of
5 study at Ugashik on grayling. I don't know if there's
6 any grayling work done in Lake Clark, but we should
7 have projects in Bristol Bay every year I think. And
8 so I'm going to be supporting especially this whitefish
9 in Lake Clark.

10

11 And I'd like to somewhere here we see a
12 motion to support all these projects, but my priority
13 would be the Lake Clark whitefish.

14

15 Thank you, Madame Chair.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
18 more comments.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I notice that
23 the whitefish assessment report is still in
24 preparation.

25

26 MS. KENNER: Mrs. Chair. This is Pippa
27 Kenner.

28

29 Could you tell me what page that's on?

30

31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: 127.

32

33 MR. FRIED: Yeah, that's correct.
34 Madame Chair. It's not completed yet. I do have a
35 draft, and we're waiting for it to be completed.

36

37 I guess there's some of the
38 information, I think it might be the genetics
39 information, they're still waiting on to finish the
40 report. The radio telemetry is pretty much done. So
41 I'm hoping that we could wrap that one up sometime
42 soon.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And did it
45 gather other information? I should know it, because I
46 think BBNA was involved. Other information besides
47 what this is going after, the present one.

48

49 MR. FRIED: We would. I mean, as far
50 as what we funded, I think that's really one of the

1 only projects we funded in southwest that just focused
2 primarily on whitefish so far. And that was the one on
3 Lake Clark whitefish assessment.

4

5 On Page 127 you can see all the
6 projects in the region that were funded and are
7 completed except for maybe the final reports. And then
8 there's three that are still ongoing. And essentially
9 if you look at the number of projects, about a third
10 have been funded for freshwater species and all the
11 rest have been on salmon. And that would include all
12 of southwest, you know, Bristol Bay/Chignik,
13 Kodiak/Aleutians.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

16

17 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.

18

19 Steve and Pippa, you have a list of
20 people that are going to be sharing the monies on this
21 management project. How do you keep track to make sure
22 that all these entities do their job? A lot of times
23 it's no better than the management that begins a
24 project, and I guess that starts with you. So you're
25 going to have to give a response to us on how did the
26 Bristol Bay Native Association do; how did Nondalton
27 do. Did they just -- did they use the money properly.
28 Was the project -- the report coming back to you was
29 sufficient to invest the money. I think that's a
30 fiduciary responsibility this Council has, to ask the
31 question on how is that going to come about.

32

33 MR. FRIED: Yeah. I mean, we track all
34 the funds. People send invoices in monthly, and we
35 make sure that the invoices are -- that the things that
36 are being billed are actually things that are needed,
37 you know for the projects. And they all -- all the
38 different investigators, you know, have their own
39 amount of money that they get either through a
40 subcontract through the principal investigator or a
41 separate, you know, agreement through us.

42

43 And usually we do it through a
44 cooperative agreement, so we do work closely with the
45 investigators. We make site visits to make sure the
46 work's being done properly. We get a December status
47 report every year that sort of tells us where they are.
48 We get an annual report every year that summarizes what
49 they've done that year. And then we get the final
50 report.

1 If there's something, a problem that
2 comes up, if there's a change of investigators, if
3 there's something happen and they couldn't meet an
4 objective one year, they're supposed to send in a
5 significant development report to let us know that so
6 we can work it then to know what's going on. So we
7 can, you know, switch the funding amounts around if we
8 need to. If there's a good reason, we can -- if
9 there's money available, they need a little bit more,
10 we can do that. We can take money away from them.
11
12 So, yeah, we monitor all that very,
13 very closely.
14
15 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair. That's a
16 long answer.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I'm going to
19 state that, you know, I'm fully in support of this, but
20 I don't know if disclosure is in place. One of my
21 staff from BBNA's going to be involved with this.
22
23 I guess we could -- you know, if
24 there's a motion in place, we can do that now if we
25 don't have any more comments from the Staff or from the
26 Board.
27
28 (No comments)
29
30 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair. I'd like
31 to move that we support these three projects. And like
32 I say, for us the priority's whitefish trends in Lake
33 Clark study. And I'd like to make that as a motion.
34
35 Thank you.
36
37 MR. WILSON: I'll second that.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. There's
40 been a motion by Dan Dunaway and seconded by Richard to
41 support the three projects that are in place.
42
43 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair. Call for
44 the question.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There's been a
47 question called. All in favor say aye.
48
49 IN UNISON: Aye.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
2 opposition.
3
4 (No opposing votes)
5
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Hearing none,
7 thank you.
8
9 Okay. We're to item 13. We're still
10 going to try to take a little stretch every five
11 minutes -- or every hour for five minutes.
12
13 So item 13, agency organizations
14 reports.
15
16 We had BBNA, Patty Heyano, yesterday
17 give us a report on the Bristol Bay visioning.
18
19 I see that Courtenay's here. I don't
20 know if she wants to -- if she has anything.
21
22 MS. GOMEZ: Good morning, Council
23 members. I'm Courtenay Gomez. I'm the.....
24
25 REPORTER: Push the button.
26
27 MS. GOMEZ: well, here we go again.
28 Good morning. I'm Courtenay Gomez. This little guy is
29 Isaiah. I'm the BBNA lady that Molly talks about. I'm
30 the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program
31 subsistence fisheries scientist. And I'm a principal
32 investigator on the whitefish project. Thank you for
33 supporting that and all the other projects in Southwest
34 Alaska.
35
36 If you have any further questions, I
37 can try to answer some of them.
38
39 The reason Kokhanok is not on there, as
40 well as all the eastern communities on Lake Iliamna, is
41 because of the Federal nexus. If you guys were park
42 zone communities, we'd be able to fund projects through
43 FRMP. Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program is only
44 for subsistence fisheries projects in Federal lands in
45 all of Alaska. And so that's the reason they're not on
46 there.
47
48 Other issues for subsistence resources
49 for our communities Bristol Bay-wide, if there are
50 concerns, we definitely urge you to contact the Natural

1 Resources Department at BBNA. That's what we're there
2 for is to help our tribes with any subsistence or
3 natural resource project that they would like to do.
4 Even though we can't find funding for them through the
5 FRMP project, or program rather, we try to find other
6 project dollars to address needs.

7
8 I worked with Kokhanok on a few
9 research proposals that we've submitted to the Alaska
10 Sustainable Salmon Fund that have not been funded, but
11 we have been working closely with Kokhanok actually.
12 Just not through this pot of money that you guys have
13 the say so over supporting projects.

14
15 Other than that, our Partners for
16 Fisheries Monitoring Program proposal for funding for
17 2012 through 2014 was just accepted, contingent upon
18 Federal funding. So we have funding for my position as
19 well as our summer internship program which funds about
20 eight summer fisheries interns working on fisheries
21 resource projects all throughout the Bay.

22
23 We used to have a lot of work down in
24 the Chigniks area and on the Peninsula when the Alaska
25 Peninsula Refuge and Becharof Refuge had fisheries
26 staff on board. They don't any more, but we've been
27 working -- I've worked with Ron Britton trying to
28 brainstorm and do some strategic planning about how we
29 can reinstate projects of subsistence concern down on
30 the Chain, or at least on the Peninsula rather.

31
32 Woodsy's on travel. He's working
33 closely with moose and caribou projects.

34
35 And that's it. Any questions for me.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 MS. GOMEZ: Thanks.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
42 Courtenay.

43
44 Okay. Moving down to Office of
45 Subsistence Management. The first one is the status
46 report on the Secretarial review recommendations.
47 Steve.

48
49 MR. FRIED: Thank you, Madame Chair.
50 My name is Steve Fried with Office of Subsistence

1 Management.

2

3 And if you'd turn your attention to
4 Page 140 in your books, there's a status report on the
5 Secretarial recommendations to the Federal Subsistence
6 Management Program.

7

8 If you recall, in 2009 the Secretaries
9 of Interior and Agriculture began a review of the
10 Federal Subsistence Management Program. And they
11 acknowledged it was no longer temporary and decided it
12 was a good time to examine the program. They wanted to
13 look ahead to plan for the future and to ensure that it
14 was serving rural Alaskans well, and that the program
15 was actually meeting the letter and spirit of Title
16 VIII of ANILCA.

17

18 So they began their review in November
19 2009, and they finally released their preliminary
20 recommendations in August of 2010. And in December of
21 2010 the Secretary of Interior with concurrence from
22 the Secretary of Agriculture announced the review
23 results and they provided several recommendations to
24 the Federal Subsistence Board. And they hoped that
25 this would provide a more responsive, more effective
26 program.

27

28 And so you can see that there were, on
29 Pages 140 to 142, there's a listing of these
30 recommendations. Some of them have been completed.
31 Some of them haven't.

32

33 The first one has to do with membership
34 on the Federal Subsistence Board to include two
35 additional public members to represent subsistence
36 users. And they have published the final rule and
37 they're in the process of -- I know they were seeking
38 applications and recommendations for the two seats, and
39 I'm not quite sure if they've actually got all the
40 names now and if they're reviewing them. But their
41 intention was to have the two positions seated on the
42 Board by their January 2012 meeting.

43

44 The second one was a policy matter, to
45 expand deference to appropriate Council recommendations
46 in addition to the taking decisions. In other words,
47 the Board has extended deference to Council decisions
48 on, you know, harvest matters. Right now the Board's
49 in the process of considering expanding the deference
50 to Councils' recommendations to matters that go beyond taking.

1 For example, the Board is now
2 supportive of expanding deference to Councils on C&T
3 determinations. They're looking at the deference on
4 rural determinations.

5
6 And they're even looking at in-season
7 recommendations. The only thing about an in-season
8 recommendation is a lot of times that needs to be made
9 quickly, so they're not quite sure, you know, how to
10 involve the Councils in that, you know, whether or not
11 there's going to be time to do that for every single
12 decision or not.

13
14 So this is an issue that is still under
15 development essentially.

16
17 The third is to review with RAC input
18 the December 2008 Memorandum of Understanding with the
19 State to determine whether or not it needs to be
20 revised or, you know, what exactly needs to be done
21 with it. And all 10 Councils have already reviewed
22 that, made their comments, and now in the process
23 what's happening is the State and the Federal
24 governments need to come together to look at these
25 comments and decide what to do with the MOU. So that's
26 basically the latest. That one is still in process,
27 but it is on track and ongoing.

28
29 The fourth is to review with RAC input
30 the customary and traditional use determination process
31 and present recommendations for any regulatory changes.
32 This one's actually done. All 10 Councils were asked
33 for their perspectives on the existing process. The
34 comments actually seemed to be supportive of what's
35 being done already, and so the Board decided that it
36 would focus its energy on other items at this point in
37 time since there didn't seem to be any really large
38 problems with this particular issue.

39
40 The fifth was to review with RAC input
41 rural/non-rural determination process and present
42 recommendations for any regulatory changes. And the
43 Board held a work session in April to learn more about
44 the rural process. It's a pretty intricate process.
45 There's quite a few regulations that pertain to it.
46 And the Board's exploring whether or not it can delay
47 the implementation date for communities or areas which
48 were rural and were determined to be non-rural during
49 the 2000 review, so to give more time to take a look at
50 the process before they have to go in and make more

1 determinations. So this one, again this issue is kind
2 of ongoing.

3

4 The sixth item was to review the
5 Board's written policy on executive sessions to
6 minimize the use of executive sessions. And this one
7 has actually been done. The Board's revised its
8 executive session policy to reflect that it intends to
9 keep its business transparent, and it's going to
10 provide summaries of executive sessions when they
11 occur. And this policy's already been adopted. It was
12 adopted by the Board in their May 2011 meeting.

13

14 Number 7 was to review and submit
15 recommendations for departmental consideration of the
16 annual budget for the Federal Subsistence Program. And
17 there were several items under this, things like hold
18 Federal Subsistence Board meetings in rural areas,
19 increase training and support to the Councils,
20 implement wildlife monitoring studies. Those things
21 are pending additional funding. It's going to take,
22 you know, more money to do that.

23

24 One was to increase tribal
25 consultations, and as you've heard from Glenn Chen,
26 that's already an ongoing thing that's in progress.
27 And there's briefings, you know, in the Council books
28 on those.

29

30 Another was to increase capacity with
31 Office of Subsistence Management for research and
32 implementation. Again this one needs funding, and so
33 it depends on what kind of budgets we get in the
34 future.

35

36 And the last one was to reinstate the
37 annual regulatory cycle. If you recall, we used to
38 look at regulations every single year and take
39 proposals. Now we're on an alternate year schedule.
40 And that has to do a lot with the staffing that's
41 currently available. And the Board does see the value
42 of every other year cycles as opposed to an annual
43 cycle. It might be open to reinstating the annual
44 cycle, but again this is one that's going to depend on
45 whether or not we get funding to do that, in addition
46 to the funding we already have.

47

48 So in addition to those seven items,
49 there's three other ones that the Board hasn't begun to
50 work on yet. And these are to review with Council

1 input and present recommendations for changes to
2 Federal subsistence procedural and structural
3 regulations adopted from the State in order to ensure
4 that Federal authorities are fully reflected. To
5 ensure that the Secretaries are informed when non-
6 department rulemaking entities develop regulations that
7 may adversely affect subsistence users. And the third
8 is to the extent practicable, utilize contracting and
9 ANILCA Section .809 cooperative agreements with local
10 tribes and other entities in the Board's review and
11 approval of proposals for fulfilling subsistence
12 program entities [sic].

13

14 So that's basically it in kind of a
15 nutshell and as I mentioned, there's some things that
16 have been done. There's a few that are in progress,
17 and there's other ones that are sort of pending
18 depending on what the funding picture looks like for
19 the Federal program.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any questions.

24 Dan.

25

26 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.

27

28 Does this require Congressional action
29 to make all these changes by the Secretary of Interior?

30

31 MR. FRIED: No, not all of them. I
32 don't think any of them would require Congressional
33 action. I think it just -- some of them it's just the
34 Board needs to take action, and for some of them the
35 Secretaries would need to take the action. But I'm not
36 aware of anything that would need, you know, any sort
37 of Congressional approval or changes in regulations.

38

39 MR. O'HARA: Okay. When the Title VIII
40 passed, I don't know if you were in Alaska or working
41 with the Federal government or not, but Murkowski,
42 Stevens and Young did not support it because it's
43 contrary to the State constitution. We all understand
44 that. And so it seemed to me like some of the things
45 that the Secretary of Interior seem to be okay, and
46 some of them just seem like a lot more Federal
47 bureaucracy.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Dan, go
2 ahead.
3
4 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
5
6 I just was -- Steve, maybe you could
7 clarify on point E in number 7 there, it says increase
8 capacity within OSM for research. Does that mean more
9 biologists or what?
10
11 Thank you.
12
13 MR. FRIED: Yeah. When I first was
14 hired in about 2000 when this program was just
15 starting, I think there was a vision that the Office of
16 Subsistence Management actually be more involved with
17 maybe conducting projects, analyzing data, instead of
18 just, you know, running a granting program and doing
19 regulatory matters. And it quickly became apparent
20 even back then that probably it wasn't going to happen
21 with the Staff we had and with other things we had to
22 do. So I'm assuming that that is what that refers to
23 is it would give OSM a larger role in data analysis
24 probably, and maybe even being part of some of the,
25 actively a part of some of the studies instead of just
26 overseeing the status and making sure things get done
27 on time and in budget.
28
29 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Thanks. Yeah.
30 Well, I know from my personal experience before I
31 retired that they did a pretty good job, like Mr.
32 O'Hara was asking, of oversight. I was involved with
33 some projects, and, yeah, it was very closely watched.
34 And I like that. I think it maintained credibility for
35 the whole program.
36
37 Yeah, if nothing else, I could see
38 maybe some more like number crunchers that could kind
39 of review what other folks do or kind of -- would make
40 sense to me.
41
42 Okay. Thank you.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
45 more comments. Questions.
46
47 (No comments)
48
49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I just wanted
50 to make a statement, that I know that in the past the

1 Board requested training and support to the Regional
2 Advisory Council, because without that, without the
3 background training of the people that are sitting
4 here, you know, sometimes it's hard to know, especially
5 when there's -- trying to understand the dual
6 management process, to see if this is Federal, if this
7 is State, or if this is Park Service. And just little
8 things like that, I think it would serve a purpose of
9 this Board or any other Regional Advisory Board just to
10 train the board, so that we could effectively work to
11 the assignment that we've been given. So highlight
12 that.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 Any other comments.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: If not, let's
21 take a 5-minute stretcher, and then we'll go to the
22 next.

23

24 (Off record)

25

26 (On record)

27

28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I
29 guess, Steve, you have the floor, and you're going to
30 be doing the briefing on tribal consultation.

31

32 MR. FRIED: That's correct. Madame
33 Chair.

34

35 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

38

39 MR. O'HARA: Are we back in session?

40

41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes.

42

43 MR. O'HARA: Okay. I'd like to just
44 take a moment to introduce a dignitary here today. The
45 Chairman of the Bristol Bay Native Corporation, Joe
46 Chythlook, is here. And I've served with him many,
47 many years on the BBNC board, and it's nice to have you
48 here today.

49

50 Your wife wouldn't introduce you, so I

1 will.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Steve,
6 you've got the floor.

7

8 MR. FRIED: Okay. Thank you, Madame
9 Chair. My name's Steve Fried with Office of
10 Subsistence Management.

11

12 And in your Council book there's a
13 briefing on tribal consultation on Page 144. There's
14 the interim protocol for government-to-government
15 consultations on Page 145 and 146. And there's also
16 the interim protocol for government-to-ANCSA
17 corporation consultations on Page 147.

18

19 If you recall, Glenn Chen from BIA
20 provided the Council with a fairly detailed report
21 earlier in the meeting on tribal consultations. And I
22 don't really have anything to add to that, unless
23 anybody has any other questions on either of these
24 briefings.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Do you want to
27 go ahead and give a brief, because Dan O'Hara wasn't
28 here yesterday. Just give a little synopsis.

29

30 MR. FRIED: I can give a little
31 summary. And if Glenn, you know, feels a need to
32 provide some more information, that might be helpful,
33 too.

34

35 Essentially there's interim protocols
36 in place for the Federal system, for the Federal
37 Subsistence Board on how they do government-to-
38 government consultations with tribes, and also how they
39 do consultations with ANCSA corporations. And I guess
40 I'd emphasize the fact that they're very interim,
41 because I think both sides are just learning the best
42 way to do this. I recall earlier, you know, yesterday
43 the Council had some very good information on how to
44 make these more effective.

45

46 And right now they were trying to get
47 these into place so that at least the tribes and the
48 ANCSA corporations had some opportunity to comment on
49 the wildlife regulatory proposals. I think that was
50 their main thrust for this year, and the fact that the

1 process was already well underway. So they did get
2 these in place so there's a framework in place.

3
4 Let's see. How to summarize this. In
5 January 2011, the 18th to the 21st, the tribes were
6 invited to participate in a Federal Board meeting. And
7 they sent invitations to all Federally-qualified tribes
8 in Alaska, and the ANCSA corporations. And they were
9 invited to participate to provide comments on fisheries
10 proposals, and they were also invited to a meeting to
11 discuss development of the consultation protocol for
12 overall Federal Subsistence Management Program.

13
14 And in general the meeting on the 21st
15 of January was kind of a listening session, and the
16 Board recognized the developed of specific mechanisms
17 are going to require may more meetings between the
18 Federal Subsistence Board and the tribes and the
19 corporations. And it's the Board's goal to work with
20 the tribes and corporations to develop a consultation
21 policy for the Subsistence Management Program that's
22 consistent with departmental policies.

23
24 In May 2011 in a meeting, the Federal
25 Subsistence Board reviewed the summary of comments from
26 the January meeting, and they directed a work group be
27 comprised of a small number of Federal and tribal
28 representatives be formed. And this work group was to
29 develop a draft protocol on consultations for Board
30 review. The work group held an initial meeting in June
31 2011 to begin development of these protocols.

32
33 In July 2012 the Board approved the two
34 interim protocols which are in your book, one for
35 tribes, one for ANCSA corporations. And as I
36 mentioned, these will guide consultation efforts
37 through the wildlife regulatory cycle.

38
39 In July these interim protocols in a
40 letter were sent out to all the tribes and ANCSA
41 corporations, and the work group is continuing to work
42 on the final protocols, and there will be several
43 opportunities provided for tribes and corporations to
44 be involved and to review the draft documents. And it
45 is hoped that the final protocols are going to be ready
46 in time for the Board to adopt at its May 2012 meeting.

47
48 And there are a few key dates and
49 events that were listed in the briefing here in your
50 book. October 20th was for consultations with ANCSA

1 corporations at the AFN meeting. December 1st, 2011,
2 consultation with Federally-qualified tribes at the BIA
3 tribal service providers conference. And January
4 17/19, 2012 at the Federal Subsistence Board meeting in
5 Anchorage is going to be a discussion of these
6 protocols on the agenda.

7

8 Thank you, Madame Chair.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Do you
11 have any comments, questions.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I think
16 one of main concerns that came out of the session
17 yesterday regarding the tribal consultation was that
18 the meetings that have been held thus far weren't up to
19 par. They were too public. The January one was --
20 there were -- sure there were notices sent out, but due
21 to funding, there wasn't that many rural representation
22 at that meeting. And then the upcoming consultations
23 that are planned are both going to be held during BIA
24 providers for the tribes, and for the corporations
25 they're going to be held during AFN. And those are
26 very public meetings. And what came out of these
27 public meetings is that they're too -- I guess they're
28 too public. They're going to be in a large setting
29 where probably the majority of the tribes aren't going
30 to really be -- aren't going to feel comfortable in
31 participating. We may have a few vocal ones that will
32 participate, and hopefully the corporations will be
33 prepared. I know our village corporation is preparing
34 for that, and we'll have probably one spokesman, you
35 know, if there's going to be any comments made. And
36 that might be the structure that will happen, you know
37 for the corporation.

38

39 But for tribal consultation, I think
40 that's a little bit more serious and needs to be I
41 guess looked into to make sure that it was their -- the
42 tribes are properly represented.

43

44 So that was what came out of the
45 general comments from the Board yesterday.

46

47 Was there anything else that you took
48 note of.

49

50 MR. FRIED: Yeah. No, I took some

1 notes, and I will certainly pass along the Council's
2 recommendations and concerns, and just, you know, make
3 it known that -- I mean, this is a process that just
4 started, and I think the Board is still trying to find
5 a way to effectively work with the tribes to do this.
6 So I'm sure they'll appreciate your comments on this.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I guess
9 if there's no comments from Board, we could move on to
10 BSAI chum bycatch update. Is that yours, too, Steve?
11 Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't have my microphone. We're at
12 B.3. And, Steve, you'll be covering that.

13

14 MR. FRIED: Thank you, Madame Chair.
15 Yes, I will. On Page 148 it begins.

16

17 It's just a short update on the Bering
18 Sea/Aleutian Islands chum salmon bycatch issue with the
19 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

20

21 In May 2011 the Federal Subsistence
22 Board sent a letter to the North Pacific Fisheries
23 Management Council, and in the letter the Board
24 recommended that a hard cap of 50,000 chums and a
25 trigger cap of 25,000 chums be adopted in their
26 management plan for bycatch. And the letter is on
27 Pages 149, 150.

28

29 During a June 2011 meeting in Nome, the
30 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council had an
31 initial review of the analysis of proposed measures to
32 minimize chum salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock
33 fishery. And there were representatives from the
34 Seward Peninsula, Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Western
35 Interior and Eastern Interior Regional Advisory
36 Councils that were able to attend and provide testimony
37 at this meeting.

38

39 And the measures that the Fisheries
40 Management Council were looking at included things like
41 hard caps on the pollock fishery. A hard cap would be,
42 you know, you reach that level and the fishery's
43 closed. Also trigger time and area closures, so that
44 if you reached a certain level, there might be -- the
45 fishery might be shortened, it might be closed in some
46 areas. Some areas might be reduced.

47

48 There was things they were looking at.
49 There was something called a rolling hot spot program,
50 which is a fleet managed program for real time bycatch

1 area closures on the four to seven-day time frames.
2 And the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council kind
3 of looked at these and based on their findings and some
4 of the testimony, they revised and restructured the
5 suite of alternatives and options and requested new
6 information on these.

7

8 And some of the changes included --
9 there's these four bulleted changes on Page 148. An
10 additional option for a separate hard cap for June and
11 July when western Alaska chum salmon are more prevalent
12 in the bycatch. And since that would be a hard cap, it
13 would mean that all fishing for Bering Sea pollock
14 would close in June and July until August 1st.

15

16 Another one was removal -- they removed
17 from consideration -- they had a complicated monthly
18 area management option and a bunch of triggers, and
19 they decided they no longer wanted to consider that
20 one.

21

22 They had some additional provisions for
23 this rolling hot spot program for area closures that
24 were based on historical by catch proportions to which
25 the pollock fleet would be subject regardless of the
26 rolling hot spot program. So it would be using the
27 rolling hot spot and then they'd also put this on top
28 of it so that if -- there would be closures if some
29 other levels of bycatch are reached.

30

31 They also want to look at an analysis
32 of additional parameters for this rolling hot spot
33 program that could be adjusted by the Council to
34 improve its performance.

35

36 The Council did post their motion that
37 explains these in a lot more detail on their website.
38 And a revised set of alternatives based upon this
39 motion are going to be on the website and the Council
40 is -- the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
41 further requested that analysis be revised per its
42 request and brought back to the Council to review in
43 early 2012. So that's when they're going to look at
44 this again is sometime early in 2012.

45

46 And they set this date because they
47 really couldn't fine a good time earlier than that to
48 review this issue. They had an October 2011 meeting in
49 Dutch Harbor, but they thought it would be difficult
50 for many rural Western Alaska residents to come to

1 Dutch Harbor to testify and provide any information.
2 And then they also have a 2011 December meeting, but
3 really that one's focused on a ground fish stock
4 assessment, and they didn't really -- they thought that
5 there was so much work to be done with that, and so
6 much stuff to review that that wasn't a good place to
7 take up this salmon bycatch -- the chum salmon bycatch
8 issue.

9

10 So once the North Pacific Fisheries
11 Management Council reviews the chum bycatch analysis
12 sometime in early 2012, it then needs to provide time
13 for the public to comment on the analysis, and its
14 proposed alternatives, and it's very unlikely that the
15 Council is going to make a final decision until
16 probably the earliest that April 2012 meeting. And
17 it's possible that decision will come later.

18

19 So that's my summary. Any questions,
20 I'd be happy to try to answer them, or get information
21 and come back to you at a later time.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any comments,
26 questions from the Council. Dan.

27

28 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. Thank you, Madame
29 Chair.

30

31 Steve, it seemed like I was hearing on
32 the news that that they were picking up a lot of salmon
33 in the seasons already. Do you have any sort of
34 current data on the interception levels, or there's
35 been closures already?

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MR. FRIED: No, I don't. I could try
40 to find out. We do have one Staff member, Don Rivard,
41 that's been attending most of these Council meetings
42 and trying to keep up with the bycatch issues. So if
43 you're interested, we could at least forward some
44 information to you if we have any. And sometimes the
45 Council does post stuff on their website. If you have
46 access to that, that might be a good way to look at it,
47 too.

48

49 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. Thanks, Steve.
50 Yeah, I'd interested, and, yeah, I probably should go

1 looking, but with the poor king salmon return to
2 Nushagak that the question of salmon intercept gets
3 folks pretty fired up around here.
4
5 And I do really, really appreciate the
6 extra effort I think the North Pacific Fisheries
7 Council's been making to come to our meetings and keep
8 us informed. I think that's been a really good step.
9
10 Thank you.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
13 more comments.
14
15 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Pete.
18
19 MR. O'HARA: Oh, I'm sorry.
20
21 MR. ABRAHAM: (In Yup'ik)
22
23 Thank you, Steve.
24
25 I monitor or run the river in Togiak
26 all summer long. The Eastsang (ph) weir over there
27 counted a little bit more than last year of chums, but
28 the main river didn't have nothing. So was Goodnews
29 Bay. The chums didn't hardly show up over there.
30
31 I never realized there would be a big
32 change or a big effect on other species when something
33 like that didn't show up. In Togiak River, the chums
34 didn't show up, just hardly any. I didn't know like
35 Arctic char, Dolly Varden survive on those chum eggs
36 over there. And so does the other animals, birds,
37 brown bears. I know they're all connected, but this
38 year I have some starving sea gulls. Brown bears
39 didn't -- they will congregate in their area over there
40 for a little bit and they leave, because there was no
41 fish, there's no chums. so I just -- this is just sort
42 of like informational thing, because I had a question.
43
44 They're saying people (In Yup'ik).
45
46 Yeah, well, that girl that worked over
47 there in the weir.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lori.
50

1 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, Lori. Yeah. When
2 you get a report from those people over there on the
3 chum side, they caught -- they counted more than last
4 year. The kings are very low. They're behind, so was
5 in Goodnews Bay.
6
7 So I don't know about bycatch out
8 there. I don't know what's going on. So the
9 information -- that region over here, is it affecting
10 already, or the chums didn't want to come to Togiak or
11 (In Yup'ik).
12
13 Yeah. Quyana.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Dan
16 O'Hara, did you have a comment.
17
18 MR. O'HARA: Yes. I'm curious of the
19 influx of youth here this morning. Are they from the
20 high school here?
21
22 MS. WILSON: Yes. I'm Mrs. Wilson. I
23 teach world history, and these are subsistence
24 hunters.....
25
26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Do you want to
27 come to the mic, please.
28
29 MR. O'HARA: Give us your name, too.
30
31 MS. WILSON: My name is Jackie Wilson.
32 I teach at the high school here, and I thought it would
33 be an interesting topic to come down here and listen to
34 you, because we are subsistence eaters and hunters
35 here.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
38 Jackie.
39
40 MR. O'HARA: And I'm delighted to see
41 the young people here. I'm the mayor of the Bristol
42 Bay Borough. Any time you see a group of young people
43 walk in, it's always pretty exciting to have them come.
44 They will be the next ones sitting at the table. And
45 so we're real glad to have them today.
46
47 Steve, that's a good report. I
48 appreciate it. This is really a hot issue. And I was
49 on the advisory of the North Pacific for many, many
50 years, and it was 125,000 kings that got thrown

1 overboard, and many millions of tons of halibut.

2

3 You have herring, you have salmon, you
4 have halibut. There's five species, prohibited
5 species, and, of course, the ones we deal with, of
6 course, is salmon, and the chums and the kings and
7 those type of things, and of the five species of
8 salmon, four of them are predators. And the only one
9 that's not a predator, which is no bycatch, is sockeye,
10 because they eats plankton at the top. That's your
11 fisheries 101 in a very short form.

12

13 And so I think we need to be concerned
14 also about other species of that North Pacific
15 Council, and this Advisory Council to the Federal Board
16 needs to be very up to speed on this and keep pushing
17 hard on the -- I think the Bristol Bay said we wanted a
18 36,000 in a bycatch of the -- of fin fish. And the
19 North Pacific said 66, and here you had the numbers of
20 50. We'd like to get them down to 25, of course. And
21 so t h i s something that we're not going to go away
22 from at all. we're going to be very much up to date on
23 this type of a thing.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
26 you, Dan.

27

28 Any other comments.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Our next is
33 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Togiak National.....

34

35 Before we go on, I had a request, if
36 the Board doesn't mind, ADF&G Subsistence, Item E on
37 the agenda of these reports, would like to be moved
38 under G, because, you know, he needed to get his report
39 -- or the PowerPoint worked out. So if the Board
40 doesn't mind, we'll make that -- could we make that
41 change.

42

43 Dan.

44

45 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I'm fine with the
46 change, but I think we had added an H in there. Wasn't
47 there going to be a presentation or something from
48 Caroline Woody?

49

50 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, there's

1 an H for Caroline Woody.

2

3 MR. DUNAWAY: So next would be I.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, this
6 would be I. Thank you for that correction.

7

8 Okay. Andy.

9

10 MR. ADERMAN: Thank you, Madame Chair.
11 Council members. My name is Andy Aderman. I work as a
12 wildlife biologist with the Togiak Refuge here in
13 Dillingham.

14

15 There's a report in your books, it
16 begins at Page 151, but I'll skip right on over to Page
17 153 at the top and start with Mulchatna caribou.

18

19 The Refuge continues to assist the
20 Alaska Department of Fish and Game with various
21 projects related to Mulchatna caribou. Calving areas
22 this past May were kind of in the same areas as in the
23 past. One of those is up near Lime Village. That's in
24 Unit 19A. The other primary calving area is in the mid
25 Nushagak River area, kind of Koliganek, just west of
26 the Nushagak River in 17C. We also did have a number
27 of caribou calve in the southern Kilbuck Mountains.
28 It's kind of a new area this year and that.

29

30 The interesting thing is those caribou
31 that calve up near Lime Village, they tend to stay on
32 the east side of the range, so more or less Nushagak
33 River is their western boundary; whereas those that
34 calve in the mid Nushagak River, they spend their time
35 on the west side of the range, and those are the ones
36 that go over into Unit 18, Lower Kuskokwim area. I
37 mention that, because I'll talk a little bit about
38 composition surveys here.

39

40 But before I did that, I just want to
41 mention that the caribou did not group up very well
42 after calving, so there was no photo census completed
43 this year. So there's -- the last time a count or a
44 photo census was done was in 2008. And it was
45 estimated there was a minimum of 30,000 caribou
46 combined for the entire herd.

47

48 For composition, that word was just
49 done here a couple days ago. I didn't get any numbers
50 for Jim Wellington yet. The data's still preliminary.

1 If you look back over at Page 107 in your books, that
2 gives the composition counts that have been conducted
3 up through last year, 2010. If you look at the bottom
4 line in that table on Page 107, you'll see that there
5 was not quite 17 bulls per 100 cows, and not quite 20
6 calves per 10 cows.

7
8 You notice that there's a superscript
9 on that count. That count is combining the caribou
10 that are over in the west and the caribou that are over
11 in the east. And what we've seen for the last, oh, 10
12 years is the caribou in the east have lower bull and
13 calf to ratios than those in the west.

14
15 So that was true again according to Jim
16 this last year. The calf and bull to cow ratios had
17 improved a little bit in the west. Last year they were
18 around 23 calves and bulls per 100 cows. In the east
19 side of the range, calf numbers had declined slightly,
20 but bull to cow ratios had improved a little bit. So I
21 guess the take-home message is I wouldn't expect a real
22 big difference from last year's numbers in the
23 composition of Mulchatna caribou.

24
25 All right. And I apologize for
26 skipping around in the book here, all the pages, but
27 back on the Page 153, just below Mulchatna caribou,
28 Nushagak Peninsula caribou, kind of a recap of this
29 year. We had a hunt down there during February and
30 March of this year. A total of 50 permits were made
31 available to three local villages. The harvest limit
32 was one caribou per permit. And a total 45 caribou
33 were taken during that hunt.

34
35 We had pretty good calf production this
36 past spring, looking at our radio collared animals. We
37 were able to do a photo census on that herd. And we
38 found a minimum of 859 caribou, which is up from the
39 year before, so that's encouraging. And so that's a
40 minimum count. We counted all those in the photographs
41 and that, and obviously there's still some caribou that
42 are not with the main group, probably a minor number,
43 but it as probably around 900 caribou in early July.

44
45 We were able to do a composition survey
46 last week. Found 29 bulls pre 100 cows, which is the
47 lowest that we've seen in that herd since monitoring
48 began, or basically since that herd's been down there.
49 Pretty good calf numbers though, 39 calves per 100
50 cows. I'm not sure why the drop in bull numbers,

1 although 75 percent of the harvest over the last two
2 years has been reported as bulls, which is somewhat
3 abnormal. The long-term historical harvest has been
4 slightly favoring bulls, like maybe 52 percent of the
5 harvest has been bulls, and mid to upper 402 for
6 females. And then there's always a small, two or three
7 percent that's not reported what sex it was or it's
8 unknown.

9

10 We will plan to meet with the Nushagak
11 Peninsula Caribou Planning Committee, probably next
12 month, and possibly again in January. We are taking a
13 look at the caribou management plan for that herd. It
14 was finalized back in '94, and it's something that we
15 do every year, but we'll probably make a few small
16 changes to that, but that remains to be seen.

17

18 And I guess the last item I had is
19 moose. The moose over on the Refuge, primarily 17A,
20 western 17C, and in southern Unit 18, are still going
21 quite well population wise. The numbers have continued
22 to increase. It's slowed down quite a bit on the east
23 side, or in 17C. 17A is a slight increase, but most of
24 the increase we've seen is in southern Unit 18, which
25 is primarily the Goodnews River drainage.

26

27 Calf production, looking at our radio-
28 collared animals, appears to be down. I didn't do any
29 flights in really into early June. I may have, you
30 know, missed some cows that were having late calves,
31 but nothing to be alarmed about at this point with
32 moose there.

33

34 That's all I had, and if you have any
35 questions, I'll try to answer them.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Pete.

38

39 MR. ABRAHAM: Yes. Andy, somehow I
40 didn't follow the harvest this fall. Do you have an
41 idea how much moose was harvested in Togiak?

42

43 MR. ADERMAN: I don't at this point.
44 And typically there's still a number of hunt reports
45 that haven't been turned in, but I can probably get
46 that number from Eunice at Fish and Game here today,
47 and get back. But, I apologize, I don't have that
48 number.

49

50 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. Thank you. I

1 usually do that myself over there from Togiak to report
2 to traditional council to have, you know, how much was
3 harvested.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 Molly, when there's no more questions
8 for Andy, I'd like to give a short report on river
9 ranging when Andy's done.

10

11 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

14

15 MR. O'HARA: Andy, a good report. Of
16 course the big red flag, of course, is caribou, you
17 know, and the Mulchatna Herd declining. I think there
18 must have been a time when there was a couple hundred
19 thousand animals, and some of them went to Aniak or
20 somewhere. And so you have a declining herd of
21 Mulchatna animals. And predation, wolves and bears, is
22 that part of it?

23

24 And also I notice in your -- in the
25 Nushagak Peninsula report, that wolves spent a lot of
26 time eating salmon and mainly their diet was moose. So
27 apparently there's not a big predation problem on the
28 Nushagak Peninsula herd.

29

30 And you prefer, what is it, 30 bulls
31 per 100 cows, and what's the calf ratio that you like
32 to be successful?

33

34 MR. ADERMAN: Okay. Through the Chair.
35 Council Member O'Hara. You had kind of three different
36 questions there.

37

38 Predation. That's certainly a factor
39 on any population, prey population, whether it's
40 ungulates or something else. But the department is
41 looking at that in a more closer fashion. They
42 instituted a calf mortality study on Mulchatna caribou
43 this past spring. I don't have an update to provide
44 you with on that, but they're looking at, you know,
45 what's happening to calves and, you know, where are the
46 losses and who's causing the losses. That's one thing
47 that affects caribou.

48

49 Nutrition is another. When they have
50 lots to eat and it's good quality, things are generally

1 good. You're having lots of calves that are generally
2 surviving. But as that declines, so then does the
3 reproduction. You don't have your younger or real
4 older animals producing calves, because they're not in
5 good shape.

6
7 And then there's other things that can
8 come into play such as disease and that. If you're
9 not, you know, real fit, you just that more prone to
10 other things including predation.

11
12 I think your second question was
13 related to Nushagak Peninsula caribou and the lack of
14 predation. That seems to be the case at least with
15 wolves. Now I would say a lack, it doesn't seem to be
16 controlling the population. The wolves. There are
17 other predators that are on the Peninsula are brown
18 bears and coyotes, and we haven't looked at that, but
19 the population has increased here the last couple
20 years, which is a positive sign.

21
22 And I apologize, I forget your
23 last.....

24
25 MR. O'HARA: Cow/bull ratio, calf to
26 cow thing.

27
28 MR. ADERMAN: Right. With caribou, for
29 the Mulchatna herd, the department has an objective of
30 35 bulls per 100 cows that they would like to not fall
31 below. We haven't actually had one for the Nushagak
32 Peninsula herd, but I would think that that would be
33 similar if not the same.

34
35 As far as calves go, I think generally
36 anything above 20 or 25 calves per 100 cows this time
37 of year is what you want to see, just for replacement,
38 to replace the adults that fall out of the population.
39 It depends, you know. If you have really good adult
40 survival, and you have 15 or 20 calves per 100 cows,
41 you can still see an increase in your population.

42
43 So those are just sort of ballpark
44 figures.

45
46 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.

47
48 You know, my fellow Council member
49 here, Alvin, I don't think they've seen a caribou in
50 Chignik Lake in 12 years. I mean, it's almost a

1 cultural thing. The young people are just not even
2 seeing the animals. I mean, that part of the culture
3 has unfortunately gone away. And we went from 18,000
4 down to maybe 1500 or something like that. And I don't
5 see our biologist here today to tell us what's come
6 back. And a lot of that had to do with disease. And
7 when they got sick and aborted calves in February, the
8 wolves could catch them, the bear could catch them in
9 the summertime.

10

11 So they're all -- that's a good report.
12 I appreciate your comment.

13

14 MR. BOSKOFISKY: Madame Chair.

15

16 Andy, on our -- from what we've seen
17 over the years, I don't particularly care for the
18 thought that wolves don't prey on caribou. We've had
19 cases down there where the wolves were running down
20 caribou. We've seen it with our own eyes. I saw one
21 up on the lake, and this was like probably 15, 18 years
22 ago, and twice down on the lagoon just I think maybe
23 once was maybe like about 10 years ago and then another
24 one over the summer where wolves are chasing the
25 caribou.

26

27 We have little groups of caribou that
28 stay in those areas, mainly up in the mountain, and
29 you'll see maybe 10, 20 in a little group.

30

31 But there's a lot of witnessed events
32 of them being chased. So know wolves go after them.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

37 Richard.

38

39 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

40

41 Andy, you mentioned that there was some
42 predation noticed there in your area there, but when
43 you went up to the Mulchatna and did that count in your
44 aerials, was there any notice of like wolf populations
45 or anything in that survey that you did?

46

47 MR. ADERMAN: Through the Chair.
48 Council Member Wilson.

49

50 I did observe three wolves. It was

1 east/northeast of here. There could have been more,
2 that was just all I seen. And they weren't around any
3 caribou to my knowledge. It was just an incidental
4 fly-by and noticed something on the ground. And I
5 think -- I was in a fixed wing up a little bit higher.
6 The helicopter that does the actual survey I think they
7 saw a pack of wolves, I'm not sure how many, or where,
8 if they were near the caribou.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

11 Richard.

12

13 MR. WILSON: Yes. Any of this work
14 that you're doing, is it in connection or along with
15 ADF&G, any of the funding or are you guys going out at
16 the same time, just sharing any duties there? Because
17 we don't -- over on the King Salmon/Naknek side of
18 things, we're don't seem to get any very current
19 information from our biologist over there. So some of
20 this is probably -- I'm hoping that some of the
21 information you're collecting we're, you know, getting
22 over on that side, too.

23

24 MR. ADERMAN: Yes. Council Member

25 Wilson.

26

27 Basically everything I do is in
28 conjunction with Fish and Game. So composition
29 surveys, I'm either in a fixed wing when we're doing
30 Mulchatna, and I'm going out looking for caribou for
31 the helicopter to do the actual composition work. When
32 I'm doing Nushagak Peninsula Caribou, the roles are
33 reversed. I'm in the helicopter and somebody else is
34 in the fixed wing, usually Jim Wellington. We both pay
35 for aircraft time. So the short answer is, yes. The
36 stuff we do here is with Fish and Game, I mean, for the
37 most part.

38

39 MR. WILSON: I'm assuming the
40 helicopter portion is State and the fixed wing is Fed,
41 or a I reversing it?

42

43 MR. ADERMAN: It's both.

44

45 MR. WILSON: Both?

46

47 MR. ADERMAN: Yes.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any

50 more.

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And we
4 understand that the surveys that you do are within Unit
5 17. I mean, you don't go beyond, you don't go into the
6 Unit 9.

7

8 MR. ADERMAN: With Mulchatna caribou,
9 it depends on where the caribou are at. Where the
10 caribou were this last weekend, were in the East Fork
11 of the Mosquito River, which is a tributary to the
12 Mulchatna. And then just north of there is the Upper
13 Hoholitna River. And I believe that's Unit 19A. And
14 then the majority of the other caribou were in Unit 18
15 south of the Kuskokwim in the Kilbuck Mountains. And
16 there were some in 17B up near the Tikchik Lakes. So
17 it kind of depends on where they're at.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
20 you.

21

22 I'm seeing the young people making an
23 exit. What I was hoping, Jackie, to do was have your
24 young people state their names and, you know, introduce
25 themselves on record. So maybe we could.....

26

27 Do we have any more questions from the
28 Board. Dan.

29

30 MR. DUNAWAY: Just real quick. As
31 always I'm always impressed with the fine report the
32 Togiak Refuge provides in the book for us. It's so
33 nice to have all that information.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Yeah.
38 We'll have the young people introduce themselves, your
39 name and if you have any concerns, issues regarding
40 subsistence, state that. Okay.

41

42 MS. NIELSEN: Hi. I'm Georgina Nielsen
43 and I'm from Dillingham. I am a sophomore in high
44 school. And I'm 16 years old.

45

46 JOLEEN: Hello. My name is Joleen. I
47 live here in Dillingham, and I'm 17. I'm a senior in
48 high school. And I don't have any concern on
49 subsistence or anything like that. I think you guys
50 are doing a great job.

1 Thank you.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.
4
5 MS. DUKE: Hello. My name is Charley
6 Duke. I'm from Dillingham, and I'm a sophomore. I'm
7 15 years old.
8
9 MS. TENNYSON: I'm Leilani Tennyson.
10 I'm from Dillingham. I'm a sophomore in high school
11 and I'm 15 years old.
12
13 MR. TIMURPHY: Hi. I'm Ryan Timurphy,
14 and I'm a sophomore, and I live here in Dillingham, and
15 I'm 15.
16
17 MS. DRAY: Hi. I'm Kendall Dray. I
18 live in Dillingham. I'm a sophomore and -- yeah,
19 that's pretty much it.
20
21 MR. GARCIA: Hi. My name is Francisco
22 Garcia, and I'm from Dillingham, and I'm 15.
23
24 MR. ROEHL: Hello. My name is Davi
25 Roehl. I'm from Dillingham, Alaska. I'm 15. I'm a
26 sophomore at school in Dillingham, Alaska.
27
28 MS. CHUKWUK: Hi. I'm Kaylene Chukwuk.
29 I'm originally from Levelock. I'm 16 years old, and I
30 have no concerns.
31
32 MR. NICHWILSON: Hi. I'm Frank. I'm
33 from Dillingham. and that's all I have to say.
34
35 MR. WASSILIE: Hi. I'm Darron
36 Wassilie. I'm in 10th grade, 15 years old, from here.
37 Born and raised. Fished all my life. I'm concerned by
38 everything was early this year.
39
40 Thank you.
41
42 MR. OSSETT: Hi, I'm Thomas Ossett.
43 I'm born and raised in Dillingham. I'm 16, in 10th
44 grade. Fished all my life. Hunted.
45
46 MR. O'HARA: Are you a good shot?
47
48 MR. OSSETT: Yeah.
49
50 (Laughter)

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
2 you.
3
4 (Applause)
5
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Let's
7 take a five-minute -- oh, okay.
8
9 One more thing before we take a break.
10 Pete Abraham had requested to give a little update on
11 river ranging, so we'll do that now before we take a
12 break.
13
14 MR. ABRAHAM: Hello. My name is Pete
15 Abraham from Togiak.
16
17 MR. WILSON: How old are you.
18
19 (Laughter)
20
21 MR. ABRAHAM: This program over here
22 was started quite a long time ago, river ranging, but
23 it was operated by the people from outside seeking a
24 job. So one year, well, for two years, I begged,
25 because the people from outside weren't doing what I
26 think they should be doing.
27
28 So I took over Togiak on river ranging.
29 And a few years later I included a program called a
30 ranger for a day. I picked out or I requested the
31 names from the school. These are fourth and fifth or
32 beyond. And I don't take all the fourth and fifth, but
33 I choose the kids that are not well-to-do, or the
34 parents don't take them out as much as they should do,
35 because I think, to me, these young kids are next
36 generation's stewards for our refuge. So I start a
37 program without telling my bosses, but I got caught.
38
39 (Laughter)
40
41 MR. ABRAHAM: There was some little
42 complications I found out, like insurance and
43 everything, you know. But we modified it and it kept
44 on going. It's been going on for about seven, eight
45 years.
46
47 And, for example, when I do take the
48 kids, at least I take two kids at a time, because
49 there's two of us in the boat, so that's four people.
50 We study fish, we study plants, edible plants. We

1 watch the animals. You know, I carry like binoculars
2 and cameras, and then I talk about law enforcement, the
3 safety, leave no trace. And it's working in Togiak
4 River.

5
6 I used to collect lots of debris in the
7 campsites in Togiak River. Because these kids over
8 here, the fourth and fifth, that long, it's about 8, 7
9 years ago, I can't quite remember, are like 15 or 16
10 years old. They influenced their parents to take the
11 debris home. When they come home, once in a while I
12 check the boat. There's debris in the boat. So it's
13 working in Togiak. We have a clean river over there.

14
15 And these kids are excited to meet the
16 people from outside. Austria. London. Wherever they
17 come from. I introduce these kids to them. And they
18 ask a lot of questions. And that's encouraging for the
19 kids to do.

20
21 And so I got caught one time. The
22 chief from refuge -- I mean, from Anchorage. And he
23 liked it, and he wanted more refuges taking this out
24 there in Alaska.

25
26 So I'm encouraging the other villages,
27 like I do, if you need information, contact Andy or
28 Allen Miller and Tara Miller-Fuller from our office
29 over here to start a program, because it's a very
30 educational program I do. I just combine it. You
31 don't have to have -- in my case, I don't have to have
32 extra money to do it, but I ask for extra hour on the
33 programs I have so I have a little bit more time with
34 the children or the kids.

35
36 Well, we do many things. Like we
37 gather ochik (ph), which is called sour dock, for the
38 grandparents. The grandparents appreciate that.
39 Sometimes we collect dry wood, driftwood from the river
40 for grandpa's steambath. And just little things like
41 this here, the parents and grandparents appreciate.

42
43 So every spring before school's out, I
44 go to the school and get these names. Now I've got
45 kids waiting on a waiting list. The fourth grade I
46 didn't take. They're on waiting list for next year,
47 because they'd be fifth grade. So I'll have to try to
48 take them next summer, if I see this next summer again.

49
50 But it's very, very good program for

1 the young kids.
2
3 Quyana. If you have any questions,
4 contact me in Togiak or contact Allen Miller here in
5 Dillingham. Quyana.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
8 Pete. And I think he needs a round of applause.
9
10 (Applause)
11
12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: It looks like
13 he's doing a very good program educating the kids, and
14 that's where everything starts is where with the kids.
15
16 Thank you. Quyana.
17
18 And then I'd like to thank -- has he
19 left already? Oh, I'd like to thank Andy for the
20 Togiak National Wildlife report. It's just really --
21 you know, they write down all the areas of interest
22 that they do into little segments of reports, which are
23 very informational. And I appreciate that. It tells
24 me that you guys are busy, and collecting good
25 information.
26
27 And on our agenda, there's this -- the
28 second one on our agenda under C, Alaska
29 Peninsula/Becharof Northwest River? Whatever that is.
30 They had to leave yesterday I guess, and so they left a
31 report for us to review. So we don't have anybody. We
32 don't have a body to give us this report, so we'll just
33 use this to read up.
34
35 And then right now, before we go into
36 our next segment, we'll take a five-minute breather.
37
38 (Off record)
39
40 (On record)
41
42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: The next on
43 the agenda would be D, Bureau of Land Management. Do
44 we have somebody there.
45
46 And I'd like to make -- you know, the
47 Alaska Peninsula/ Becharof report that they left,
48 there's important information in here. The caribou
49 herd I see and the wolf protection, and I also saw the
50 willow ptarmigan pilot study.

1 And it would have been great for them
2 to be here, and I wish that they would have stayed on.
3 You know, they flew all the way over here yesterday and
4 they took off. My recommendation is going to be, if
5 the Council concur, is to write a letter to Becharof
6 people to stay to give their reports, because these are
7 important issues. These are the ones that we've been
8 discussing.

9
10 We just heard important -- good
11 information from Unit 17, but there's a lot of issues
12 -- not a lot, well, there's issues that are coming out
13 of Unit 9, and it would have been good to have the
14 Becharof people here to give their report so that we
15 could, you know, ask questions.

16
17 Dan.

18
19 MR. O'HARA: Yeah. I think that's a
20 really important issue, Madame Chair. We could have
21 arranged the schedule for them to give a report out of
22 order. You know, we're easy to deal with. And I think
23 one of the things that's good today is when I chaired
24 the Council for many years, we'd got to the reports,
25 we'd have so much work to do, we didn't get to them.
26 We said, you know, guys, go on home. We'll not take
27 your reports. We're going home.

28
29 Well, the reports are very important,
30 and so if we've got to stay an extra day to do it,
31 which we don't have to do today, you're right, that's
32 something that we need to get to the Council.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah. As the
37 Chair, I didn't get contacted, you know. I didn't
38 really know they left. I guess maybe they contacted --
39 informed you, Donald?

40
41 MR. MIKE: Yeah. They informed me not
42 directly, but I was informed that they had to leave
43 last night.

44
45 Thank you, Madame Chair.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. So my
48 recommendation -- Richard.

49
50 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Yes, the

1 same thought here, you know, being a rep from over on
2 that side, it sure would be nice to have, you know, our
3 Staff people, you know, here. I mean, my job here, it
4 seems kind of void. I can't, you know, back up with
5 our people over on that side. And it's great to see
6 that, you know, we have, you know, the cooperation here
7 on Dillingham side of things. And is there any kind of
8 ruling that they have to be here for us? I mean, isn't
9 it some sort of mandatory clause where our people
10 should stay while we need them?

11
12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah. If they
13 would have talked to me and asked if they could be on
14 the earlier agenda, we could probably have worked them
15 in, but I wasn't contacted.

16
17 Dan.

18
19 MR. O'HARA: I'd just tell Richard
20 that, you know, Russia and Iraq and Iran, they do those
21 kind of things, but I don't think we do that.

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 MR. BOSKOFISKY: Madame Chair. I was
26 talking with Megan for a while, and she doesn't really
27 know too much about what's going on. She's new. She's
28 just trying to pull what she can out. Lem Butler is in
29 Palmer or somewhere now, and he doesn't come out very
30 often I guess. So until they get the position filled,
31 you know, we may never get reports for a while.
32 Megan's trying, but she doesn't know every -- all the
33 issues that we're dealing with.

34
35 So that's what I have to say.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.
38 Pete.

39
40 MR. ABRAHAM: When is the next Council
41 meeting that's going to be in King Salmon. Excuse me.
42 Why not have these people come over on the next Council
43 meeting and give a full report on it. You know, just,
44 you know, table it until next Council meeting.

45
46 And then somebody ought to tell them
47 that they're using my tax dollars to come over here and
48 then not reporting and go back there again. It's not
49 fair.
50

1 Thank you.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. So my
4 recommendation is to send them a letter from the
5 Council and to make sure that they stay to give their
6 reports, if it's okay from the Board.
7
8 (Council members nodding affirmative)
9
10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So I'll give
11 you that directive. The Council's nodding, so, Donald,
12 we'll do that.
13
14 Okay. We'll move on to the BIA -- or
15 Bureau of Land Management. Do we have somebody there.
16
17 (No comments)
18
19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Is that
20 another one that we need to write a letter to?
21
22 (Laughter)
23
24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I don't see
25 anybody jumping up to come to the front.
26
27 So I guess we'll move on down to E,
28 Alaska Department of Fish and Game -- oh, so sorry,
29 that E was moved up to I.
30
31 So we're down to the National Park
32 Service people.
33
34 MS. MCBURNEY: Good morning, Madame
35 Chair, Council members. My name is Mary McBurney. I'm
36 here as the subsistence program manager for Lake Clark
37 National Park, so I'll be starting off with the Lake
38 Clark National Park report.
39
40 I have a couple of updates to provide
41 and then one housekeeping item that I would like to
42 bring before you. Perhaps the housekeeping item first.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Is this the
45 report?
46
47 MS. MCBURNEY: That is the report from
48 the Subsistence Resource Commission, and they met on
49 the 22nd of this past month to make recommendations on
50 the proposals that you had under consideration at this

1 meeting.

2

3 And at that same meeting, we reviewed
4 the membership of the SRC and noted that Carl Jensen,
5 who was appointed by the Bristol Bay RAC, his
6 appointment is going to be expiring next month. And
7 Mr. Jensen is very interested in being reappointed, and
8 the Subsistence Resource Commission has written a
9 letter, which unfortunately I brought with me, but
10 didn't have access to a copy machine to make enough
11 copies for everyone. But they've expressed their
12 support for his reappointment. So I wanted to bring
13 that before you as an action item if possible to
14 reaffirm his appointment as a Bristol Bay
15 representative on the SRC.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

18

19 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. I do have the
20 signed letter from the Chair of the Lake Clark
21 Subsistence Resource Commission, signed by Glenn
22 Alsworth, recommending that Mr. Jensen be reappointed.
23 And I'll make sure the Council members have a copy.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
28 discussion.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: If not, I
33 think there's a motion in line.

34

35 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair. Who made
36 the motion. There's no motion.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There's no
39 motion.

40

41 MR. O'HARA: No.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Just accept
44 the.....

45

46 MR. O'HARA: I'll make motion a motion
47 that Carl Jensen be reappointed to the.....

48

49 MR. BOSKOFKY: I'll second it.

50

1 MR. O'HARA: What's it?
2
3 MS. McBURNEY: The Lake Clark SRC.
4
5 MR. O'HARA: SRC. Lake Clark SRC. And
6 Alvin.....
7
8 MR. BOSKOFISKY: I'll second it.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. There's
11 been a motion by Dan O'Hara and seconded by Alvin to
12 reappoint Mr. Jensen. What's his first name?
13
14 MR. O'HARA: Carl.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Carl. To the
17 SRC seat.
18
19 MR. O'HARA: Call the question.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. There's
22 been a question called. All in favor say aye.
23
24 IN UNISON: Aye.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
27 opposition.
28
29 (No opposing votes)
30
31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: He's
32 reappointed. Thank you.
33
34 MS. McBURNEY: Thank you very much.
35
36 Well, the second update that I wanted
37 to provide you is that our Port Alsworth-based
38 subsistence coordinator, Michelle Ravenmoon, resigned
39 her position back in June, and now we have a position
40 that we are going to be readvertising later this year
41 to have another person that will be able to fulfill
42 those subsistence coordinator and village liaison
43 duties based in Port Alsworth. So if any of you have
44 any suggestions for people that might be interested in
45 a very good Park Service job based in Port Alsworth
46 working with subsistence, we will be advertising the
47 position within the next couple of months.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.
50

1 MR. WILSON: Is there any credentials
2 that need to follow that, or is it a fairly easy one to
3 get into.

4
5 MS. MCBURNEY: This one ideally would
6 be a local hire, or one that we would be able to get a
7 local person. And in the past we've had people with a
8 four-year degree or with experience that would equal,
9 say, a four-year degree. But as far as like an
10 advanced degree or anything, no. It would be, say, a
11 bachelor's or an associate degree with additional
12 experience, which, of course, just traditional
13 experience engaging in subsistence activities, you
14 know, helps to meet those requirements.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.
17 Richard.

18
19 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

20
21 Is that going to be advertised
22 throughout the region or just in the Lake Clark area
23 there?

24
25 MS. MCBURNEY: We start out with the
26 Lake Clark region since this is a position that we're
27 looking for somebody that is very familiar with the
28 practices, the landscape of the Lake Clark area. But
29 certainly would be looking, you know, for anyone.
30 Somebody that lives in Anchorage that may have been a
31 resident of the area would definitely be of interest to
32 us.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
35 other additional comments from the Board. Dan.

36
37 MR. O'HARA: Yeah. I would imagine
38 that it's just five villages that participate in the
39 Park Service up there for subsistence. I would imagine
40 any one of those villages would have people eligible.
41 That's just a comment.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We'll
46 depend on Richard and Dan to help you with this. Okay.

47
48 Is that is?

49
50 MS. MCBURNEY: No, I have a couple of

1 more items that I'm sure will be of interest.

2

3 First of all, I wanted to just give you
4 a quick recap of the Newhalen River escapement. The
5 Lake Clark National Park fisheries staff has been
6 monitoring that for the last 10 years. And this is a
7 project that has been funded for about the past nearly
8 10 years by the Fisheries Research Monitoring Program,
9 and with your support.

10

11 So this year the run was slightly below
12 average, and there were a total of 254,000 fish that
13 passed the tower at mile 22 on the Newhalen. And that
14 accounted for approximately 11 percent of the total
15 run, you know, coming through the Kvichak. And that's
16 just a little bit, as I said, slightly below average.
17 And that's based on the last 10 years average, which
18 has ranged from between 200,000 to 700,000 fish. But
19 them, of course, you know, historically that run --
20 we've had as many as 3 million fish, you know, escaping
21 into Lake Clark. But it's been quite awhile since
22 we've counted that many fish into the lake.

23

24 The run timing was about average this
25 year, even though it was a little bit early, you know,
26 into the Kvichak, and certainly kind of hit early in
27 the Bay in general, but otherwise it kind of fell right
28 in on the bell curve according to Dan Young, our
29 fisheries biologist.

30

31 So that was what I had to share with
32 you on the Newhalen escapement.

33

34 This was the last year of the fisheries
35 research money that came through the Office of
36 Subsistence Management, and for this coming year Dan is
37 pursuing funding through other funding sources through
38 the National Park Service and some subsistence program
39 monies that may be available to continue that. But I
40 would also say that he may in the future also bring
41 that project again before you for additional support in
42 the out years.

43

44 And you met Buck Mangipane yesterday
45 very briefly. He provided just a little bit of
46 information on Unit 9B moose. And I invited buck to
47 join me this afternoon, or this morning, to give you a
48 little bit more information on work that he has been
49 doing with regard to moose surveys in areas of 9B
50 within the park and preserve, and then also to give you

1 an update on a multi-year project that he's been
2 working on regarding wolves in Lake Clark National Park
3 and Preserve.

4
5 So I'm going to scoot the microphone
6 over to Buck and pass this on to him.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Could we --
9 Dan, did you have -- I'd like to, you know, if the
10 Council has any questions for you, we'd like to get
11 into that right now.

12
13 Dan, did you have anything.

14
15 MR. O'HARA: Yes. For eight years,
16 Mary, you know, the Kvichak was not touched at all, and
17 just did not -- was getting escapement goals like we
18 wanted to, and the Nushagak, of course, is quite a ways
19 in, and Egegik and Ugashik and Naknek are all pulled
20 inside the rivers, and they spent eight years in the
21 river. And every year at that time, Lake Clark got its
22 escapement, you know. Of course, they're the earliest
23 fish that come in. You'll see them come in, you'll see
24 them go run into Lake Iliamna and they're just in a
25 stream. You can tell they're heading for, you know, up
26 on the Newhalen.

27
28 And so with the failure of the Lake
29 Iliamna, Lake Clark never failed, and it's in your
30 record. And it's a great report to be able to say
31 those fish came back there. And I think we were
32 discussing last night at dinner that Naknek was the
33 same way. It has never failed. It's always been a
34 producer.

35
36 But we're back on cycle now, and it
37 looks the Kvichak is a little bit -- but I sure
38 appreciate you making that report, because that's
39 really close to home.

40
41 MS. McBURNEY: Thank you. And I might
42 add that at the spring meeting I'll invite our
43 fisheries biologist, Dan Young, to give a presentation.
44 Right now he's compiling information on a radio-
45 tracking project that he initiated this year where he
46 tracked 100 fish that were tagged randomly at the mouth
47 of the Newhalen, and then tracked them to see where
48 they were going. And what's really kind of interesting
49 is just how diverse, you know, those fish are in terms
50 of where they're going, their behavior, their preferred

1 spawning areas. And he's still analyzing that
2 information and should have a report completed by this
3 spring. And we can present that at that time.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
6 other comments. I guess -- Richard.
7
8 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.
9
10 Mary, I was just curious, you know, you
11 gave a 254,000 escapement running up the Newhalen.
12 Now, you know, realizing that we have a five-year
13 cyclic, you know, cycle for our salmon there, where
14 that fall into the cycle of things, or was that -- has
15 that been calculated? I mean, it was just a number you
16 gave us, you know, as to escapement.
17
18 MS. MCBURNEY: Right.
19
20 MR. WILSON: But I just wonder where
21 that fell in as far as our cycles, how that
22 relationship was going.
23
24 MS. MCBURNEY: Unfortunately I don't
25 have that information. Dan would be a really good
26 person to ask, and we'll be sure to have that
27 information for you in the spring meeting.
28
29 MR. WILSON: Thank you.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I
32 guess, have you -- it might be too early to note if
33 subsistence users of the fish had said anything thus
34 far. I think ADF&G subsistence collect permits up
35 there, and they probably won't take note of that until
36 next -- or after the end of the year, so I guess that
37 would be my concern, is if people up there met their
38 subsistence needs. And with your fishery report, that
39 it might come -- that it will come to us in the fall
40 meeting, and hopefully as well as the ADF&G permit
41 report, we'll probably get that information.
42
43 If no more questions for Mary.
44
45 (No comments)
46
47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: We can move on
48 to Buck.
49
50 MR. MANGIPANE: Hi. I'd like to

1 provide you with some additional information here to go
2 together with the moose information passed out
3 yesterday. It's another one-page document kind of
4 describing some of the information we've learned
5 regarding wolves during the last three years in which
6 we studied them within the park and preserve.

7
8 And also if you have any further
9 questions regarding the moose population, I'd be more
10 than happy to elaborate on any in there.

11
12 I guess to cover that in a little more
13 detail, the park has historically conducted moose
14 surveys since the 80s actually, utilizing trend counts
15 similar to the State, and then our techniques have
16 evolved to become more statistically robust through
17 time. And over the last 10 years there's been dramatic
18 changes. So the data that was presented to you
19 yesterday in that one-page report regarding moose is
20 utilizing the same technique. So the changes there
21 definitely appear to be in the population, not in the
22 method in which they were counted. That's one of the
23 reasons I kind of limited the data to those years, but
24 there definitely is additional data from the 90s which
25 again shows much higher numbers than currently we're
26 seeing in those regions.

27
28 But in regards to the wolf study, as
29 the moose information tended to indicate, the numbers
30 were definitely declining, and we had heard lots of
31 requests from the local residents to kind of define why
32 that was happening. Obviously predation was a big
33 factor. We have a multitude of predators, brown bears,
34 black bears and wolves. Wolves tended to float to the
35 top, and considering that we had very limited
36 information on them, we were able to succeed in getting
37 some funding to do a three-year study that basically
38 just looked at some of the general characteristics of
39 the wolf population, pack sizes, productivity,
40 territories, how those changed through time during
41 those years, and also what they were preying on.

42
43 As the Mulchatna herd was covered by
44 Andy very well earlier today, one of the things we're
45 seeing is in our region there are amazing caribou
46 trails, but they don't have caribou on them. And so
47 there's been dramatic changes in terms of what prey is
48 available on the landscape for all the predators. And
49 so we were very interested in seeing kind of how that
50 affected the wolf population at the time. And so in

1 that document there you'll see some of the preliminary
2 data.

3

4 And one of the things we found is in
5 the interior portion of the park/preserve there are
6 generally four to five packs, occasionally there are
7 smaller groups of wolves on the periphery of some of
8 these packs. And total numbers during the three years
9 has ranged between 20 and 30 total wolves. Pack sizes
10 are small, three to seven wolves. Productivity --
11 initial productivity seems fairly high. We're seeing
12 four to six pups at the den, but commonly in the fall
13 we're seeing noticeably less than that, two to three,
14 maybe four. And come springs, the numbers again are
15 diminished from there to pack sizes of generally around
16 five.

17

18 Most wolves that are yearling that have
19 survived stayed with the pack that period of time in
20 our area. Every one that we've radio collared has
21 dispersed, and they seem to decide to head to the
22 southwest, coming towards 17, many of them following
23 the Mulchatna river, the Nushagak. We've had one
24 venture down in to Katmai and one off to the southeast
25 near Kokhanok. And so they've generally trended in
26 every direction. But the thing we're seeing is that
27 our pack sizes aren't necessarily growing. They tend
28 to diminish, and we tend to be providing wolves outside
29 of the area more so than anything. We actually had a
30 wolf that ended up within 60 miles of Bethel in another
31 pack with seven other wolves that was trapped by an
32 individual. And that's -- most of the wolves that do
33 leave the area tended to show up in a trapper's set
34 somewhere, and also have been successfully hunted.

35

36 In regards to territory size, Alaska
37 territories in general are large. Ours tend to fall on
38 the large side of Alaska, showing that they're
39 utilizing large areas to kind of make a living. And
40 then that ties in with what we've seen in terms of
41 their preying on is moose. That's their main resource.

42

43 We do have a dall sheep population
44 that's pretty low density. It varies kind of
45 throughout the park and what packs actually have sheep
46 within their territories that are available, but we've
47 seen very limited use of sheep. It's obvious a
48 difficult proposition for a wolf to take down a sheep,
49 and it's obviously a lot less of a resource once it's
50 done. So for a pack to survive on those, it would be

1 rather difficult in our area, and we're seeing that.

2

3 Generally in the packs in terms of
4 moose during the winter. We're seeing them take
5 between five and eight moose in an area within that
6 pack, and so that's been the primary prey.

7

8 One of the most noteworthy things that
9 we've seen is their dependence of salmon. And some
10 packs show that throughout the year. We're seeing them
11 utilize salmon to provision their pups. We're seeing
12 them utilize salmon late in the fall that are floating
13 up onto the shoreline. And we're seeing that again in
14 the spring as the lakes start to melt out. And we've
15 seen wolves out on the lake getting salmon that are
16 frozen into the lake ice. So it's a very, very
17 prominent resource. Given the status of the moose
18 population, I think that's what's retaining a lot of
19 these packs at the level that they currently are.

20

21 The other noteworthy thing that we're
22 seeing is, you know, in terms of the dispersal, is kind
23 of the -- or in the survival, about 70 percent
24 survival. So about average to what we expect to see.

25

26 This study obviously just kind of
27 skimmed the surface. The amazing thing about wolves
28 is that more you tend to find out, the less you figure
29 out you really know. And, you know, three years in a
30 dynamic situation like we have with the changes in
31 their prey population, we've kind of skimmed the
32 surface. We've been successful at getting some
33 additional funding to focus on wolves on the coast of
34 the park, but were able to retain this study for an
35 additional three years. So hopefully I'll be able to
36 bring additional information in the future to kind of
37 update you on the status of these animals.

38

39 And we also are looking to at this time
40 begin a study focused on brown bears and potentially
41 black bears in the interior of the park, and look at
42 their role kind of in the whole scheme of predation,
43 and also their population levels. We have fairly good
44 information on the coast, but our interior data on
45 bears is actually pretty limited, and so we're looking
46 to kind of beef that up to some extent to have some
47 information to kind of better explain what goes on in a
48 system.

49

50 And with that, I'll answer any

1 questions regarding any of the wildlife species within
2 the park and preserve.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

5

6 MR. WILSON: What was your count on the
7 wolf population that you'd estimated?

8

9 MR. MANGIPANE: Our estimate, it's
10 varied. The first year of the study we had about 30,
11 and that was -- the nice thing is once we have the
12 radio collars, obviously we got really good estimates
13 of the packs. But it also allowed us in those small
14 areas where we did not have radio collars, to kind of
15 focus our effort and get visuals on a lot of those
16 small groups. And so the estimate of 30 actually
17 incorporates several wolves in parts of packs that
18 aren't listed on the information there. And so, you
19 know, that has changed through time. This past year
20 during our capture effort, and post capture effort
21 tracking, I put the estimate to more closer to 20, give
22 or take a few, obviously you don't see every one, but
23 definitely somewhat of a decline during the three
24 years.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.

27

28 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. Thank you, Madame
29 Chair.

30

31 I've got a few questions here. Back in
32 like early 2000s folks I knew in the Iliamna area,
33 pilots and stuff, were saying, and this is a bit out of
34 your area, but I'm wondering if you've heard. I heard
35 folks saying that they see packs in the wintertime of
36 20, 30. I think I heard even bigger numbers that were
37 a little hard to even imagine, but your pack sizes here
38 seem more normal of what I've heard of other reports.
39 I'm wondering, has anything happened, or are there
40 really big packs just outside, say just southwest of
41 the park, or do you have any idea what's going on.

42

43 MR. MANGIPANE: You know, in reference
44 to that, I, too, have heard of the super pack, and that
45 was a pack that I've heard anywhere estimated between
46 20 and 30 wolves, which essentially is the entire
47 population we're seeing in the interior, which is
48 pretty amazing. And I've heard that from a lot of
49 reliable sources. And so I definitely understand that
50 that is possible. It has been documented in other

1 areas, packs of those size. And it wasn't just that
2 there was that one pack, but there were lots of other
3 large packs at times. And during our travels, because
4 of the dispersal of many of these wolves out to the
5 west, we've gotten to spend a lot of time in areas that
6 we wouldn't necessarily be looking at wolves in, and at
7 times where they're visible, and we can track them. And
8 even in those areas we do see larger packs. As you get
9 out to the west in the Mulchatna, the Nushagak, you may
10 see seven to nine animals, but flying with our park
11 pilot who has a long history of being in the area, you
12 know, he'll be quick to mention that, you know the
13 numbers just aren't the same as what they saw before in
14 terms of predators, in terms of wolves specifically.

15 And I think as you referenced, you
16 know, near 2000 we can look back at Mulchatna data and
17 see numbers, you know, close to 200,000. Our moose
18 data from the late 90s for 9B, the population estimate
19 would have been close to 600. We're now down near 400.
20 You know, so the prey base is not necessarily there at
21 the same levels that it was in the past, and so I think
22 the reflection of that we're seeing is in the predator
23 that's most dependent on those prey items, being the
24 wolves. We're seeing that reflected in their
25 population size at this time as well.

26

27 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Yeah, that makes
28 sense. Yeah. Okay.

29

30 Another thing is, I think Mary brought
31 up in the past that kind of -- I think it's kind of
32 statewide, mainly based out of McKinley, but that food
33 source study where they were taking hair clippings. It
34 just occurred to me, because it seems like, you know,
35 this wolves eating salmon, it seems to be kind -- it
36 seems like a new observation, and maybe people are just
37 looking more closely, but I wonder, has there been any
38 effort -- well, what's the status of that study, if
39 you're participating? Also, has there -- do you know
40 if any work's been done, like trying to find old hides,
41 you know, 20, 30, 40-year old hides to see if there's
42 been a change, and is this a learned thing, or do you
43 know anything about that?

44

45 MR. MANGIPANE: That's an excellent
46 question. and we are cooperating with that. So with
47 the captured wolves, some of the samples, we're
48 collecting blood, hair samples. This year we actually
49 expanded and actually collected breath samples, which
50 show diet within the last actual hours. And so each of

1 those samples kind of indicates a different time frame.
2 And that is the first avenue that we were able to
3 document salmon use was via the hair, and also when we
4 were attempting to capture our first wolves in December
5 of 2008, they were eating fish along the lakeshore when
6 we actually caught them. So it was pretty obvious as
7 to what they were up to.

8

9 In regards to the overall project
10 throughout the state, there has been some more effort
11 to collect hides. And one of the things that we found
12 out here recently that was very beneficial to this was
13 we had some local trappers who were able to work with
14 and take a hair sample prior to having the wolf tanned.
15 We then were able to get a hair sample of that wolf
16 after being tanned, and the process did not appear to
17 have any effect on the hair. So what that basically
18 means is that if we're able to collect a hide within
19 this region from the 70s, the 80s, we can actually look
20 at the diet of that animal at that time and see these
21 changes. So, you know, that is a really amazing thing
22 that we're able to look at, you know, historic diets to
23 some extent. And so we are seeking samples.

24

25 That is one of the things that's very
26 difficult, you know, in an area with villages so remove
27 from one another, you know, a smaller group of people
28 actually out actively tracking, and just making contact
29 with those folks, we're trying as we can to collect
30 those samples, and obviously with some information
31 regarding where and when those were taken, it makes it
32 even that much more valuable.

33

34 So I can provide you with information.
35 Actually my name is on the bottom of that form. I can
36 facilitate if you have individuals or have samples
37 yourself that you'd be willing -- I mean, we're
38 essentially talking several hairs. It's a very small
39 quantity. We would love to have those. That would be
40 a great expansion to this project. And we'd like to
41 see that happen.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Dan,
44 you have additional questions?

45

46 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. One more thing.

47

48 Thanks, that just sounds fascinating,
49 because it makes sense to eat fish, but I'm really
50 impressed they're even eating them. I wouldn't want to

1 do a breathalyzer on them in the spring when they're
2 eating those green ones.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 MR. DUNAWAY: But that's amazing.

7

8 The last one I have, and this again is
9 a little out of your exact operating area, but
10 especially since you're kind of following these
11 dispersing wolves, and I've heard more complaints or
12 concerns expressed about, you know, moose and caribou,
13 but are you getting any sense that all the aerial
14 activity in the mine exploration area up there, do you
15 think or do you see any effect on wolves in the area
16 from that activity?

17

18 MR. MANGIPANE: That's a good question
19 as well. In the initial year of the study, you'll see
20 we have a pack listed as Chulitna, seven wolves. We
21 had put two radios out within that pack of seven. One
22 ultimately, the radio failed, the other dispersed and
23 ended up out near the Nushagak, so we kind of lost
24 contact of that pack.

25

26 Their home range encompassed what would
27 be the development of the Pebble area, and we actually
28 got a report this year of wolf activity in that region,
29 actually pups, and it's very near where they had dened
30 during that previous year.

31

32 So it does appear that they're
33 adaptable and can, you know, become accustomed to that
34 kind of activity in the area. As to how that affects
35 their prey ultimately, you know, that's to be
36 determined. But it does seem like, you know, the
37 wolves have been somewhat resilient to the change in
38 activity in that region.

39

40 And one other thing I guess to add in
41 regards to the diet. I think what you had mentioned in
42 regards to the salmon, I think the scrutiny or people
43 looking at that type of information has increased. And
44 our techniques that we have to do it have improved.
45 And so many or several studies here in the southwestern
46 portion of the state, work they're doing in Becharof,
47 on the Peninsula, here in this region, we're all
48 finding that salmon use is, I think, more common than
49 expected, both through direct analysis and also through
50 the stable isotopes. And I know in talking to Don from

1 Becharof just briefly yesterday, he indicated that, you
2 know, in their packs they're seeing lots of use of, you
3 know, marine mammals that are washing up on shore. And
4 so I think as these studies develop and more
5 information is learned, we're going to see that that's
6 more common, even up into Interior. Denali, western
7 packs in Denali utilize fish resources as well. So,
8 you know, fish make their way into many areas of the
9 state, so I think we're going to see that become more
10 noteworthy through time.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
13 other. Dan O'Hara.

14
15 MR. O'HARA: Yeah. I appreciate it.
16 Mary, your report's always good. We've had it for
17 many, many years. And we really appreciate your
18 report.

19
20 And, Buck, it's nice to hear the
21 statistics that's going on on a three-year study. A
22 three-year study is -- almost could become somewhat
23 scientific really. You know, two good years is pretty
24 good. And we've heard that before in this Council, and
25 that's always good information.

26
27 And on your report on the wolves, you
28 seem to think that some of those, of the 20 or 30
29 animals have migrated out of the area. And I'm kind of
30 wondering, you know, if maybe there was lack of prey or
31 the moose population's going down. It probably could
32 be some reason why they are leaving the area, not just
33 because the Mulchatna herd is next door. And that's
34 just a comment.

35
36 And then Andy talked about this
37 southeast side of the Mulchatna herd, and you're kind
38 of the northeast, northwest side of the Mulchatna herd.
39 Both of you guys are in between. And so you've see a
40 little more wolf activity up there than maybe what we
41 might know of from down here in southwest?

42
43 MR. MANGIPANE: Yeah. In regards to
44 that, you know, with the wolf data -- I did bring a
45 large map kind of showing the distribution of locations
46 and I'll be glad to share that with you. Maybe during
47 a break I'll pull that out and we can kind of look at
48 that, and I can describe to you some of what we've
49 learned.

50

1 But through the dispersal of these
2 wolves, we have seen them moving into those areas, and
3 we do see packs within those regions in the winter that
4 appear to be larger with time. I would say that the
5 caribou herd, the portion Andy referred to of calving
6 up near Lime Village out to the Tundra Lakes area,
7 Whitefish Lake, you know, that's the component that
8 actually passes through periodically through the
9 western portion of the preserve. And we have seen
10 during that time tying in with the satellite data from
11 those caribou, we have seen some of our central packs
12 definitely make notice of that and appear to follow to
13 some extent the caribou. They don't necessarily leave
14 their range, but they tend to kind of expand to take
15 advantage of that resource during that time.

16
17 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair. One more
18 comment and a question.

19
20 I've been through Lake Clark Pass many,
21 many times this spring and fall, more than I wanted to
22 go, because Pen Air's always been full, so I had to fly
23 my own plane in there. And there's just not an animal
24 left in that park. And there used to be a lot of moose
25 in there. I remember going in there, and where that
26 one little area goes back in there, a lot of people get
27 killed in that area, it's kind of a blind area. Up on
28 top of the hill, it's a big clearing. You'd see moose
29 up there rutting, you know, and then we'd see them at
30 Summit Lake, big bulls and I have not seen a thing. I
31 mean, I haven't seen a black bear or a brown bear or a
32 wolf or a moose.

33
34 Have you have any surveys or
35 information on why that has just gone so absolutely
36 quiet and not anything being seen? Because at 500
37 feet, you know, it's a narrow pass and you see
38 everything.

39
40 MR. MANGIPANE: Yeah. You know, I
41 guess what I would say in regards to that, you know, our
42 moose data definitely supports that, you know, that
43 kind of decline. And I will agree with you. In flying
44 through there for surveys and making it into town, it
45 has almost become uncommon that you do see a moose.
46 The numbers are definitely in the teens whereas that
47 area would have had, you know, dozens of moose. And
48 that's not just that area, it's in many other areas of
49 the park. You know, looking back at historic data from
50 the 90s, there were sample units that we continue to

1 survey to this day that at that time would have had 80
2 to 100 moose in one area. If we see a dozen in that
3 area now, that's kind of the higher numbers we're
4 seeing. So those effects have kind of taken place
5 throughout. 19, or northwestern portion of the
6 park/preserve is 19B. That area. 17B, which is Twin
7 Lakes, kind of the upper Mulchatna country. And 9B as
8 well. No area has been immune to those changes. All
9 of them have seen that.

10

11 The one thing I will -- you know, we do
12 not have really good population data on bears in the
13 interior. We have some estimates from the late 90s on
14 density, and we're hoping to revisit that. But they
15 are the one animal you do see along the Tlikakila as
16 you're going through the pass at this time of year.
17 They still appear to be fairly common.

18

19 And so that wolf pack that utilizes
20 that pass area, in the first year of the study, it
21 actually broke off and ended up as part of two, which
22 were six wolves in one and three in the other. That
23 pack now, our best estimate, is three wolves. So, you
24 know, there's definitely been kind of the ripple effect
25 down through some of the predators in that area as
26 well.

27

28 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair. One last
29 comment.

30

31 Of course, we've had a good meeting up
32 to this point, but I don't know if we'll have a good
33 meeting after this comment, but, you know, there's such
34 a thing as predator control, and the park has done
35 that. I mean, there's a history of the park doing
36 predator control. They've done it on islands and
37 completely devastated a whole species on that
38 particularly geographical area, so you may have this
39 Council coming to you one day and say, hey, we may have
40 to shoot some of those wolves from the air. It all
41 depends on how hungry people get.

42

43 But I really appreciate your park.
44 They're very thorough. And Leon Lee is still flying
45 for you guys, so you've got good predator guys hanging
46 around up in those airplanes that do a really good job.
47 I'm impressed by those guys. They're -- you know,
48 you've got some really good people working for you.

49

50 Thank you for the great report.

1 Appreciate it.

2

3 MR. MANGIPANE: Yeah. A quick response
4 to that is you mentioned Leon, and that study, he's
5 been very integral. I fly with him probably several
6 hundred hours a year on this and other -- so in
7 reference to, you know, changes in local conditions,
8 obviously having that history, it's a great resource
9 for me. This is going on my tenth year at Lake Clark,
10 so I'm starting to get a little history there.

11

12 And I appreciate the opportunity to
13 come and present this data. We do have some other
14 studies, maybe not as directly applicable here. We do
15 have dall sheep surveys that we conduct, or attempt to
16 conduct, annually when the weather allows. Eagle
17 surveys and some other species.

18

19 So I appreciate the opportunity, and
20 look forward to providing updates in the future.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.
23 Richard.

24

25 MR. WILSON: I'm seeing kind of a trend
26 here. The longer you stay in an area, the better
27 information we get.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 MR. MANGIPANE: Thank you.

32

33 MR. O'HARA: It's called longevity.

34

35 MR. MANGIPANE: I guess I do have one
36 other. Sorry to kind of jump back in here, but as we
37 discussed yesterday in regards to moose, there had been
38 a change to a registration permit. And that brought
39 about a lot of questions and issues early in the year,
40 and as the season came on, because our Federal
41 subsistence season, the dates actually didn't mesh very
42 well with the required registration permit.

43

44 And so one of the thing I brought along
45 here today is something I worked with Mary and several
46 others within the park to come up with, and it's
47 additional hunt conditions that we're going to provide
48 with individuals getting a registration permit. We had
49 those in Port Alsworth for local residents. This helps
50 explain some of the discrepancies.

1 And we're also providing a map that
2 detailed land ownership. This map that I brought with
3 me is a little smaller scale than what I will provide
4 to those individuals.

5
6 But we're trying to do everything in
7 our power to help make that transition somewhat easier
8 and cleaner for our folks. So if you'd like to see
9 those, I have some copies with me as well.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. That
14 was a really good report. You're hired.

15
16 (Laughter)

17
18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: This is
19 probably the best report that I've heard.

20
21 And I think it was last year after the
22 report from park and preserve, well, in our March
23 meeting, I made a comment to one of the park staff to
24 open the box and let the sun shine in, and you have.

25
26 So I really appreciate your report.
27 And like I said, this is the best report that I've
28 heard. It's pretty detailed. I really appreciate
29 that.

30
31 And I remember at one of our Nushagak
32 -- Mulchatna -- no, Peninsula caribou meeting, when the
33 Native representatives first heard about wolves eating
34 salmon, we all said, no, wolves don't eat salmon. But
35 it's interesting that they do, and I'm glad, you know.
36 I'd rather have them eat salmon than moose and caribou.

37
38 You mentioned that -- well, in this
39 preliminary result, there was one drowning of the wolf.
40 Was that -- would that be due to them trying to get
41 salmon?

42
43 MR. MANGIPANE: No, actually at that
44 time it was crossing a partially frozen creek, and
45 we're not exactly sure how it happened. We had tracked
46 the wolf a day prior in that immediate vicinity, and
47 several days later went back out and got a mortality
48 signal for it. And some of our hardy park volunteers
49 went out several weeks later when the creek had frozen
50 over and cut a hole in it and drug out the entire

1 carcass, so we were able to recover it. And I don't
2 think that's very common. I don't think that happens
3 often. It was a fairly strong stream, but was kind of
4 noteworthy, and obviously stuck out among the various
5 causes there.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Well,
8 thank you. And because we were having a hard time
9 seeing the wolves actually eat salmon, I guess you
10 reported that the wolves bring salmon to their pups,
11 and they pup during the spring, early spring sometime.
12 And I guess what I'm trying to -- when you were giving
13 the report, I thought, well, maybe the wolves --
14 because the spawn-out salmon are easy to, you know,
15 catch. I was having a hard time imagining wolves,
16 especially in the Nushagak Peninsula swimming out there
17 in the bay trying to harvest salmon, but if they do eat
18 ones that are spawn out or are in the creeks, then
19 that's possible.

20

21 MR. MANGIPANE: Yeah. I'll respond to
22 that. There has been some video footage of wolves in,
23 you know, smaller systems. One of our packs that
24 appear to utilize salmon probably the most, and they
25 basically live adjacent to the Newhalen, which is a big
26 river, as you're all familiar with. And what we're
27 seeing there is the areas that the wolves tend to go
28 back to are areas where people are fishing, where fish
29 camps are. You wouldn't expect them to be in close
30 proximity to humans in most cases, but they are. And I
31 believe as you mentioned, it's, you know, dead fish,
32 fish parts. Not to say they haven't and don't in
33 certain circumstances make use of live fish, but in our
34 case, I think most of it has been through remains.

35

36 And one of the amazing things is this
37 year we've documented the den sites, and they've gotten
38 to the point where the den site is about 15 miles from
39 where they'll actually go to collect these fish. And
40 so we'll see those movements frequently in, you know, a
41 15-hour period they'll make those moves between those
42 areas.

43

44 But, yeah, you were correct in the
45 assessment of, you know, the fish generally in our area
46 at least have not been perceived to be live fishes.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Well, thank
49 you. If no more questions.

50

1 (No comments)
2
3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.
4 That was a really good report.
5
6 Before we take -- George.
7
8 MR. PAPPAS: Just to add to the record
9 here. I didn't know it was uncommon for that. In
10 Alvin's back yard, when I was in Chignik on three
11 different occasions, I did see wolves fishing.
12 Actively fishing. Two of them were up past their
13 elbows in water with their tails straightened out,
14 actively going after fish at the Upanolik (ph) River.
15 So I didn't know it wa an uncommon event. And three at
16 another time just sitting on the bank and sticking
17 their heads, not in the water, but there were so many
18 fish there at the Alec River spawning beds. It's only
19 a foot deep and 15 feet wide with a couple hundred
20 thousand fish there. It was interesting.
21 Unfortunately I didn't get any footage of it, but I
22 guess it happens in other areas, too.
23
24 Thank you, Madame Chair.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thanks
27 for the report.
28
29 And before lunch, I've got three blue
30 cards here that I'd like to take care of before we
31 break for lunch.
32
33 So thank you for your good report.
34
35 So let's take care of these three
36 testimony. The first one that I've got is Collette.
37
38 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: She'll be back
39 after lunch. She had to go (indiscernible).
40
41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Oh, she's not
42 here.
43
44 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: She'll be back
45 after lunch.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: How about
48 Crystal.
49
50 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: She'll be back

1 after lunch.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: How about
4 Gary. Gary Cline.

5

6 MR. CLINE: Thank you, Madame Chair and
7 the Board for allowing me to speak today. My name is
8 Gary Cline. I live here in Dillingham and work at
9 Nunamta Aulukestai. I am the son of Dora Andrew and
10 Don Cline. They no longer live here any more. I chose
11 to stay. I love our land, people, and especially the
12 ability to go out and subsist off our land.

13

14 Anyways, I'm here today because of two
15 issues that bring me great concern. And that's the
16 offshore development of the North Aleutian Basin here
17 in Bristol Bay and Pebble Mine.

18

19 First off, I'd like to thank the Board
20 here for their hard work and efforts to carefully
21 manage our subsistence resources and finding solutions
22 of why the Mulchatna here caribou is on decline, and as
23 well as dealing with issues concerning bycatch.

24

25 However, as a few people said
26 yesterday, I can't think of a better committee to take
27 action on these issues and carry the voices of the
28 Bristol Bay subsistence users here on the two issues of
29 Pebble Mine and offshore drilling, because as you know,
30 there's a large opposition group here in Bristol Bay,
31 and I think it's important that our voices are heard,
32 and I can't think of a better community to help carry
33 on our voice.

34

35 Anyways, I think these two issues are
36 huge. They can have potential detrimental impacts on
37 our subsistence resources.

38

39 You know, I read a recent article on a
40 study of the little kelt fish that live in the
41 marshlands off the coast of Louisiana, and it's been
42 over a year and a half now since the Deep Water Horizon
43 disaster. And the little kelt fish that live along the
44 marshlands, there are studies out there that they are
45 showing the same chemical imbalances and toxin levels
46 as the herring in the Prince William Sound. And I
47 think we all know what happened to the herring in the
48 Prince William Sound. And they're no longer there.

49

50 And I think it's critical that we come

1 out and permanently protect Bristol Bay from offshore
2 drilling. Down in Louisiana they're worried about
3 their reproductive systems and the long-term health of
4 the little kell fish that is critical to their
5 ecosystems. So we all recall -- we have agreed that
6 salmon is not the only important fish species here in
7 Bristol Bay, and down there in Louisiana several fish
8 species rely on those kell fish.

9
10 Here we have the world's largest
11 herring fishery outside Togiak. And I think it's
12 crucial that we protect those herring fisheries and
13 don't put any more stress on the herring fish outside
14 Togiak, not just through oil spills or blowouts or
15 contaminants and discharges or aerial dispersants which
16 are applied after an oil spill. All dispersants do is
17 break up the oil and make it sink to the bottom seabed
18 floor so it doesn't reach to the beaches. Sometimes
19 they can be more toxic than an oil spill.

20
21 However, those aren't the only threats
22 from offshore drilling to the herring. It's also when
23 they're exploring for oil and gas through seismic
24 surveys in which their new technology now, they're
25 known to kill little fish if they're underneath the
26 explosion. Seismic surveys conduct deep water or
27 underwater explosions to test -- to see if there's oil
28 underneath the ground. They're also known to kill
29 juvenile crab and so those are all issues that we
30 should be concerned of.

31
32 So one thing, I would greatly
33 appreciate if the board would consider adopting this
34 resolution that's circulating the Bristol Bay region,
35 and that's to establish the Harold Harvey Samuelsen
36 Bristol Bay National Fisheries Reserve, and which BBNA
37 and BBNC just passed a similar resolution. They made
38 one change to it, and that's to the name. Instead of
39 reserve they put zone.

40
41 But under that reserve, the reserve is
42 to -- the purpose of it is to protect our subsistence
43 resources, our fishing and commercial -- commercial,
44 subsistence and sports fisheries. It will not infringe
45 or hinder, affect any State or Federal regulations on
46 our subsistence and commercial fishing activity. So I
47 would greatly appreciate if the Board would consider
48 adopting the resolution.

49
50 And as far as Pebble Mine, I sat in on

1 the conversation yesterday and overheard Madame Chair
2 and then Chairman Abraham talk about a group of Togiak
3 residents getting disturbed and discouraged and upset
4 about a helicopter flying over, and which it scared off
5 moose they were hunting. Well, we're just in the
6 exploration phase of Pebble Mine, and once it goes
7 through, imagine more helicopters flying in and out.
8 How is that going to affect the declining Mulchatna
9 Caribou Herd. Isn't that going to make them migrate
10 further to the west. To my understanding the Mulchatna
11 Caribou Herd's split up between east and west, and now
12 they're -- some are common over there around Kuskokwim
13 and Aniak area. How is that going to affect our
14 Mulchatna Caribou Herd.

15

16 So like I said before, I don't see
17 another -- I mean, this Subsistence Regional Advisory
18 Council should take action and hear the concerns of our
19 Bristol Bay subsistence users.

20

21 I do appreciate your work, and would
22 greatly appreciate if you would consider the
23 resolutions before you of the Harold Harvey Samuelsen
24 Bristol Bay National Fisheries Reserve and 404(c)
25 and.....

26

27 Yeah, that's all I'd like to say.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
30 Gary.

31

32 Any questions. Pete.

33

34 MR. ABRAHAM: You mentioned about the
35 herring fishery over there is the greatest in the
36 world. Well, I've been watching the herring process
37 over there for some years. They try to tell me they
38 take only 20 percent of the stock over there. I don't
39 know. I think it's the other way around. I think they
40 take 80 percent and leave 20 percent behind.

41

42 For example, we harvest herring in
43 springtime, but we wait until they spawn out, because
44 when they're spawned out, they're better quality to
45 preserve. And because before they spawn, you harvest
46 the herring, it's too fat, and then it spoils. You try
47 to hang it, and it spoils easy. But after it's spawned
48 out, it's much better fish to preserve.

49

50 Last spring I went from Togiak Bay

1 almost up to Kulukak, because I had to turn around from
2 Aravik (ph) because I don't want to run out of gas
3 looking for herring. Nothing. And this is right after
4 the seiners fishery over there.

5
6 But I think about a week later we found
7 herring eggs from Hagemeister Island. I don't know how
8 they escaped the whole thing there, but we got herring
9 eggs from over there, but nobody harvest any herring
10 for subsistence use. I don't know whether the people
11 over there complained or not, but I talked to several
12 people. They were -- they didn't even harvest herring
13 subsistence use.

14
15 I'm a little concerned about management
16 of herring stock over there. It's not going to be
17 greatest in the world any more with the way they're
18 managing it. And I wish ADF&G would explain to us why.
19 I mean, the broader management here right now.

20
21 (In Yup'ik)

22
23 Quyana.

24
25 MR. CLINE: Chairman Abraham. I
26 appreciate your comments. I do understand there are
27 some issues regarding the commercial fishing of herring
28 over there. To my understanding, I've also heard that
29 traditionally people in Togiak didn't harvest herring
30 until the second run. And to me I think subsistence
31 should always come first.

32
33 All I'm saying is we should not put any
34 more stress that may deplete the fishery over there.
35 It's already having problems, but it is the largest
36 herring fishery in the world today, but we should
37 protect that. And, yes, there should be maybe more
38 management around the herring fishery. All I'm saying
39 is we shouldn't infringe more stress upon that
40 vulnerable population, and which oil can definitely
41 affect their reproductive systems.

42
43 MR. ABRAHAM: Madame Chairman.

44
45 There's no more second wave that used
46 to come to Togiak Bay. There's no more. There used to
47 be two waves over there. That's what we used to wait
48 for, a second wave, to harvest and for subsistence use.
49 There's no more. It seems like the herring fishery,
50 when it comes to commercial fishing or whomever is

1 supposed to be managing it, be on a lowest bottom of
2 the regulations. It seems like they don't care any
3 more.

4

5 But that's one of the biggest resource
6 or rather food source for like sealions, spotted seals,
7 sea gulls. In fact, the spotted seals are something
8 like about 60 percent to 70 percent lower than they
9 used to be. You can take Cape Peirce over there,
10 usually they have 5,000 spotted seals in the lagoon,
11 and after the fisheries started, we have only a little
12 over 200 spotted seals in the lagoon now. And where
13 the haul outs are, used to be like 50 to 100, now
14 you're looking at like from 10 to 5 in the haul outs in
15 the areas. And the fat of these spotted seals are from
16 two and a half inch to about an inch thick now today.

17

18 I think -- well, people complained for
19 a while about why the spotted seals are not there any
20 more. Well, they're moving to where their food source
21 are. Like in Egigik, Ugashik, around that area, that's
22 where they're moving, because how I know? I captured
23 young spotted seal and sent it to Alaska something in
24 Anchorage, and in fact there was another one. We put
25 radios on those and let them loose in Togiak Bay. They
26 hung around for Togiak a little bit. We tracked -- I
27 tracked them, and they're up in -- they end up in
28 Ugashik about four, five weeks later. So they're
29 moving to where the food source are.

30

31 I hope I'm not opening a can of worms
32 again.

33

34 Doy.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
37 other -- did you have a reply, Gary.

38

39 MR. CLINE: Oh, I was just going to say
40 that again I appreciate your comments. I've been to
41 Ugashik once, fishing down there, and that's the most
42 seals I've ever seen down there. But, however, those
43 are all species that can be vulnerable to offshore oil
44 and gas development, in which we should all be
45 concerned of preserving those stocks for subsistence
46 use.

47

48 Also, I overheard you speak yesterday
49 that you didn't know too much about open pit mining,
50 and I just wanted to invite you to -- our organization

1 sends people on mine tours. And so we'd be more than
2 happy if you'd like to attend one of the mine tours on
3 our next tour.
4
5 MR. ABRAHAM: You mean adding to my
6 more headaches.
7
8 (Laughter)
9
10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any more
11 comments, questions for Gary.
12
13 (No comments)
14
15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: If not, thank
16 you. Thank you for the report or your testimony.
17
18 And I think we'll take a lunch break
19 now. and when do you want to be back.
20
21 MR. O'HARA: 1:00 o'clock.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: 1:00 o'clock.
24
25 MR. O'HARA: Richard and I are going to
26 get on that 4:00 o'clock flight.
27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We'll
29 be back at 1:00 o'clock.
30
31 (Off record)
32
33 (On record)
34
35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Mary, you have
36 something for us, and then I'll give further direction
37 after your.....
38
39 MS. MCBURNEY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
40 Council members.
41
42 Now I have a different hat on. This is
43 a quick report on the Aniakchak Subsistence Resource
44 Commission. And joining me is Troy Hammond, the chief
45 of natural resources for Katmai National Park and the
46 Aniakchak National Monument, and he has some reports to
47 share with you.
48
49 Just very quickly on the SRC front,
50 I've been working with Alvin to schedule an SRC

1 meeting. We had one scheduled for the 6th of October,
2 but unfortunately schedules with people didn't work
3 out, so we weren't able to get a quorum, but we're
4 hoping to reschedule that sometime within the next
5 couple months and get folks up to speed on issues that
6 affect them.

7

8 So with that, if there aren't any
9 questions from the rest of the commission, I'd like to
10 hand the microphone over to Troy.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: This would be
13 a continuation from the National Park Service.

14

15 MS. MCBURNEY: That's correct.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. If you
18 don't mind, I've already scheduled the blue card
19 holders to testify right after the lunch. So if we
20 could do that first and then come back to you, would
21 that be okay? There's one testimony that needs to get
22 back to another meeting at 2:00.

23

24 MS. MCBURNEY: Okay.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So if you
27 don't mind, could we do that?

28

29 MS. MCBURNEY: Certainly.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.

32

33 Okay. With that I'm going to pick up
34 the blue card. Kimberly Williams.

35

36 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
37 My name is Kimberly Williams, and I am the executive
38 director of Nunamta Aulukestai, which is a consortium,
39 a non-profit consortium made up of nine village
40 corporations and the tribes from those communities to
41 work on issues related to natural resources. I have a
42 date with a killer whale at 2:00 o'clock.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 MS. WILLIAMS: And I would have been
47 here yesterday, but her head was a whole lot more
48 important than sitting in a meeting. And I would say
49 to my counterparts, who are the partners in this
50 project, only in Alaska can meetings take precedent

1 over a killer whale.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MS. WILLIAMS: But I think as
6 subsistence users, it is very important, and I look to
7 the Bristol Bay RAC as the voice of the subsistence
8 users of our region. And I commend you for that
9 support and for speaking on our behalf.

10

11 I think your jurisdiction over issues
12 such as large-scale development is really important --
13 are important positions that need to be taken. And I
14 understand that there is some discussion amongst the
15 RAC whether or not you need to take it. And I will
16 tell you as a subsistence user, when we speak for
17 future generations, we look to you for guidance, that
18 you will protect our future generations.

19

20 Nunamta Aulukestai, as caretakers of
21 our land, has taken a position on two major large scale
22 development projects in this region that we all may not
23 agree on, but I ask you to consider the position that
24 may be coming before you.

25 We want to establish the Harvey
26 Samuelson Fisheries Reserve to stop offshore oil and
27 gas development out in the Bering Sea. And so a
28 resolution, we've had Bristol Bay Native Association,
29 Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation, they have
30 all taken positions to support the establishment of the
31 Harvey Samuelson Fisheries Reserve. Others will call
32 it the Bristol Bay Fisheries Reserve, but because we
33 know Harvey Samuelson in Dillingham, we call it Harvey
34 Samuelson.

35

36 The other is to oppose large scale
37 mineral development such as Pebble Mine. There is no
38 other -- if you can't protect the waters of our fish
39 that out in the ocean, how do you protect them up where
40 they spawn and where they live. And so we would ask
41 you to consider taking a position to oppose large scale
42 development.

43

44 You know, it's not only Pebble, but
45 even on the Nushagak side we have the Humble prospect.
46 And if you can't protect spawning and rearing habitat,
47 then we're not going to have fish for future
48 generations. And many people will say that's fear-
49 mongering, but I'm saying, if you're going to look out
50 for seven generations into the future, so that we have

1 our whitefish, we have our salmon, we have our caribou,
2 we have our moose.
3
4 We have to take positions sometimes
5 that we feel very uncomfortable with, but that's a
6 position that we have to take. And I look forward to
7 hearing more from you on what direction will be, and
8 ask for your support.
9
10 Thank you.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
13 Kimberly.
14
15 Any comments, questions from the Board.
16 Dan.
17
18 MR. DUNAWAY: What was that other
19 prospect? I don't think I'm familiar with it. Humble?
20
21 MS. WILLIAMS: Yeah. Up on the
22 Nushagak, we call it the Humble prospect. And it's by
23 Kemuk Mountain.
24
25 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.
26
27 It's 55 miles northwest of Koliganek,
28 and it's probably as big as Pebble. So it's a huge
29 thing. And it's right into the drainage of the
30 Nushagak.
31
32 MR. BOSKOFISKY: Madame Chair.
33
34 I would like to thank Kimberly for
35 bringing the band down to Chignik Lake. It was real
36 nice. I wish they could have stayed longer, played
37 longer.
38
39 Thank you very much.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Pete,
42 you have a comment.
43
44 MR. ABRAHAM: (In Yup'ik).
45
46 Kimberly. We asked U.S. Fish and
47 Wildlife personnel, we are committed to protect our
48 subsistence resource already, but we can to a little
49 further than that, you know, even half a mile away, and
50 half a mile further, we can do that, you know. Yes,

1 what you say is very important to us. I mean, each
 2 individual to us we depend on our resources around us.
 3
 4 Quyana.
 5
 6 (In Yup'ik)
 7
 8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
 9 other comments.
 10
 11 (No comments)
 12
 13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
 14 Kimberly.
 15
 16 Okay. I've got Collette.
 17
 18 Dan, did you have a question.
 19
 20 MR. DUNAWAY: No.
 21
 22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. There's
 23 no Collette.
 24
 25 (No comments)
 26
 27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: How about
 28 Crystal.
 29
 30 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: They'll be down
 31 here soon.
 32
 33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. This is
 34 the second call. I will do a third call and then that
 35 will be it.
 36
 37 Moving on, Mary and.....
 38
 39 MR. BOSKOFKY: Troy.
 40
 41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Troy. You're
 42 back on. Thank you.
 43
 44 MR. HAMMOND: Madame Chair and members
 45 of the Council. My name is Troy Hammond. I'm the
 46 natural resource manager for the National Park Service
 47 lands that are managed from our office in King Salmon.
 48 And those include Katmai National Park and Preserve,
 49 the Alagnak Wild River and Aniakchak National Monument
 50 and Preserve.

1 I had few brief updates on three
2 primary things. One is the moose surveys that we've
3 been working on developing. One is the bear hunt and
4 bear activity in Katmai Preserve. And one is on
5 redbfish fishery within Katmai. So if you have
6 additional issues you'd like to hear about, I'll be
7 happy to answer questions, but those three questions I
8 have a brief update.

9
10 The moose surveys in our corner have
11 been very problematic for the last 10 years, because of
12 the nature of snow cover in conjunction with weather
13 and daylight, so as we've seen declining opportunities
14 to get surveys in the appropriate time period of late
15 November and early December before the composition is
16 altered by bulls losing their racks. We started trying
17 to develop a protocol that would allow us to do moose
18 surveys even if the snow conditions were poor. We have
19 a record of survey processes involving a little bit
20 more effort in time for doing bear surveys and for
21 doing bald eagle surveys that we've tried to adapt.
22 And last year we flew a first protocol.

23
24 We're trying to divide our efforts in
25 order to focus on proof of the method before we spend a
26 lot of time collecting data that is more broadly
27 distributed. So we've repeated three surveys in the
28 park border trend area so that we could compare good
29 snow and bad snow and we also had a survey done by
30 Megan from Fish and Game that we could compare. And we
31 did a survey in the Angletuk Yeldful (ph) area, and we
32 did a survey in the Branch area.

33
34 A few things that we learned is, one,
35 in order to do a proper density estimate, we will need
36 more surveys in order to get a sightability estimate.
37 I don't know that you want to hear the details of what
38 that means. But once we do that, we should be able to
39 give annual numbers, but as it is, I can't give you a
40 density estimate from those counts.

41
42 What I can tell you is that the count
43 that we flew with a different protocol in good snow
44 conditions in the park border returned a total observed
45 moose number just from the survey, that's not the
46 estimate, that's just a number, and it was very similar
47 to the Fish and Game flown trend area count. So we're
48 encouraged by that, because we're chosen to maintain
49 these trend areas so that we can be looking back and
50 making use of the information that's been collected

1 previously as we move forward.

2

3 It's also not surprising, our total
4 count when we flew a survey that have very low moose --
5 or, sorry, very low snow cover, it was a lot lower,
6 even though it was only separated by 10 days. So we
7 don't have enough sightings to generate the density
8 estimates. What we need is to be able to run a density
9 estimate in both cases and see how similar those are.
10 Hopefully this year we'll get to the point where we
11 have the data to do that. And our goal in this is to
12 be able to actually conduct moose surveys in the years
13 when we've always been unable to conduct them in the
14 past.

15

16 So we have the airplane and the pilot
17 and the observer reserved for this fall and we intend
18 to do these again and hopefully we'll be able to report
19 back with sort of an actual status of moose, and
20 something that will be continuing into the future.

21

22 Other questions about those moose
23 surveys. I would emphasize we concentrated -- Alvin
24 mentioned that he was interested in the southern moose
25 populations, and we are as well. We deferred to Fish
26 and Game flying the lower end of 9E this year in the
27 traditional manner, and at a time when we're trying to
28 do a proof of concept. We spent our time closer to
29 home, just because we don't have the -- until we have
30 the method sorted out, we were trying to minimize the
31 number of unknowns we threw into it, including flying
32 three hours of transit time just to get a count that
33 we're not sure how useful it will be in the future.
34 But once we have that ironed out, we intend to cover at
35 least two of the trend areas in Aniakchak as well as
36 the three up in Katmai.

37

38 The Katmai Preserve bear hunt has been
39 something that's been of interest to the Council at
40 times. This is a sport hunt that is open in the fall
41 of odd years, like this year, from October 1 to October
42 21, and it's open in the spring of even years, so next
43 spring it will be open again, and I want to say May 10
44 to 25, but I'm not sure I recall that.

45

46 In the Park Service, in order to
47 provide a guided hunt opportunity, we authorize
48 concessions. And the last concessions that were
49 authorized for guided bear hunts in the preserve were
50 let I want to say in 2002. One of those areas has gone

1 vacant, and the other one the contract will be ending
2 soon, and so we have an opportunity now to sort of
3 revise how the bear hunt is -- how the guide operation
4 is conducted.

5
6 The prior arrangement had 25 clients
7 authorized in most of the preserve and a very small
8 area with three clients. And we have a duty when we
9 authorize a concession to try to make sure it's a
10 viable and reasonable business opportunity, and so
11 partly for that reason, we're looking at revising those
12 areas so that there's a little more even distribution
13 of clients between the two areas.

14
15 As you probably recall, we've had a lot
16 of scrutiny from the media and others about the numbers
17 of bears that were taken. In the last cycle the bear
18 harvest in the preserve increased fairly dramatically
19 starting around 2002 with that new concession permit at
20 a level that we weren't sure was supportable. It was
21 much higher than we had previously seen, and it was
22 much higher than previous estimates had suggested were
23 sustainable for bear harvest in the preserve.

24
25 At the request of this Council and many
26 others, we've conducted a number of studies on the bear
27 population since that time, and we've made use of all
28 the historical data available to us. And what we found
29 is that the bear activity in the preserve had increased
30 greatly. We had that verbally from many local people
31 who had seen it. It was reflected in the numbers. The
32 stream surveys that were flown by Fish and Game ranged
33 from the 180 to nearly 300 minimum. And I say minimum,
34 because a stream survey is not an extrapolated number.
35 It's just the number of bears you actually saw, and you
36 know that you didn't see them all, so 280, in that
37 area, turns out to be a pretty high density.

38
39 We've repeated that again this year.
40 Those numbers -- those surveys were flown I want to say
41 2006, 7 and 8, somewhere in there. We repeated that
42 this year, and again we had more than 190 bears in mid
43 August in the preserve on stream surveys. So we have a
44 very high bear density still continuing.

45
46 We also arranged a spring count. The
47 spring counts are at a time then the bears are more
48 distributed on the landscape, and that's a more robust
49 survey effort. The mathematical process that we used
50 to generate a density estimate is under revision. And

1 so the number it looks like will be going up. But our
2 estimate of spring density for 2009 was 127 bears.

3
4 We also looked at all of the
5 composition data from the survey, aerial surveys where
6 you can see whether it's a family group or a lone
7 adult. We looked at the composition data from Fish and
8 Game's harvest records. And you can use those
9 composition data to look at whether the nature of the
10 bear population demographics are changing over time.
11 And some estimates of -- or some -- I should say some
12 sorts of demographic numbers can represent over-
13 harvest, and some can represent no harvest. And what
14 we found in the preserve in both cases generally looked
15 like a moderate level of harvest. There was nothing
16 that stood out as a flag for over-harvest.

17
18 The number of animals harvested over
19 those years at times exceeded -- well, in the spring
20 estimate it exceeded sometimes 13 or 14 percent, which
21 is not a sustainable level for a bear population, but
22 those were in the fall harvest, which is probably more
23 related to the August stream counts. On those August
24 stream counts it was closer to 10 percent or below.
25 The levels that the Department and the Park Service are
26 generally looking at on the Peninsula as a preferred
27 level is more like seven percent.

28
29 And so as we go into this concession
30 opportunity what we've been looking at is allocating
31 bear -- limits on the bear clients to reflect a level
32 that would represent around seven percent. And the
33 reason we're interested in doing that is we feel it's
34 unfair to the business to offer an opportunity and then
35 or us to go to Fish and Game and try to close the hunt
36 behind them after we've offered them a business
37 opportunity.

38
39 The management of the harvest itself is
40 the responsibility of Fish and Game, and any local or
41 non -- any resident of Alaska can go there without a
42 guide and harvest bears.

43
44 We have issued a notice to the public
45 that we're interested in proceeding with this
46 prospectus. And I'm bringing it to you for two
47 reasons. One is that Council Member Lyon requested
48 that we do that, but also because there has been a lot
49 of interest. We have been -- our ability to offer a
50 concession of any sort in this location has been

1 challenged by some. And so the process at this point
2 is not fully decided. We may be proceeding with an
3 environmental assessment in anticipation of this, and I
4 wanted to make sure that the Council was aware that
5 there might be an opportunity for comment on this
6 concession, the nature of the concession and the way
7 it's devised.

8

9 That's my update on the Katmai bear
10 hunt. If there are questions, I'd be happy to answer
11 them.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

14

15 MR. DUNAWAY: I might have missed just
16 that last little bit after about Nanci. And is there a
17 particular place where there's this concern whether you
18 have authority for this concession.

19

20 MR. HAMMOND: The National Park Service
21 areas that are national preserves are explicitly --
22 part of -- one of the purposes of a national preserve
23 that's explicitly listed in the National Interest Lands
24 legislation in 1980 is sport hunting. Most parks as
25 part of their management plan, most preserves as part
26 of their general management plan, which is sort of the
27 over-arching planning document for a Park Service unit,
28 basically included a statement to the effect that a
29 hunting concession was a reasonable service to provide
30 as part of the.....

31

32 A statement to that effect is not
33 present in our management plan. So it says something
34 about hunting; it doesn't say anything about a
35 concession opportunity. And because of that, there's
36 some discussion whether we've done appropriate planning
37 to authorize concession activities. Yeah.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

40

41 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

42

43 Troy, you were mentioning earlier on
44 about the moose surveys, but you weren't really giving
45 any numbers. Was that because you're still working on
46 the system, or you guys said you were trying to get out
47 and do some surveys, but you really didn't give us any
48 real numbers as to what you saw already and some of the
49 areas that you were in.

50

1 MR. HAMMOND: Yeah, actually I can
2 follow up on that a little bit. We do have -- well, we
3 have -- there's sort of two different sets of numbers
4 that we're trying to get from these surveys. And one
5 is a fairly robust density estimate, and most trend
6 area surveys have not been designed for that.

7
8 And when you look at Page 90 in your
9 book, Fish and Game provided you with a record of
10 historical numbers from these densities -- or, sorry,
11 from these trend area surveys. When they have a lot of
12 trend area surveys that were conducted, they've
13 included a density there. But recently we've been
14 lucky to get a few, and they haven't been comfortable
15 including a density.

16
17 What I can tell you is that I don't
18 have the density per mile in my head, what I can tell
19 you is that in the Alagnak River drainage, the section
20 that we flew, we came up with around 100 moose in an
21 area that usually has between 100 and 300 moose
22 historically. So we were at the lower end, but within
23 the range of what we see in there.

24
25 In the park border trend area, Fish and
26 Game recorded I want to say in the 120-ish range for
27 the trend area. That's well within the lower middle of
28 the historic range for counts in that area. And our
29 low count in bad snow was 50 and our high count in good
30 snow was 156. Those are counts. The density estimate
31 is different, and I can't offer you that yet.

32
33 The Ingletuk/Ayofu (ph) area we flew
34 was in poor snow conditions, and we saw fewer than 40
35 moose. But again what we're trying to do is
36 concentrate on one area so that we can generate an
37 understanding of the quality of estimates we get in
38 good snow and bad snow, so that when we're fanning out,
39 it's a known quantity. As it is, because we only flew
40 on the Ingle area, and it was bad snow, I wouldn't
41 place any statement on that.

42
43 MR. WILSON: I've talked with the
44 Alaska guys on their surveys, and the timing -- you
45 know, I guess there's a calendar, you mentioned it, a
46 portion of the calendar year you like doing your
47 surveys because the moose still have their horns and
48 snow cover. Well, we all know, in the last several
49 years we haven't had any really good snow coverage
50 during those months that you wish to take your surveys.

1 And I had a question out to him earlier this fall was
2 what about moving or at least getting out there and
3 taking surveys when the snow conditions are good, even
4 if it isn't within your little calendar time of year,
5 just so that we -- just so that we have some real
6 numbers, not really -- I mean, knowing that you won't
7 be able to, you know, differentiate between, you know,
8 the cow and the bull maybe not so easily. But at least
9 we'll get some numbers. And I'm wondering if you guys
10 in the Federal side of things have attempted anything
11 like that, or gone outside your normal path of things
12 and tried to accommodate for these updated surveys
13 which you can well see that we -- you know, this
14 Council needs numbers in order to make good decisions,
15 and it's been a hindrance to us over on that section.

16

17 MR. HAMMOND: Yeah. Thank you. We
18 have been thinking of doing that. Last year we weren't
19 successful due to lack of personnel time, but we have
20 -- our intention is to have two survey windows, the one
21 that is done during the composition time frame of
22 November and the first 10 days of December. And our
23 backup for any areas that we don't manage to survey in
24 that time frame is intended to be the -- basically the
25 six weeks from mid-February to the end of March.

26

27 We -- some of the things that you run
28 into when you do that are whether or not those trend
29 areas have the same seasonal activity at that point as
30 they do in December, and so there may again have to be
31 a trend area that we spend more time in doing both
32 sets. The statisticians have raised some questions
33 about it. But we have thought of that and are
34 intending to try it, but we didn't manage to do that
35 this year.

36

37 MR. WILSON: It just seems like, you
38 know, at some point -- I mean, we're, what, '08, '09,
39 something when we had the last real good survey out
40 there in that area. It just seems like something is
41 better than nothing. I mean, you know, even in part.
42 You know, I realize that it's not the normal trend, so
43 you can't really, you know, do your 10-year average or
44 whatever you've got going there, but it's numbers I
45 think at this point, because we're kind of concerned
46 about numbers out there, and not just sexes and things.
47 Just, you know, a partial survey seems like it would be
48 better than nothing.

49

50 MR. HAMMOND: I certainly agree on the

1 point of the partial survey, though a survey that
2 includes a full area, but not all of the information is
3 probably good as in lacks composition. But if you fly
4 a survey and you only get part of the area, then that
5 tends to be less helpful than nothing, because you
6 don't -- unless you have a lot of animals, you don't
7 know if you missed the bulk of them, and you don't know
8 whether it -- to be scared or not. So we like to at
9 least make sure that we can accomplish the full area
10 when we do a survey that was the target area. But as
11 far as whether we need all of the information on every
12 one, we'll take what we can get.

13

14 Other questions on moose or bears.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Alvin.

17

18 MR. BOSKOFISKY: Actually on the permits
19 that were issued out for moose by that working group,
20 you know, that they put through, that they used this
21 year, is there a way to recognize say local guides that
22 are guiding, the number of permits they get for
23 hunters? Because like ours, I'm not sure what the
24 actual count was, and it would have been nice to have
25 those figures in front of us, because there one local
26 subsistence hunter that got a moose, but there was four
27 non-resident hunters that were in that I know of, maybe
28 six. So they're taking most of the permits. And, you
29 know, they're still -- you know, it's a business that's
30 getting the moose.

31

32 MR. HAMMOND: Council Member Boskofsky,
33 I don't entirely know the answer to that question. The
34 permits are managed by the Fish and Game office in King
35 Salmon, and I'm not as familiar with what information
36 they have, or what information that they're able to
37 share regarding the distribution of those permits. And
38 so I can make a note to ask the Department of Fish and
39 Game biologist to share that information and pass it
40 on, or request that they bring that information to the
41 next meeting, whichever you prefer.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
44 other questions, comments from the Board.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: If not, thank
49 you, Troy.

50

1 MR. HAMMOND: I had one other update on
2 redbfish. Redfish use within Katmai National Park is a
3 traditional use fishery that's been authorized by
4 Congress. It doesn't legislatively qualify or fall
5 under subsistence, because Katmai National Park was
6 defined by Congress as a non-subsistence unit. We have
7 a traditional use fishery that's authorized that the
8 Council has been interested in.

9

10 The dates and times and methods and
11 means of those fisheries are specifically put under a
12 Department of Fish and Game fishing regulation. Is it
13 personal use I believe. Personal use fishery.

14

15 The legislation that enabled that
16 activity specified who qualified in a general sense.
17 The dates, times, and methods and means didn't coincide
18 with what was generally done, and the list of names
19 that were eligible was something that was generally
20 spelled out as far as who could qualify, but the
21 mechanics of how we would determine those people and
22 know them wasn't.

23

24 And so there was an episode a couple of
25 years back where the Park Service wasn't aware of who
26 should be doing it, and they weren't aware that they
27 were doing it in a time when it wasn't technically
28 authorized. We've been trying to work that out, and
29 the users that are involved. We're preparing a request
30 to the Board of Fisheries for a change to the seasons
31 and methods, and I think the last I saw, that request
32 went in, but it looked like they needed to make some
33 adjustments to the methods as requested, because some
34 of the changes were maybe not quite what was intended
35 exactly if I recall.

36

37 The Park Service side, our
38 responsibility is figuring out how to work with these
39 village groups to make sure that the people that are
40 legally authorizable, we can authorize. And the
41 Village of Naknek has been great working with our staff
42 to try to help on that.

43

44 The Park Service has a compendium which
45 authorizes certain activities in parks that aren't
46 otherwise spelled out in regulation, and that
47 compendium this winter will actually have the process
48 for finding a list of eligible peoples, and that will
49 be in draft form, and so anybody that's interested and
50 has opportunity to take a look at that can have a look

1 at that and make comments before it's finalized later
2 in the winter.

3

4 And that concludes my report unless
5 there are questions.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
8 questions. Dan.

9

10 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, Tory, we appreciate
11 you being here and your report. You work with
12 Aniakchak, too?

13

14 MR. HAMMOND: That's correct, yes.

15

16 MR. O'HARA: Yeah. You know, the past
17 few years, I don't know about the last couple of years,
18 there was a lot of interest in getting dropped off in
19 the crater and then taking a kayak down the river and
20 then being picked up down on the Pacific side. Is
21 there still some interest in people doing that, or has
22 the economy changed on that?

23

24 MR. HAMMOND: There is interest in
25 doing that. I would say in my time here I see one or
26 two trips per year of that fashion. But the trip that
27 we've seen develop over time that is probably becoming
28 more common is for people to buy a pack raft, and
29 that's a pack that weighs just a couple pounds, and you
30 stick it in your back pack, and you fly to Port Heiden,
31 and you hike into the caldera and then you float down.

32

33 This year in fact there was a group of
34 15. Half of them floated down to Aniakchak Bay and
35 then actually hiked the shoreline and took their pack
36 rafts to Chignik. And the other half split off at
37 Albert Johnson Creek, walked across, got into the
38 Meshik system and went right back to Port Heiden.

39

40 That activity has been developing, and
41 partly because of the economy, it's becoming a pretty
42 attractive self-guided back-country trip, because you
43 can fly commercial instead of charter.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Rick.

46

47 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Thank you,
48 Molly.

49

50 Troy, a little different subject

1 perhaps. On the sportfish side of things in the Park,
2 we're able to take salmon, correct, on a daily basis
3 and is there any -- do you guys ever compile any
4 numbers where the total take of the season has been,
5 and that sort of thing?

6

7 MR. HAMMOND: The sportfishing in the
8 park is regulated in the Department of Fish and Game
9 sportfish regulations. The only exception to that is
10 that there are some Federal regulations on the Brooks
11 River that are more restrictive.

12

13 The actual harvest is primarily
14 documented by the Department of Fish and Game's
15 sportfish. There used to be an annual survey. Do they
16 still do the annual survey? I'm not sure. They do the
17 annual survey. They also have a guide reporting
18 requirement which is much more extensive, and so to the
19 extent that it's guided activity, those numbers are
20 available that are pretty good I think.

21

22 I do not know those numbers off the top
23 of my head, but that's where we'd get them. And I
24 could run the species and the areas of interest and
25 bring them back for the next meeting if that's of
26 interest.

27

28 MR. WILSON: I don't think -- I just,
29 you know, I realize now where I can go for those
30 numbers especially with the guides having to report and
31 things. So thank you.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any --
34 Mike. Or Donald.

35

36 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
37 Madame Chair.

38

39 I just want to request that when the
40 Park Service -- Mr. Hammond mentioned the park
41 compendium about the redfish issues and if the
42 compendium's out for public comment, and if it was also
43 on the Federal Register. And the reason I ask, I just
44 want to make it available for the Council members so
45 they can comment on the park compendium.

46

47 Thank you, Madame Chair.

48

49 MR. HAMMOND: Madame Chair.

50

1 I'm not sure I totally followed you,
2 Donald, but I think you're requesting that we make sure
3 that you knew where the compendium announcement was. I
4 was authorized to tell you that it's coming out in the
5 compendium before the compendium is actually available.
6 I can make copies of the draft language available, but
7 it should come out in the next I believe two weeks for
8 public review. And so we could make it available
9 through that process, or if you were interested in it
10 ahead of time, I can get copies of the specific
11 language to forward.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
14 other comments.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I guess I have
19 one. We've discussed this redbfish or the Naknek area,
20 and we discussed it at length last time. And it's been
21 a sore spot for me, because the sportsfish is allowed
22 in that park, and -- but subsistence isn't. And I
23 think before even the park and preserve were
24 established, that fishery was used by local people, and
25 not so by sports. There might have been some, you
26 know, some use, but I think ever since that area was
27 discovered, and people resided in that location. That
28 fishery was used.

29
30 And so I don't know what the comment
31 period is going to involve, but I think hopefully, you
32 know -- I know that there's this certain list of people
33 that supposedly qualify, but that certain list of
34 people aren't the only ones that eat that redbfish. The
35 fish is consumed by anybody that -- any resident that
36 lives -- have lived traditionally in that area. And
37 then from that generation on down. So I'm hoping that
38 however this turns out, that it will be developed to
39 where the uses for the local people and not just kept
40 by the list, but we'll see what happens.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 If no more comments. Questions.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
49 Troy.

50

1 Yeah, I notice that the crowd had
2 gotten a little bit bigger, and the audience is getting
3 younger.
4
5 (Laughter)
6
7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And I'm really
8 happy, because when you look at us, you know, we're
9 getting up there, and I'm just hoping that, you know,
10 as you observe the work that we're doing here, that
11 you'll be impressed to some day sit on this table to
12 help your people with subsistence issues.
13
14 All I'll take this time to have -- I
15 saw Jackie come in, and I'm sure this is Jackie's
16 group.
17
18 MS. WILSON: It's mine.
19
20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So, Jackie, if
21 you can come up and give us a little intro, and then
22 we'll have the kids introduce themselves at this time.
23
24 MS. WILSON: I'm Jackie Wilson. And I
25 teach social studies at the high school.
26
27 And we do live in a changing world.
28 And I brought with me my current events students. They
29 are sincerely interested in the welfare, when they
30 become adults and be responsible for resources and the
31 region of Bristol Bay.
32
33 So I'd like my students one-by-one to
34 come up and introduce yourselves. Quickly.
35
36 (Laughter)
37
38 MR. NAY: I'm Caleb Nay.
39
40 MR. GARDINER: Hi. I'm Shawn Gardiner.
41
42 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Get up there in
43 line, you guys.
44
45 MS. WILSON: Go on, everyone's going to
46 introduce theirselves. Let's go.
47
48 MS. DRAY: I'm Mariah Dray.
49
50 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And tell us

1 what grade you are.
2
3 MS. FLENSBERG: I'm McKenzie Flensburg.
4 I'm in ninth grade.
5
6 MR. BOKHIN: I'm Alex Bokhin. I'm in
7 ninth grade.
8
9 MS. SCHROEDER: I'm Tiera Schroeder and I'm in
10 10th grade.
11
12 MR. VENUA: I'm Brian Venua. I'm in
13 ninth grade.
14
15 MR. SHADE: I'm August Arba Shade, son
16 of Steven and Carl Shade. I'm in ninth grade.
17
18 MR. ABRAHAM: (In Yup'ik)
19
20 MS. GEORGE: I'm Brooklynn George, and
21 I'm in ninth grade.
22
23 MS. SAM: I'm Cloe Sam, and I'm in
24 ninth grade.
25
26 MR. JOHNSON: I'm Marshall Johnson and
27 I am in ninth grade.
28
29 MS. SAGE: Katherine Sage. I'm in 11th
30 grade.
31
32 MS. BOCATCH: Brandie Bocatch, and I'm
33 in ninth grade.
34
35 MR. NAPOLI: I'm Darren Napoli and I'm
36 in ninth grade.
37
38 MR. HARDIN: I'm Kevin Hardin and I'm
39 in 10th grade.
40
41 MS. NICHOLSON: Hi. I'm Julianna
42 Nicholson, and I'm in ninth grade.
43
44 MR. LEHRMAN: I'm Cody Lehrman and I'm
45 in ninth grade.
46
47 MR. NELSON: I'm Earnest Nelson. I'm
48 in ninth grade.
49
50 MR. PAULING: I'm Tommy Pauling and I'm

1 in ninth grade.
2
3 MS. PETLA: I'm Rollyn Petla. I'm in
4 ninth grade.
5
6 MS. BENNIS: Hi. My name is Jennifer
7 Bennis, and I am the community success liaison at the
8 high school. Thank you, guys, for letting our students
9 come and participate and introduce themselves.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
12 kids. I can't imagine looking that young when I was in
13 ninth grade.
14
15 (Laughter)
16
17 (Applause)
18
19 MR. ABRAHAM: I'd like to call back
20 Azbuk (ph) he calls himself in Yup'ik, Azbuk. Can you
21 tell us your experience in A-E (ph) camp at Cape Peirce
22 a little bit.
23
24 MR. SHADE: It was a fun experience,
25 because I was able to connect with my own land here. I
26 was able to get involved in what is my culture. It was
27 fun, because I was just -- I just had a blast. A
28 little chilly, but fun.
29
30 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. Thank you. And,
31 yeah, we like to have the kids out there in the camps,
32 you know, for experience, to see the wilderness, the
33 animals, and observe a lot of good things out there.
34
35 Quayana.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
38 you again. And I'm going to call my last -- or the
39 third time the blue cards right now before we get into
40 the other business.
41
42 The first one that I have is Collette.
43 Collette. Do we have a Collette.
44
45 (No comments)
46
47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. She's
48 out now.
49
50 And then I have Crystal Nixon.

1 MS. NIXON-LUCKHURST: My name is
2 Crystal Nixon-Luckhurst, and my grandparents are the
3 late Alma and Henry Rohl. And my parents are Jim and
4 Charlotte Nixon. And I was born and raised here in
5 Dillingham.
6
7 And I just wanted to share with you how
8 important subsistence is to my family, my immediate
9 family, and my extended family. I have three children
10 ages 1-1/2 to 11. And ever since they were little,
11 even my son at the age of seven months, went moose
12 hunting. And we're very active in all -- throughout
13 the whole year, wood-cutting, berry picking, fishing,
14 hunting, hunting for birds, you name it, we have it in
15 our fridge, freezer, shed, and I just wanted to say how
16 important it is.
17
18 And I strongly oppose the Pebble mine,
19 and I'm very concerned about what impacts that would
20 have on my lifestyle as well as other people in the
21 Bristol Bay region.
22
23 Thank you.
24
25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
26 Crystal. Any questions for Crystal.
27
28 (No comments)
29
30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.
31
32 MS. NIXON-LUCKHURST: Oh, I had one
33 last comment. I guess when you're making your
34 decisions, ask yourselves what would your ancestors do.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
37 you.
38
39 The next one I've got here is Peter
40 Andrew.
41
42 MR. ANDREW: Good afternoon, Madame
43 Chairman. My name is Peter Andrew.
44
45 This is a first for me, testifying
46 before this body.
47
48 I was born and raised upriver.
49 Although there's no immediate Federal lands, growing up
50 as a young man, I knew no boundaries. I knew that, you

1 know, we'd just embarked on statehood. And on top of
2 that, we had Federal territories back then, but now
3 there's all kinds of boundaries and all kinds of rules
4 and regulations that we have to live by.

5
6 I've been a subsistence user and fisher
7 all of my live, along with commercial fishing.
8 Subsistence is very dear to many of these young
9 children here.

10
11 My family, I have boys that are away in
12 college that are learning the western way. They're
13 very successful at school. But one thing that we all
14 have in common is the time when they come home to hunt
15 and subsist, and they look forward to that.

16
17 I recognize this body deals with
18 Federal issues and Federal subsistence. In doing so, I
19 know that there's BLM lands that are in subject near a
20 rather large proposed mine. I urge this body to
21 forward a resolution on to the Federal Subsistence
22 Board in support of subsistence and ask and recognize
23 that a good many people -- BBNC had a survey, so on and
24 so forth. There's a lot of various entities that had
25 surveys and that show that overwhelming support of
26 subsistence and very leery of potential harmful
27 activity in our backyards.

28
29 And I think you for the opportunity. I
30 also want to thank each and every one of you for
31 serving our communities. I know it's taking you away
32 from homes, sometimes from hunting, gathering, and I
33 applaud you and I thank you for your services.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
36 Peter.

37
38 Any comments, questions for Peter.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
43 you, Peter. Oh, I guess Dan has.

44
45 MR. O'HARA: It's just always good to
46 see you, Peter.

47
48 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Dan.

49
50 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. The

1 last one I have here is Abiya (ph) Moore.

2

3 MS. MOORE: Hello. I'm Abiya (ph)
4 Moore. I'm from Twin Hills and Dillingham. Nervous
5 speaking for a little bit. My grandparents are Tom --
6 or Mike and Brady Hoseth from Dillingham, and Katy and
7 Raymond Moore from Twin Hills.

8

9 I'm just wanting to ask you guys to
10 support the Harvey Samuelsen Reserve and oppose the
11 offshore oil drilling and Pebble.

12

13 In rural Alaska -- I'm really not this
14 nervous. In rural Alaska our elders and parents were
15 able to benefit from things like the Alaska Land Claims
16 Settlement Act and corporation shares, but many people
17 in our generation, the younger generation, aren't going
18 to be able to experience that, especially with the
19 land, because a lot of it's getting sold off and stuff.

20

21

22 MR. WILSON: It gets easier.

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 MS. MOORE: Yeah. I get really
27 passionate about this whole thing, because I've kind of
28 devoted my whole life to coming back home and being
29 really proud of being a Yup'ik person. And so speaking
30 in front of all of you leaders who make decisions on
31 behalf of our subsistence lifestyles is an honor.

32

33 Although we won't be able to maybe
34 benefit from having some of the land that our
35 grandparents and our parents have had to sell off, what
36 we will be able to benefit from is our subsistence
37 lifestyles as long as it's protected. And I think that
38 can be our gift from you, as well as an ancestral gift
39 to our future generations from you guys, if you guys
40 take a stance on protecting something that can be
41 guaranteed to us safely that is definitely put at risk
42 by supporting things like Pebble and offshore oil
43 drilling. I don't think it's the time for our
44 generations, for your generation to make those
45 decisions for us yet. I think it's time to put some
46 weight on our shoulders and let us make that decision,
47 because I know many of you guys were able to make
48 decisions for the fishery and things like that. And I
49 just really hope you guys stand behind us now. And I
50 just want you guys to know how important the lifestyle

1 is to us.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
4 questions, comments for Abiya.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.
9
10 (Applause)
11
12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Let's
13 take a five-minute breather, and then we'll finish up
14 our agenda.
15
16 (Off record)
17
18 (On record)
19
20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Next on the
21 agenda is the Wildlife Fund. (Indiscernible, mic not
22 on) Donald -- oops, sorry. Next on the agenda here is
23 G, Wildlife Fund. Donald.
24
25 MR. MIKE: Yeah. Thank you, Madame
26 Chair.
27
28 I handed an outline from Mr. Verner
29 Wilson. He emailed me a copy. It's just, you know,
30 the font's in blue, so it's just for the Council's
31 reference.
32
33 And the materials he will be going
34 over, I handed out a salmon-colored folder, so all that
35 material he'll be discussing, hopefully briefly, it's
36 all in your pink-colored folder.
37
38 Thank you, Madame Chair.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. You
41 have the floor, Verner.
42
43 MR. WILSON: Good afternoon, everyone.
44 It's really good to be part of the RAC again. As you
45 remember, I first talked with you all at the Naknek RAC
46 in February -- or, no, March. March 9th. It was a
47 really good, interesting testimony, and that's where I
48 presented draft resolutions on the proposed Pebble Mine
49 and offshore drilling, which I think and a lot of
50 people think, as you could tell, understand that

1 proposed Pebble Mine and offshore drilling are some of
2 the hottest topics in this region. And these I believe
3 are the biggest threats to our subsistence resources.

4
5 We could all argue about, you know, how
6 much fish and wildlife that we all get in terms of
7 quotas, but in the future, if that's not there because
8 of habitat destruction, and water quality issues and
9 air and other pollution issues, I think that's -- these
10 two projects are the riskiest and most dangerous
11 projects to our subsistence resources in this region.

12
13 I want to start out with talking about
14 my family. My grandma Nancy from my Dad's side, Nancy
15 Behulenuk (ph), was from Togiak, and she moved to
16 Dillingham, and that's where I'm -- this is where I
17 grew up. And, you know, my grandma, unfortunately she
18 passed away, but she taught us all of our subsistence
19 values here in the region. She knew, you know, how to
20 fish and to hunt and pick berries and all the greens,
21 and she passed that along.

22
23 On my mom's side, they are from St.
24 Lawrence Island. And unfortunately, back in the 1940s,
25 a lot of -- or the military, they basically dumped a
26 lot of their barrels and pollutants on the island, and
27 basically it got into the water supplies and the air
28 quality, and that really affected my mom's family's
29 subsistence resources up there, ruined their water
30 quality. And unfortunately a lot of my family members
31 and a lot of my relatives up there ended up getting
32 cancer.

33
34 And so this is something -- that's why
35 I decided to go to Brown University to look at
36 environmental studies, to study environmental justice
37 issues, because my aunt, Annie Lois, she was my role
38 model. She said, I will fight until I'm old to make
39 sure that our resources -- or in the future Alaskans
40 could, you know, eat their fish and berries and all
41 their subsistence food without having to get sick. And
42 so that's why I'm very concerned about the proposed
43 Pebble Mine and offshore drilling here in Alaska.

44
45 I did my thesis on environmental
46 justice at Brown. Now I work as a program officer at
47 the World Wildlife Fund. And it's basically an
48 international science-based conservation organization.
49 We have offices all over the world.

50

1 And we recognize that Bristol Bay is
2 the world's largest wild sockeye salmon fishery left on
3 the planet. We provide over half of the world's wild
4 sockeye left.

5
6 And we after consulting with our
7 scientists and hearing about these issues, we just took
8 a position on Pebble and we basically think that this
9 is going to risk the largest wild salmon fishery on the
10 planet.

11
12 And so my main points to the RAC is
13 even if Pebble is on State land, it could affect
14 federal lands, wildlife, air, water, and residents.
15 And, you know, pollution and wildlife do not know any
16 boundaries. You all know here at the RAC that -- I
17 mean, we as humans, we draw these lines, and that
18 doesn't mean anything to the wildlife. And that
19 includes our fish, our moose, our birds, and all the
20 other resources that we depend on for subsistence.

21
22 Pollution also, there's no line to stop
23 pollution whether it's on a national park or if it's on
24 State land. And unfortunately where Pebble is located,
25 it is way high up, and it could affect Federal lands,
26 including the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve and
27 the residents who live there as well as their wildlife
28 that go through there.

29
30 The RAC does have authority to take a
31 strong stance on these projects since, as I said,
32 Pebble is upstream from Federal land, and offshore
33 drilling is in Federal waters. And the bycatch issue
34 that you all passed at the February -- or the March
35 meeting, is an example of an issue that you weighed in
36 on that was not on Federal lands. And so there -- I
37 talked -- I looked at ANILCA, I talked with Tom Jennings
38 who's with your Office of Subsistence Management I
39 think, or with the Fish and Wildlife Service. I heard
40 what Sandy Rabinowitch at the last meeting, I don't
41 know if you all remember, but we discussed this issue
42 as to whether -- if it's in your jurisdiction to take a
43 stance on this issue, and he said at the last meeting
44 that you can take a stance on this issue and take
45 action on this. Also, Robin Samuelsen, who is my role
46 model here in the region, he was formerly on the
47 Federal Subsistence Board, and he said that you can
48 vote on this. So I hope that you'll vote and pass
49 strong resolutions against Pebble and offshore
50 drilling.

1 And I'm going to go over the issues.
2 This is the Kaktuli River by the proposed Pebble Mine
3 site. And this is important salmon spawning habitat.
4 And unfortunately, Caroline Woody, I guess she cannot
5 make it, but she was going to talk to you more about
6 the Pebble deposit and how it could affect out
7 fisheries resources. But we know and -- she's provide
8 you information. We have provided you information as
9 to how important the Kaktuli is and how these areas
10 flow downstream to the important commercial fishing
11 districts of the Kvichak and the Nushagak.

12
13 And so I hope you realize that where
14 they're proposing to build this mine is important
15 spawning habitat.

16
17 That's what Pebble could look like.
18 That is Queen's mine in Arizona, and that would not
19 even be an order of magnitude of what Pebble could be
20 there. Pebble itself is projecting that it could be
21 one of the largest open pit mines in North America if
22 not the world.

23
24 This the map of the State mining
25 claims. And you look at, as I said, there's the
26 Kvichak, there's the Mulchatna. It's right adjacent to
27 Federal lands. And as I said, water, wildlife,
28 pollution do not know boundaries.

29 So at the last meeting I know some of
30 you were concerned about, well, we don't know about
31 Pebble Mine's plans yet. I looked up at Northern
32 Dynasty's website, and in 2006, after promising that
33 they would not be applying for water rights on the
34 Kaktuli, they did in fact apply for water rights. And
35 in 2011 they actually had a preliminary assessment of
36 the mine's worth, and they've put it on their website,
37 and they sent a letter out to their potential
38 investors.

39
40 And basically here's the infrastructure
41 that they're saying they need. A 378 megawatt natural
42 gas fired turbine plant. 86 miles of roads that are
43 through important salmon spawning habitat. A port and
44 pipeline that could carry pollution and risk to the
45 fish and aquatic resources in the area.

46
47 They say that the initial mine life is
48 only 25 years. And we're talking about 25 years here.
49 It's not like the thousand year old fishery that we
50 have in the Bristol Bay region.

1 They say that they also may need to
2 construct some of the largest dams in the world, and
3 that it could hold up to 10 billion tons of mine waste
4 forever.

5
6 This is their proposed mining site, and
7 again they say it lasts only 25 years, and it's right
8 in the middle -- right by the Kaktuli watershed at the
9 headwaters of the Bristol Bay streams that I was
10 talking about.

11
12 And so this issue has been on the minds
13 of people for, I don't know, at least a decade. And I
14 heard that some people said that they hadn't heard
15 about this issue in the past meeting, but, I mean,
16 there has been a lot of press about it. There has been
17 a lot of meetings about it, and unless you haven't been
18 keeping up with current events, you should know about
19 this issue.

20
21 And so you hear about the residents'
22 views of people from Bristol Bay, and there's poll
23 after poll, survey after survey that shows that there
24 is a vast majority of Bristol Bay residents who are
25 opposed to this mine. In 2009 Craciun Research showed
26 that 79 percent opposed Pebble. In 2009 as well
27 Helenthal and Associates said that 82 percent of
28 Bristol Bay residents are opposed to Pebble.

29
30 And even in -- with the Bristol Bay
31 Native Corporation, they did a survey before they took
32 a position on Pebble and asked all 8500 or so
33 shareholders what they personally thought about the
34 proposed Pebble Mine. They got over 2300 surveys back,
35 and showed that nearly 70 percent of the shareholders
36 are against the mine. And that's really good, because
37 most opinion surveys, they only ask like 500 to 1,000
38 people to represent the views of millions of people, so
39 this is a very good indicator of how opposition in the
40 region is.

41
42 A number of our organizations, such as
43 BBNC, City of Dillingham, and a lot of Nushagak River
44 tribes and corporations passed resolutions against
45 Pebble, so I don't know how else to say this, but I
46 think we pretty much understand that the region is
47 opposed to the mine.

48
49 There are some important things to
50 consider with the project. I talked to somebody from

1 Nondalton the other day, and he was concerned, as I
2 said, about the current exploratory impacts on wildlife
3 and how their caribou herd, the caribou herd that they
4 usually go hunting, like they've been going farther
5 away, and they've noticed that after Pebble has been
6 going around at low altitudes in the helicopters.

7

8 We also have to think about the long-
9 term wildlife impacts of Pebble. If they go ahead and
10 do the big hole in the ground like they want to, how is
11 that going to effect fish and wildlife in the long
12 term.

13

14 And as I said, pollution and wildlife
15 are migratory, and so there's no boundaries that they
16 know. And this could really affect the health an well-
17 being of people. If our fish and wildlife resources
18 that we depend on are not there, that makes us more
19 dependent on store-bought food which has a lot of
20 pesticides and other issues to it. And it also poses
21 some important health risks for our people if there's a
22 huge mine that could potentially store a lot of toxic
23 wastes. How is that going to affect our drinking water
24 and our health, for our air that we breathe.

25

26 And if the mine is opened, I urge the
27 Council to think, are the miners going to be able to
28 start, you know, hunting for the resources in the
29 region if they gain residency here. So, I mean, we
30 could probably see outside influences coming to our
31 region and putting more stress on our wildlife
32 populations.

33

34 And now I get into the issue of
35 proposed offshore drilling and the North Aleutian
36 Basin. I know that there was a oil spill like two days
37 ago off the shore of New Zealand. There's been a few
38 others in China, just like earlier this year, off the
39 North Sea in Norway. You hear all these corporations,
40 these oil corporations saying, that, you know, we have
41 the technology that -- well, I'm sure that, you know,
42 your fishery resources are not put at risk. But, I
43 mean, you look at the promises and then you see that,
44 yeah, they do make mistakes. We're all human.

45

46 We can have a big huge oil spill like
47 on the Gulf coast. And that could potentially effect
48 all the communities in the region, because the North
49 Aleutian Basin is right adjacent to it and adjacent to
50 a lot of our communities that are dependent on our

1 fisheries resources.

2

3 This is a map from the National Marine
4 Fisheries Service that shows that the North Aleutian
5 Basin area, you see the part in the red is important
6 habitat for juvenile salmon. And, you know, we all
7 understand that salmon go back to our rivers and
8 streams, fresh water streams in the Bay to spawn, but
9 we should also realize that they need their anadromous,
10 or whatever that word is, they do need to go to the
11 ocean and get bigger. And so the North Aleutian Basin
12 is important habitat for it as well, because that's
13 where they pretty much get their food sources.

14

15 The North Aleutian Basin is also
16 adjacent to a lot of Federal lands that you all -- I
17 mean, the reason why the Subsistence Advisory Council
18 was put together. And so you're talking about it's
19 close by the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge
20 and other refuges that you talk a lot about here.

21

22 It's also important hauling grounds and
23 rookeries for a number of different marine mammals,
24 including sealions and seals. I'm wearing one right
25 now.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 MR. WILSON: My grandma actually made
30 this for me when I was -- she's from St. Lawrence
31 Island, and so I always wear it dearly, but it's just
32 an example of how, you know, this is -- our marine
33 mammals are also important to us in terms of
34 subsistence.

35

36 And these show you -- this map shows
37 you where all the marine mammals have historically been
38 located, like their rookeries and their haul outs.

39

40 This is also a map of important birding
41 areas, and where mostly the birds -- they go to in
42 certain times of the year.

43

44 There's hazards to development, like
45 this is not only for offshore drilling in the North
46 Aleutian Basin, but we all know that we're right by a
47 seismically active area, and there's a lot of
48 earthquakes. And that could pose risks to any sort of
49 development that occurs, including Pebble where they're
50 planning to build a huge dam right near a seismically

1 active zone. And how could that affect their
2 infrastructure if there's to be a big one.

3
4 There's also footprints of
5 infrastructure. They're not only planning on putting
6 drill rigs in the ocean, but also having long pipelines
7 to carry the oil and gas out, and those also pose risks
8 for oil spills. This is on your information if you
9 want to know more about it.

10
11 The Bristol Bay area plan says that the
12 area near Port Moller and Nelson Lagoon where they're
13 proposing to do offshore drilling is important
14 sensitive habitat areas, and so we have to consider
15 that.

16
17 Even the Federal government itself as
18 well as a lot of people familiar with the seismic
19 activity understand that offshore seismic surveys kill
20 fish eggs and larva and juveniles at close range. And
21 they do affect their behavior.

22
23 And discharges from offshore drilling
24 rigs could also affect by placing contaminants on
25 important habitat areas at the sea floor. This is from
26 the Federal government's final environmental impact
27 statement for Bristol Bay's five-year plan, so these
28 are the people who are planning -- who would be in
29 charge of the offshore drilling regulations, and they
30 say that this could have a big effect by leaching heavy
31 metals such as mercury into the sea floor.

32
33 More information about contaminated
34 discharges, mercury levels, other toxic residues.

35
36 The Federal government again says that
37 pipeline crossings could affect essential fish habitat
38 for several life stages of managed salmon.

39
40 And then there's the unavoidable risk
41 of oil spills, and even the Federal government has
42 predicted that there could be up to one large oil
43 spill, over 42,000 gallons or more, and up to two
44 spills of medium oil spills, and up to 10 smaller
45 spills. The spill rates from offshore drilling
46 operations throughout the United States has actually
47 increased in the last 15 years. And they also say the
48 large spill could affect hundreds of millions of eggs
49 and juvenile stages of pelagic species of fish that
50 spawn upstream in Bristol Bay.

1 There's also this study from the Norway
2 Institute of Marine Research that show that oil
3 drilling does give cancer risk to North Sea fish.

4
5 And we all understand what happened
6 with the Prince William Sound disaster in 1989, Exxon
7 Valdez, that traveled all the way down to Chignik I
8 believe.

9
10 We have to really think about that,
11 because where they're proposing to do offshore drilling
12 in Bristol Bay is, you know, right where in the summer,
13 this is from NOAA, that shows that if there was to be
14 an oil spill, the currents could brig the oil to the
15 northern part of Bristol Bay, and that's where a lot of
16 our salmon go to spawn.

17
18 I have some more information in your
19 pink packet. It includes the Bureau of Ocean Energy
20 Management Regulatory Enforcement. It's like a long
21 government agency name, but they are in charge of
22 offshore drilling operations, and basically the report
23 says that the area where they are planning to do
24 offshore drilling after 2017, it is important habitat
25 for juvenile salmon of all kinds from chum to Chinook,
26 and for salmon throughout western Alaska, not for just
27 Bristol Bay salmon, but for salmon coming from the
28 Kuskokwim and Yukon areas as well. So this area is
29 important for people throughout western Alaska.

30
31 You also have information about the
32 Environmental Protection Agency's 404(c) process. I
33 know that you had questions about that in the past, and
34 so that information should show you that they do have
35 authority to prohibit discharges in the Bristol Bay
36 watershed.

37
38 Gary talked about the permanent
39 protection resolution that was going around in the
40 region that BBDC and BBNA, that they passed permanent
41 protection resolutions, so if you did pass them here
42 you wouldn't be along. And there's other documents in
43 there.

44
45 I just have to say that many people I
46 know could not attend this meeting, because they had to
47 work. The gentleman I talked with from Nondalton, he
48 said says he could be here to talk to you about how
49 Pebble is affecting their subsistence resources
50 already. I could provide you his name if you want to

1 contact him in the future and ask him more questions.

2

3 I hope that you'll allow more public
4 commenting on this issue and take written comments if
5 you want to, and I guess I would just say that I wish
6 that there is an improvement to this process, that we
7 could provide more people the ability to come and
8 testify on these issues. It was just hard on a lot of
9 people to, you know, take time out of work. They
10 really do care about these issues, but it's hard when
11 this Board is, you know, unpredictable in terms of what
12 issues you're going to take up and when.

13

14 But the bottom line is that even though
15 Pebble is on State land, it could affect Federal lands,
16 wildlife, air, water, and the residents on Federal
17 lands. And that offshore drilling is in Federal
18 waters, so you could take a position on that. That
19 pollution and wildlife know now boundaries, and that
20 you do have the authority to pass a resolution at this
21 Board. I talked with Tom Jennings as I said and Sandy
22 Rabinowitch, who indicated that there's no problem with
23 taking a position and passing a resolution. I guess he
24 said that there could be some clear-ups about it after.
25 And I hope that you'll vote on these resolutions to
26 protect our subsistence resources in the region.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
31 you, Verner.

32

33 Do we have any questions, comments from
34 the Board to Verner regarding the -- Dan.

35

36 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. Verner, we've had
37 some proposed resolution language provided to us. Did
38 you do that or where did those come from? There's no
39 name on them to say who's submitting them.

40

41 MR. WILSON: They were draft
42 resolutions, and what I did was I took a resolution on
43 Pebble that the City of Dillingham passed, and I just
44 formatted it to be a draft resolution for the Board.
45 And I think the offshore drilling resolution was by
46 BBDC or BBNCA, I can't remember which organization.

47

48 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any

1 more questions, comments for Verner.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: If not, thank
6 you, Verner.

7

8 And I guess the Board at this time
9 could deliberate on these resolutions, so I will need
10 your direction as to how we're going to deal with
11 these. According to the information that Verner just
12 gave us prior to this, I wasn't too sure as to how
13 we're going to be dealing with this, because of our
14 jurisdiction, but knowing that whatever happens is
15 going to affect the resources that we deal with, so I
16 guess I need direction from the Board.

17

18 I know that Dan and Richard need to
19 leave here pretty soon, and I think this is our last
20 action item that we need to deal with, so give me
21 direction.

22

23 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

26

27 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I know we've
28 thought about this and seen it. I come from
29 Dillingham. I communicate with a lot of folks up and
30 down the river. I feel that the folks around here are
31 the people I was selected to represent here. And I
32 wouldn't be doing my job if I didn't seek to in some
33 way express the very, very deep concerns and opposition
34 that the folks in this area have for development of the
35 Pebble Mine.

36

37 I'm not 100 percent sure if these
38 resolutions are quite the right way or appropriate way
39 to convey this to the Board and to other Federal
40 agencies, but it's a starting point. And I'd sure like
41 to have a discussion over what we can do, what we're
42 willing to do, and what the right thing is. But I have
43 to stand up for the folks around here and that I know
44 in no uncertain terms there's deep, deep opposition to
45 the development of that mine.

46

47 My own personal research is really --
48 I've spent hours and hours and hours looking into it.

49

50 Saturday I'll fly to Arizona, and I'm

1 going to make -- on my own dollar. We will be going to
2 some copper mines to see for myself functioning copper
3 mines, and possibly some that are closed down. That's
4 not the only point going there, but while we're there,
5 we're going to do it.

6

7 So with that, I guess just to get
8 started, I'd like to make a motion to adopt this draft
9 resolution or something very similar expressing the
10 deep, deep concerns that the Nushagak area people have
11 on the potential impacts to their subsistence. and I
12 think of the times we've threatened to extend
13 jurisdiction, or asked the Federal agencies to extend
14 jurisdiction to regulate I think it was bottom fishing
15 because of the concerns for our subsistence fisheries.

16

17 So I'd like to make a motion. I don't
18 know if there's any second.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard,
23 comment.

24

25 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Yeah.
26 Before I actually would like to see a motion, I would
27 like, you know for more discussion to see if we even
28 want to put this on the table as a voting piece. Just
29 like Dan's talked about in the drainage that he does
30 represent right here, I represent my corporations over
31 there and my people and we're still very open-minded
32 people. We have not closed the door to our thinking
33 processes yet, and I would think I would be doing my
34 people a disservice if I was to vote.

35

36 I mean, I as everybody in this region
37 am very thankful for information that we have, and I
38 think we learn more and more every day, but I'm not
39 ready to take a stance one way or the other here on
40 these issues that have been floating around for several
41 years now. And that's still the stance that we seem to
42 hold over there in my section.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MR. O'HARA: Madame Chair.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Dan.

49

50 MR. O'HARA: If we could have a point

1 of order here, because we had a motion on the floor and
2 we're not supported to do anything until there's a
3 second, and there wasn't a second, and so either you
4 withdraw your motion, or you wait for a second, because
5 that's the procedure we have to follow.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah. So
8 there was a motion by Dan, and so we're waiting for a
9 second on the motion.

10

11 MR. ABRAHAM: I'll second the motion.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Pete Abraham
14 seconded the motion.

15

16 And I guess we're back to discussion.
17 And sorry about that. I'm glad you're here to correct
18 that. And so we kind of did a pre-discussion here.
19 But that's okay. We've kind of backtracked and
20 corrected that.

21

22 So we're back to -- because there was a
23 motion and a second. We're back to comments from the
24 Board. Pete.

25

26 MR. ABRAHAM: I guess as a Board of
27 this over here, this body here, and U.S. Fish and
28 Wildlife, our first commitment to subsistence is to
29 fight for it.

30

31 Somebody said about jurisdiction. When
32 it comes to subsistence way of life, that's our
33 commitment to the people of Alaska, to fight for it. I
34 guess that's the bottom. I would say we are committed
35 to uphold what we are here for. Fight for the
36 subsistence.

37

38 Quyana. Madame Chairman.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Anybody
41 else. Dan. Or Alvin.

42

43 MR. BOSKOFKY: I'm in the same boat
44 with Peter. I sit on this Board to serve subsistence
45 users. So I think that's the main reason that we need
46 to fight for it. It it's going to damage what we're
47 working for, then I've got no choice but to go with
48 this.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,

1 Alvin. Dan.

2

3 MR. O'HARA: Yeah. I got a survey in
4 the mail here a while back on this issue. I'm filling
5 it out right now, and we probably should have in the
6 next few days the results of the Lake and Pen vote to
7 see what they're doing in their region. And so I'm not
8 going to support the resolution. I'm going to wait and
9 see. I would prefer to see probably a little more
10 clearly in the March meeting. And so that's the way
11 I'm going to vote today.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.
14 Richard.

15

16 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. What's been
17 asked of us, or what's being asked of us right now is
18 really -- would be my first -- as sitting on this
19 Council, to -- if it was to be put to a vote, to put
20 yea or nay against a policy or, you know, this being a
21 resolution. The wishes of our people have come before
22 us, not only am I used to dealing in numbers, fish and
23 game numbers, and, you know, areas, but to ask me to
24 vote on a political issue which we all have different
25 views on, to me it doesn't seem -- I guess I'm just not
26 enjoying that kind of pressure being on this Council to
27 have to sit here and try to convince other members that
28 -- on this type of issue. And it's something new to me
29 here, and it's not a very comfortable feeling to bring
30 these kind of things before us.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
33 other questions.

34

35 MR. BOSKOFISKY: Madame Chair.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Alvin.

38

39 MR. BOSKOFISKY: Even I stated what I
40 thought, you know, we don't have enough members here to
41 -- you know, it would be best if we had all of our
42 members present before, you know, we made the decision
43 which way we want to go with it.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah. Well,
48 it sounded like Dan O'Hara is in the process of putting
49 a survey for Lake and Pen?

50

1 MR. O'HARA: No. Madame Chair, they're
2 going to be counting the votes on the Pebble issue at
3 the Lake and Pen, probably within the next couple of
4 days we'll find out what that is. And I've gotten a
5 survey from our Native corporation that I'm answering
6 on this very issue. And so that's why I'm going to
7 hold off until I see a little more.

8
9 The pressure is always there. You
10 can't -- if you're going to be in this kind of
11 business, you're going to be sometimes, you know, in
12 the top of the Hilton, and sometimes you're going to be
13 in the outhouse. So it's just the way life happens to
14 be, and those are tough issues to deal with. And
15 that's kind of where I stand right now.

16
17 And also I'm going to have a public
18 hearing, I hope, as mayor of the Bristol Bay Borough,
19 because a lot of people voted over there and they were
20 anti-Pebble people. And in fairness we need to see
21 what they have to say, too. And so I think, you know,
22 I'm just going to put it off for a while.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. So
25 you'd be comfortable in waiting until our fall meeting.

26
27 MR. O'HARA: This is the fall meeting.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I mean, sorry,
30 our spring meeting and that way you'll have all your
31 information in to make a decision then.

32
33 MR. O'HARA: I'm not -- I would have
34 more information. And then the other thing is, too,
35 you know, it is a project, it is not a mine. We're not
36 voting on a mine, until they start getting into
37 requesting permitting. Then we can weigh in on it.

38
39 So at this point I just would like a
40 little more time, but, hey, you get a percentage of
41 yeses on this on, it's fine. That's just the way the
42 voting is. So I'll be happy either way.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Dan.

45
46 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. Madame Chair. I
47 would hope folks would be willing to try to vote now
48 rather than postpone it. I hear numerous complaints.
49 That's why I was asking about whether wolves were being
50 chased off by helicopters. There's folks that try to

1 hunt up near where that project's going on, and it's
2 been a few years, but I know one guy was just bitter
3 about getting up in the drill areas there, in the
4 traditional place he hunted, and there's so much
5 traffic. Granted the caribou herd was declining, but
6 he felt the traffic had run off the animals. I hear it
7 when I'm up moose hunting on the Nushagak River, the
8 concerns.

9

10 Like I said, I spent hours and hours
11 and hours on my own doing research. There was a time
12 when Northern Dynasty trotted out their Gibraltar Mine
13 as a success story. Personally I found information
14 easily found on the web where they'd had fish kills and
15 a number of First Nation communities around there were
16 very upset with the mine. Then sometime later here,
17 Caroline Woody wrote a full paper on all the problems
18 for Gibraltar Mine. So we don't hear about that one.

19

20 Now they're bringing out Flambeau Mine
21 as an example of a success. I've been in close
22 communication with a bunch of people in Wisconsin over
23 that mine. And it's pretty good, but it was also the
24 mine that precipitated probably the most -- probably
25 the best mine permitting system in Wisconsin where you
26 have to have -- show where a mine operated for 10 years
27 and then was closed for 10 years and did not pollute in
28 that time period. And the mine companies do not have
29 the technology to meet that standard. The Flambeau
30 Mine, their first trench that was supposed to catch
31 polluted run-off coming out of the old mine site, the
32 polluted water escaped that trench. They had to make a
33 second one even close to the river, and I understand
34 that they're so far holding the line there.

35

36 But in the Flambeau River that's very
37 close to that, you can see elevated levels of toxic
38 waste in the sediments and in the fish downstream of
39 that area. There's also places that are beautiful,
40 green and grassy, but where their ore transfer site
41 was, and that soil in that site still really doesn't
42 meet the standards for safety.

43

44 And there's another mine in that area,
45 Ladysmith, is something else that in this point, it was
46 hotly contested. They hygraded the top level ore, took
47 it to Canada and smelted it. There was a lot of worry,
48 there was low grade ore, more like what we see at
49 Pebble, that was going to be developed. But this mine
50 -- the Wisconsin Mine Law was adopted, partly the

1 tribes around there, it was threatening their wild rice
2 beds, and finally public pressure including a hard core
3 Republican governor signed the mine bill and eventually
4 which mine company it was sold the land to those
5 tribes, and they are going to protect their wild rice.
6

7

8 So the Flambeau Mine and the Ladysmith
9 are marginal examples of successful mines.
10

11 There's a mine in Ridgeway, North or
12 South Carolina that was done pretty well, but they did
13 some block caving or something nearby and they're
14 having subsidence problems. So block caving's also
15 talked about in the Pebble area. And it sounds cool,
16 because it's underground, you don't see it. But what
17 can happen is that the surface then can collapse in an
18 uncontrolled manner, totally disrupting your water
19 tables. You don't know which direction that water's
20 going to go, and you have no control over it. An open
21 pit might actually be better, because it all funnels to
22 one place, but open pits are pretty scary, too.
23

24 So I guess I've convinced myself
25 separate from anybody else's research that I don't -- I
26 believe the mine companies really do want to do the
27 best job possible, but I'm not convinced that that's
28 good enough yet at this point. And I would like to
29 again convey up the line to every Federal agency the
30 level of concern and request the highest level of
31 scrutiny on this whole process to assure that
32 subsistence resources are not damaged or threatened.
33 And so I would appeal to the Board here to pass this
34 resolution. It's the best thing I can get my hands on
35 at this point.
36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Pete.
40

41 MR. ABRAHAM: You know, I don't know
42 too much about the mines. I know a little bit about
43 wells, and I know something about underground streams.
44 Those rivers go miles and miles and miles underground.
45 There's ifs everywhere. What if, that we don't know.
46

47 This Bristol Bay is a beautiful country
48 here. That's why I moved from that area to here,
49 because of subsistence way of life is a lot easier
50 where I come from. And there's many, many, many things

1 that can happen. And there's many, many things that
2 should not happen that you and I don't know.

3

4 We're the people down here scream and
5 hollering at the Dynasty. They have power that we
6 don't have. The power is the dollar sign. The dollar
7 sign that could do -- turn many minds the other
8 direction that was one time maybe honest person to
9 unscrupulous guy in the world here. The dollar sign
10 will do that. So I'm afraid still today that can
11 happen to anybody.

12

13 Look at the world right now. There's
14 many under-table transactions that we don't know about,
15 and it's happening. Look at America right now. It was
16 once a strong, strong America here. I wasn't even like
17 fifth grade or something. There's a policy, there's a
18 law that nobody cannot own more than 50 percent or 49
19 percent business in America. But because of under-
20 table, under-the-table transactions, look at our
21 fishery. Owned by foreign people. And they control
22 the fish, the price, the economy. And right now
23 America has very little to trade with. China is
24 controlling America right now.

25

26 I've got 18 grandkids running around in
27 my home over there. I grabbed one of them, and I said,
28 hey, are you made in China, too? Because everywhere
29 you go, everything's made in China.

30

31 What if the Dynasty -- we can't stop it
32 with our hand like that. I mean, what are they doing
33 out there? What is our leaders doing? What DNR doing.
34 What are they doing? They're sitting back there,
35 sitting quiet while we are over here crying and crying,
36 hey, help us. Let's find a way to do it. What is our
37 government doing? The people that -- we put them on
38 the table to work for us, like we're sitting right
39 here, the people put us around this table over here to
40 work for them. And we're trying our best to help our
41 people over here. What is our government doing for us?
42 Let's not the government do to us. Let's help the
43 government to stop the Dynasty here. That's my vote.

44

45 Quyana.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
48 Peter.

49

50 Since two of our members need to leave,

1 I think we need to take a vote on this.

2

3 But before I do, I practically made my
4 career on subsistence in this region. Subsistence
5 research. And I live the subsistence way of life. I
6 know from personal experience everything about
7 subsistence. And I know, especially last 10 years,
8 that the resource is not up to par like it used to be
9 when I first started operating my own household.

10

11 And then as far as numbers are
12 concerned, and me being a representative for this
13 region, I have those numbers. There's 88 percent
14 opposing from this region. So I feel very comfortable
15 that I can vote on this -- these resolutions.

16

17 So there's been a motion on the floor.
18 I need a little bit clarification from you, Dan. You
19 made a motion to support all three resolutions or the
20 one by one.

21

22 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.
23 Specifically this one resolution from the Bristol Bay
24 RAC to the Federal Subsistence Board requesting
25 Environmental Protection Agency invoke Section 404(c)
26 of the Clean Water Act as appropriate in the Kvichak
27 and Nushagak drainages of the Bristol Bay watershed to
28 protect habitat and existing uses. Long title.

29

30 Thank you, Madame Chair.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

33

34 MR. O'HARA: Call for the question.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Call for the
37 question. there's been a question called. I think
38 maybe we should do a roll call. Mike. Or Donald.

39

40 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.

41

42 There's a motion on the floor to adopt
43 resolution -- I got stuck, I was just wondering which
44 resolution particularly.

45

46 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair. The one I
47 just read the title to, but I've pencilled it in here.

48

49 MR. MIKE: Okay. The resolution to
50 adopt Bristol Bay, Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory

1 Council to the Federal Subsistence Board requesting the
 2 EPA to invoke Section 404. Roll call vote.
 3
 4 Mr. Dan O'Hara.
 5
 6 MR. O'HARA: No.
 7
 8 MR. MIKE: Mr. Alvin Boskofsky.
 9
 10 MR. BOSKOFKY: No.
 11
 12 MR. MIKE: Mr. Pete Abraham.
 13
 14 MR. ABRAHAM: (In Yup'ik)
 15
 16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Opposition.
 17
 18 MR. ABRAHAM: (In Yup'ik)
 19
 20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Oh, I meant,
 21 yeah, he's supporting.
 22
 23 MR. MIKE: Ms. Molly Chythlook:
 24
 25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Supporting.
 26
 27 MR. MIKE: Ms. Nanci Morris is absent.
 28
 29 Mr. Dan Dunaway.
 30
 31 MR. DUNAWAY: Yes.
 32
 33 MR. MIKE: Mr. Richard Wilson.
 34
 35 MR. WILSON: No.
 36
 37 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. You have
 38 three yes and three no's and one absent. The motion
 39 fails due to a tie I think.
 40
 41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Two to
 42 five. Okay.
 43
 44 MR. MIKE: Three yeas and three no's.
 45
 46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Three ayes and
 47 two no's.
 48
 49 MR. MIKE: Three nays.
 50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. What
2 was it, three nays and three.....
3
4 MR. MIKE: Three nays and three yeses.
5
6
7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: It's tied. So
8 it's tied.
9
10 MR. MIKE: A tied vote and the motion
11 fails.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So the motion
14 fails. Okay. How about the other two resolutions.
15 Are we going to take action on these.
16
17 We have this one resolution. A
18 resolution from Bristol Bay area Subsistence Regional
19 Advisory Council to the Federal Subsistence Board
20 supporting permanent protection in Bristol Bay and the
21 southeast Bering Sea from offshore mineral extraction.
22 And then we also have the resolution, it's a sample
23 resolution, establishment of the Harold Harvey
24 Samuelsen Bristol Bay National Fisheries Reserve.
25
26 So we need to quickly act on these two.
27
28
29 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.
32
33 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair. As far as
34 this one you just read, this offshore mineral
35 extraction, I certainly have a lot of concerns. I
36 haven't had the time, and I don't have any education on
37 it, so I hesitate to advance this one.
38
39 As far as the fisheries reserve, that
40 one, too, I'm not particularly well versed. I've been
41 involved with reviewing oil development plans north of
42 Port Moller since I first worked full time with Fish
43 and Game in 1980, but I've been away from it for a long
44 time. And I share concerns here, but again I'm not
45 particularly well educated, and kind of look to the
46 rest of the Council.
47
48 Thank you.
49
50 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So I guess

1 there's no motion these two resolutions. So if there's
2 no motion, there's no action, then what.

3
4 MR. O'HARA: Set the date for the next
5 meeting.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Table them to
8 the next meeting?

9
10 MR. O'HARA: No, I say let's -- the
11 next item on the agenda is to set the date for the next
12 meeting. I mean, we're done with business, right?

13
14 MR. MIKE: Yes. As far as the two
15 resolutions, you could just move to take no action and
16 with consensus, that's my advice.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. So the
19 next two resolutions the Board has taken no action.

20
21 Caroline Woody is not here. We have
22 ADF&G. Ted is going to do a presentation.

23
24 And I think Richard and Dan need to
25 leave.

26
27 MR. O'HARA: We're going to be okay for
28 a little while. Call Pen Air and tell we'll be there
29 at 3:30.

30
31 (Mr. O'Hara and Mr. Wilson leave during
32 Mr. Krieg's presentation)

33
34 MR. KRIEG: Madame Chair. Federal
35 Regional Subsistence Advisory Council members. My name
36 is Ted Krieg. I work for Subsistence Division, Alaska
37 Department of Fish and Game here in Dillingham.

38
39 This -- I guess I've been giving you
40 reports over the last couple of years about this
41 project, and so this is some final results. And this
42 is a PowerPoint that I put together with help from
43 others, and it's none of my information. I'm just, you
44 know, relaying what people told me, subsistence
45 harvesters in Togiak.

46
47 This project -- I guess what I started
48 -- oops. What I started to say was that I've presented
49 this same PowerPoint at two different -- well, the
50 Wakefield Fisheries symposium in Anchorage three, four

1 weeks ago, and then here at the Western Science
2 Conference in Dillingham. So some of you may have seen
3 this before. I see a few of you that probably have,
4 but ten there's others that haven't. So if you've seen
5 it, you know, if you want to leave, that's fine, but
6 hopefully it will be some good information.

7
8 What happened to Pete, is he still
9 around? He needs to see this for sure.

10
11 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, he's right here.

12
13 MR. KRIEG: Oh, right there. Sorry.
14 Okay.

15
16 So this is Bering Sea project. You
17 know, there were concerns with climate change, changes
18 in the Bering Sea. This project is called the Bering
19 Sea Integrated Ecosystem Research project, also known
20 as BSIERP. That's the acronym.

21
22 And as part of -- there's the BEST,
23 which is National Science Foundation Bering -- I don't
24 know what BEST was right off hand, but -- oops, my
25 pointer just went out.

26
27 Anyway, under the second paragraph
28 there, you can see that it talks about local
29 traditional knowledge. Local traditional knowledge.
30 And this was for Togiak. The five communities, I told
31 you this before, but the five communities in the Bering
32 Sea that were part of this project were Togiak,
33 Emmonak, Savoonga, St. Paul and Akutan.

34
35 And there's Togiak highlighted a little
36 bit better. there's a photograph of Togiak. Togiak is
37 -- the is looking over towards Togiak right here.
38 That's probably on upper Togiak, and then the lower
39 Togiak.

40
41 And this is a winter shot of Togiak
42 looking across at the Togiak Fisheries cannery, and the
43 location of old Togiak. So on the lower right would be
44 the community of Togiak, and then on the left-hand side
45 would be the mouth of the Togiak River.

46
47 Comprehensive baseline household
48 subsistence harvest surveys. The first phase of work
49 for the Bering Sea Integrated Ecosystem Research
50 Program in Togiak were conducted from February 5th to

1 28th, 2009.

2

3 The Togiak Traditional Council selected
4 six members for the community advisory board, and the
5 community advisory board was part of the makeup of the
6 Bering Sea Integrated Ecosystem Research Program.
7 Within the community there were members that are part
8 of that board to help direct the research. And then
9 there was a regional advisory board that met
10 periodically along with other science, western
11 scientist that are working the Bering Sea.

12

13 And I guess what I was going to mention
14 initially, too, is that this -- you know, since I've
15 started working with subsistence and started at BBNA in
16 the Natural Resources Department, there's always been
17 talk of the local traditional knowledge and how it
18 needs to be side-by-side with western science. And in
19 that time, you know, it's been almost 18 years, this is
20 the first project that I've ever worked on where there
21 are actually scientists that were a part of the project
22 and were looking at some of the information that we
23 could provide from the communities.

24

25 So the community advisory board in
26 Togiak had their initial meeting on February 23rd, 2009
27 and identified five resources that they believe should
28 be the core of the Bering Sea Integrated Ecosystem
29 Research Program local and traditional knowledge
30 research component for Togiak. Those resources were
31 bearded seal, walrus, herring, herring roe on kelp, and
32 halibut. The community advisory board indicated that
33 to some degree most of these resources were impacted
34 and disturbed by human actions and behaviors.

35

36 Information provided by the community
37 advisory board helped prepare the interview protocol
38 for the LTK key respondent interviews. The local
39 traditional knowledge interview protocol was designed
40 to address the five resources identified by the
41 community advisory board. The format, themes and time
42 frame questions for each resource in the protocol were
43 designed to cover the changes observed by the
44 respondent over their lifetime. The protocol was not
45 followed precisely, but provided a good structure for
46 the interviews.

47

48 The community advisory board provided
49 names of potential key respondents and other key
50 respondents were identified by those knowledgeable

1 people. Additionally, during the household subsistence
2 harvest survey portion of the project in 2009,
3 potential key respondents were also identified.

4
5 In 2010 the potential key respondents
6 were contacted in person. The project was explained to
7 them, emphasizing the focus of the local traditional
8 knowledge research on observations of changes in the
9 Bering Sea ecosystem in the Togiak area. If they
10 agreed to participate, the interview was then scheduled
11 for a later date. This gave them time to think about
12 the focus of the interview and stimulate recollection
13 of their knowledge.

14
15 The interviews were conducted by Josh
16 Whiznoski (ph) and I in Togiak from February 1st to
17 12th, 2010. A local researcher was hired to help with
18 all the interviews and as an interpreter for the Yup'ik
19 interviews. Eleven key respondents were interviewed in
20 Yup'ik and English.

21
22 Some interviews involved two key
23 respondents and some key respondents were interviewed
24 more than once. Respondents ranged in age from 30 to
25 90 years. There's the 30-year-old right there.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 MR. KRIEG: A general theme from the
30 local traditional knowledge interviews is a decline of
31 many species, most of which are of importance to
32 subsistence uses. Bearded seal, ring seal, herring,
33 herring spawn on kelp was heavier in the past.
34 Capelin, king eiders, murre and murre eggs, long-
35 tailed ducks, shorebirds, common eiders, snow goose,
36 cormorant, Arctic terns and other gulls, halibut, and
37 larger whales used to be observed more in the area.

38
39 The LTK narratives recognized changes
40 as deriving from two general causes. One,
41 environmental changes related to climate change or
42 warming that is not attributed by respondents to a
43 broader cause; and, two, over-commercial fishing,
44 specifically the commercial herring fishery, yellow-
45 fin, sole trawl fishery near Togiak, and bycatch of
46 salmon in the Bering Sea pollack fishery is causing the
47 depletion. Noise and boats in critical habitat areas
48 result in disturbance.

49
50 Historically Togiak was hear the

1 southern extent of the winter sea ice in the Bering
2 Sea, so they have experienced changes in the ecosystem,
3 especially for ice seals which are bearded and ring
4 seals, due to less or no sea ice for a longer period of
5 time and more northerly locations. This fact and human
6 factors like the commercial herring fishery which
7 started in 1967, but dramatically increased in 1977,
8 framed many of Togiak's observation of changes in an
9 historical context.

10

11 Here's quotes from local knowledgeable
12 people. There used to be so many herring that when the
13 tide went out, you could grab all you wanted that were
14 stuck in the rocks. You never had to use nets like you
15 do nowadays.

16

17 Probably 20 years from now, if they
18 keep letting them purse seine, there will be no more
19 herring. Then those purse seiners will move out.
20 That's the reason why no one from Togiak commercial
21 fishes for herring.

22

23 When I was young, they used to get lots
24 of herring and spawn on kelp at Anchor Point. Seals
25 were plentiful. Seals would be eating so many herring
26 eggs they would have eggs all over their whiskers when
27 their heads came out of the water.

28

29 Local knowledge emphasizes the
30 importance of forage fish, herring, smelt, capelin,
31 both as human food and as food for other resources.
32 The decline of herring, especially the herring spawn on
33 kelp available as food affects timing, migration
34 routes, and abundance of other resources. The feeling
35 is that there are less marine animals in the area now
36 due to less herring returning to spawn. Herring is a
37 key species. According to key respondents, herring and
38 herring spawn on kelp have been primarily affected by
39 commercial over-fishing. Climate change was not
40 identified as a source of the decline.

41

42 The traditional rule was, do not
43 harvest from the first run of herring. Let them spawn.
44 Harvest from the second run.

45

46 Respondents related that traditionally
47 part of the first run arrived under the ice and paved
48 the way for the remainder of the returning herring by
49 helping to melt the ice. This no longer happens. The
50 commercial herring fishery now fishes the first run,

1 which is believed to be reducing future runs.

2

3 The presence and timing of harbor seals
4 in the area are related to the appearance of herring in
5 the spring. Herring spawn on kelp is an important food
6 source at that time.

7

8 This photo shows the subsistence
9 harvest of herring spawn on kelp in the Togiak area.
10 And a quote is that in the old days when they went to
11 pick spawn on kelp, they used to just grab the kelp and
12 put them in a bag, because they were all good. Today
13 you have to look for the heaviest ones. That's how you
14 pick. Some kelp hardly has any eggs on it. It's
15 nothing like it was in the old days. The spawn used to
16 be so heavy on the kelp. Back in those days, the kelp
17 used to be thick with two inches of spawn on the kelp,
18 even on top of the rocks where they spawned. You could
19 hardly walk over it, because you would slip. There
20 used to be a whole bunch, but it's not like that any
21 more.

22

23 Most of the bird hunting takes place
24 while harvesting herring spawn on kelp, and while
25 hunting seals. The birds seem to have changed their
26 migration patterns, so it's harder to hunt them. Birds
27 used to hang out on black rock. The island would be
28 full of them, but now you don't see very many.

29

30 King eiders have changed their
31 migration route due to commercial herring disturbance.

32

33 Key respondents reported that the
34 migration routes of birds has also been affected by the
35 absence of herring due to over-fishing. Emperor geese
36 feed on herring roe and fatten up on it in the spring.

37

38 The number of king eiders present in
39 Togiak Bay is less and their traditional travel route
40 into the bay has changed due to the presence of
41 commercial herring tender boats in their traditional
42 stopping locations. King eiders are a favorite
43 subsistence food, which the residence of Togiak depend
44 on in the spring. Traditional hunting locations for
45 king eiders are no longer reliable due to the change in
46 travel routes.

47

48 Walrus have changed migration and haul-
49 out locations due to people being on Round Island where
50 they built a cabin. And on high Island there aren't

1 any more walrus, because of a major plane crash that
2 happened long ago that scared the walrus away. Walrus
3 are very sensitive to people's smells and sounds. they
4 don't like to be around people or where there are loud
5 noises, like trawlers. So they are changing spots
6 where they hang out.

7
8 The location of walrus haul-outs is
9 affected by human presence. For example, fewer walrus
10 have been hauling out on Round Island, which has been a
11 traditional haul-out and traditional hunting location
12 for the residents of Togiak for millennia. This is
13 attributed to the long-term presence of a an agency
14 research cabin on round island and tourists that camp
15 on the island. Also, the yellow fin sole trawl fishery
16 that takes place to the east of Round Island, noise
17 from the boats and destruction of walrus food habitat
18 by the trawls, including destruction of clam beds have
19 contributed to less walrus hauling out on Round Island.
20 New walrus haul-outs have developed on Hagemeister
21 Island, and the traditional Togiak fall walrus hunt has
22 taken place there for the last few years instead of
23 Round Island because of the lack of walrus on Round
24 Island during the time of the hunt.

25
26 It has been observed that walrus
27 traveling into Togiak Bay from the west are using a
28 route farther to the south, avoiding the Nearshal
29 trawling area and effectively bypassing Round Island.

30
31 Climate-related changes are warming has
32 resulted in less extensive sea ice and shore-fast ice
33 and more rapid disappearance of the ice in the spring
34 because the ice is not as not as thick as in the past.
35 This especially affects opportunities to hunt ice
36 seals, again those are bearded seals and ring seals,
37 because they stay near the edge of the ice, and as it
38 retreats to the north, they move with it.

39
40 Walrus hunting from ice in the spring
41 is also affected. There are less walrus available if
42 the ice is not present. And the most reliable place to
43 kill a walrus is when they are ice. If taken in open
44 water, they can sink.

45
46 Snow disappears more rapidly in the
47 spring than in the past, because less snow is falling
48 and it warms up earlier. This inhibits travel by snow
49 machine and affects some spring land-base subsistence
50 activities such as squirrel hunting.

1 One hunter explained that in the 1980s,
2 in late April or early May, it would warm up, but the
3 snow would still be good for traveling for two to three
4 weeks. In the late 1990s or early 2000s, it would warm
5 up and the snow would disappear in a couple of days.
6 There used to be snow around until the end of May. Now
7 it usually melts in April. Less snow also affects the
8 availability of berries. There are less berries if
9 less snow the previous winter.

10

11 Some of the quotes. There used to be
12 so many seals that we didn't know which one to shoot
13 when we were hunting. They don't haul-out here any
14 more like I remember, because of the herring fishery
15 removing their food. We hardly have any more ice
16 nowadays in Togiak, so bearded seals have all moved
17 out.

18

19 In the spring people from Togiak to
20 camping to harvest spawn on kelp, migrating birds, and
21 seals, because they usually arrive at the same time to
22 feed on herring.

23

24 Retreating ice affects where ice seals
25 have their pups, because seals remember their birth
26 location and return to it annually. With less ice and
27 thinner ice, bearded and ring seals are not pupping in
28 bays near Togiak, and therefore seals are not returning
29 to the area. This is the major factor contributing to
30 less ice seals in Togiak Bay. Bearded seals are the
31 most desired seals by Togiak residents for the
32 production of seal oil. Bearded seals and ringed seals
33 are associated as cousins, although bearded seals
34 prefer deeper water and ringed seals approach shallower
35 areas due to dive preferences. If ringed seals are
36 seen, then it is known that bearded seals are around
37 also.

38

39 Principles for the conduct of
40 subsistence activities. Quotes by key respondents.
41 Respect animals. My grandparents used to tell me that
42 the things I got from this land and water don't belong
43 to me. It was given to me to use and to respect it all
44 the time. Do not waste.

45

46 The first rule my grandpa told me is
47 take only what you can use, even if there is an
48 abundance of whatever. Take only what you can use,
49 what you can handle. Never waste and respect the
50 animals so like with fish, they can come back year

1 after year after year. A corollary to both rules is
2 use all parts of the animal. Show respect to the
3 animals by properly disposing of their bones and
4 providing a drink of water to the animal after it has
5 been killed. Also, using proper butchering techniques
6 is important.

7
8 There are also rules that govern how
9 animals are shared, especially by those taking their
10 first animal. These may also relate to ideas about
11 respectful behavior.

12
13 Another management principle was to not
14 hunt animals about to have young, for example, seals.

15
16 A principle underlying these rules is
17 that the spirits of the animals are aware of how their
18 remains are treated and they will withhold themselves
19 from being harvested if offended, causing human hunger.
20 Also, animals such as bears are aware of how people
21 talk about them.

22
23 Traditional management of hunting and
24 fishing was accomplished through recognition of
25 territories in the Togiak area. Leaders and others
26 determined the harvest goals. Responsibility for
27 resource management rested with the community within
28 the boundaries -- within its boundaries. Trade spread
29 harvest between territories. The traditional hunt on
30 Round Island was a group hunt with the different
31 communities in the Togiak Bay area planning the amount
32 of harvest and the timing. In traveling to the hunt
33 together for the hunt, they would -- this is Summit
34 Island, they would meet on Summit Island before
35 traveling out to Round Island. and one of the
36 respondents said he was told by his uncle that in the
37 past when they used kayaks, they'd come from Togiak on
38 the outgoing tide, and get to Summit Island. They'd
39 land here and wait for the next outgoing tide to get
40 out to Round Island, and then after the hunt, and they
41 were done butchering, they would come in on the
42 incoming tide to Summit Island, wait there for the next
43 incoming tide to return to Togiak.

44
45 And in closing, a Togiak elder
46 emphasized that it is important to pass on the
47 principles about respectful behavior through stories,
48 for example, to younger generations. Even if they
49 don't appear to be listening, tell them anyway.
50

1 And thank you to North Pacific Research
2 Board, Togiak community advisory board, the local
3 traditional knowledge key respondents, the Togiak
4 Traditional Council, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge,
5 and ADF&G Staff.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Do we
10 have any questions for Ted. Dan.

11
12 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Molly.

13
14 Almost a comment, and also especially
15 to Pete or anybody else that hunts seals, I was just
16 reading an on-line newspaper last night, and apparently
17 they're having a real problem with ring seals up in
18 Barrow and all along the north coast. They're showing
19 up really weak, and they've got these bloody sores on
20 them, and their hair's all mangy. And I thought I read
21 that they have seen like over 150, and they're seeing
22 them in parts of Canada and parts of Russia, too. So I
23 was -- so when Ted starts talking ring seals, I was
24 like, you might really be on the lookout for any sick-
25 looking seals. They've been getting tissue samples for
26 a month and a half, and nobody seems to know what's
27 going on. And I was curious if anybody's seen
28 anything, or if they're out there, keep a look out.
29 People are worried about whether they're good to eat or
30 not.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 MR. ABRAHAM: No, I have not, we have
35 not seen or reported anything like that over there so
36 far.

37
38 But the things are changing. Birds. I
39 keep contact with my old people on Nelson Island, but
40 not my old girlfriends, no.

41
42 (Laughter)

43
44 MR. ABRAHAM: I called my uncle,
45 because I had a question about cacklers. Well, he told
46 me about emperors over there. He was looking out a
47 window and there's an old guy, half blind, walking down
48 from the store on the boardwalk and here comes a young
49 emperor geese landed right in front of him. Never
50 happen like that. And they were just -- the bird just

1 walking ahead of him. He was half blind, walking
2 behind him. And this was funny.

3

4 And right at the airport, the Tununak
5 airport, the people from Bethel area were berry
6 picking, and there are emperor geese right in among the
7 people. Never happen like that. Togiak, never seen
8 anything like that, landing -- cacklers landing in the
9 airport, alongside the road. Never see them like that
10 before.

11

12 You know, everything is changing around
13 us. And there is -- we have not found the answer yet.
14 Soon I think we will. Soon we'll know. I don't know
15 yet.

16

17 Quyana.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
20 more -- I guess there's just the four of us left. But
21 has that -- has your report been published?

22

23 MR. KRIEG: Madame Chair. We're
24 working on it right now, and it's close to getting the
25 first draft done. And right off the top of my head,
26 I'm not sure when the final report is supposed to be
27 out, but it's close.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah. Okay.
30 Well, that's good work, Ted. I really appreciated
31 that. That brought back old memories. And I'm sure
32 that once the report is published then we'll have --
33 BBNA will get a copy.

34

35 If there's no questions from the
36 Council.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you very
41 much for that report.

42

43 We're to other business. Is there any
44 other business.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There's no
49 other business. Donald.

50

1 MR. MIKE: Yeah. Thank you. Just
2 quickly, there's the Landscape Conservation
3 Cooperative, and there's some information for the
4 Council to read over at their leisure, so it's just
5 from our Western Alaska Conservation Cooperation.
6 There's some Staff in Anchorage that weren't able to
7 make these meetings, so they're sharing this
8 information for the Council's benefit. So I'll just
9 hand it out.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I guess
12 I had two recommendations that I was going to make, but
13 I can only remember one now, and I cannot recall the
14 other one.

15

16 But the one recommendation that I was
17 going to make was that after the Bristol Bay Visioning
18 report yesterday from BBNA, my recommendation would be
19 to possibly one or two people from the RAC Board to
20 attend the Bristol Bay Visioning Commission meeting
21 November 3 and 4. And if that's okay with the Board,
22 we can have Donald approach whoever would be
23 approachable, whoever would be responsible to agree to
24 possibly sending, two people from the RAC. And the two
25 people that I was thinking of seriously was Nanci and
26 Rick, but if you have any other suggestions.

27

28 I know Dan lives here. I live here. I
29 don't know about Pete.

30

31 MR. ABRAHAM: We have representative.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Togiak
34 National Wildlife Refuge will have an agency
35 representative.

36

37 I think we can put a name to our two
38 people. And that would be -- both Richard and Nanci
39 showed interest in attending. So I would include the
40 names in the recommendation. If that gets approved or
41 not, then I guess you'll contact us.

42

43 And there was another recommendation
44 that I had, but I can't think of it right now.

45

46 Our next on the agenda is our future
47 meeting. And, Donald, do you have any suggestions.

48

49 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. Thank you.
50 Just for the Council to confirm their winter meeting is

1 scheduled for March 5 and 6 in Naknek. And then on
2 Page 158, or I just handed out a photocopy of an
3 updated calendar for the fall meetings, fall 2012
4 meetings.

5
6 And there's some Council members
7 concerns about the fall 2012 meeting with conflicts
8 that currently exist with other Council members to
9 attend the scheduled open window. The open window
10 begins on page -- beginning on August 19th and ending
11 October 13th. That's the window for the Councils to
12 meet, but due to concerns from the Council members and
13 conflicts, the Council member would like to have this
14 Council consider possible outside these proposed
15 meeting windows. So it's up for discussion, but right
16 now the Council can set a tentative date and then we
17 can go from there.

18
19 Thank you, Madame Chair.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Do you
22 have any tentative date. When did we meet last year.
23 I guess this is our winter -- fall meeting that we're
24 at now, and we're meeting October.....

25
26 MR. BOSKOFISKY: The next one will be in
27 February month.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: The spring
30 meeting's going to be March 5 and 6.

31
32 MR. MIKE: Right. March 5 and 6. I
33 just need to have the Council confirm those dates or if
34 you want to choose another date, but it's up to the
35 Council.

36
37 MR. DUNAWAY: It works for me.

38
39 MR. BOSKOFISKY: Donald. For that
40 spring meeting, that would probably mean I would have
41 to come up on the 3rd, because I doubt if Pen Air will
42 be flying on Sunday.

43
44 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, the Council
45 have an opportunity to confirm the meeting dates or we
46 can move it to accommodate some Council members for
47 travel.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So, Alvin, 6
50 and 7 would work better for you, or sometime in the

1 middle of the week.

2

3 MR. BOSKOFISKY: Yeah.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah. So

6 let's just put 6 and 7 for now.

7

8 MR. BOSKOFISKY: Yeah, I don't mind

9 coming up as long as they're going to take care of the

10 room, you know.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah. Well,

13 if Pen Air isn't going to fly on Sunday, we might as

14 well make sure that they fly in order for you to get up

15 here. So tentatively March 6 and 7.

16

17 MR. MIKE: Yeah, that can be tentative.

18

19 I forgot to mention, Madame Chair, I

20 recently picked up two more regions, that includes

21 Northwest Alaska and North Slope, so there's a conflict

22 there, but we can work something out as far as

23 coordinating who's going to be coordinator for our

24 respective regions. So the Council can keep the dates

25 and then we can assign alternate DFO to attend these

26 meetings.

27

28 Madame Chair. Thank you.

29

30 MR. BOSKOFISKY: Just like I said, it

31 doesn't matter as long as they put me up.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So we'll do

34 the 6 and 7 tentative, and you can work out whatever

35 you need to work out so you can attend this one.

36

37 MR. MIKE: That's correct, Madame

38 Chair. Right. And the Northwest RAC haven't met yet,

39 so there's a possibility they may accommodate to move

40 the dates, but if not, we'll work something out within

41 our office. Thank you.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Do we

44 need a motion or is this fine. Okay. Tentative is

45 March 6 and 7, 2012.

46

47 And do we need to tentatively schedule

48 the winter meeting.

49

50 MR. MIKE: Yes, Madame Chair. Just set

1 a tentative date, but there's some concerns from other
2 Council members. You know, that these meeting windows
3 don't work for them, so make it known that there's a
4 possibility we may request a date outside of the
5 published scheduled meeting dates.

6

7 Thank you, Madame Chair.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So I guess
10 what my suggestion would be is to have you coordinate,
11 because I think the majority of us here wouldn't really
12 have any conflict hopefully within this window, but
13 maybe work with the one or two that might have a
14 conflict so that we'd make sure that they attend.

15

16 I don't like the idea of -- and this
17 time it's because the airlines only fly at a certain
18 time, but I don't like the idea of having the Council
19 members come and then leave in the middle of the
20 meeting. And so we need to put forth to them that, you
21 know, they're elected to sit here at any scheduled
22 meeting and make this -- make the dates that we set
23 priority over whatever they need to do in their
24 personal life.

25

26 So what I will do, what I will
27 recommend is for you to work with whomever that might
28 have a conflict outside of this window, and then get
29 back with me.

30

31 And I'd like to get a sense of what
32 dates this Council would have within this window. Any
33 conflicts.

34

35 MR. ABRAHAM: (In Yup'ik)

36

37 MR. DUNAWAY: After moose season.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. So I
42 guess we'll put it to that.

43

44 Dan, did you have a suggestion.

45

46 MR. DUNAWAY: Just a comment, Madame
47 Chair.

48

49 Yeah, I'm increasingly concerned that
50 we systematically end up missing especially Tenny as I

1 know him as, Tenny Hedlund, because he's out bear
2 hunting. I think Nanci's still got guided clients this
3 time of year. And I forget why the window is where it
4 is, but I think the latest -- later into October the
5 better for a lot of these folks. Then Tenny gets into
6 struggles with keeping his house warm.

7

8 But, yeah, I know, it's really nice to
9 have everybody here, and especially they add a lot.

10

11 But other than that, personally my
12 preference is just any time after moose season.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And then later
17 on in October wouldn't work for those of us that attend
18 AFN.

19

20 MR. DUNAWAY: That's right.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: We need to
23 work a date where everybody will attend. They were
24 elected by -- that was the main reason why they were
25 elected is to be responsible to be here when they're
26 supposed to be here. And it's been pretty regular when
27 Thomas Hedlund and Dale haven't been attending because
28 they have bear season or whatever sport season they
29 need to take care of. So we need to correct that
30 somehow.

31

32 Other than that, I don't -- Donald.

33

34 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair. So
35 I'm just thinking that I'm getting direction from this
36 Council to work with those Council members and select a
37 date that may work and then contact you and the rest of
38 the Council members and make that position -- or the
39 dates known for everyone, so that way we can prepare
40 for our next cycle of meetings.

41

42 Thank you, Madame Chair.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. That
45 sounds good.

46

47 And if we don't have any other
48 business.

49

50 MR. ABRAHAM: (In Yup'ik)

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.
2
3 MR. MIKE: Yeah. I just want to remind
4 you, there were some forms that were submitted for
5 public testimony. I don't know if they're still
6 around, if they want to still testify, but maybe just
7 for the record you can call out their names.
8
9 Thank you, Madame Chair.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I just wrote a
12 note on them, they both left. I don't see them in the
13 audience. But if any of you have an urgency to come
14 and talk again, we'll sit here a little bit longer.
15
16 (No comments)
17
18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: If not, I
19 think we could adjourn. Or somebody needs to make a
20 motion.
21
22 MR. DUNAWAY: I'll move to adjourn, but
23 I also want to thank Donald for all the hard work he
24 does. And I was wondering in that earlier talk about
25 budgets and capacity building and OSM, and I think
26 somehow we need more Donalds, because they're spreading
27 him thinner and thinner. So I hope they can find a way
28 to split the workload out a little more so he won't be
29 so -- work so hard.
30
31 But thank you very much for all you do,
32 Donald.
33
34 MR. BOSKOFISKY: I thank you very much,
35 too, Donald.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So we all
38 appreciate you. And I'm sorry that you weren't able
39 beluga hunt this trip.
40
41 And I want to thank the public that
42 stayed on. I really was impressed with the young folks
43 that came on. But I do appreciate all the agencies
44 that came, and it shows support for the RAC. And if
45 the public and agencies that have stuck through to this
46 very moment, we'd be talking between ourselves. So I
47 really appreciate those of you that stuck on.
48
49 MR. ABRAHAM: (In Yup'ik)
50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There's been a
2 motion.
3
4 MR. BOSKOFISKY: I make a motion we
5 adjourn.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I think there
8 was a motion to.....
9
10 MR. BOSKOFISKY: I make a motion we
11 adjourn.
12
13 MR. DUNAWAY: Second.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Second by Dan.
16 So there's been a motion by Alvin and second by Dan
17 Dunaway to adjourn until our March meeting.
18
19 Thank you very much.
20
21 (Off record)
22
23 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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