

1 BRISTOL BAY ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING  
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6  
7

8  
9 VOLUME I  
10

11  
12 Naknek Native Village Council Hall  
13 Naknek, Alaska  
14 February 24, 2015  
15  
16  
17

18 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:  
19

20 Molly Chythlook  
21 Dan Dunaway  
22 Lary Hill  
23 Nanci Morris Lyon  
24 William Maines  
25 Richard Wilson  
26  
27  
28  
29

30 Regional Council Coordinator, Donald Mike  
31  
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33  
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S  
2  
3 (Naknek, Alaska - 2/24/2015)  
4  
5 (On record)  
6  
7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I think we  
8 have all our board members here. I'm going to call the  
9 meeting to order. According to my time here, it's  
10 10:03. I want to welcome -- boy, it's pretty sparse  
11 out there -- our board members and our public, our  
12 agency people. I don't see any public people from this  
13 area yet. Maybe they'll show up later. But I do want  
14 to welcome each one of you for coming here. I know  
15 that you're bringing knowledge that we could use and we  
16 appreciate that.  
17  
18 I guess our first item on the agenda is  
19 roll call. Donald.  
20  
21 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
22 Donald Mike, Regional Council Coordinator. Roll call  
23 for Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council.  
24  
25 Mr. Pete Abraham.  
26  
27 (No response)  
28  
29 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, Mr. Abraham is  
30 currently in the hospital and is unable to attend.  
31  
32 Mr. Dan O'Hara.  
33  
34 (No response)  
35  
36 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, Mr. O'Hara  
37 stated to me last fall that he already had a planned  
38 vacation, so he's excused.  
39  
40 Ms. Nanci Morris.  
41  
42 MS. MORRIS LYON: Here.  
43  
44 MR. MIKE: Ms. Molly Chythlook.  
45  
46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Here.  
47  
48 MR. MIKE: Mr. Senafont Shugak, Jr.  
49  
50 (No response)

1 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, I received an  
2 email from Mr. Shugak saying that he couldn't attend  
3 this meeting. He had came down with a stomach flu.  
4  
5 Mr. William Maines.  
6  
7 MR. MAINES: Here.  
8  
9 MR. MIKE: Mr. Dan Dunaway.  
10  
11 MR. DUNAWAY: Here.  
12  
13 MR. MIKE: Mr. Lary Hill.  
14  
15 MR. HILL: Here.  
16  
17 MR. MIKE: Mr. Thomas Hedlund.  
18  
19 (No response)  
20  
21 MR. MIKE: Mr. Thomas Hedlund stated to  
22 me that he couldn't attend this meeting this week,  
23 Madame Chair.  
24  
25 Mr. Richard Wilson.  
26  
27 MR. WILSON: Here.  
28  
29 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, you have 6  
30 members present. You have a quorum.  
31  
32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,  
33 Donald. I'm going to call Lary Hill to do the  
34 invocation before we start. If we can all stand.  
35  
36 (Invocation)  
37  
38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,  
39 Lary. The next item on our agenda is welcome and  
40 introduction. Before I do that I'd like to -- I guess  
41 I can wait until after the welcome. Let's introduce  
42 our board members and then the public or the people  
43 that are sitting out there. We'll start with William  
44 -- or Billy.  
45  
46 MR. MAINES: Good morning. Billy  
47 Maines with the Curyung Tribal Council out of  
48 Dillingham, Alaska. I don't know exactly what you want  
49 me to say other than I'm happy to be here. I'm the  
50 rookie on the team, so hopefully I don't make any

1 errors and I can hit a home run every once in a while.  
2 So I appreciate being here.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: William, since  
7 you're new, I'd like for you to give us sort of like  
8 your background of your -- I know you cover a lot of  
9 areas, but I think it would be good for our board and  
10 the people out there to introduce yourself with all the  
11 work that you've done in the past.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MR. MAINES: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
16 I'm basically born and bred in Dillingham. I've  
17 traveled around the world. My dad was in the Air Force  
18 and he met up with my mom in Anchorage. My growing up  
19 years were Air Force years. We traveled all throughout  
20 the country. Different nations and a different school,  
21 a different grade.

22

23 When I turned 17 and went out on my  
24 own, spent a couple years in tech school, got an  
25 associate degree in electronic and computer technology.  
26 Also became a first class engineer, which meant  
27 basically I could work at any public or private radio  
28 and television station anywhere in the world.

29

30 I at one time thought of Voice of  
31 America, but I decided, no, it's time to go home. So I  
32 came home to Dillingham 1975. Worked at public radio  
33 in Dillingham KDLG for 13 years. Spent a couple years  
34 in Barrow managing the radio station in Barrow at KBRW.  
35 Did a couple years at Ketchikan at KRBD. That was my  
36 17 years of public service in public broadcasting in  
37 the state of Alaska.

38

39 After that I spent eight years at our  
40 regional non-profit, Bristol Bay Native Association. I  
41 implemented the BIA compact for the regional  
42 organization. I hired and opened up tribal government  
43 offices in all 30 villages that Bristol Bay Native  
44 Association serves. So I opened up the offices,  
45 staffed the offices, hired administrators and trained  
46 administrators and tribal government presidents for  
47 about eight years. That was my second childhood.

48

49 My third childhood is what I've been  
50 doing for the past 13 years and that's working for my

1 own tribal council out of Dillingham, Curyung Tribal.  
2 I've been on the council itself for the past four  
3 years, but I've been employed by the council for the  
4 past 13 as their tribal environmental coordinator. In  
5 that position, I find myself sitting on the  
6 Nushagak/Mulchatna Watershed Council, the Bristol Bay  
7 Heritage Land Trust.

8

9 I chair EPA's Region 10, which is  
10 Alaska, Idaho, Washington and -- who did I miss.  
11 Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska. How can I forget  
12 Alaska. I chair that Region 10 Tribal Operations  
13 Committee, which is an advisory group to Region 10's  
14 EPA headquarters in Seattle. On top of that I also  
15 chair the National Tribal Operations Committee, which  
16 is 19 representatives across the nation who sit down  
17 and give advice and information to Administrator  
18 McCarthy and Secretary Jewell on occasion. Before that  
19 it was Ken -- good old buddy, Ken Salazar.

20

21 So I've been involved with tribal  
22 governments for the past 20, 25 years. I have worked  
23 with them, for them. I represent them in many facets  
24 and that's my professional stuff.

25

26 My fun stuff is getting out on a  
27 fishing boat. I was a crewman for my dad, my great  
28 uncle, a couple of my uncles and my grandfather. Oh, I  
29 want to say 30 years before my lower back felt like it  
30 couldn't take pulling in dead nets over dead rollers.  
31 That was back in the days when the herring fishery  
32 started over in Togiak. Gillnetting, sinking nets,  
33 pulling them up, physically having to shake them,  
34 shovel them and get ready for the kings later on. I  
35 was talking to somebody earlier that fishing used to be  
36 from May to September instead of the two-week hurrah  
37 that you see on the Battle of Bristol Bay.

38

39 I'm an avid hunter and fisher. I gave  
40 up trapping. I used to trap quite a bit until the  
41 rabbits I used to catch all their livers, every single  
42 one of them one winter, had liver spots in them, so  
43 that kind of stopped me from going after rabbits. They  
44 were the main thing I'd throw in the freezer. The  
45 others were for fur, but the fur prices went down, so  
46 it got to the point to where the prices of doing it  
47 went up, the price of your satisfaction of doing it  
48 went down, so I stopped that.

49

50 And I've been passing the knowledge on

1 to my children. I have three boys and one daughter.  
2 They've blessed me with three grandchildren so far.  
3 I'm the oldest of eight in my family. I'm the oldest  
4 grandson of my late grandma. She passed away a number  
5 of years ago and at the time we sat around the kitchen  
6 table on a napkin trying to figure out how many  
7 grandchildren she had. I was the eldest of 69.

8

9 So Dillingham is my home and has been  
10 my home. Bristol Bay is my region. It always has been  
11 my region. I've done a lot of traveling and visiting.  
12 I have family in most of the villages and I'm happy to  
13 be here and I hope that I can do you and myself and  
14 this Council service in protecting what we have now.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,  
17 Billy. That was a good informational introduction. I  
18 know that he has a wealth of information that he's  
19 collected from being so involved all his life, so I  
20 wanted him to give you folks an idea of where he's  
21 coming from. I think we're fortunate to have him as a  
22 new addition to our board here.

23

24 Richard.

25

26 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Good  
27 morning. I'm told that as we get older, my memory is  
28 supposed to improve of my youth, but I'm still waiting.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 MR. WILSON: I'm still waiting. I  
33 could not get into that kind of detail. Yeah, good  
34 morning. You know, what a different kind of season  
35 again we're having here. It's just unreal the way our  
36 earth is changing and revolving around us and the  
37 issues that come with it. So good morning.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I'll  
40 move over to Lary.

41

42 MR. HILL: Hi, I'm Lary Hill. I'm 70  
43 years young. I'm from the Lake Iliamna area and from  
44 all Bristol Bay. In my past I was a -- in my other  
45 life I was a school teacher and commercial fisherman,  
46 construction apprentice under my brothers. I lived  
47 what's called a subsistence lifestyle, but it's  
48 actually a way of life. The definition of subsistence  
49 doesn't come from us.

50

1 I'm just fairly recent on this Council.  
2 I've been on the Lake Clark SRC since 1982. I thought  
3 I'd branch out and help with this Council. I spent a  
4 lot of time with my grandmother growing up until I was  
5 about eight years old. I hardly spoke any English.  
6 That was part of a generation where we were forced not  
7 to use it. But living with my grandma she instilled in  
8 me a lifelong love for our way of life. If you see  
9 something that's not right, especially when you get to  
10 be kind of an elder like I am, you can't just let it  
11 go. You've got to step forward and do what's right.

12  
13 Where I'm having a problem with that is  
14 some of our younger people have not had those values  
15 instilled in them. That was part of the problem with  
16 filling positions on our Council, it's difficult to get  
17 younger people involved, so I don't know what we can do  
18 about that.

19  
20 I appreciate my time on this Council.  
21 I hope I can be of some help.

22  
23 Thank you.

24  
25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,  
26 Lary. And then Dan Dunaway.

27  
28 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
29 First I'd like to welcome the new members. Billy and I  
30 have known each other for a while and I always enjoy  
31 his company. I'm sure enjoying getting to know Lary.  
32 I want to have everybody think of Pete, a friend. I  
33 guess he's in the hospital and kind of consider him a  
34 friend too and kind of concerned about him.

35  
36 I'm a lifelong Alaskan. Grew up, born  
37 and raised in Anchorage. I had a 24-year career  
38 roughly, depending on how you count, with Fish and Game  
39 and retired. Decided it's too much fun to stay in  
40 Dillingham. My whole career was in Southwest Alaska  
41 from Dillingham to Dutch Harbor and the Bering Sea. I  
42 am a subsistence user, sport user and do a little bit  
43 of trapping.

44  
45 Thank you.

46  
47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you Dan.

48  
49 Nanci.  
50

1 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame  
2 Chair. Yeah, I would like to welcome everybody to our  
3 community too, especially our audience participants.  
4 Thanks for coming down. We'll look forward to hearing  
5 from all of you and the information you're going to  
6 share.

7  
8 I've been on the Council for a long  
9 time, 10 or 12 years, maybe longer, and always  
10 learning. I totally agree with the words that Lary  
11 said about wanting to get more people, especially our  
12 youth, involved and stepping forward when they see  
13 something is not right or when they recognize change  
14 needs to be made. It would be great to come up with  
15 solutions towards that.

16  
17 I look forward to working with you,  
18 William. I welcome you to the Council and hopefully we  
19 will get some good, solid decisions made for our area  
20 during this meeting.

21  
22 Thank you, Molly, and welcome back  
23 yourself. It's nice to have you back.

24  
25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,  
26 Nanci. With the consistency of our board and how  
27 different we all are, even though we're from the same  
28 region, it's been, I guess, rewarding to work with the  
29 different background, the different culture within the  
30 same region.

31  
32 I'm Molly Chythlook, living in  
33 Dillingham now, but raised in Aleknagik, which is like  
34 23 miles north of Dillingham. I was saying that each  
35 one of us has our own, I guess, knowledge base and when  
36 we're working with our different agenda items, I don't  
37 know everything that is before me, so it's been great  
38 to have a board like this with different knowledge  
39 level experience to integrate our information and come  
40 out with something that's usable, so I really  
41 appreciate people such as this board working together  
42 like this.

43  
44 I guess with my history I worked with  
45 State of Alaska under Subsistence Division for about 26  
46 years, which prepared me to my next line of work, which  
47 was non-profit BBNA and then I worked with them for six  
48 years, but now I'm retired. I was raised in a cultural  
49 setting. Raised by my grandmother because my birth  
50 mother was deceased with the tuberculosis disease that



1 came on. There was no cure for it at that time. But  
2 with the history of being raised by my grandmother and  
3 it being instilled the respect for the culture, the  
4 resources and everything that we all depend on has been  
5 my background and my character.

6

7 I can recognize Lary and his growing up  
8 with a grandmother. I guess with Billy -- I call him  
9 Billy. His name is William, I guess. I could  
10 recognize the commercial herring and salmon aspect of  
11 his life because that's what I did for, I don't know,  
12 maybe 40 years of my life.

13

14 So I again want to thank the board  
15 members that made themselves available to be here. I'm  
16 going to continue with the introductions. Maybe I'll  
17 start with the front here, Robbin, and then go back.

18

19 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Madame  
20 Chair. Members of the Council and members of the  
21 public. I'm Robbin LaVine. I'm a new hire with the  
22 Office of Subsistence Management, but I'm not new to  
23 the region. I did work here for a number of years as a  
24 partners position anthropologist for the Bristol Bay  
25 Native Association and the last five years for the  
26 Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Southcentral.

27

28 I'm absolutely delighted to be back in  
29 Southwest Alaska and I look forward to serving the  
30 Council to the best of my abilities and members of the  
31 public here.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.  
36 Maybe we'll go across. It might be easier.

37

38 Ted.

39

40 MR. KRIEG: I'm Ted Krieg with Division  
41 of Subsistence, Fish and Game. I work out of  
42 Dillingham. I've lived in Dillingham since 1992.

43

44 MS. HENRY: My turn. Good morning,  
45 everyone. I'm Susanna Henry. I work for U.S. Fish and  
46 Wildlife Service at the Togiak Refuge in Dillingham.

47

48 MR. CADY: Good morning. My name is  
49 Tom Cady. I am the new Deputy Refuge Manager for the  
50 Alaska Peninsula and the Becharof Refuges. I've been

1 in Alaska 14 years down in Southeast Alaska with the  
2 Tongass National Forest. This is my first experience  
3 here in the Bristol Bay Region. I'm looking forward to  
4 it.

5

6

Thank you.

7

8

MS. HILL: Hi, I'm B.J. Hill and I'm a  
9 subsistence user. I'm married to Pete Hill and we have  
10 six kids and 10 grandchildren and they're all  
11 subsistence users. So that's who I am.

12

13

MS. ANDERSON: I'm Sherri Anderson,  
14 wildlife biologist and Subsistence Manager for Katmai  
15 National Park, Aniakchak National Monument and Alagnak  
16 Wild River.

17

18

MR. SUMMERS: Good morning. My name is  
19 Clarence Summers. I'm with the National Park Service.  
20 I work in the Alaska Regional Office with the  
21 subsistence team. I'm the Subsistence Manager. I've  
22 worked in Alaska outside of the regional office, but in  
23 Glacier Bay, Wrangell-St. Elias. Good morning.

24

25

MR. HAMON: Good morning. My name is  
26 Troy Hamon. I work for the National Park Service here  
27 in King Salmon as the Chief of Resource Management for  
28 the Parks here at Katmai and the Alagnak River and  
29 Aniakchak.

30

31

MR. JENNINGS: Good morning. My name  
32 is Tom Jennings. I work in the Office of Subsistence  
33 Management. I've worked for Fish and Wildlife Service  
34 here for the last 31 years and in OSM for the last 18  
35 primarily in support positions doing the DIS mapping,  
36 some Council coordination. I've recently moved into  
37 the Wildlife Division and I'm a biologist. I'll be  
38 presenting some information on your agenda today.

39

40

Thank you.

41

42

MS. ALEXANDER: Good morning. Good to  
43 see you all again. I'm Susan Alexander. I'm the  
44 Refuge Manager for Alaska Peninsula and Becharof  
45 National Wildlife Refuges. In Alaska since about 1982  
46 and a couple of short absences where it took me two or  
47 three years to figure out that I needed to be back in  
48 Alaska. I've been in the Bristol Bay area for a little  
49 over a year and a half now. This is my third RAC  
50 meeting with you all, so I look forward to this one.

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. LIND: Good morning. I'm the new  
4 Native liaison for the Office of Subsistence  
5 Management. As you knew me before, a Refuge ranger for  
6 King Salmon station, Fish and Wildlife Service station,  
7 for a little over 20 years. I'm so glad to be back  
8 home. Nice to see familiar faces and looking forward  
9 to working with all of you.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MR. KLUTSCH: My name is Joe Klutsch.  
14 I live in King Salmon. I'm a hunting and fishing guide  
15 and also trap and subsistence use and fill out a lot of  
16 permit paperwork for the Federal agencies.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MR. KLUTSCH: Joey Klutsch, live in  
21 King Salmon. Also a hunting and fishing guide. I'm a  
22 subsistence user.

23

24 MR. WATTS: Dominique Watts. I've  
25 lived in King Salmon about 10 years now. I'm the  
26 mammals biologist for Fish and Wildlife Service here in  
27 King Salmon.

28

29 MR. BETTS: Good morning. I'm Tom  
30 Betts. I'm the Chief Ranger here in Katmai National  
31 Park. I just got up here in December. I've been in  
32 the same seat for about 33 years working in the Lower  
33 48 Park. Also spent 13 years over at  
34 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. Went to  
35 the Lower 48 six years and decided to come back. So  
36 I'm familiar with a lot of different things,  
37 subsistence and things that go on in Alaska. I'm  
38 really happy to be back and look forward to working  
39 with you.

40

41 MR. ADERMAN: Good morning. My name is  
42 Andy Aderman. I'm a wildlife biologist for the Kodiak  
43 Refuge stationed in Dillingham and been here now a  
44 little over 20 years.

45

46 MS. GOODRO: Good morning. I'm  
47 Margaret Goodro, the Superintendent for Lake Clark  
48 National Park and Preserve. I'm duty stationed out of  
49 Anchorage and I'm field stationed at Port Alsworth  
50 portions in the summertime. I've been with Lake Clark

1 for about two years and the Park Service over 20 years.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MR. MIKE: My name is Donald Mike. I'm  
6 the Regional Council Coordinator for Bristol Bay.  
7 Madame Chair, if you could recognize folks online to  
8 introduce themselves.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. If  
13 there's anybody online, this is your introduction time.

14

15 MR. CRAWFORD: This is Drew Crawford.  
16 I'm the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Federal  
17 Subsistence Liaison Team in Anchorage.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.

20 Anybody else?

21

22 MR. SHARP: This is Dan Sharp with the  
23 Bureau of Land Management. I work on the Interagency  
24 Staff Committee.

25

26 MS. THOMASON: Good morning. This is  
27 Heather Thomason. I'm with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
28 Service out of Anchorage.

29

30 MR. MESSICK: Good morning. This is  
31 John Messick. I'm with the Bristol Bay Times. Just  
32 listening in today.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Do we have  
37 anybody else online?

38

39 MS. PETRIVELLI: This is Pat Petrivelli  
40 and I'm just listening in briefly, so I'll be in and  
41 out listening to the meeting. I'm the BIA subsistence  
42 anthropologist out of Anchorage.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,  
45 Pat. I saw you on the road yesterday. I was wondering  
46 if you were going to be here.

47

48 Anybody else online.

49

50 MS. CARTY: Good morning, Madame

1 Chairman. This is Courtenay Carty calling in from  
2 Dillingham, Bristol Bay Native Association, Department  
3 of Natural Resources.  
4  
5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,  
6 Courtenay. Anybody else?  
7  
8 MS. HOSETH: Good morning, Madame  
9 Chairman. This is Gayla Hoseth calling in from Bristol  
10 Bay Native Association as well.  
11  
12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thanks,  
13 Gayla. Anybody else?  
14  
15 MR. CROWLEY: Good morning, Madame  
16 Chair. This is Dave Crowley, Alaska Department of Fish  
17 and Game, here at the office in King Salmon. I will be  
18 giving a report to the RAC members tomorrow.  
19  
20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank  
21 you. I'll look forward to seeing you. Anybody else  
22 online?  
23  
24 MS. KENNER: Mrs. Chair, this is Pippa  
25 Kenner with OSM in Anchorage.  
26  
27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Anybody else  
28 online?  
29  
30 (No comments)  
31  
32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. It  
33 sounds like we're all introduced except our recorder  
34 there.  
35  
36 REPORTER: I'm Nathan. Hi.  
37  
38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.  
39  
40 MR. HILL: I wanted to maybe correct a  
41 little impression I made about spending a lot of time  
42 with my grandmother. The reason for that is I was such  
43 a spoiled brat nobody else could stand to be around me.  
44  
45  
46 (Laughter)  
47  
48 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thanks for the  
49 clarification. You were in the right spot at the right  
50 time. Thank you. I guess we can move on with our

1 agenda. Before we do, I'd like to review our agenda  
2 starting from number one.

3

4 The first one that we've already dealt  
5 with is roll call and establishment of a quorum,  
6 invocation, call to order. Number 4 is welcome and  
7 introductions, number 5 review and adopt agenda. Number  
8 6 election of officers and we'll be electing a Chair,  
9 Vice-Chair and Secretary. Number 7 review and approve  
10 previous meeting minutes. Number 8 is reports by the  
11 Council and Chair. Number 9 is public and tribal  
12 comment on non-agenda items.

13

14 While we're here, I'd like to have our  
15 public people know that each one of your comments are  
16 very, very important to us, so each agenda item that we  
17 deal with you are welcome to make any comments on.  
18 This is with our regional concerns and we'll make a  
19 provision for non-agenda items every morning, but I'd  
20 like to encourage -- since our public is few, I want to  
21 punctuate the importance of your input to us on any  
22 agenda items that we deal with.

23

24 Moving on to number 10 is the old  
25 business and under old business we have rural  
26 determination process review and Secretarial proposed  
27 rule. 10(b) is customary and traditional use  
28 determination, Southeast Council proposal. 10(c)  
29 Refugees proposed rule on hunting. 10(e) red fish Board  
30 of Fish proposal, Naknek Lake. 10(f) National Park  
31 Service subsistence collections and uses of shed or  
32 discarded animal parts and plants from Park Areas in  
33 Alaska.

34

35 Under 11, new business we have wildlife  
36 closure review and it's WCR14-04/06. 11(b) is call for  
37 Federal hunting and trapping regulatory proposals.  
38 11(c) Kodiak/Aleutians Council Emperor Goose  
39 resolution. 11(d) funding notification, Fisheries  
40 Resource Monitoring Program. 11(e) review and approve  
41 FY2014 Annual Report. 11(f) Charter revisions.

42

43 Under 12, agency reports. It says time  
44 limit of 15 minutes unless approved in advance. They  
45 are tribal governments, Native organizations and then  
46 NPFMC salmon by-catch in Bering Sea.  
47 Special actions by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is  
48 Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd. (b) Togiak  
49 National Wildlife Refuge, (c) Alaska Peninsula/Becharof  
50 National Wildlife Refuge. Then National Park Service,

1 BLM, ADF&G and OSM.  
2  
3 13 would be future meeting dates and  
4 confirm date and location of fall 2015 meeting. 14 is  
5 the closing comments.  
6 15 is adjourn. That's our agenda items. We need a  
7 motion to adopt the agenda. Richard and William.  
8  
9 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Before us  
10 is an emergency moose special action WSA15-01. Where  
11 are we going to fit that into the discussion? Is it  
12 something that I missed?  
13  
14 MS. MORRIS LYON: Let's put the agenda  
15 on the table and then we can amend it.  
16  
17 MR. WILSON: Okay. Thank you.  
18  
19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci, you  
20 wanted to do that.  
21  
22 MS. MORRIS LYON: I would make a motion  
23 to approve the agenda as presented in the packet here.  
24  
25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Just one  
26 moment, Nanci. William, did you have a comment before  
27 we approve the agenda?  
28  
29 MR. MAINES: No, he brought it up.  
30  
31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Sorry,  
32 Nanci.  
33  
34 MS. MORRIS LYON: No, that's okay. I  
35 just figured we needed it on the table before we could  
36 comment on it and make the changes. So I'm going to  
37 make that motion.  
38  
39 MR. MAINES: I'll second.  
40  
41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There was a  
42 motion to approve the agenda. William, did you second  
43 that?  
44  
45 MR. MAINES: Yeah.  
46  
47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There's been a  
48 second by William. The discussion on the agenda.  
49 Richard.  
50

1 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, I'd like to  
2 find out where we're going to put this new proposal  
3 before us here, special action WSA15-01.  
4  
5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.  
6  
7 MS. MORRIS LYON: Could I offer that  
8 possibly we might put it under 11(a) along with the  
9 other proposal we're going to be discussing. Would you  
10 find that acceptable, Richard? Donald, do you think  
11 that would be appropriate?  
12  
13 MR. MIKE: Yes.  
14  
15 MR. WILSON: That works for me.  
16  
17 MS. MORRIS LYON: Okay.  
18  
19 MR. DUNAWAY: So move.  
20  
21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan, did you  
22 have -- oh, there's been a motion to put as number 2  
23 the WCR15- -- how would we word it? WCR.....  
24  
25 MR. WILSON: WSA.  
26  
27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: WSA?  
28  
29 MR. MAINES: 15-01.  
30  
31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dash.....  
32  
33 MR. DUNAWAY: 15-01.  
34  
35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: 15-01. Okay.  
36 Dan, did you second that motion or did you have a  
37 comment?  
38  
39 MR. DUNAWAY: If we need a second for  
40 this amendment, I'll second it, but, yeah, I could see  
41 putting it under new business and make it number 2  
42 under 11(a). So if we need a second, I'll second it,  
43 but maybe somebody already did.  
44  
45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So there  
46 hasn't been a.....  
47  
48 MS. MORRIS LYON: Richard made the  
49 motion.  
50



1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard, did  
2 you move to amend?  
3  
4 MR. WILSON: Yes, I did. Move to put  
5 that in on 11(a)(2) WSA15-01, please.  
6  
7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There was a  
8 motion and then, Dan, you second it?  
9  
10 MR. DUNAWAY: Yes, I'll second it.  
11  
12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Are we ready  
13 to vote? Donald.  
14  
15 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. If I can  
16 remind the folks online to please mute their phone.  
17 We're getting some feedback. If you haven't done so,  
18 \*6 or hit a mute button on your telephone.  
19  
20 Thank you.  
21  
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: We are getting  
23 a lot of feedback. I don't know where it's coming  
24 from.  
25  
26 MS. MORRIS LYON: Online.  
27  
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Donald.  
29  
30 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Ma'am. Currently  
31 the agenda is up for discussion and you included  
32 special action 15-01 and we can continue on discussing  
33 and reviewing the agenda and go from there. From there  
34 somebody can call the question and then adopt the  
35 agenda as a whole.  
36  
37 Thank you, Madame Chair.  
38  
39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Is there any  
40 more discussion on this agenda item. Ted, did you have  
41 a request for your portion? Ted has a meeting this  
42 evening in Dillingham, so he has a request for his  
43 presentation. Normally his presentation is under 12  
44 way at the bottom, but, Ted, do you want to give us  
45 your request.  
46  
47 MR. KRIEG: Yes, Madame Chair. Thank  
48 you. Yeah, I'm only able to be here for the day. I  
49 have a PowerPoint presentation about our chinook salmon  
50 subsistence work that we've been doing on the Nushagak

1 and it's our results for the first year, which was  
2 2013, but I can keep it less than 15 minutes. If I can  
3 do that today, that would be great. Thanks.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Ted is  
6 requesting to give his presentation sometime today. Do  
7 you want to look on the agenda and see where we can  
8 place him.

9

10 MR. MAINES: Madame Chair.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: William.

13

14 MR. MAINES: Ted, are you the only one  
15 that's going to report on Alaska Department of Fish and  
16 Game?

17

18 MS. MORRIS LYON: No, Drew is going --  
19 he said online he was going to give a report as well.  
20 And Dave.

21

22 MR. MAINES: Well, Madame Chair, if  
23 it's agreeable with the Council, I think we can  
24 probably sneak him in after the reports from the  
25 Council and the Chair before public comment on  
26 non-agenda items.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I guess what  
29 we can do is put him under number 8 under reports. So  
30 right after the Chair report then we can put Ted.  
31 Nanci.

32

33 MS. MORRIS LYON: Is that a motion,  
34 William?

35

36 MR. MAINES: Yeah, please.

37

38 MS. MORRIS LYON: I'll second that.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. There's  
41 been a motion and second. Richard.

42

43 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Just a  
44 point of discussion. I'm wondering on our agenda here  
45 if we were to hold off until we actually hit the new  
46 business section if that would still be in today's  
47 agenda instead of on the reports. To me, other than  
48 that, it wouldn't matter. Thanks.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I guess it

1 doesn't matter to me. What we can probably do is maybe  
2 put him first item on the agenda under new business.  
3 If it looks like we're crunching time -- he has to  
4 leave by 3:00 o'clock, so I'm not certain how fast  
5 we're going to go through these. Under old business,  
6 how fast we're going to go through those agenda.  
7 Nanci.

8

9 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, I'm going to  
10 stick with my motion, Richard, mostly just for that  
11 reason that I could see us possibly getting bogged down  
12 in some of our old business items, so I'm going to  
13 stick with my original suggestion.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

16

17 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
18 I'm going to remind the Regional Advisory Council we  
19 have action items that takes priority over agency  
20 reports that includes rural determination review,  
21 Refuges proposed rule and National Park Service  
22 collections, so we need to get these action items  
23 completed before we get into secondary agenda items,  
24 Madame Chair.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MR. WILSON: Hey, so my thought stands,  
29 huh.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Let's  
32 probably place Ted's report -- Nanci.

33

34 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame  
35 Chair. I understand what you're saying, Donald, but I  
36 also think the information that he can give us on the  
37 chinook is important enough. I don't want to miss it  
38 today and knowing that I'm going to have to give that  
39 up. He's going to have to be down there to meet that  
40 plane that lives fairly early from here, is it not?

41

42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Three o'clock.

43

44 MS. MORRIS LYON: So I'm worried about  
45 that and I'd sure like that information before we  
46 launch into some of these other things. I understand  
47 what you're saying. I understand the importance of the  
48 action items, but I don't want to give up the  
49 information on a study that we've wanted for a while.  
50 I'm open to listen to the other Council members'

1 opinion too.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.

4

5 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.

6 As a resident of Dillingham and looking also at this  
7 whole business, some of it is going to take some real  
8 thought. I'm ready to hear Ted as soon as we can and  
9 free him up, holding his feet to the fire that he'll  
10 keep it short.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Donald.

15

16 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.

17 It's the wishes of the Council, so I'm just reminding  
18 Council that we have business that needs to be taken  
19 care of and taken action on.

20

21 If I can remind the folks online, for  
22 those that have their speakerphone on, please mute your  
23 phone. We're still getting feedback. Please check  
24 your phones again if you're on speakerphone and make  
25 sure your phone is on mute.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 Did everybody online get that message?

30

31 MR. JONES: Yes. Madame Chair or  
32 Donald, John Jones in Chignik Lagoon.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Hi, John. We  
35 miss you. Thanks for calling in.

36

37 MR. JONES: I was wondering, you guys  
38 were talking there and I was trying to see -- this  
39 letter that Chignik has in to you, which one under your  
40 agenda does that fall under?

41

42 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

45

46 MR. MIKE: Mr. Jones, the Chignik  
47 letter you just stated, what are you referring to? I'm  
48 not aware of a letter from Chignik.

49

50 MR. JONES: So it's not on you guys'

1 agenda yet? You guys still there?  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, we're  
4 still here. We're trying to, I guess, see -- I don't  
5 -- Donald.  
6  
7 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
8 Mr. Jones, the issue you were talking about, a letter  
9 from Chignik, you can introduce that letter and that  
10 subject and we'll have the Council discuss that after  
11 your presentation. Thank you. We're still on the  
12 agenda discussion.  
13  
14 Madame Chair.  
15  
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nancy.  
17  
18 MS. MORRIS LYON: John, this is Nanci.  
19 None of us have seen the letter and what I would like  
20 to suggest to the Council members is that once it is  
21 received by Donald, we can do it under public comment  
22 and pretend that he has filled out a card for us online  
23 and we'll hear it then. Okay, I got a thumbs up from  
24 Donald. If that's okay with you, Madame Chair.  
25  
26 MR. JONES: This letter here was  
27 presented to you guys by Chignik Lake, Perryville and  
28 Chignik Lagoon, so I thought it was on your agenda for  
29 today. Is there a fax or something I can send this to  
30 Donald today and he can present it to you guys?  
31  
32 MR. MIKE: I can get the fax if I can  
33 get the Refuge or Park Service fax number or the  
34 Village of Naknek if they have a fax machine, we can  
35 have it faxed here.  
36  
37 MR. JONES: We can also scan it and  
38 email it to you.  
39  
40 MR. MIKE: Yes, that would also work.  
41 You can scan and email it to my address. Do you have  
42 my email address? Are you ready?  
43  
44 MR. JONES: Go ahead with your email.  
45  
46 MR. MIKE: Okay. It's  
47 donald\_mike@fws.gov.  
48  
49 MR. JONES: Okay, folks will scan it  
50 and email it to you and you can let us know where we're

1 going to -- about what time to rejoin your  
2 teleconference.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

5

6 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
7 Just for point of order, I'm trying to make sure I know  
8 where I am here. We are under discussion of adopting  
9 the agenda. We have amending the agenda to add the  
10 emergency moose item. We're talking about amending it  
11 to hear Mr. Krieg and now we're discussing amending it  
12 to add a letter from Mr. Jones.

13

14 MS. MORRIS LYON: Not really.

15

16 MR. DUNAWAY: Is that where we are?

17

18 MS. MORRIS LYON: We'll just put that  
19 in under public comment.

20

21 MR. DUNAWAY: Oh, public comment.

22 Okay. I was starting to need a GPS. Thank you.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

25

26 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. That  
27 presentation that Ted is going to give us here, I'm in  
28 favor if it needs to be under the reports in number 8  
29 for time crunch, I think that's a very important topic  
30 that we've been anxious to get an update on, so I would  
31 also not want to miss that one. So if that's  
32 appropriate.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I think the  
35 majority of the Council members are in agreement to add  
36 Ted's report under 8 reports, after the Council and  
37 Chair's report. I think Dan Dunaway revisited our  
38 steps on how we're going to have the agenda. If  
39 there's no further discussion on the agenda, I guess  
40 we're ready to approve the agenda as a whole.

41

42 MS. MORRIS LYON: Vote on the  
43 amendment.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We'll  
46 vote on the amendments. I guess the two amendments,  
47 right, or just the one?

48

49 MS. MORRIS LYON: Roll them into one.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Roll into one.  
2 Okay, we can do that.  
3  
4 MS. MORRIS LYON: Question.  
5  
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: The question  
7 has been called. All in favor say aye.  
8  
9 IN UNISON: Aye.  
10  
11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any  
12 opposition.  
13  
14 (No opposing votes)  
15  
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Hearing none,  
17 the amendments are passed. Now approve our agenda as a  
18 whole. Ready for a motion.  
19  
20 MS. MORRIS LYON: Question.  
21  
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: The question  
23 has been called. All in favor say aye.  
24  
25 IN UNISON: Aye.  
26  
27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any  
28 opposition.  
29  
30 (No opposing votes)  
31  
32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Hearing none,  
33 our agenda is passed. We'll move along to elections.  
34 Oh, sorry, Donald.  
35  
36 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, I'm requesting  
37 if we can stand down for five minutes and get the  
38 feedback resolved.  
39  
40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, please,  
41 because it's really interfering.  
42  
43 MR. MIKE: Okay. Madame Chair, if I  
44 can request a recess from the Chair for about 5-10  
45 minutes.  
46  
47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We'll  
48 stand down for about 10 minutes.  
49  
50 (Off record)

1 (On record)  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: We're going to  
4 call the meeting back to order. We're on agenda item  
5 6, election of officers. Our first election would be  
6 Chair. Donald.  
7  
8 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
9 The next agenda item is election of officers. There's  
10 two ways we can do it. I can open the elections or we  
11 can have the Vice-Chair take it over and open the  
12 nominations for Chair. Madame Chair, what is your  
13 wish?  
14  
15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald, Nanci  
16 prefers you.  
17  
18 MR. MIKE: Okay. Madame Chair,  
19 elections of officers. Nominations are now open for  
20 Chair. Mr. Wilson.  
21  
22 MR. WILSON: I nominate Molly.  
23  
24 MR. MIKE: There's a nomination for  
25 Molly. Any other nominations. Ms. Nanci Morris.  
26  
27 MS. MORRIS LYON: I would just ask for  
28 unanimous consent.  
29  
30 MR. MIKE: Asking for unanimous  
31 consent. Any objections.  
32  
33 (No objections)  
34  
35 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, I don't see  
36 any objections. You are the Chair. You have the  
37 gavel.  
38  
39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I'm objecting,  
40 but I guess my objection and election isn't going to  
41 work, so.....  
42  
43 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. In respect of  
44 our Robert's Rules, you objected. Is that still the  
45 case?  
46  
47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. The  
48 next one is election for Vice-Chair. Dan.  
49  
50 MR. DUNAWAY: I'll nominate Nanci



1 Morris Lyons.  
2  
3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Silence. Dan  
4 Dunaway has elected Nanci as Vice-Chair. Any other  
5 nominations.  
6  
7 (No comments)  
8  
9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.  
10  
11 MR. DUNAWAY: I'll call for unanimous  
12 consent.  
13  
14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Unanimous  
15 consent. All in favor say aye.  
16  
17 IN UNISON: Aye.  
18  
19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: No objection,  
20 I guess. Unanimous consent. Nomination for Secretary.  
21 Nanci.  
22  
23 MS. MORRIS LYON: I'll nominate Richard  
24 Wilson.  
25  
26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard Wilson  
27 has been nominated. Richard.  
28  
29 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, if any other  
30 Council members wish to hold this seat, I'm certainly  
31 open for that.  
32  
33 (No comments)  
34  
35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: No objections.  
36 No other nominations. Richard has been nominated. All  
37 in favor say aye.  
38  
39 IN UNISON: Aye.  
40  
41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any  
42 objections.  
43  
44 (No opposing votes)  
45  
46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Hearing none.  
47 I guess election of officers, Chair Molly, Vice-Chair  
48 Nanci, Secretary Richard. Thank you. Number 7, review  
49 and approve previous meeting minutes. You can see the  
50 minutes on Page 5.

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair, move to  
2 adopt.  
3  
4 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There's been a  
5 motion by Dan Dunaway to adopt the minutes.  
6  
7 MS. MORRIS LYON: Second.  
8  
9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Second by  
10 Nanci. All in favor say aye.  
11  
12 MR. DUNAWAY: Is there any discussion?  
13  
14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I'm sorry.  
15 I'm trying to hurry. I guess this is discussion.  
16 Donald.  
17  
18 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. I was just  
19 going to remind the Council that since the second  
20 happened the meeting minutes is open for discussion for  
21 any changes or any action that the Council needs to  
22 take on the minutes.  
23  
24 Thank you.  
25  
26 MR. MAINES: Madame Chair.  
27  
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: William.  
29  
30 MR. MAINES: I'm going to abstain from  
31 voting on the minutes since I wasn't here in  
32 attendance. It's good background information to go  
33 through and read it and find out what the Council has  
34 been doing, but as far as voting for it, I'm just going  
35 to abstain.  
36  
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,  
38 William. William has requested to abstain from voting  
39 on the minutes because he's our new member and wasn't  
40 here during this meeting session in Dillingham. Any  
41 other discussion on the minutes.  
42  
43 (No comments)  
44  
45 MS. MORRIS LYON: Question.  
46  
47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: The question  
48 has been called. All in favor say aye.  
49  
50 IN UNISON: Aye.

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any  
2 objections.  
3  
4 (No opposing votes)  
5  
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Hearing none,  
7 our minutes have been  
8 moved -- excuse me, approved. The next item on our  
9 agenda is number 8, Council member reports. Do we have  
10 any reports from the Council members? Dan.  
11  
12 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Madame Chair, thank  
13 you. I don't have much except that I've been kind of  
14 peripherally watching the Unit 17A moose season this  
15 winter. That's been a carefully orchestrated  
16 regulations and management between the Fish and Game  
17 and for the Togiak Refuge staff and for the Togiak Twin  
18 Hills tribal members and possibly Manokotak as well. I  
19 think it's working really well. The weather isn't  
20 cooperating, but it seems like the system that got  
21 worked out with everybody is providing pretty well. I  
22 think we have 13 moose taken. I think it was four  
23 cows. I'm just excited to see all these folks working  
24 together on it.  
25  
26 Also I brought with me but I haven't  
27 even had a chance to look at it is a copy of the really  
28 basic summary of the latest Board of Game actions. I  
29 can share it around. I don't even know what it says.  
30 I printed it off on my way to the airport yesterday.  
31  
32 That's all I have, ma'am.  
33  
34 Thank you.  
35  
36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thanks, Dan.  
37 Any other reports.  
38  
39 MR. HILL: Madame Chair.  
40  
41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.  
42  
43 MR. HILL: Just in the Lake Iliamna  
44 area our moose have, I think, gone over to Nushagak.  
45 Very few -- of course, we didn't have much winter  
46 hunting there because of the lack of snow and ice.  
47 We're seeing our caribou herds are coming back slowly.  
48 They've been increasing in the last five years. Our  
49 bears went somewhere this summer. We only saw a half a  
50 dozen until late fall and then they all converged in

1 our area. So we had very few bears in our area.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,  
6 Lary. Any other comments.

7

8 Richard, did you have anything.

9

10 MR. WILSON: Not at the moment.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: My  
13 observation, I'm not a hunter. I'm mainly a processor,  
14 but it's been interesting for me to note that all the  
15 years that I've lived in Aleknagik we have never seen  
16 smelt in our freshwater lakes system and the last two  
17 years people have been harvesting smelt right there at  
18 our lake. If I lived there, I could have just walked  
19 down from my house to harvest those. People have been  
20 successful. They've harvested up to five gallons.  
21 Because of no snow the ice has been just clear, so they  
22 could see all the fish.

23

24 Then another notable, I guess,  
25 observation that I've seen throughout my years at  
26 Aleknagik, now living in Dillingham, but I still  
27 process in Aleknagik, is the return of the trout, but  
28 they're not our Aleknagik Lake trout. We have char at  
29 Aleknagik Lake, but that's different from the char that  
30 are harvested at Togiak. Through the years we've  
31 called them Togiak trout, but I guess the English term  
32 for any trout of that type is just -- but because we  
33 have Yup'ik terms for our fish, the trout that we're  
34 harvesting, that Joe and I have been harvesting the  
35 last three years has been (in Yup'ik), which is a trout  
36 from Togiak.

37

38 We've harvested that in smaller numbers  
39 through the years, especially the last five years, but  
40 this year they came unexpectedly. Joe and I were up  
41 there, my husband and I were up there to harvest the  
42 least cisco, the smaller whitefish, and lo and behold  
43 we got probably 30 of those trout, which are mainly  
44 harvested at Togiak. Not only that, I'm embarrassed to  
45 say, we harvested non-subsistence item, the rainbow  
46 trout. I've always heard that rainbow trout is not a  
47 subsistence item, but for those of us that have used  
48 that resource, I don't see how it cannot be.

49

50 Those are the two main observations

1 that I've really seen that is changing, although other  
2 resources are -- you know, the whole ecosystem, we look  
3 at the whole ecosystem and everything else is changing,  
4 but that's my two observations that I've seen.

5  
6 I guess with no other -- Richard.

7  
8 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thanks for  
9 sparking my memory. A while back we had an AC  
10 Naknek/Kvichak meeting here and some of the things that  
11 we discussed again was the lack of moose that were  
12 taken. But seeing more cow/calf recruitment  
13 populations, it looked like it was improving, but the  
14 actual taking of moose, antlered moose, was down and it  
15 was a big concern again for this community.

16  
17 We also had a discussion on the caribou  
18 herds that were also increasing and it was getting to a  
19 point where it was getting exciting down here in the  
20 south because we're real close to having an opener  
21 there it seemed.

22  
23 So that was some of the hot items that  
24 I remember. I don't have the AC stuff in front of me,  
25 so it's just from memory, which isn't very good.

26  
27 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Richard. I  
28 guess we're through with our Council member reports.

29  
30 MR. DUNAWAY: I was kind of waving at  
31 Billy if he had anything he wanted to say.

32  
33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy, do you  
34 have any interesting -- I know you have a lot of  
35 interesting oversights and observations.

36  
37 MR. MAINES: I was hesitant in giving a  
38 report of any sort only for the fact of being the new  
39 kid on the block, but I have a lot of observations that  
40 I've noticed over the years because I am an avid hunter  
41 and fisher and gatherer. Listening to Councilman Hill  
42 and Wilson, I have to add to the comments.

43  
44 The moose population in the lower  
45 Nushagak has dwindled quite a bit. I know the caribou  
46 is almost non-existent. We were talking on the plane  
47 ride over and a little bit last night that my boys are  
48 now on their own and raising their own families, but  
49 when they were still in high school, which is maybe  
50 about 15 years ago, right above Portage Creek there's a  
hillside right behind where we camp on five acres of

1 Native allotment land and the caribou used to be -- you  
2 would look at them and see and it would be like ants  
3 marching across the sands. Now we're lucky if we see  
4 one anywhere.

5  
6 This last year moose hunting I took my  
7 sister and my kids and we went up and we spent a couple  
8 weeks up the river. We didn't see one bull. The cows  
9 were less than what I've ever seen them. Usually when  
10 I'd go out on a morning or evening hunt I'd see three  
11 or four cows with calves and we were lucky to see a  
12 couple cows every other bend or every other curve and  
13 there weren't that many calves this year.

14  
15 So over the years something has been  
16 going on from below Ekwok down to the Fish and Game  
17 counter, the sonar down below portage, to where the  
18 habitat is changing or the animals aren't coming out to  
19 the river as much as they used to.

20  
21 Porcupine are getting really scarce.  
22 You used to be able to count on getting a porcupine  
23 every fall when I'd go upriver. That would be our  
24 first meal out in Mother Nature and she always  
25 provided. Now you can't see it. Beaver are still  
26 abundant and we still wind up having to get beaver, but  
27 the porcupine definitely are gone. Caribou are  
28 definitely gone. Moose is on the decline.

29  
30 Our salmon, thank God, are rebounding.  
31 I remember not too long ago that story that came out on  
32 bycatch dealing with 120,000-plus kings, Nushagak kings  
33 getting caught up in that mixture to where we saw a  
34 real drastic dip in our king run. Slowly but surely  
35 they're coming up. In fact, this last summer is the  
36 first time I saw one that was better than four feet.  
37 For a while there, they were lucky if they were three  
38 feet. So I've noticed that.

39  
40 I say that only for purposes of  
41 observation because when I first ever took a ride with  
42 my uncle up to Portage, he dropped me off, he says go  
43 over the bank and catch some fish. So I went over the  
44 bank and I spent three hours, three and a half hours  
45 trying to land this one fish. I knew it was a king.  
46 It was running deep and silent and stuff, but it took  
47 me three and a half hours and almost lost the string  
48 four times running up and down the beach. When I  
49 finally got it to land, I picked the head with my hands  
50 and lifted it up, the head was above my head and the

1 tail was still about maybe a foot on the ground, you  
2 know.

3  
4 Those things have come and gone. I  
5 think of everything that's happened in my short  
6 lifetime in this area that things are really changed.  
7 We don't have the snowfall we used to have. I remember  
8 climbing up into the attic of our house downtown and  
9 digging out, sliding down and tunneling in. We did  
10 live in igloos. They were wood structure underneath  
11 all the snow, but if you were an outsider looking at  
12 living in Alaska, you lived in an igloo, we did. Now  
13 we had snowfall three times this year. October 23rd,  
14 December 24th, 25th, Christmas, it actually was white,  
15 and then January 25th, I think. Three snowfalls this  
16 year and it didn't even add up to a foot altogether.

17  
18 People say that climate change is real.  
19 Well, all I know is that something is going on that's  
20 affecting our animals, our resources and our lives and  
21 our homes. When people say, oh, you're just making it  
22 up, I'm saying, no, you live in my shoes for a day and  
23 you do what I do with my kids and stuff like that, you  
24 know something is going on.

25  
26 I appreciate the opportunity to share  
27 that with everyone. Things are changing and whether or  
28 not we can make it any better, I'm hoping that we do  
29 and that the good Lord up above sees that we still need  
30 the things that we do want and need and it continues to  
31 be that way.

32  
33 Thank you, Madame Chair.

34  
35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,  
36 William. I want to punctuate the knowledge that the --  
37 especially the hunters as a whole, but I think the  
38 processors and the users of the resource are the ones  
39 that have firsthand knowledge. This year I know we had  
40 over-escapement in our lake system.

41  
42 Come September and October my husband  
43 and I usually go up to our lake system to get spawned-  
44 out reds and we were up there probably the latter part  
45 of September but the mouth of the rivers were so  
46 plugged and we do use a king salmon net to try to  
47 harvest the male because they're the ones that are  
48 biggest for drying and our first set that we had we  
49 only caught two because all those bunches of fish that  
50 were in the mouth of the river all went through our

1 nets. The few that got caught in the net were probably  
2 like a foot long. I put my ulu up to measure one of  
3 those fish and it was almost as big as my knife.

4  
5 One thing that was really sad to see in  
6 the processing was there was a lot more cysts in the  
7 fish and not enough meat. So it looks like our fish  
8 are starving.

9  
10 Okay. I've seen a few new people  
11 coming in since we started our meeting, so if you don't  
12 mind introducing yourselves at this time. I see Randy  
13 coming in, so I know Randy. He's a chairman and needs  
14 to be a chairman here now. Randy, we'll start with you  
15 to introduce yourself.

16  
17 MR. ALVAREZ: My name is Randy Alvarez.  
18 I'm from Igiugig. We just came down to do something,  
19 so I thought I'd stop by and see what you guys are  
20 doing.

21  
22 MR. SANDONE: My name is Gene Sandone.  
23 In a former life I was with ADF&G for 26 years,  
24 regional supervisor at AYK comm fish region. Now I'm  
25 working for Bristol Bay Economic Development  
26 Corporation as their fishery consultant. I'm here to  
27 listen, to meet you and to learn about your concerns  
28 with the fisheries.

29  
30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Is  
31 there somebody in the back?

32  
33 MS. STRAM: My name is Diana Stram.  
34 I'm a fishery analyst with the North Pacific Fishery  
35 Management Council and I'm here collectively to provide  
36 a presentation on salmon bycatch issues in the Bering  
37 Sea.

38  
39 MR. MACLEAN: I'm Steve MacLean, also  
40 an analyst for the North Pacific Fishery Management  
41 Council.

42  
43 MR. DERSHAM: I'm Ed Dersham. I'm an  
44 Alaska Council member for the North Council and in a  
45 prior life I spent nine years on the Board of  
46 Fisheries, so I know a lot of people in this room.

47  
48 MR. HYDER: I'm Roy Hyder. I'm the  
49 state representative from the State of Oregon to the  
50 North Pacific Council and we're here as a group that's



1 part of the outreach that Diana talked about. I'm just  
2 here to meet you folks and listen to what you have to  
3 say to us because I know often you don't get a chance  
4 to come into Anchorage to testify in front of us.

5  
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: We surely  
7 welcome you and I'm hoping that you'll give us  
8 information so that we can comment and get educated. I  
9 know I need to get more educated on that spectrum of  
10 your work. Was there anybody else?

11  
12 MR. ELISON: Madame Chair.

13  
14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Is there  
15 somebody online introducing themselves?

16  
17 MR. ELISON: Yes, Madame Chair. This  
18 is Travis Elison from Fish and Game, Commercial  
19 Fisheries Division. I'm in Anchorage. I manage the  
20 Naknek/Kvichak Commercial Fishing District. I'll be  
21 available during the meeting if you have any questions.

22  
23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,  
24 Travis. Anybody else online.

25  
26 MR. RICE: Hello, Madame Chair. This  
27 is Bud Rice with the National Park Service. If you can  
28 hear me?

29  
30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, you're  
31 cutting in and out a little bit, but I think we could  
32 read you.

33  
34 MR. RICE: Okay. I'm with the Alaska  
35 Regional Office and I'll be standing by for subsistence  
36 questions if any questions come my way.

37  
38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Anybody  
39 else online.

40  
41 (No comments)

42  
43 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Hearing  
44 none. We'll start with you.

45  
46 MR. CATO: My name is Brian Cato. I'm  
47 a subsistence user, commercial fisherman and guide and  
48 I'm on the Regional Advisory Committee here and King  
49 Salmon.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And you're  
2 from here, Naknek?  
3  
4 MR. CATO: Yes.  
5  
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thanks.  
7 Anybody else.  
8  
9 (No comments)  
10  
11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank  
12 you. It's starting to look good out there. When we  
13 first started it was pretty sparse. Dan Dunaway.  
14  
15 MR. DUNAWAY: Just real quick I want to  
16 thank everybody for coming. Especially we're tickled  
17 to see the North Pacific Management Council folks here  
18 because bycatch of salmon is still an issue.  
19  
20 Thank you  
21  
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. With no  
23 other comments or  
24 introductions. We have moved -- those of you that have  
25 just come in, we have moved ADF&G subsistence Ted Krieg  
26 to give us his report because he is leaving today to  
27 give another presentation in Dillingham, so we've given  
28 this time for him to give us a report on their findings  
29 or maybe their subsistence findings on chinook.  
30  
31 Those of you in the back that maybe  
32 can't see the screen, you're welcome to move over to  
33 this side.  
34  
35 MR. KRIEG: Madame Chair, Council  
36 members. Thanks for getting me in for my presentation.  
37 There might be questions. If you have questions along  
38 the way, feel free to ask. Maybe there will be some  
39 time at the end. I'll try not to go over 15 minutes.  
40  
41 So this is, like it says, preliminary  
42 findings for the Nushagak River Chinook Salmon Project.  
43 Statewide there was an initiative to study the various  
44 watershed where kings return to to find out  
45 information, maybe figure out what's going on.  
46 Nushagak continues to have a pretty good king return.  
47 There's been no subsistence restrictions.  
48  
49 For Subsistence Division, we work  
50 directly with the people. We travel to the

1 communities. When we do our surveys, they're always  
2 face-to-face surveys. We go into households. We'll  
3 meet with people to do the survey. So we not only get  
4 the information about the harvest, but people provide  
5 other information. Usually once you start getting into  
6 it somebody always has some observation that they give  
7 us.

8

9                   So we do our best to record all of that  
10 in the course of doing the surveys, but we also do  
11 local and traditional knowledge interviews, directed  
12 interviews. People have been living there forever.  
13 Knowledge has been passed down from generation to  
14 generation and just the fact that people live there and  
15 interact with the resource. We do some directed  
16 interviews to capture some of that knowledge also.

17

18                   So these research questions are  
19 basically like I said. I mean what's been happening on  
20 the Nushagak. We have subsistence salmon permits for  
21 Bristol Bay. Most of you are familiar with those.  
22 It's a requirement by regulation that you get a permit.  
23 The most important thing with those permits is that you  
24 record your harvest on the back of the permit and give  
25 it back to Fish and Game. That's the most important  
26 thing that we look for, is getting those permits back  
27 with the harvest.

28

29                   When we have opportunity to do directed  
30 surveys -- for this one, even though it was a directed  
31 chinook project, when we do our surveys in the  
32 communities, it included all salmon, so it's not just  
33 for kings but for all salmon harvested for the year.  
34 These are just a snapshot of one year. This is the  
35 first year, 2013. We're in the process of doing  
36 surveys for the 2014 year.

37

38                   I had a point I was going for and I  
39 just lost it. So within the survey itself it's not  
40 only -- I guess it's updating the permit system. We  
41 know probably not everybody is getting a permit for  
42 various reasons. One of the things we always do when  
43 we're doing these surveys also is we have the permit  
44 returns, the ones that have been returned to us by the  
45 time we do the surveys, we take those with us when we  
46 go to the household and we say, look, this information  
47 comes back to us, are these numbers correct, did you  
48 catch any fish after you sent your permit in.  
49 Sometimes there's spawned out red fish, fall fish that  
50 people are catching that don't end up on the survey.

1 We want to make sure we get that in there too.

2

3 One thing on the Nushagak there's a  
4 fair amount of silvers that are caught later on that  
5 aren't always on there and that's kind of -- you know,  
6 people consider it subsistence but they're using rod  
7 and reel to get silvers. By regulation, that's not  
8 subsistence. It's recorded, but we record it in a  
9 separate category because there's other research that's  
10 going on that doesn't want to include fish caught by  
11 rod and reel. It's counted in a different method.

12

13 Anyway, I'm giving way too much here.  
14 I should get into more of the data. So post-season  
15 harvest surveys, key respondent interviews, participant  
16 observation and last summer a couple of my co-workers  
17 -- I spent a couple of days, but they were there for a  
18 week at the Lewis Point fish camp talking to people,  
19 working with them. You participate and observe and you  
20 can learn a lot. People, if you're interested, they'll  
21 teach you everything you want to know. It's pretty  
22 gratifying that way. People don't seem to mind having  
23 us there helping them.

24

25 Like I was just talking about, an  
26 analysis of the permitting system. When we get done,  
27 we'll include all the harvests that people didn't have  
28 permits for. It's also an education process that we  
29 remind people how important it is to get a permit and  
30 return it with their harvests.

31

32 For the Nushagak project for 2013 -- I  
33 don't have a pointer, but starting with Clark's Point,  
34 you can see it shows Lewis Point fish camp on there,  
35 but the communities that we did the surveys in were  
36 Clark's Point, Ekwok, New Stuyahok and Koliganek. For  
37 this last round we've completed surveys for Ekwok,  
38 Stuyahok, Koliganek and we're working on -- this year  
39 we're going to do a survey for Dillingham, which is  
40 pretty involved because it's a large community. Then  
41 we'll get to Clark's Point also here. So we do have  
42 that done, but that data isn't compiled yet, so this  
43 data is for the 2013 study.

44

45 The estimated population based on our  
46 surveys -- when we do the surveys, it's all statistics,  
47 so we ask about each person that lives in the household  
48 and if they participated, so we get census information  
49 also. So estimated population for Koliganek we came up  
50 with 214, New Stuyahok was 543, Ekwok was 103 and

1 Clark's Point 30 people living there.

2

3 Usually we present this type of  
4 information for each community, but for this little  
5 report this includes all of those communities, the four  
6 communities that I mentioned there, Clark's Point,  
7 Ekwok, Stuyahok, Koliganek. So this is the combined  
8 harvests for those communities. Oh, wait a minute.  
9 I'm sorry. This is actually -- I think this includes  
10 all of the -- well, all species, of course, but I think  
11 it's actually the permit returns.

12

13 So, for the Nushagak 2013 for chinook,  
14 the pounds -- we do a percentage of the households that  
15 harvest, attempted to harvest and then even if they  
16 didn't harvest, they might have received it and they  
17 might have received it anyway even if they did harvest  
18 themselves. Then we record people that shared also.  
19 So that's the give percentage. That's what I'm talking  
20 about right here.

21

22 Then harvest weight, we have a  
23 conversion factor for each of the salmon, so we convert  
24 it to pounds. So for 2013 chinook salmon 122,000  
25 pounds was the weight and that was 9,121 individual  
26 salmon. The other species are there, but I'll just do  
27 kings.

28

29 The pie chart shows 55% was chinook and  
30 23% was sockeye, coho 11%, chums 8% and then spawned  
31 out 3%. 2013 was an off year for pinks, so I guess  
32 that didn't even get on there for some reason because  
33 there were a few harvested, but a small percentage.

34

35 Here's the community harvest  
36 percentage. It kind of goes without saying and Molly  
37 can attest to that. The kings are the most important  
38 subsistence salmon for the Nushagak area. Maybe other  
39 areas too, but definitely for the Nushagak people want  
40 kings. That's their main fish they want to get. Some  
41 people like sockeye, but to my estimation it seems a  
42 little bit secondary. So Koliganek 43% of their  
43 harvest was chinook, New Stuyahok 62% of all their  
44 harvest of salmon for 2013 was chinook, Ekwok 62% was  
45 chinook and Clark's Point 24% was chinook.

46

47 One of the things that we found out for  
48 Clark's Point is that there's a sandbar out there  
49 that's kind of cutting off the channeling of kings past  
50 their beach, so they've been saying that they've been

1 getting a lot less kings in the last couple of years  
2 because of that sandbar. I think that's one of the  
3 reasons why it's only 24 percent of their catch.  
4  
5 Harvest by gear type. I mentioned rod  
6 and reel, but the blue, which is hard to see, for  
7 chinook there's a small percentage that was removed  
8 from the commercial catch. There's three different  
9 categories here. Remove from commercial catch and then  
10 the red is gillnet. I can't even see the color green.  
11 Other subsistence methods and then the blue is rod and  
12 reel actually. Sorry.  
13  
14 Go ahead, Molly.  
15  
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: This is Molly.  
17 So the one that looks like purple is supposed to be  
18 green?  
19  
20 MR. KRIEG: The purple is rod and reel.  
21  
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. And  
23 then did you say that the green was removed from  
24 commercial catch?  
25  
26 MR. KRIEG: Oh. Well, there's another  
27 blue. I mean I was kind of confused until I put my  
28 glasses on, but there's very little removed from  
29 commercial that shows up here. Yeah, so estimated  
30 total pounds of harvest.  
31  
32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.  
33  
34 MS. MORRIS LYON: I don't mean to  
35 interrupt, Ted, but for the record this is Nanci. How  
36 accurate do you really feel? I mean did you truly  
37 approach a decent number of commercial fishermen to  
38 find out how many were actually removed from the  
39 commercial fishing catch or was that just kind of a hit  
40 and miss?  
41  
42 MR. KRIEG: This is just for the  
43 community of New Stuyahok. For each of the communities  
44 we tried to do what we call a census sample, which is  
45 all of the households. Of the people that we surveyed,  
46 it's only for commercial fishers.  
47  
48 MS. MORRIS LYON: So if there happened  
49 to be a commercial fisherman in that village.....  
50

1 MR. KRIEG: Correct.  
2  
3 MS. MORRIS LYON: .....it was included.  
4 So it's rather hit and miss.  
5  
6 MR. KRIEG: Right. So this was for New  
7 Stu. I'm getting a little -- oh, I guess we just  
8 showed New Stu was the one. Sorry. I thought we had a  
9 couple other communities. So this was the harvest for  
10 New Stu. This is some of the people at Lewis Point  
11 fish camp last summer. There's kids that are there  
12 that are active participants at Lewis Point. What I've  
13 observed is, yeah, the kids are into their electronics  
14 but a lot of them are still into the fishing.  
15  
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Ted, before we  
17 move on, I know when I was involved with the survey  
18 project, when we did community surveys like this, yes,  
19 we focused on commercial fishermen's removal of  
20 chinook, but I guess there hasn't been any way to  
21 document outside commercial fishermen's removal of  
22 chinook. Just because we have friends that don't live  
23 in the communities but are from out of state, they  
24 remove quite a lot of fish to can and process to take  
25 home. So there hasn't been any way of recording  
26 removal from other -- I guess not because this is  
27 focused on subsistence survey, but I guess outside of  
28 that there hasn't been any that you know of to record  
29 removal from other commercial harvesters.  
30  
31 MR. KRIEG: Commercial fishers are  
32 required to report. Even if they don't deliver,  
33 they're supposed to report what they take home. I  
34 don't know how many people actually do that, but it's  
35 easy for -- it's a slip-by because nobody is really  
36 keeping track of it. It's sort of honor system, I  
37 guess.  
38  
39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.  
40  
41 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
42 Ted, commercial gillnetting or is this commercial sport  
43 or is there a combo there or is this separate?  
44  
45 MR. KRIEG: What we're referring to  
46 here is just commercial gillnetting.  
47  
48 MR. WILSON: So do you have numbers  
49 also for the commercial sport side of the take of the  
50 chinook?

1 MR. KRIEG: No, I don't. You'd have to  
2 talk to Sport Fish about that. I'll pass the buck.

3  
4 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan and then  
5 William.

6  
7 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you. Ted, when I  
8 saw it was New Stu folks, I would suspect that those  
9 folks who take them for personal use who are commercial  
10 fishermen in the villages probably have a greater  
11 appreciation and probably you're getting pretty good  
12 information because they kind of know the issue. But  
13 it has been -- not to be evil about commercial  
14 fishermen and everything, but I've been real curious.

15  
16 It's an awful lot of work to go to the  
17 trouble to properly report a commercially caught but  
18 personal use kept fish through the commercial fishery.  
19 I just wondered if we could make it easier for them if  
20 we might get better reporting. It really depends. I  
21 think there's a lot of commercial fishermen committed  
22 and there's some that they're just too busy.

23  
24 Thank you.

25  
26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: William and  
27 then Randy. If you have a comment, you could come to  
28 the mic here.

29  
30 MR. MAINES: Ted, it's good to see the  
31 things that -- you know, for those of us that live  
32 along the Nushagak, what your numbers just confirmed we  
33 all know. The kings are the bread and butter as far as  
34 subsistence fish goes.

35  
36 My question is dealing with Lewis  
37 Point. Are those the numbers that you're showing us  
38 that are going to Ekwok and going to New Stu and going  
39 to Koliganek? Because all the commercial fishermen  
40 they bring their families down to Lewis Point 1, 2 and  
41 3 and that's where they get most of their subsistence  
42 fishing taken care of, is at the fish camp. Are the  
43 numbers that you're showing up there fish that are  
44 actually being caught outside the villages, by folks at  
45 the villages or are they a combination of both?

46  
47 MR. KRIEG: The numbers there it's a  
48 combination of both. One thing I failed to mention is  
49 that we do map where people harvest, what we call their  
50 harvest location. So we have that information. What



1 was presented here is for the community, so there's  
2 some caught at Lewis Point, but there's also some  
3 caught upriver.

4

5 MR. MAINES: And then I heard that  
6 you're planning on doing Dillingham and Clark's Point.  
7 What about Nushagak and Ekuk? Because a lot of the  
8 setnetters that go down and fish those locations,  
9 that's where they do their subsistence fishing too.

10

11 MR. KRIEG: We base everything on  
12 community members. If people from Ekuk are community  
13 members and they come up in our sample, then we do a  
14 survey with them, but we don't direct our surveys to  
15 those people. Our main goal here is to show what's  
16 needed for subsistence amount reasonably necessary for  
17 subsistence and that's by community.

18

19 MR. MAINES: That is leading up to the  
20 point that I'm trying to make, is that the folks that  
21 fish within the Nushagak district, whether it's  
22 commercial, sport or subsistence, primarily the  
23 subsistence part, it's going on over at Ugashik, it's  
24 going on at Ekuk, Clark's Point, Nushagak, Dillingham,  
25 Lewis Point 1, 2 and 3 up the river to Koliganek and  
26 stuff. So I was just trying to get a fair idea in my  
27 own mind as far as what percentage actually is being  
28 reported and what's not and how can we improve the  
29 reporting as far as showing that this is our personal  
30 use of our resource.

31

32 MR. KRIEG: Good question. Madame  
33 Chair and Council. People should get subsistence  
34 salmon permits and record their harvest and turn them  
35 back in. That's the main -- if everybody did that,  
36 there would be no reason for us to do household  
37 surveys. So that would be the main thing.

38

39 MR. MAINES: The only other point that  
40 I would have to add to it is that there are quite a few  
41 commercial fishermen that may go out and -- especially  
42 with the kings, go out there before the -- what they  
43 would consider to be their bread and butter for paying  
44 off their gear and their crew and stuff like that. The  
45 kings are definitely one of the ones that they go out  
46 and they bring back because before when prices went  
47 down to the seller, nobody was actually fishing the  
48 kings because it wasn't worth it. Now they're starting  
49 to get back up there.

50

1                   In between that time there was a number  
2 of folks going out in their boats with their king gear,  
3 getting their subsistence fish and bringing it back and  
4 processing it rather than have the mud, the sand and  
5 the tide and stuff like that. So it was interesting to  
6 listen to the comments dealing with commercial catch or  
7 non-commercial catch type of thing because to me that's  
8 subsistence too.

9  
10                   MS. MORRIS LYON: If I may. Just  
11 relevant to the conversation you were just having with  
12 William, did you include your information from the  
13 subsistence permits in your surveys from this year?

14  
15                   MR. KRIEG: Yes. Like I mentioned,  
16 when we do the surveys, most people have returned their  
17 permits. We go through a process of sending out  
18 reminder letters and then we'll even call people. So  
19 we can be accurate, we take the returns that people  
20 have sent in, their harvests, when we do the survey.

21  
22                   MS. MORRIS LYON: It's all included.

23  
24                   MR. KRIEG: Right. Yeah, so it is  
25 included, but then sometimes we don't have the permit  
26 return there, but people will give us recall what  
27 they've caught and then we'll also collect the returns  
28 as we're in the community.

29  
30                   MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And having  
31 been involved with subsistence surveying, some of the  
32 larger communities we extrapolate or we don't survey  
33 100 percent of the households. So the ones that we, I  
34 guess, pick from the -- the households that we pick are  
35 the ones that get surveyed and then the ones that were  
36 not picked the salmon permit comes to play.

37  
38                   We could spend a whole day on this  
39 because subsistence survey system is involved and I  
40 think in the future we should have like a survey  
41 workshop or survey something because it's so -- when I  
42 worked in the '80s and '90s, it wasn't as complicated  
43 as it is now with other agencies and fishery programs  
44 getting interested in the information. When we did the  
45 survey, we just wanted to see what resources were  
46 harvested in these different communities. When we gave  
47 a report, everything was fine. With all these  
48 different entities and agencies and whomever else,  
49 they're getting to the point where they're interested  
50 in subsistence harvests. Even the survey such as this

1 can be scrutinized and learned from too.

2

3 If there's nobody else from the board  
4 here that has any comments. Lary.

5

6 MR. HILL: Just a comment. You  
7 reminded me like going out in a fishing boat and  
8 getting kings. Just reinforcing this idea of how  
9 important these foods are to us and these people are  
10 taking their \$4 million boats and going out and  
11 getting, what, 250 pounds of kings. For cost  
12 effectiveness, I mean \$500 a day on expenses. But  
13 still you're doing that and that should tell all of you  
14 how important these foods are to us and how they need  
15 to be preserved.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Anybody  
18 else from the board here.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay, Randy.

23

24 MR. ALVAREZ: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
25 My name is Randy Alvarez. I live in Igiugig. I  
26 commercial fish out here in the bay. I want to comment  
27 on the commercial catch of kings. They have to be  
28 recorded on your fish ticket. The fish ticket says if  
29 we take kings home, that we don't sell to the  
30 processor, they have to be recorded. There are quite a  
31 few people that do that because they want to take some  
32 kings home even if they're living in Anchorage or out  
33 of state. As far as I know, they're not subsistence  
34 kings. They're commercial kings even though they take  
35 them home to eat them for themselves. So I just wanted  
36 to point that out that I don't think.....

37

38 MR. KRIEG: Ted.

39

40 MR. ALVAREZ: .....Ted -- sorry. I've  
41 known him forever. Ted probably doesn't have the  
42 information because they're not part of his department.  
43 Those are commercially-caught kings. If they're caught  
44 commercially -- and I take some home too because, as  
45 Billy has said, they're worth more to us than what the  
46 processors pay, so a lot of people bring kings home if  
47 they have an opportunity. Some people they never come  
48 in, they're always out there, so they can't bring them  
49 ashore, so they don't do it, but some people, if they  
50 can, they'll do that.

1                   So I just wanted to comment on that  
2 part. It should be recorded under commercial catch,  
3 those commercially-caught kings.

4  
5                   Thank you.

6  
7                   MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I guess B.J.  
8 Sorry, I didn't know your name. You're welcome to come  
9 to the mic.

10  
11                  MS. HILL: Madame Chair. I just wanted  
12 to make one observation while I was listening to this.  
13 My name is B.J. Hill and I want to point out that you  
14 might have some problems with your statistics because  
15 subsistence fishers also record on their paperwork what  
16 fish came off of a commercial site. So what I'm saying  
17 is that if the commercial fishermen are reporting the  
18 king and the subsistence fisherman is reporting the  
19 king, then you have two kings being reported instead of  
20 one. So I would say this is a problem.

21  
22                  Thank you.

23  
24                  MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.

25  
26                  MR. MAINES: Thanks for that  
27 observation, but I also wanted to say I think it's just  
28 the other way. I think most of the commercial  
29 fishermen, whether setnetters or gillnetters, know that  
30 they're supposed to report their catch and when it's on  
31 the commercial grounds, it ends up being a commercial  
32 total and number on their cards. It's not recorded as  
33 subsistence. That's where I think a lot of the  
34 misnomer goes as far as what the actually need is  
35 within our area dealing with the chinook salmon.

36  
37                  Like Councilman Hill mentioned and then  
38 Randy also, of how important that resources is to the  
39 people that live here. It is a primary source that we  
40 depend on to fill our freezers in whatever capacity we  
41 want to, whether it's filets or strips or something  
42 like that. More times than not it's reported as  
43 commercial and not as subsistence, whereas this is a  
44 subsistence issue I think more times than not. I just  
45 know from my own personal experience I see the guys and  
46 gals putting it down on their commercial card and not  
47 on their subsistence.

48  
49                  MR. KRIEG: Madame Chair. Hopefully  
50 not to make the issue anymore confusing, but like I've

1 tried to convey is that our surveys are only within a  
2 community and with people that we consider are doing  
3 subsistence. Also on the subsistence salmon permit,  
4 the return section, we have a place there where people  
5 can record what they've removed from commercial, but  
6 we're considering those subsistence.

7  
8 Commercial fishermen, like Randy  
9 pointed out, anything that's removed from commercial  
10 catch is supposed to be recorded on the harvest ticket.  
11 So although there could be confusion, we're looking at  
12 what's considered to be subsistence. Those numbers  
13 should be recorded on the commercial tickets also, but  
14 we don't go there to try to get our information. So  
15 it's a separate set of data.

16  
17 Just to continue, this is the last  
18 slide if people haven't had the chance to read. When  
19 we do the surveys, it is a one-year snapshot for the  
20 harvests, so we always have questions like did you get  
21 enough and if you didn't get enough, how many did you  
22 need, why didn't you get enough. We have a question  
23 like your harvest this year, how would you compare that  
24 to the last, say, five years harvest. Did you get  
25 less, same or more this year than in the past.

26  
27 So we do ask some directed questions  
28 that people give us information about what happened  
29 that season and why they couldn't catch it. Sometimes  
30 it's a personal thing that they were ill and they  
31 couldn't get out to fish, but we do record that  
32 information.

33  
34 At the end of the survey we always give  
35 them a chance if they have any questions, comments or  
36 concerns that they haven't already related to us.  
37 That's where most of this information comes from.  
38 People were concerned about natural resource  
39 development, the bycatch of kings in the Bering Sea,  
40 there's sport fishing, sometimes there's conflicts.  
41 The unhealthy fish, like Molly mentioned cysts, I think  
42 that's what people are referring to there. And then  
43 the environment and weather, those things are changing.

44  
45 That's all I got. Thank you.

46  
47 MR. HILL: Ted, through the Chair.

48  
49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

50

1 MR. HILL: That number four, the  
2 unhealthy fish, has there been any kind of study done  
3 on these cysts, what causes them, what's in it or what  
4 are they?

5  
6 MR. KRIEG: I don't know. We try to  
7 pass that information on to the biologists, so I can't  
8 answer that. Sorry.

9  
10  
11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

12  
13 MR. DUNAWAY: Just to add an  
14 observation. I saw your picture, I think it was a  
15 white king there. I saw my first -- I wouldn't say it  
16 was quite white, but the lightest king I'd ever seen.  
17 I don't usually get very many, so, no, I never get  
18 enough kings, but I get enough fish. I did get a  
19 silver this year that was kind of like diagonally  
20 through the filet half normal looking and half, again,  
21 almost white. It was the weirdest thing I ever saw. I  
22 was going to smoke it, but it's still sitting in my  
23 freezer. I kind of look in there and, well, what do I  
24 do with it. I've brought it up to people. I don't  
25 really know what it means. Some people thought maybe  
26 it was semi-spawned out or something. I didn't notice  
27 it whole. But little odd things going on.

28  
29 As far as the cysts, Lary, one of the  
30 things I saw when I was a fish biologist, especially  
31 with silvers, an infection called ichthyophonus. I  
32 think it's a bacteria that gets under the skin and  
33 sometimes have these white, pussy sores. Then there's  
34 some other stuff and I cannot remember the rest.  
35 There's some other bugs out there. Especially, I  
36 think, in the Yukon in an unusually warm summer they  
37 were seeing a real high incidence of that  
38 ichthyophonus. Yeah, I got a couple silvers in Wood  
39 River that were all pimply, bubbly. The meat is not  
40 very cool looking.

41  
42 Thank you.

43  
44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

45  
46 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. I just want  
47 to remind us how important this type of report is to us  
48 and how thankful I am as a Council member to have such  
49 a report in front of us and updated. I think this is  
50 the kind of information that we thrive to have and I

1 just applaud Ted for coming through with this kind of  
2 info. I think it's very important.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Ted, would it  
7 be possible for you  
8 to email your PowerPoint presentation to Donald so that  
9 we can have a copy of that?

10

11 MR. KRIEG: Yes, Madame Chair, I can do  
12 that. In fact, I have it on a thumb drive I could just  
13 transfer it. We'll do that later.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you. I  
16 just want to make a little comment about that unhealthy  
17 fish. We don't consider it unhealthy fish. I'm  
18 noticing more and more of that pussy consistency in the  
19 filets more in the fresh fish now than I used to  
20 probably four or five years ago. It's getting more and  
21 more. I used to mainly notice it in the spawned out  
22 fish and I think that was one main reason -- Joe and I  
23 still eat the fish, but that was one main reason why my  
24 three boys won't touch the fish anymore because they  
25 see this pussy. What I do is I just remove that  
26 section of the fish and dry it, but when I dry the  
27 fish, I make a mark on the tail so that I could cook  
28 the fish instead of eating air dried. That's the only  
29 way I can possibly not get sick from the fish not  
30 knowing exactly what that is but with Dan's information  
31 there.

32

33 Donald, you have something on John?

34

35 MR. MIKE: If you're done with the  
36 discussion with staff.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes.

39

40 MR. MIKE: Just to clarify that we had  
41 a discussion on Mr. John Jones from Chignik Lagoon who  
42 wrote a particular letter and I talked with the offices  
43 of the Council and if we could have Mr. Jones have a  
44 time certain. If the Council agrees, we can have Mr.  
45 Jones call in tomorrow and present the letter to the  
46 Council under the public comment section if that's  
47 agreeable to the Council. Madame Chair.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay, Donald.  
50 What we can do is decide at the end of the day where

1 we are on the agenda, but then have him call in first  
2 thing in the morning. I guess we can work that out.

3  
4 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. Yes, if it's  
5 the wish of the Council to have him time certain in the  
6 morning, the Council can do that.

7  
8 Thank you.

9  
10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: We start at  
11 8:30, so maybe 9:00 o'clock. I don't know what the  
12 wishes of the Council is, but it's 12:20. Would you  
13 like to break for lunch? We can break until 1:20 or  
14 1:30. Okay. We'll break for lunch until 1:30.

15  
16 (Off record)

17  
18 (On record)

19  
20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I'd like to  
21 start the meeting. Normally I try to start the meeting  
22 on time. I'm telling my boy the reason why I was late  
23 is because of my age. We have Nanci not here. I think  
24 she might be dealing with -- oh, here she is. We'll go  
25 ahead and start out meeting with public and tribal  
26 comment on non-agenda items. I don't see any -- one  
27 thing that I neglected to announce is the blue card or  
28 green card that we normally use for public. So I guess  
29 you can fill one out.

30  
31 Let's start with number 9, public and  
32 tribal comment on non-agenda items. So if anybody --  
33 Nanci.

34  
35 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame  
36 Chair. Nanci Lyon, through the Chair. I would like to  
37 propose that we have a very brief discussion about the  
38 letter that John Jones has gotten to Donald Mike for  
39 our review and comment at some point tomorrow so that  
40 Donald Mike can get back to Mr. Jones to a time certain  
41 as to when he should call in so we don't have phone  
42 problems again.

43  
44 Would you like me to propose something  
45 or do you have something in mind, Madame Chair?

46  
47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Well, just as  
48 we broke for lunch there was a discussion to deal with  
49 this first thing tomorrow morning and then there was  
50 also a suggestion to deal with it after lunch tomorrow



1 or the latter part of the afternoon. I think it might  
2 work better if we can deal with it tomorrow, latter  
3 part of the day tomorrow. Donald.

4

5 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
6 The letter from Chignik Lagoon Village Council is  
7 basically on the subsistence users about their  
8 subsistence harvest not being met. Anyway, this letter  
9 came through the email from Mr. John Jones of Chignik  
10 Lagoon and I responded to their email stating that the  
11 best time for this Council to address them would be  
12 tomorrow morning between 8:30 and 9:00. I'm still  
13 waiting word from them if they have received my email  
14 to confirm the time certain tomorrow.

15

16 Thank you, Madame Chair.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So I guess  
19 we'll stand with the 8:30/9:00 until we hear back from  
20 them.

21

22 MR. MIKE: Correct.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Anything else,  
25 Nanci?

26

27 MS. MORRIS LYON: No. Thank you,  
28 Madame Chair.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I guess any  
31 other comments from the public on non-agenda items.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I don't see  
36 anybody running up to the mic here, so I guess we'll go  
37 on to the next agenda item, which is number 10, old  
38 business. It's rural determination process review.  
39 Robbin. Donald, did you have something?

40

41 MR. MIKE: Just for the Council's  
42 reference, there's supplemental materials that was sent  
43 to you and I gave you copies either last night or this  
44 morning. It's in your supplemental material that  
45 you'll find under Tab A, rural determination, the  
46 announcement. Also under Tab A is the proposed rule on  
47 rural determination.

48

49 Madame Chair, we're going to set up a  
50 quick PowerPoint presentation, so stand down for a

1 second.

2

3

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: While we are standing down I forgot to mention that we're going to go through the process under old business until about 2:30 and then at that time we'd like to pick up the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. So those of you that are here for that, I welcome you and thank you for being here. We'll pick you up at 2:30 no matter where we're at on the agenda.

11

12

MR. MIKE: At 3:00.

13

14

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Oh, I guess it's 3:00 o'clock. Donald let me know.

16

17

MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. While we're on the subject of rural determination, Office of Subsistence Management sent out a news release stating that we have a rural public hearing for each community and our announcement went out to folks in the Bristol Bay region announcing the rural public hearing will be from 7:00 to 9:00 here in Naknek. Since it's already announced, we'll have the public hearing for the public to come and testify on our rural determination.

26

27

On another note, we're planning to have a potluck at Nanci's Bear Trail Lodge for all the Council members and staff and anybody else that wants to join us after the meeting today. What time, Nanci, should we convene for the potluck at your place? 5:30 the potluck will start at Bear Trail Lodge. If anybody don't know where Bear Lodge is, speak with Nanci and she'll give you directions.

35

36

For the public portion of the public hearing tonight, it will be held here at the Naknek Village for the public to come and testify. We'll have a facilitator and a hearing officer here to receive public comments.

41

42

With that, Madame Chair, thank you.

43

44

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So we're good with 2:30 for our National -- or 3:00 o'clock. Okay, 3:00 o'clock for North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

48

49

Thank you.

50

1 Are we ready to go?

2

3 MS. LAVINE: Good afternoon, Madame  
4 Chair. Members of the Council. I'm Robbin LaVine with  
5 the Office of Subsistence Management. At this stage in  
6 the rural determination review process the Board is  
7 requesting recommendations from the Council on the  
8 current proposed rule in the Federal Register. This is  
9 an action item. Additionally, there will be a meeting  
10 held this evening between 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. to receive  
11 public comments on the proposed rule.

12

13 For your information, a little bit of  
14 background on this issue. On October 23, 2009,  
15 Secretary of the Interior Salazar announced the  
16 initiation of a departmental review of the Federal  
17 Subsistence Management Program in Alaska. Secretary of  
18 Agriculture Vilsack later concurred with this course of  
19 action. The review is focused on how the program is  
20 meeting the purposes and subsistence provisions of  
21 Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands  
22 Conservation Act and how the program is serving rural  
23 residents as envisioned when it began in the early  
24 1990s.

25

26 On August 31st, 2010, the Secretaries  
27 announced the findings of the review, which included  
28 several proposed administrative and regulatory reviews  
29 and/or revisions to strengthen the Federal Subsistence  
30 Program and make it more responsive to those who rely  
31 on it for subsistence uses. One proposal called for a  
32 review with Council input of the rural determination  
33 process and, if needed, recommendations for regulatory  
34 changes.

35

36 The Subsistence Regional Advisory  
37 Councils were briefed on the Federal Register notice  
38 during their winter 2013 meetings. At their fall 2013  
39 meetings, the Councils provided a public forum to hear  
40 from residents of their regions to deliberate on the  
41 rural determination process and provide recommendations  
42 for changes to the Board. This is what's happened up  
43 to this date.

44

45 During previous meeting cycles the  
46 Board received 475 substantive comments from various  
47 sources, including individual citizens, members of  
48 Regional Advisory Councils, tribes, Alaska Native  
49 corporations and other entities and organizations, such  
50 as borough and city governments.

50

1                   These comments are actually summarized  
2 in a report that went out to the Federal Subsistence  
3 Board last summer and I have a synthesis of the public  
4 comments if you're interested. Has anyone seen these?  
5 I'm going to pass them out really quick. For those of  
6 you on the phone, hold on. So these comments were  
7 summarized and it is these comments that the Board is  
8 responding to.

9  
10                   Currently you are being asked to  
11 consider whether you agree or disagree with changing  
12 the current regulations on rural determinations as  
13 proposed by the Secretaries. This rule would be  
14 effective statewide. After the Board meets in June of  
15 2015 and makes its recommendations to the Secretaries,  
16 a final rule will be published, which may or may not  
17 differ from the proposed rule.

18  
19                   The proposed rule was initiated based  
20 on the findings of the Secretarial review of the  
21 Federal Subsistence Management Program. Rural  
22 determinations are important because only residents of  
23 the areas identified as rural are eligible to harvest  
24 under subsistence regulations on Federal public lands  
25 in Alaska.

26  
27                   Under the proposed regulations the  
28 Board would evaluate a community's nonrural status  
29 using a broad array of relevant information and rely  
30 heavily on the recommendation of Regional Advisory  
31 Councils. In doing so, the Board would recognize  
32 regional differences. The proposed regulatory change  
33 would increase flexibility in the decision-making  
34 process and recognize the unique nature of Alaskan  
35 communities.

36  
37                   For those of you listening online, the  
38 current slide demonstrates the difference between the  
39 old and the new proposed rule. This is for  
40 illustrative purposes. For those of you online, the  
41 old proposal takes up an entire page. The new proposed  
42 rule a few sentences.

43  
44                   Instead of using only population  
45 thresholds, rural characteristics, aggregation of  
46 communities, varying information sources and attempting  
47 to apply those standards statewide, the Board would  
48 rely on the Councils and the public to provide  
49 information to the Federal Subsistence Board and make  
50 rural determinations on a regional level.

1                   The proposed rule would eliminate the  
2 mandatory 10-year renewal cycle. Instead, changes to  
3 rural status would be based on proposals submitted to  
4 the Board. This is the new regulation proposed by the  
5 Secretaries. Rural determination process, subpart A,  
6 the Board determines which areas or communities in  
7 Alaska are nonrural. Current determinations are listed  
8 at -- and then they will be listed. These are the ones  
9 that are currently part of the rule. Then, B, other  
10 communities are therefore rural. Once again the Board  
11 determines which areas or communities in Alaska are  
12 nonrural. All other communities and areas are,  
13 therefore, rural.

14  
15                   So when presented to the Southcentral  
16 Council last week, the Southcentral Council moved after  
17 some debate to support the proposed rule with  
18 amendments as follows. I'm just giving this to you for  
19 your own consideration so you know -- I can't tell you  
20 what all the other Councils are doing, I wasn't there,  
21 but last week the Southcentral Council supported the  
22 proposed change but with the amendment that the Board  
23 determines which areas or communities in Alaska are  
24 nonrural. Deference will be given to the Regional  
25 Advisory Councils current determinations are listed at  
26 and then, of course, all other communities and areas  
27 therefore are rural.

28  
29                   Once again, a community meeting will be  
30 held this evening in order to receive public comments on  
31 the proposed rule. I'm ready to take questions.

32  
33                   MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

34  
35                   MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you. Through  
36 the Chair, Robbin. Can you give us a brief outline of  
37 what the reasoning of the Southcentral Council was in  
38 asking for deference?

39  
40                   MS. LAVINE: If I can recall. They  
41 wanted to see it as part of the rule, not as part of  
42 the language in and around the rule. They wanted it in  
43 writing. That's my understanding. I shouldn't speak  
44 for the board.

45  
46                   MS. MORRIS LYON: I'm certainly not  
47 holding your feet to the fire. I just wanted to know  
48 the reasoning behind their debate because it seems to  
49 me like it basically gives ultimate authority to  
50 Councils. I'm not saying that's good or bad, but I'm

1 just wondering if there's some background there that we  
2 could launch off of.

3

4 MS. LAVINE: I can't -- I was there. I  
5 heard some of the discussion and this is the direction  
6 they wanted to take it. I cannot recall a significant  
7 reason other than they felt it was right. Especially  
8 when a lot of our materials say that the Board would  
9 rely heavily upon the Councils, they wanted that in the  
10 proposed rule.

11

12 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair, just  
13 for clarification for the rest of the board, I happened  
14 to be sitting in for Molly at the Board meeting that  
15 this was a discussion for and I was actually sitting  
16 right next to the Southcentral Chair, so was involved  
17 in his discussion at that time and listened carefully  
18 to what each of them had to say. That just wasn't an  
19 object at that point when we were debating that in that  
20 location. So I just wanted to let everybody know why I  
21 was questioning the background there.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

24

25 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair. As  
26 part of my duties I also coordinate the Southcentral  
27 Regional Advisory Council and during their discussion  
28 and debate on this rural determination process there  
29 was some Council members stating that the current  
30 proposed rural determination process it seemed to them  
31 that the final decision will go to the Secretaries  
32 rather than Regional Advisory Councils. That's why  
33 they asked deference from the Regional Advisory  
34 Councils on the rural determination process. So that  
35 was some of their reasonings.

36

37 Thank you, Madame Chair.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

40

41 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair. Maybe I  
42 didn't prepare sufficiently. I didn't try to wade into  
43 this Federal Register to find the exact language that's  
44 being proposed, so at this point I don't feel  
45 particularly well prepared to vote on this. I was also  
46 going to request if we could have the actual simple  
47 language proposed. Especially last night I was wiped  
48 out, yet I feel like I really don't know what I'm  
49 voting on. I know we've sat through this discussion.  
50 This is a really sticky issue and I want to take it

1 real serious.

2

3 If you could direct me to where it is  
4 in the Federal Register or provide me something that's  
5 the entire clean language that they're proposing.

6

7 MS. LAVINE: Through the Chair. I'll  
8 show you the old proposed regulations or the old  
9 regulations, so the rural determination process based  
10 on a number of these different criteria determined what  
11 is rural. The new would be just that, the Board  
12 determines which areas or communities in Alaska are  
13 nonrural. All other communities and areas are,  
14 therefore, rural.

15

16 MS. MORRIS LYON: I think, Dan, as a  
17 point of clarification, part of that actually came from  
18 us when we said at our Board meeting in the fall that  
19 the onus should be on them at this point. We've gone  
20 through years of this process and now, at this point,  
21 we've pretty much established rural areas. From now on  
22 let's split the tables and say why aren't we anymore.  
23 So from the Board meeting that I attended, that's where  
24 this language was kind of spawned. They said there's  
25 validity in that point. It's probably easier to make  
26 determinations about nonrural than rural because of the  
27 flexible, changing areas in all different regions of  
28 the state. I don't know if that helps you or not.

29

30 Donald, I'm sure, has more that he  
31 could probably add to that.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

34

35 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
36 For now, I'll refer to some of our other agency staff.  
37 I know I heard Ms. Pat Petrivelli online and she's an  
38 anthropologist that's in the past helped work on this  
39 issue. Ms. Petrivelli, if you're online, maybe you can  
40 help direct this discussion for the Council.

41

42 Thank you, Madame Chair.

43

44 MS. PETRIVELLI: This is Pat  
45 Petrivelli. I'm trying to think of -- well, of course,  
46 the new regulation, as Robbin has pointed out, are a  
47 lot simpler. It just consists of the Board -- the new  
48 regulations changes the processes where the Board  
49 identified community groupings through aggregation,  
50 then there were broad characteristics and then there

1 were population thresholds. Now regulations describe a  
2 process that says that Federal Board will determine  
3 which communities are nonrural and all other  
4 communities will therefore be rural.

5  
6 Then just to answer Nanci's questions  
7 about the concerns that some of the other Southcentral  
8 members were concerned that the process was ambiguous,  
9 that they didn't know what characteristics would be  
10 used by the Board to determine which are nonrural. In  
11 the Federal Register notice, it does make some  
12 suggestions.

13  
14 If the proposed rule goes forward and  
15 is approved, then the Federal Board would create some  
16 characteristics and probably would review them at the  
17 Council's fall meeting and then those would be used to  
18 make determinations for nonrural communities next  
19 winter.

20  
21 I don't know if that answered your  
22 questions, but I could answer others.

23  
24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

25  
26 MR. DUNAWAY: I thank all three people  
27 for reminding me of some of this and I do recall that  
28 we were kind of flipping the table somewhat. I like  
29 simple. I understand often various groups I work with  
30 sometimes you want to spell it right out in the rule  
31 what agency responsibility is or something so that it  
32 can't get forgotten, like a policy can get forgotten  
33 it's never written in. I think I support that.

34  
35 I am kind of curious with this review  
36 and all has there been a thought -- without a clear  
37 list of objective criteria for determining nonrural or  
38 for determining rural, what sort of liability -- do you  
39 get into a legal situation that things could look  
40 rather arbitrary and so highly variable? Does this  
41 open it up to a lot of legal challenges that could mire  
42 everybody? If anybody has an answer on that, I'd  
43 appreciate it.

44  
45 Thank you.

46  
47 MS. PETRIVELLI: This is Pat Petrivelli  
48 again. I don't think anyone has commented upon those  
49 potentials. The Kodiak Council, I was at their  
50 meeting, and they were concerned that because there's



1 no timeframe for making determinations that people  
2 would propose to change determinations to nonrural  
3 every year and they were concerned about the burden  
4 that that would place upon communities that are  
5 borderline. They just suggest that maybe some kind of  
6 criteria be made for proposing changes to a nonrural  
7 status, but no one has raised that potential. If you  
8 wanted to comment on that, that you think the Board  
9 should be careful of that, your Council could make that  
10 comment.

11  
12 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you very much, Pat.  
13 I like the idea of having some flexibility. You think  
14 about communities like Adak that suddenly went from  
15 6,000 military folks to a hundred or something  
16 subsistence folks. You'd like to see them not have to  
17 wait 10 years.

18  
19 I do have very real concerns if we  
20 totally abandon any sort of objective criteria. I do  
21 have concerns too when you get communities the size of  
22 Kodiak, Ketchikan, Bethel, where would subsistence  
23 eventually go if you massively exceed the carrying  
24 capacity in the surrounding area. I wrestle with it  
25 off and on and I don't have any resolution in my mind.

26  
27  
28 The sense I've gotten in some of the  
29 comments I've seen -- I remember looking at this before  
30 last fall's meeting. There was no way around it. Some  
31 folks are asking for a race-based preference and that  
32 concerns me when we get into communities where -- well,  
33 number one, we're in America and, number two, it would  
34 be pretty awkward in some of these small communities.

35  
36 So I don't really know where to go with  
37 it, but I do have concerns if there's not even some  
38 objective criteria that we can sort this out. I think  
39 you could still have some room to add some modifiers  
40 onto that unique situation. I'm amazed how much the  
41 Bethel area can support subsistence use. It's amazing.  
42 They draw from a vast area.

43  
44 Maybe it isn't a biological issue, but  
45 at some point turn what if somebody turns around and  
46 turns Anchorage into subsistence and what are they  
47 going to say, that, no, you can't do that. As a  
48 trained biologist, there's some point where things will  
49 collapse and that's partly why we ended up with  
50 commercial fishing regulations. What is now called

1 sport fishing regulations at one point was just  
2 regulations designed to preserve viable populations of  
3 species so that somebody could use them somehow.

4  
5 Now we've added a layer of subsistence,  
6 which I strongly support, but could we end up in a  
7 really awkward situation with so many different layers  
8 of regulations that we forget the base of the resource  
9 itself. So I'm kind of unresolved on it. I like  
10 simple. I want that deference to the Councils. I want  
11 to think about the rest of it some, but the absolute  
12 absence of some objective criteria makes me very  
13 uncomfortable.

14  
15 Thank you.

16  
17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any other  
18 comments. Lary.

19  
20 MR. HILL: Madame Chair. Thinking  
21 about this and how often as a board do we meet, twice a  
22 year? Would it be possible to have these communities  
23 who are borderline, would it be possible to review  
24 those communities that are borderline at each one of  
25 these meetings and have an ongoing process?

26  
27 MS. KENNER: Hello, Madame Chair. This  
28 is Pippa Kenner with OSM in Anchorage.

29  
30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay, Pippa.  
31 Welcome.

32  
33 MS. KENNER: Hi. Thank you. It was a  
34 little bit quiet there and I've been working with  
35 Robbin on this, so I just wanted to say that is a  
36 possibility and I think it would be important at this  
37 time to add those comments so the Board hears them.  
38 How often these types of reviews would go on. I'm sure  
39 the Board is very interested in that feedback.

40  
41 Thank you.

42  
43 MR. HILL: Can I make one more comment,  
44 please. I forgot to write it down. Like Naknek in the  
45 summertime, what's it got, about 8,000 people. By the  
46 end of September they're down to less than 400. So  
47 there's that. It's seasonable. There's seasonal times  
48 too that has to be figured into this rural  
49 determination process.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.  
2  
3 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
4 Just for the Council's reference, I believe the Federal  
5 Subsistence Board will be meeting this summer June or  
6 July. If I remember right, maybe the staff can correct  
7 me, the Board will be meeting this summer and taking  
8 this rural determination issue to make final  
9 recommendations to the Secretary, so I'm going to be  
10 around.  
11  
12 Madame Chair, the Council can do one of  
13 two things. They can make their recommendation to the  
14 Board today or wait until we go through the public  
15 process for a hearing tonight and we can come back  
16 tomorrow and address this and make your recommendations  
17 to the Board.  
18  
19 Thank you, Madame Chair.  
20  
21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.  
22  
23 MS. MORRIS LYON: I guess I negated to  
24 say that myself, Donald. I would really be against us  
25 making any comments or finalize anything until we hear  
26 anything the public might have to add for us. So I  
27 would recommend we plan on revisiting this issue  
28 tomorrow.  
29  
30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.  
31  
32 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. I'm looking  
33 around and may have missed it, but I'm sure we've  
34 commented on this here in the past few sittings here  
35 and I was just looking for a little cheat sheet,  
36 something that could direct my thoughts and to break it  
37 down on what we've commented on and what we have has a  
38 Council already so I didn't have to recreate the wheel,  
39 but I don't see it here. If we do wait until tomorrow  
40 to make a determination here, it would be great to have  
41 an itemized list of what we had discussed earlier.  
42 That way it would help -- instead of being all over the  
43 board here again, it would certainly help us to narrow  
44 this down.  
45  
46 Thanks.  
47  
48 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.  
49  
50 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. This Council

1 has the authority or if they want to go in the  
2 direction of directing or giving staff guidance to come  
3 up with what Mr. Wilson was stating about a -- what did  
4 you call it again, guidance or a timeline you may want  
5 to follow. We have staff to help with that, Madame  
6 Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

9

10 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. That was a  
11 cheat sheet and only if it's practical. I mean if it's  
12 something that's going to take a whole lot of research,  
13 then no, but if it's something practical, then  
14 certainly.

15

16 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair. This is  
17 Pippa Kenner in Anchorage.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: You're on.

20

21 MS. KENNER: Hi. Yeah, I'll get that  
22 together and get it to our staff.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. That's  
25 good. Thumbs up for that. Any other comments. Billy,  
26 do you have anything?

27

28 MR. MAINES: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
29 I'm sort of perplexed or confused with the issue. I  
30 remember having to go through this process a number of  
31 years ago and I also remember the outcry of Saxman and  
32 Ketchikan being one of the big front page in statewide  
33 news stories dealing with the rural determination. I  
34 remember having to answer questionnaires and make  
35 comments on demographics of one sort or another,  
36 population, origin, so forth and so on.

37

38 Right now I'm just trying to get clear  
39 in my head what we're actually looking at. Are we  
40 actually looking at what the Board has proposed as far  
41 as changing the language where it just says we're going  
42 to do this based on our current past working  
43 relationship that we've gone through since we made this  
44 original one to where it's at right now or take it  
45 where the Southcentral says let's leave it up to the  
46 RACs to determine what's rural and nonrural or are we  
47 looking at maybe changing both or coming up with our  
48 own version of it. If so, what criteria would we be  
49 looking at in making our determination?

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Robbin.

2

3 MS. LAVINE: Through the Chair. This  
4 is an action item as the Federal Subsistence Board will  
5 be meeting to make their final decision on the proposed  
6 rule based on all of the Regional Advisory Council  
7 comments and feedback. You can move to support or not  
8 to support. You can support their proposed rule with  
9 recommendations or you can recommend going back to the  
10 comments originally provided if they're parts of these  
11 public comments, which synthesizes yours as well.

12

13 This is a good thing to maybe look at  
14 this evening, by the way, before discussion commences  
15 tomorrow. Now is the time to provide your comments and  
16 your thoughts so the Board can make their final  
17 determinations this summer.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 MR. MAINES: Madame Chair, thank you.  
22 I appreciate, I guess, clearing of the mud in my mind  
23 type of thing. It's still kind of silky only for the  
24 fact that I just remember the hassle and heartaches  
25 that every Alaskan had to do and every community in the  
26 state had to go through. A lot of us have family in  
27 Anchorage and Juneau and Fairbanks and they want to  
28 continue their subsistence way of doing things. More  
29 times than not they had to just settle for us sending  
30 them the stuff.

31

32 They couldn't go out and do -- even  
33 though some still go up to Flat Top and Hilltop and  
34 pick berries and stuff like that. That is a  
35 subsistence gathering practice. I would hate to see  
36 that that would ever be taken away from folks who want  
37 to do it whether they're subsistence people or not.  
38 It's just a good, healthy, recreational exercise and  
39 dietary need type thing.

40

41 I would not want to have to make a  
42 decision on this myself without giving folks one final  
43 opportunity to try to give me input or insight on  
44 information that they may feel important that we should  
45 consider. So I'm all for to being here bright-eyed and  
46 bushy-tailed from 7:00 to 9:00 to hear what anybody has  
47 to say.

48

49 I've already looked at this, but I'll  
50 go through and refresh my memory again as I'm listening

1 to folks talk and then be willing to hopefully add some  
2 comments or substance to the discussion tomorrow.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any other  
7 comments. I guess we have Courtenay Gomez online.

8

9 MS. CARTY: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
10 For the record, this is Courtenay Carty. I just wanted  
11 to shed some brief history in regards to the rural  
12 determination process based on the comments that have  
13 been happening in the room there. I'm sorry I'm not  
14 there with you today, but I'm doing my best to follow  
15 and apparently so far so good. We did have a rural  
16 determination hearing with the Bristol Bay RAC and  
17 members of the public in Dillingham on October 29, 2013  
18 when the Board and the Secretary was reviewing the  
19 process.

20

21 During that time -- I'm actually trying  
22 to dig up BBNA's formal comments through our files  
23 here. I know the majority of the substantive  
24 information in our comments have to do with a lot of  
25 what people are saying, grouping communities together,  
26 but one thing we did say in our comment was that it  
27 would be appropriate and probably more effective  
28 because it was just at the time of the review there was  
29 no decision to be made. They were just seeking public  
30 comment, kind of like the scoping phase of the decision  
31 making process.

32

33 Now we're at the decision-making time.  
34 We are faced with a proposed rule and have to make that  
35 comment. So we will definitely be calling in tonight to  
36 make comments and I'm doing my best to go through the  
37 October 29, 2013 transcript and will probably be  
38 working with Pippa and email to do that to figure out  
39 what you guys said and then also look at what members  
40 of the public commented on a year and a half ago  
41 already, but that was a scoping phase and now we're in  
42 the decision-making phase.

43

44 Thank you

45

46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,  
47 Courtenay. Any other comments from the board.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: With me, I  
2 missed the October meeting and I tend to lean on the  
3 concern that Dan Dunaway brought up. At the last rural  
4 determination meeting that we had, it was sort of like  
5 a comment from the public, I thought we were going  
6 along pretty well with the criteria. The only area  
7 that the public was concerned about was aggregation,  
8 grouping of the communities.

9  
10 If I understood Dan Dunaway right, I do  
11 feel uncomfortable in the situation that we are in now.  
12 I guess without the steps to determine I don't mind  
13 that -- well, I have a couple concerns about that  
14 eliminating the 10 year because I think it's important  
15 to revisit something like this every so often, but I  
16 hate to revisit -- I guess in order to revisit and deal  
17 with the issue, it would be from different communities  
18 or maybe different regions. Like, for instance, if  
19 Bristol Bay has an area where they have a concern on  
20 the resources and then like the Southcentral would have  
21 their own concerns.

22  
23 I don't know where I'm going, but I  
24 guess I would feel more comfortable right now to listen  
25 to -- since we're in the last stages of this is to  
26 listen to the comments tonight and then we can deal  
27 with this tomorrow. I think the board is up on this,  
28 so I think that's probably where we want to be right  
29 now.

30  
31 Is there any other comments.

32  
33 (No comments)

34  
35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: If not, thank  
36 you, Robbin. I guess you can start on the other  
37 customary and traditional use determination.

38  
39 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, thank you,  
40 and members of the Council. I'm here to keep you  
41 apprised of the progress of the customary and  
42 traditional use determination process review. This is  
43 a review that also came out of that Secretarial review  
44 a number of years ago.

45  
46 The full briefing you will find in your  
47 supplemental B package. I'm sorry, as you will notice,  
48 it is backwards in your materials. So start from the  
49 back forward.

50

1 MR. DUNAWAY: You mean it's left-  
2 handed?  
3  
4 (Laughter)  
5  
6 MS. MORRIS LYON: Mine is actually  
7 right-handed. I don't know how I got so lucky.  
8  
9 MS. LAVINE: Donald.  
10  
11 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. I gave new  
12 supplemental materials to the Council members with the  
13 correct formatting. Thank you. Just to go on record,  
14 we just got done -- the Council just got done  
15 discussing the rural determination and I understand  
16 that Council will bring this up tomorrow and take final  
17 action and recommendations.  
18  
19 Thank you, Madame Chair.  
20  
21 MS. LAVINE: So again this is about  
22 your briefing in supplemental B. There are also copies  
23 available on the table in the back of the room. This  
24 Council in the past has postponed any action until more  
25 information was forthcoming. At one time it has been  
26 an action item. In April 2014, Mr. Bertrand Adams,  
27 Sr., the Chair of the Southeast Alaska Regional  
28 Advisory Council, sent a letter to Mr. Tim Towarak, the  
29 Chair of the Federal Subsistence Board, requesting an  
30 analysis on the effects statewide of possible changes  
31 to the customary and traditional use determination  
32 process.  
33  
34 In response to the request,  
35 anthropologists at the Office of Subsistence Management  
36 wrote the analysis of the proposed changes, which you  
37 can find in your briefing. The purpose of the analysis  
38 is to inform the Southeast Alaska Council and other  
39 Councils of the possible effects of specific changes to  
40 the determination process.  
41  
42 Mr. Adam's letter is marked as Appendix  
43 B in the briefing starting on page 31. It also  
44 includes the letters and associated attachments. In it  
45 the Southeast Alaska Council requests staff to analyze  
46 for each region the effects of, one, eliminating the  
47 eight factors from the customary and traditional use  
48 determination process. Two, allowing each Regional  
49 Advisory Council to determine its own process to  
50 identify subsistence users. Three, requiring the Board



1 to defer to Regional Advisory Council recommendations  
2 on customary and traditional use determinations.

3  
4 Additionally, Appendix A of the  
5 briefing beginning on Page 21 provides the current  
6 status of the review process and a summary of Regional  
7 Advisory Council comments and actions in the 2013 and  
8 2014 meeting cycles. So you can find a summary of your  
9 Council comments and actions starting on page 27.

10  
11 So as of the end of the fall meeting  
12 cycle four Councils postponed action until more  
13 information was forthcoming, three Councils supported  
14 change to the existing customary and traditional use  
15 determination process and three Councils supported  
16 keeping the process as is. The review is ongoing.

17  
18 Hopefully you have had a chance to read  
19 the briefing and if you have I will try to answer your  
20 questions if you have any. Once again I believe this  
21 might be an action item for your Council. I am here  
22 though to keep you apprised of where we are at in the  
23 review process and answer any questions as I can given  
24 my neophyte status. I know that will not be a card I  
25 can play this time next year.

26  
27 Thank you.

28  
29 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.

30  
31 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you. Maybe  
32 Courtenay could remind me. I think we requested that  
33 there be a real concerted effort in Bristol Bay to seek  
34 comments from the outlying communities. Off the top of  
35 my head I'm trying to remember what we got, if any,  
36 from that. Does Ms. LaVine have that material or can  
37 somebody remind me?

38  
39 Thank you.

40  
41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald, do you  
42 have the answer to that?

43  
44 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair. I  
45 think it's two years or the year before, in  
46 coordination with BBNA we requested that we get some  
47 comments from the surrounding communities. Also we  
48 requested that the Subsistence Resource Commissions and  
49 Advisory Committees place this issue on their agenda.  
50 To date, I know Lake Clark met on it and they had no

1 specific comments. The Aniakchak SRC was trying to  
2 meet and they weren't able to establish a quorum. The  
3 Advisory Committees, they had staff changes over in the  
4 Board support section and they weren't able to meet in  
5 time to provide their comments on this particular  
6 issue.

7

8 Maybe BBNA can give us an update as far  
9 as their efforts to bring this up to the villages to  
10 provide comments to this Council.

11

12 Thank you, Madame Chair.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.  
15 Courtenay, did you hear that request?

16

17 MS. CARTY: Yes. Thank you, Madame  
18 Chair. Unfortunately, I'm having serious server  
19 issues and I'm unable to access documents that I'm  
20 trying to find for you guys. Basically the RAC, when  
21 you first were, I guess -- I want to say first because  
22 obviously this has been going on for a long time. But  
23 when the RAC was asked to consider changes to the  
24 customary and traditional use determination, you in  
25 turn asked BBNA to go and work with our tribal councils  
26 and members of the public within the Bristol Bay region  
27 to gather comments on the proposed changes.

28

29 BBNA returned your request with a  
30 letter that was pretty brief, but stating that we have  
31 sent this information out to the villages, we would  
32 like to continue working with you and our villages in  
33 soliciting comments, but we also cited the need for OSM  
34 to be conducting thorough government-to-government  
35 tribal consultation with the tribal councils within our  
36 region. At the time we kind of had the staff capacity  
37 and over time our shop has shrunk in size significantly  
38 down to Gayla and I, where we used to have four.

39

40 Although we might have the ability to  
41 or be in a better position to be working more closely  
42 with our tribal councils, that does not necessarily  
43 take away the responsibility of the Federal government  
44 to be providing those services, so we did not go out  
45 and formally try to, I guess, perform quasi-G-to-G  
46 consultation with our tribes to get their comments, but  
47 rather kind of have been handling this in the same way  
48 that we handle everything by providing information to  
49 the tribes and then also providing them with any  
50 technical assistance they may seek in providing their

1 comments. So we did not specifically get you any  
2 comments, but have provided information so that  
3 comments could be received.

4

5 Another part of our comments was,  
6 again, that this needed to be put in the form of a  
7 proposed rule and not just a scoping phase type of  
8 process and then at that time when a decision was to be  
9 made that we would be in a better position to be  
10 working a little more strongly with the tribes to make  
11 sure that they get their formal comment into the record  
12 to be incorporated in the decision.

13

14 That is a brief update. That's kind of  
15 where we're at.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

18

19 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Madame Chair. I  
20 think there's a person that used to work for the Fish  
21 and Game that's kind of signaling like they may have  
22 some information if we can invite her to the table.  
23 Ms. Brito.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Come on up.

26

27 MS. BRITO: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
28 Thanks, Dan. I just wanted to briefly touch on the  
29 Advisory Committee part of this process. Before I left  
30 my position at Fish and Game last spring I did notice  
31 all of the Advisory Committees within Southwest Alaska  
32 of this scoping and solicited comments. Only two ACs  
33 met after this request for comment went out last  
34 spring. Both of them put it on their agendas but  
35 neither deemed to comment on it because they felt that  
36 there was not enough information for them to comment at  
37 that time.

38

39 In October of this past year, I know  
40 the executive director of the Board of Fisheries did  
41 call me and asked if we had had any Advisory Committee  
42 comments and I told him no. He was going to re-issue  
43 it to Southwest ACs at that time.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

46

47 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you very much for  
48 that. It helped remind me. I was sitting there  
49 thinking I remember we were talking about it. What my  
50 experience is as the secretary of the Nushagak Fish and

1 Game Advisory Committee is we're so concerned about  
2 dealing with all of the more immediate regulatory  
3 proposals and we spent so much time on that that this  
4 kind of thing just dropped off the agenda. We never  
5 could get to it. We spent a lot of time trying to get  
6 the wildlife proposals.

7

8 We're going to be trying to have a  
9 meeting here this spring for fisheries. We could be in  
10 the same bind though. If we have a little more  
11 specifics, but a lot of folks tend to be more focused  
12 on the more immediate deadlines for the State  
13 regulatory process. This one's a little harder for  
14 them to sink their teeth into.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any other  
19 comments. I think one of the main issues in gathering  
20 this information, number one, if our board is having a  
21 time trying to understand this, even though it has been  
22 going on for some time, our village people, the very  
23 people that are going to be affected probably have zero  
24 to very little information regarding this and the  
25 decisions that they would have to make.

26

27 Number two, we've made requests for --  
28 like, for instance, BBNA and other advisory groups to  
29 deal with this, but without funding they could only  
30 deal with the issues that are on the table that they  
31 have funding for. I don't know how else this could be  
32 corrected, this process to be enhanced other than I  
33 guess trying to work with minimal groups like this.

34

35 Is there any other comments. Billy.

36

37 MR. MAINES: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
38 This almost goes back to the comments I was talking  
39 about with the rural determination. It just so happens  
40 Bristol Bay is so different from one end to the other.  
41 To determine what's customary and traditional for  
42 Igiugig and Aleknagik and Dillingham you'll find three  
43 different responses.

44

45 The other thing is that most of Bristol  
46 Bay is State land managed and they are the ones who  
47 take care of the Fish and Game, more so than others and  
48 throughout the state of Alaska.

49

50 The other thing that always pops into

1 my head here lately thanks to President Obama is that  
2 UN Declaration of Indigenous People, subsistence is the  
3 key issue of that along with treaty rights across the  
4 nation and stuff like that and I'm trying to figure out  
5 what part and what role my tribe has with that let  
6 alone trying to tell what other tribe or other village  
7 in our region what's customary and traditional for  
8 them.

9

10 So I'm kind of perplexed with the issue  
11 as to how do I as a Curyung tribal member tell somebody  
12 from Aleknagik like yourself, Molly, or Mr. Hill up  
13 there at Iliamna or Randy in Igiugig or my friends down  
14 in Perryville and Ivanof Bay and stuff like that. I  
15 guess I, myself, would need a little bit more  
16 information from the Federal Subsistence Board as to  
17 what they are looking for from us dealing with what is  
18 customary and traditional. Like I said, depending on  
19 where you're at and where you're coming from, what's  
20 customary and traditional to you as a Native folk from  
21 that area is going to be totally different than another  
22 part.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

25

26 MR. DUNAWAY: It takes a while. Some  
27 of this stuff is starting to come back to me too. I  
28 did sit in with the Southcentral/Southeast joint  
29 meeting to hear some of this and I finally found some  
30 of the language. There's places, I think, in Southeast  
31 there's a real frustration because the Federal system  
32 just picked up the whole State system that was created  
33 before there was a Federal system or something like  
34 that.

35

36 Then you had this situation where, for  
37 a variety of reasons, you might have one community  
38 here, like miles away from a resource, but they come  
39 out in front of another community and have customary  
40 and traditional access to this resource in front of the  
41 other community, but the immediate adjacent community  
42 for some reason didn't have access because at the time  
43 and the way this eight criteria was, it became kind of  
44 arbitrary and that's why I know I was wanting to  
45 support -- or sometimes there was rules against using  
46 it, so they officially didn't report using it because  
47 they weren't allowed to.

48

49 So I support Southeast in this aspect.  
50 Let's look at it, when you're in a subsistence use

1 mode, especially in the ancient historical context, if  
2 there was a resource out there in front of you, you  
3 used it if you could get it, so why would it be that  
4 you'd have to go through all this fancy stuff. If it's  
5 there, you should be able to use it and I still support  
6 it.

7

8                   Where I remember getting somewhat  
9 concerned -- and I couldn't ever get it spelled out,  
10 but I got the sense that somehow in all of this system  
11 there may end up that, say, a Ketchikan subsistence  
12 user would somehow then be qualified to go out to  
13 Toksook Bay and take part in subsistence out there. If  
14 that part wasn't in there, I'd be a whole lot less  
15 concerned.

16

17                   Like there was a time where rainbow  
18 trout weren't officially allowed to be subsistence  
19 species in this area. I think they are now. Well,  
20 that's crazy. In the old days, people were hungry and  
21 there's rainbow trout right there, pow, they ate it. I  
22 have no problem with that kind of thing. But I think  
23 some of this was the bigger concern that this somehow  
24 allowed a subsistence user to range widely over the  
25 state, which then the implications that could come out  
26 of that if I were to show up in Ketchikan or whatever.

27

28                   I may be mistaken on that, but I  
29 remember I had a sense that that was a concern that  
30 kind of seemed to be hovering under the surface. So  
31 I'll shut up and maybe somebody can respond.

32

33                   MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

34

35                   MS. MORRIS LYON: Dan, actually, I'm  
36 going to stay away from that. My question -- Donald, I  
37 don't -- is this going to be an action item for us at  
38 this meeting? It didn't appear so to me.

39

40                   MS. KENNER: Madame Chair. This is  
41 Pippa Kenner with OSM.

42

43                   MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Go ahead,  
44 Pippa.

45

46                   MS. KENNER: Yes, this is an action  
47 item at this meeting, but because of the concerns that  
48 this Council had at the last meeting, we understand you  
49 might not be able to take action. If I might ask from  
50 my distant perch here, did anybody get a chance to read

1 the briefing that's on the Council.  
2  
3 (No comments)  
4  
5 MS. KENNER: So that's probably a no?  
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Silence, so it  
7 might be a no.  
8  
9 MS. KENNER: Yeah, it would be very  
10 difficult to discuss it. In here what we noticed was  
11 that the Bristol Bay Council did have some specific  
12 outstanding questions that would help them understand  
13 what we were asking better. That's one of the reasons  
14 why we included our response to the Southeast Council  
15 in the briefing because in that briefing it answers  
16 some, not all, but some of those questions. So it  
17 might be a good idea to take a break now and not go  
18 forward with this. Give Council members a chance to  
19 read the briefing if they so choose and they may come  
20 back with more specific questions tomorrow.  
21  
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: What's the  
23 wishes of the Council. I think because our agenda  
24 items are so full, the way I look at our agenda from  
25 the very beginning, I normally try to deal with the  
26 action item areas first and then thinking that the non-  
27 action item areas are going to be informational. It  
28 didn't indicate that this agenda item was an action  
29 item unless I'm mistaken. There's no asterisk to it.  
30 So I think that's kind of why we're not prepared for  
31 it.  
32  
33 MS. KENNER: I understand, Madame  
34 Chair. Okay. Was that a no? Did that mean you'd like  
35 to move forward now?  
36  
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I think so. I  
38 think we need to move forward.  
39  
40 MS. KENNER: Oh, okay. Well, let  
41 me.....  
42  
43 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci has a  
44 comment.  
45  
46 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, Madame Chair.  
47 What I might propose is that we can all go home and  
48 study supplement B, Tab B tonight, and if the  
49 opportunity arises tomorrow, perhaps towards the end of  
50 our meeting and we feel like we have time, we can

1 revisit it with any comments at least that the Board  
2 might have and we might all surprise ourselves and have  
3 something that we can all come together with at that  
4 point. That way we're not totally committed to it, but  
5 we won't take it completely off the table either.

6

7 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, this is  
8 Pippa.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Go ahead,  
11 Pippa.

12

13 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Nanci. And I  
14 just want to refresh your memory that as part of the  
15 Secretarial Review Southeast Council and OSM Staff  
16 devised four questions to ask Council members about the  
17 C&T process. The first one was whether to eliminate  
18 the customary and traditional use determination and  
19 instead use ANILCA Section .804 criteria when  
20 necessary. Number two, change the way such  
21 determinations are made by making area-wide customary  
22 and traditional use determinations for all species.  
23 Number three, make other changes or, four, make no  
24 changes.

25

26 So, as you can see, this was a very  
27 general type question. Those are the four questions  
28 that all 10 Councils have been working through. The  
29 comments that I heard just in the short discussion has  
30 been very helpful and they actually are directly  
31 related to this question.

32

33 Some Councils are very nimble with the  
34 customary and traditional use determination process  
35 because they've used it a lot. Others have said they  
36 have not used it very much and, therefore, aren't as --  
37 they don't understand the process as well. That  
38 doesn't necessarily mean Staff hasn't done a good job.  
39 It just means that the system has worked for them. So  
40 it's not surprising that some Councils have more  
41 comments than others.

42

43 In addition to that, your Council has  
44 mentioned that in many places in the Bristol Bay area  
45 there's a mixture of State and Federal lands. So when  
46 you have regulations that are disjointed between State  
47 and the Federal process, it can be difficult, so  
48 sometimes Councils have chosen to try to have  
49 regulations in the two systems as close to one another  
50 as possible. So one of the things we were trying to do  
in the analysis that Southeast requested was to explore



1 those a little bit with you.

2

3 But not taking action is fine if you  
4 don't feel ready to. I would encourage you to continue  
5 to talk about it if you have comments. Your comments  
6 are not ill-informed. They are actually striking right  
7 at the heart of this issue about how different  
8 communities and tribes and councils have a different  
9 point of view about what C&T is and those are actually  
10 very helpful.

11

12 Thank you, Madame Chair.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,  
15 Pippa. I think you hit one of the areas and issues that  
16 we have in Bristol Bay and that's our land ownership  
17 with State and Federal. I think that's one of the  
18 areas why Bristol Bay hasn't really taken serious to  
19 this C&T.

20

21 I remember working for State of Alaska,  
22 even though I was under Subsistence Division. When I  
23 traveled to the villages, village people thought that I  
24 had all the answers for C&T. What was upsetting to a  
25 majority of the people that semi-understood -- the  
26 village people that semi-understood C&T was that, like  
27 Billy mentioned earlier, there's a difference with  
28 traditional people versus others regarding C&T.

29

30 One area that was upsetting to the  
31 majority of the communities that I worked with was the  
32 State C&T on caribou. If a person lived in an area for  
33 five years or whatever amount of years, then they had  
34 the C&T to harvest that caribou. For the more  
35 traditional harvesters there, they didn't think that  
36 that was fair for just five-year residency and you have  
37 the C&T process for you.

38

39 So thank you, Pippa, for that  
40 information. Billy, did you have a comment.

41

42 MR. MAINES: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
43 Pippa, I appreciate your comments and Chairman also.  
44 I've just got to reiterate my comment dealing with  
45 customary and traditional. Some of the folks around  
46 the area are real sensitive when it comes to talking  
47 about their custom or their traditions. Some of them  
48 are held very sacred and very quiet. They're only  
49 shared among their family members. For one reason or  
50 another, it's something that is just passed down among

1 them, but they're the ones that hold onto it. They're  
2 the culture bearer type of individual, a shaman or  
3 witch doctor or whatever you want to put a label to  
4 them, but it's real sensitive.

5  
6 Again, it's hard for me to go and say  
7 that this is how the Bristol Bay region customarily and  
8 traditionally do what they do with what they have  
9 because, again, it's different. For us to even think  
10 about making a recommendation to the Federal  
11 Subsistence Board that this is how it's done throughout  
12 the State of Alaska really weighs heavy on my shoulders  
13 also.

14  
15 So I will again go through the  
16 briefing. I will look at the sections that you say  
17 were brought up at other meetings dealing with the  
18 Bristol Bay RAC, but I just find it really tough to  
19 give the Federal Subsistence Board what they want to be  
20 considered something black and white when, myself, I  
21 can't even do that with the folks that I live and work  
22 and consider friends and family.

23  
24 So I just wanted to again reiterate my  
25 point dealing with that. It's very difficult, very  
26 personalized and very sensitive when it comes to  
27 talking about customs and traditions.

28  
29 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

30  
31 MR. HILL: Madame Chair. I'm looking  
32 at this and thinking about my feeling toward any time  
33 the Federal government, which rules over all of us,  
34 decides something, it's set in stone. It can't be  
35 changed. What we find, living in our areas, is that  
36 nothing is set in concrete. Circumstances change, your  
37 financial or physical circumstances change and there's  
38 targets of opportunity, so how can we -- I feel very  
39 sensitive, like Billy talked about, going back to the  
40 community and saying, okay, this is what we did and  
41 then having to answer to that. That's a pretty big  
42 deal going back to the village. You know, why did you  
43 do that?

44  
45 Stuff comes up all the time. What is  
46 customary and traditional? Well, how long? Do we put  
47 a timeline on what's customary? Do we put a timeline  
48 on what's traditional? Well, it wasn't traditional  
49 until I moved back home. I was away from home for 30  
50 years. I come back home and I've been there and now

1 it's customary and traditional.

2

3 This can't be set in stone. It's got  
4 to be ever changing. I don't know if we can do it.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any other  
7 comments. Nanci.

8

9 MS. MORRIS LYON: Just a quick comment.  
10 And Courtenay too. I know Courtenay is waiting to give  
11 us a quick briefing on comments.

12

13 I agree with you and I know that the  
14 last time we brought this up and struggled with it so  
15 hard and almost, you know, a lot of the identical  
16 arguments we're having right now. I think it also  
17 stems from the fact that we are so different and from  
18 so many other regions in the state, which we've said a  
19 hundred times before, but look at all the different  
20 blendings we have here. Very few other areas in the  
21 state have multiple different origins, whether it's  
22 Yup'ik, Inupiat, all of them. C&T, not only does it  
23 change on its own, but it has so many different  
24 versions and forms within each tribe. So you've got  
25 that complication going on in the Bristol Bay area as  
26 well.

27

28 So I guess to remain brief, my thought  
29 is -- you know, I'm certainly wanting to do my homework  
30 and give it further consideration, but I think for this  
31 particular area we're looking at cataloging or  
32 attempting to catalog something that is overwhelming  
33 really when you think about it, even real briefly, just  
34 because we have to address so many different individual  
35 lifestyles and traditions. I'm not sure that it fits  
36 us.

37

38 So that's what I had to say.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,  
41 Nanci. Lary. Courtenay, do you want to read your  
42 findings from BBNA quickly and then we'll continue with  
43 our board.

44

45 MS. CARTY: Sure, Madame Chair. I just  
46 found the comments that we submitted and resent them to  
47 Donald so you guys could get a copy of those tonight if  
48 you'd like. It's just a couple paragraphs, so I'll be  
49 brief, but it's also very detailed, so I'm going to try  
50 to go slow.

1                   Basically there's an introductory  
2 paragraph saying thank you for the opportunity to  
3 comment and we're responding. Then we say that the  
4 current process using 36 CFR 100.24.16 and 50 CFR  
5 100.16 subsistence management regulations for public  
6 areas in Alaska mirrors the language in 5 AAC 99.010  
7 Boards of fisheries and game procedures. It is our  
8 understanding that when the Federal subsistence  
9 management program was implemented in 1990, dual  
10 management was believed to be a short-lived regime and  
11 the Federal government adopted the State of Alaska  
12 customary and traditional use determination process  
13 under the assumption that it would only be used for an  
14 interim period.

15  
16                   Now that we are nearly 25 years from  
17 then, it is apparent that the dual management system is  
18 here to stay and the current process being used by the  
19 Federal Subsistence Board and Office of Subsistence  
20 Management for determination of customary and  
21 traditional use is out of date.

22  
23                   In reviewing the information provided  
24 and working to understand this issue more in depth over  
25 the past few months it is obvious that the current  
26 criteria used for C&T determinations is much more  
27 restrictive than the language in Section. 804 of  
28 ANILCA. As such, we agree with the Southeast  
29 Subsistence Advisory Council statement that the current  
30 process "unnecessarily restricts subsistence users."  
31 BBNA agrees with the Bristol Bay RAC statement that the  
32 Federal Subsistence Board should give deference to the  
33 Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council when  
34 identifying priorities for subsistence users in Bristol  
35 Bay.

36  
37                   As the Section .804 criteria is only  
38 applied in times of shortage, we feel it is necessary  
39 to adhere to and follow the original language of ANILCA  
40 when needing to make such determinations. That's the  
41 language of our comment.

42  
43                   Thank you.

44  
45                   MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,  
46 Courtenay. I guess we'll get the written format from  
47 Donald. Thank you.

48  
49                   Robbin, do you have a comment?  
50

1 MS. LAVINE: Yes, Madame Chair, just  
2 really briefly. Especially considering some of our  
3 members of the Council, like myself, are new and have  
4 not sat through this issue over multiple meetings, when  
5 you're looking at our briefing, supplemental B, for the  
6 back story and if you want to look at it from the very  
7 beginning through to the present moment, you might want  
8 to start with Appendix A. That will give you a bit of  
9 the background. That's the second half of the briefing  
10 packet or supplemental B and you'll find that starting  
11 on Page 21. It will give you a little bit of the  
12 background.

13  
14 Remember that the customary and  
15 traditional use determination review process, like the  
16 rural determination review process, came out of the  
17 Secretarial Review. They wanted the Councils and the  
18 Federal Subsistence Board to explore how the Federal  
19 program was meeting the needs of the rural subsistence  
20 users.

21  
22 So that's where it springs from. We've  
23 got a bit of a history here. Again, also a little bit  
24 of a summary of how the Council has responded over the  
25 meeting cycles. You'll find yours on Page 27. And  
26 then, in response again to Southeast Alaska's request,  
27 the analysis of what it might look like if we were to  
28 change the customary and traditional use determination  
29 process. That starts on Page 1. It takes each region  
30 in turn. I believe the effects for Bristol Bay start  
31 on Page 9.

32  
33 So I just wanted to kind of give you a  
34 way of thinking about how to move through the briefing  
35 this evening.

36  
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,  
38 Robbin. So Bristol Bay starts on Page 9 did you say?  
39

40 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair. The effects  
41 of possible changes for the Bristol Bay region, that  
42 starts on Page 9 of the analysis and then in Appendix A  
43 there is a history of this issue through the meeting  
44 cycle, where it started. On Page 27 is a summary of  
45 the Council's responses.

46  
47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan, did you  
48 have your hand up?

49  
50 MR. DUNAWAY: Real quick. Thank you,

1 Robbin. That last part really helps me because I think  
2 we're still kind of floundering around in this paper  
3 and not quite knowing how to get a grip on it. So  
4 that's really helpful. I didn't catch all of it, but I  
5 think I caught one of the key pieces that Courtenay  
6 read and I want to thank her for that.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

11

12 MR. WILSON: I almost lost my train of  
13 thought there's so much going on here. It once again  
14 reminds me how difficult this process is. From a lot  
15 of the conversation I'm hearing here is that there's  
16 like four bullet points that we kind of outlined on  
17 Page 27. One of those, if it was under our control as  
18 the RAC board here, if we had more control over our  
19 customary and traditional -- because we're only talking  
20 Federal lands here and we have so much diverse stuff  
21 around us.

22

23 We've got State, we've got land and,  
24 yeah, we're supposed to have been together years and  
25 years ago. The State and the Feds were supposed to be  
26 under one rule and here they are trying to separate us  
27 again and try to separate one brother from the next  
28 because one has moved into the city and still needs it  
29 and the other still lives out there. I mean they're  
30 tearing us apart here again, the way I feel.

31

32 But I think one common ground might be  
33 that we have -- if we were to at least knock away one  
34 of them bullet points and say we were more of a  
35 regional kind of set-up rather than statewide, I think  
36 that's a starting point.

37

38 MS. CARTY: Madame Chair.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay,

41 Courtenay.

42

43 MS. CARTY: Thank you. I just have a  
44 comment that I would like to make, I guess, in regard  
45 to not only this action item, but a lot of the action  
46 items that are in this board book on your agenda are  
47 supplemental and not found in your board book and I  
48 just think it would be much easier not only for members  
49 of the public but for you, the RAC members, if such  
50 important information that is so pertinent to the

1 decisions that need to be made is provided to you by  
2 OSM in a timely manner, much more ahead of time so that  
3 you're able to prepare as well as copies of transcripts  
4 regarding previous discussions that you've had on these  
5 agenda items.

6  
7 I'm not sure if it would be appropriate  
8 for the RAC to ask OSM to maybe do a better job of  
9 making sure that these things are not supplemental but  
10 are included in your RAC book so you have it 30 days  
11 prior. Just my comment for the record.

12  
13 Thank you.

14  
15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

16  
17 MR. MIKE: Duly noted.

18  
19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.  
20 Remember the public is invited to make comment also on  
21 the agenda item that we're going through, so you're  
22 more than welcome. If there's anybody from the public  
23 to please help us get out of this maze.

24  
25 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair.

26  
27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes.

28  
29 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa. I have one  
30 last comment on the customary and traditional use  
31 determination process briefing.

32  
33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Go ahead.

34  
35 MS. KENNER: So the Southeast Council,  
36 I believe, has been listening to the responses that  
37 have been coming from the Councils and that's one of  
38 the reasons why, when they were looking for more  
39 information, they were told they needed to submit it in  
40 a proposal format so that we could respond, but this  
41 isn't a formal proposal. It was just in order to  
42 provide them with more information.

43  
44 So what they suggested is a system for  
45 C&T determinations that are done by region and that all  
46 the C&T determinations in regulation would remain the  
47 same until a proposal was submitted and a Regional  
48 Advisory Council had made a recommendation on a  
49 determination and that the Board has verbally made a  
50 commitment to deferring to the Councils on customary

1 and traditional use determinations and we have this  
2 documented in some of their meetings.

3

4                   There are some places in the state that  
5 would really want to explore this possibility of making  
6 a region-wide determination for all species for all  
7 people who live in the region so that they're not  
8 constantly having to put in proposals to change C&Ts  
9 here and there species by species. That was all  
10 incorporated into the Southeast Council's request for  
11 information that begins on Page 1 of your proposals.

12

13                   So we are listening to you and we are  
14 hearing what you're saying, that C&T is approached a  
15 lot of different ways in the different regions.

16

17                   Thank you.

18

19                   That's all I have to say.

20

21                   MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,  
22 Pippa. It's now 3:05. We promised North Pacific  
23 Council that we would get them in. Before we do, I'd  
24 like to have Nanci introduce our former -- we're  
25 looking at them as future board members, the young  
26 people in the back. Nanci, do you want to introduce  
27 them.

28

29                   MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame  
30 Chair. Actually, I would invite you to introduce  
31 yourselves and tell us exactly why you're attending.  
32 We welcome you to being here and we do hope to see you  
33 one day up on this board. So please come forward. Use  
34 our mics right here. You've been recognized by the  
35 Chair and let us know who you are and why you're here.

36

37                   MR. STEWART: We are Boy Scout Troop  
38 #565 and we're here for a merit badge. I'm Cort  
39 Stewart.

40

41                   MR. SCHONEMAN: My name is K.J.  
42 Schoneman.

43

44                   MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you. We  
45 appreciate you coming here. We're glad to be able to  
46 give you the ability to earn a merit badge by holding a  
47 meeting and certainly I would hope that both of you  
48 would feel free to ask any questions you might have of  
49 us or why we do proceedings the way we do. Welcome,  
50 and we do hope that this brings enough interest that



1 you'll participate one day.  
2  
3 Thank you.  
4  
5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: and I do  
6 really appreciate you boys  
7 coming in to introduce yourself and letting us know  
8 that you're interested. I hope, like I said earlier,  
9 that someday you'll be sitting up here.  
10  
11 Thank you.  
12  
13 MR. HILL: Madame Chair.  
14  
15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.  
16  
17 MR. HILL: One short comment. We've  
18 been commenting for years about how to get our younger  
19 people involved. So I appreciate you men coming  
20 forward and taking an interest. The last question is  
21 what do you do after you leave here to follow up to get  
22 your merit badge? What do you have to do?  
23  
24 MR. STEWART: Probably learn more about  
25 subsistence and such and probably read a little bit  
26 about the laws of subsistence.  
27  
28 MR. HILL: Who does your test to make  
29 sure you get the badge?  
30  
31 MR. STEWART: The Boy Scout Committee,  
32 which would be Ken and.....  
33  
34 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Scott and Jim.  
35  
36 MR. STEWART: .....Scott and Jim.  
37  
38 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Scott Weston.  
39  
40 MR. STEWART: Jim Strandberg.  
41  
42 MR. HILL: Thank you for coming.  
43  
44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you. I  
45 think before we get into the North Pacific, while you  
46 guys are setting up, we'll take a five-minute break.  
47  
48 (Off record)  
49  
50 (On record)

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: The Council  
2 has come back to order. You've got the floor.

3  
4 MR. MACLEAN: Chairman Chythlook and  
5 members of the Council. Guyana for this opportunity to  
6 come and speak with you today. We're very pleased to  
7 be able to be here and talk about one of the actions  
8 that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is  
9 currently considering. That is additional measures to  
10 manage salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock  
11 fishery. This is an action that the Council has been  
12 considering for some time.

13  
14 How we'll do this today is I have Diana  
15 Stram here, who is the author of the analysis that the  
16 Council is currently considering. We're also very  
17 pleased to be able to have two of our Council members  
18 who introduced themselves earlier, Roy Hyder and Ed  
19 Dersham. They are here to answer questions.

20  
21 Really our objectives here today are  
22 twofold. Number one, to provide you some information  
23 about this action that the Council is taking at this  
24 point and to answer your questions to the best that we  
25 can. The second point for our objectives here today  
26 are to hear your concerns and comments. I will be  
27 taking notes. If you have things that you would like  
28 the Council to know or comments specifically to the  
29 Council, I will be taking those notes and then  
30 preparing a report that will be delivered to the  
31 Council when they take final action on this agenda item  
32 in April of this year.

33  
34 So again, Guyana for having us here.  
35 We're very pleased to be able to be here. I will cease  
36 with my remarks on that and turn this over to Diana  
37 Stram to go through her presentation.

38  
39 Thank you.

40  
41 MS. STRAM: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
42 Members of the advisory board. I'm going to walk  
43 through this presentation. I'm happy to pause at any  
44 point for questions during it or take questions after,  
45 whichever you all prefer.

46  
47 So first I'm going to walk through what  
48 the current status of salmon bycatch management in the  
49 pollock fishery is. the salmon bycatch -- I'll walk  
50 through what our Council jurisdiction is as well, but

1 basically the extent to which we managed salmon it's  
2 only as it's called as bycatch in offshore fisheries.  
3 So this action is entirely discussing the Bering Sea  
4 pollock fishery, which is the mid-water trawl fishery.

5  
6 That fishery catches -- the only salmon  
7 species that are caught as bycatch in that fishery are  
8 chinook and chum salmon. The way our federal laws work  
9 for bycatch of salmon species it must be counted, so it  
10 is counted. Everything is counted by an observer, but  
11 it cannot be retained or sold and that's to prohibit  
12 any kind of targeting on it deliberately. So salmon  
13 then must be discarded at sea. A lot of it is donated  
14 to food banks.

15  
16 In recent years, since the current  
17 bycatch management program and heightened awareness of  
18 donations to food banks, we've been able to get  
19 distribution centers within the state Alaska. So all  
20 of the salmon that is donated to the food bank program  
21 that can be accommodated in the distribution centers in  
22 the state of Alaska. In the last two years those  
23 distribution centers have been fully accommodated with  
24 the salmon that's available.

25  
26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So is the  
27 salmon you're talking about sockeye or the other three  
28 species?

29  
30 MS. STRAM: Madame Chairman. The  
31 pollock fishery does not catch anything but chum or  
32 chinook. The other three species are not caught in any  
33 -- very very infrequently are those other species  
34 caught, so we generally just refer to it as chum salmon  
35 and chinook salmon.

36  
37 So the Council has been managing salmon  
38 bycatch using time area closures in the Bering Sea for  
39 many years, since the early '90s. The Council started  
40 looking at different management measures starting in  
41 2005.

42  
43 So just a brief overview of the Bering  
44 Sea pollock fishery. It's a large-scale offshore  
45 fishery. It's divided in two different seasons; a  
46 winter season that operates -- the reddish areas are  
47 just to show you kind of the concentration of the  
48 fishery. So the winter season where it's constrained  
49 by ice generally south of the Pribilofs with a large  
50 fraction of it offshore of Unimak here.

1                   In the summer season then, which we  
2 call the B season, which begins from June to November  
3 1st, the pollock fishery stretches all the way up the  
4 200 meter shelf edge up to the extent of the 200 mile  
5 zone. This just gives you the trends and the two  
6 different species that we're talking about in bycatch.  
7 Red is the chum trend and in blue is the chinook trend.

8

9

10                   Most notably, in 2005 when we started  
11 looking at different measures, it was beginning with  
12 this really high bycatch event of chum of over 700,000  
13 chum that was caught in the pollock fishery in 2005.  
14 That started the Council looking at different measures  
15 than time area closures. Then immediately after that  
16 the pollock fishery had a historic high of 122,000  
17 chinook that were caught in the pollock fishery.

18

19                   So the program that I'll explain to you  
20 that was put into place was implemented in -- began in  
21 2011. So the Council took action in 2009, again  
22 following this high historic chum and then chinook  
23 events, and then that program was put into place in  
24 2011. So the program that's currently in place in the  
25 pollock fishery to manage chinook bycatch is called  
26 Amendment 91, because that's the amendment number to  
27 our Fishery Management Plan. It's the first time that  
28 a hard cap was ever put on the pollock fishery for the  
29 bycatch of salmon.

30

31                   So what the program is, rather than  
32 managing by closing them out of areas, the program  
33 that's in place places a hard cap, which means that  
34 fishing must cease if that cap is reached. In addition  
35 to it, it puts into place industry incentive programs.  
36 The pollock fishery operates with several different  
37 sectors of the pollock fishery.

38

39                   Offshore catcher processors, nearshore  
40 catcher vessels, the CDQ program that's prosecuted with  
41 the catcher processors and then mothership, which are  
42 floating processors to which catcher vessels deliver.  
43 That part of the fishery is important because the  
44 different sectors have different bycatch rates and  
45 bycatch amounts. Each one of them has put into place  
46 an incentive program to manage their bycatch below a  
47 lower cap level.

48

49                   So while the highest cap level of  
50 60,000 chinook is in regulation, the intent of the

1 program is to manage below a lower cap level of 47,000.  
2 Again, that's divided out by each of the sectors and  
3 each of the sector's incentive programs are intended to  
4 keep their bycatch both below the lower level and at  
5 the lowest possible levels that they can by providing  
6 industry-run incentives to stay as low as possible.

7

8 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. So two out  
9 of seven years, you start having a problem two out of  
10 those seven years, so you actually wait seven year  
11 cycle to determine whether you're going to go to the  
12 lower?

13

14 MS. STRAM: Madame Chair. No.  
15 Actually the -- because there's these two cap levels,  
16 one is the target that you're trying to stay below, the  
17 other is the actual hard cap that would close the  
18 fishery, so all the incentive programs are designed to  
19 keep below the lower cap level. However, if that  
20 sector did go above its lower cap level, if it happened  
21 more than two times in seven years, they would then be  
22 stuck with a lower level cap for the future.

23

24 So the intent of the two of seven years  
25 is to try and make sure that the incentives in the  
26 program are strong enough to keep you from exceeding  
27 that lower level cap.

28

29 MR. WILSON: How do you come up on the  
30 seven years, do you know? Why is seven -- I mean our  
31 salmon are like three and five-year cycles. So how did  
32 you get seven?

33

34 MS. STRAM: That's a good question. It  
35 was put into place not based on any kind of a salmon  
36 cycle. It was basically to try to give some form of  
37 rolling year average. So they just decided that if you  
38 had three strikes in a seven-year period, then you  
39 would be stuck with a lower cap level.

40

41 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, once again.  
42 I think this is important to at least look at that  
43 possibility of why the seven years when we have almost  
44 all of our return stock are well within a five-year  
45 return. So if you're targeting a stock and you get two  
46 years in a row, that could be really detrimental. So  
47 you're looking for our comments. That's one of mine.

48

49 MS. STRAM: Okay. Thank you.

50

1 MR. HILL: Madame Chair. Maybe it's a  
2 foregone conclusion, but in those several years of real  
3 high bycatch of the two species, does that also  
4 correspond to lower catch in areas where they do spawn?

5  
6 MS. STRAM: We'll get into it a little  
7 further along. What we did in trying to look at what  
8 the effects were of the historical bycatch as well as  
9 the program that's in place. We looked at the --  
10 because we have really good age data in the bycatch, we  
11 constructed a model, an adult equivalent model, to look  
12 at using the age and the bycatch and using an estimated  
13 maturity to the rivers what the relative impact would  
14 be in each year.

15  
16 So what happens in those really high  
17 years the actual reduction in fish going back to spawn  
18 is less than the number, but it propagates forward  
19 because the pollock fishery catches anywhere between  
20 three and seven-year-old fish. So depending upon how  
21 old the fish in the bycatch were, a high bycatch event  
22 can actually propagate forward several years and lower  
23 returns.

24  
25 MR. HILL: So high bycatch doesn't  
26 necessarily mean low return in those specific areas?

27  
28 MS. STRAM: The high bycatch is --  
29 we'll get into the genetic components of the bycatch.  
30 We know that more than roughly around 60 percent are  
31 returning to rivers in Western Alaska. So what we're  
32 trying to do, for the Council's management purposes, is  
33 just try to estimate how many of the fish that were  
34 caught in the bycatch would have returned to Western  
35 Alaska because our concern is the low returns to  
36 Western Alaska.

37  
38 So again in conjunction with the  
39 management program that was put into place in 2011  
40 there was some additional provisions that also went  
41 into place. Mandatory 100 percent observer coverage on  
42 all the pollock vessels. Some already had it, but now  
43 anyone that didn't have it was brought up to 100  
44 percent coverage. All the salmon that is brought on  
45 board is counted by observers, whether at the  
46 processing plant or onboard the vessel.

47  
48 We now have more genetic sampling for  
49 the stock of origin of the fish and that's in both the  
50 Bering Sea and in the Gulf of Alaska. The Council

1 receives genetic stock of origin reports on an annual  
2 basis. The Council also receives annual reports on how  
3 the incentive programs themselves are functioning and  
4 what the effectiveness of it is.

5  
6 Now moving forward in terms of what the  
7 action is in front of the Council. Due to the  
8 continuing concerns with low Western Alaska chinook,  
9 the Council is looking at ways to reduce bycatch  
10 further. The current bycatch levels in the pollock  
11 fishery are very low compared to historic levels. In  
12 the past three three years the bycatch has been in  
13 general between about 11,000 and 15,000 down from these  
14 high historic amounts.

15  
16 However, understanding that the Western  
17 Alaska chinook are still in a state of extreme decline,  
18 the Council is still looking at how can we do better at  
19 the lower end of bycatch. One of their objectives in  
20 this action was to keep bycatch low under all  
21 conditions of salmon abundance in the ocean. So now  
22 they want to look back and say is there something more  
23 that we can be doing. In doing so, they requested a  
24 series of analyses of us, Council staff, and NOAA  
25 fisheries staff to provide them basically an  
26 understanding of where there might be other measures  
27 that we could do on the pollock fishery to continue to  
28 reduce the bycatch.

29  
30 Also another objective of the Council  
31 in this action is to combine their bycatch reduction  
32 measures for chum and chinook. Currently those cap  
33 levels are for chinook and chum is currently being  
34 managed on a form of time area closure system that's  
35 put in place by the fleet itself.

36  
37 So just to review kind of how our  
38 process works in terms of how management actions are  
39 changed, the Council's authorities under the Magnuson-  
40 Stevens Act and under that the North Pacific Fishery  
41 Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries  
42 Service manage the fisheries 3 to 200 miles offshore.  
43 In some cases, we coordinate with the State of Alaska  
44 and in some cases some of our species are actually  
45 managed more directly by the State of Alaska.

46  
47 The Council, as a formal political  
48 body, makes recommendations to the Secretary of  
49 Commerce. The Secretary of Commerce then can accept  
50 the Council's recommendation for an action, refuse the

1 Council's recommendation for an action or partially  
2 approve it. So they will not change it, but they can  
3 turn it back. So, in general, the Council then makes  
4 the recommendations. In almost all cases the  
5 recommendation that goes forward from the Council is  
6 approved by the Secretary of Commerce and then a  
7 management action is implemented.

8

9 On the Council then we have 15 total  
10 members. That's part of the mandate of the Magnuson-  
11 Stevens Act. Eleven of those members are voting  
12 members, four are designated seats; the head of the  
13 National Marine Fisheries Service and then the  
14 designated seats for Washington and Oregon. As you  
15 see, Mr. Hyder here is from one of our designated seats  
16 for Oregon. There's seven seats that are appointed by  
17 the governors of the states of Alaska and Washington;  
18 five are from the governor of the state of Alaska, Mr.  
19 Dersham is one of those five appointees, and two are  
20 appointed by the state of Washington. And then we also  
21 have four non-voting advisory seats; the Coast Guard,  
22 Pacific states, Department of State and U.S. Fish and  
23 Wildlife.

24

25 One of the provisions of the Magnuson-  
26 Stevens Act, there's 10 national standards and the  
27 Council's actions must consider all 10 national  
28 standards and justify how it is responding to those  
29 national standards. For this particular action there's  
30 two national standards that rise more to the service in  
31 terms of how the actions are justified. One of them is  
32 the National Standard 9 to minimize bycatch to the  
33 extent practicable. So to balance minimization of  
34 salmon bycatch to the extent practicable with National  
35 Standard 1, which is to prevent overfishing while  
36 achieving optimum yield. So allowing the pollock  
37 fishery to be prosecuted while trying to minimize  
38 salmon bycatch to the extent possible.

39

40 The process that we go through in order  
41 to make changes to fishery management plans, which is  
42 what we're in the process of doing right now, Council  
43 and the public are provided an environmental and  
44 economic impact analysis and that's what we, as staff,  
45 produced that basically looks at the likely  
46 implications environmentally and economically of the  
47 Council of the different alternatives under  
48 consideration.

49

50 Our process takes two iterative reviews



1 at different meetings before a final decision is made.  
2 The Council's last reviewed this at their December  
3 meeting and made some changes to the alternative under  
4 consideration and then this will come back to the  
5 Council for final action and then they will choose  
6 their preferred management approach at their April  
7 meeting of this year. Again, the final Council  
8 decision is submitted to the Secretary of Commerce in  
9 the National Marine Fishery Service implements the  
10 regulations in that recommendation.

11  
12                   So what information is used in order to  
13 inform decisions on changing management. So specific  
14 to this action the Council requested that we look at  
15 several different factors that affect salmon bycatch.  
16 Some of them lend themselves better to management tools  
17 than others. These are all the factors that we know of  
18 that affect how the pollock fishery catches salmon as  
19 by-catch.

20  
21                   There's definitely a fleet behavior  
22 aspect to it. We've done a study that there's a  
23 temperature relationship in terms of the water  
24 temperature and salmon bycatch. There is extreme  
25 seasonal patterns an intra-annual variability in salmon  
26 by-catch where the fishery is prosecuting affects what  
27 species as well as the genetic stock of origin of the  
28 species. There are vessel specific differences in how  
29 certain vessels that catch far more bycatch than others  
30 and there is a component to run size variability. So  
31 there is a relationship to the bycatch level and the  
32 run size variability.

33  
34                   The Council explicitly then, in looking  
35 at what changes they might make to our current chinook  
36 bycatch program, asked for explicit analyses to try to  
37 inform us as to what are the best management measures.  
38 They asked us to look at the Western Alaska chinook  
39 bycatch rates, to look at an impact analysis on these  
40 Western Alaska stocks, look at vessel behavioral  
41 changes and whether or not there is an estimation that  
42 vessels have changed behavior, as was intended in this  
43 action in 2011, and how we would evaluate a more  
44 effective program in low chinook abundance years.

45  
46                   So getting into the salmon genetics  
47 then, this is just a map that gives you the broad  
48 categories that we can right now assign chinook to  
49 stock of origin. Unfortunately, all of Western Alaska  
50 ends up in the yellow group here that's called Coastal

1 West Alaska and that is the genetic grouping. So that  
2 is the most refined genetic grouping that we have right  
3 now. They cannot refine it to the individual river  
4 system. So everywhere from Bristol Bay all the way up  
5 through Kotzebue ends up in that same group.

6

7                   The two parts that are slightly  
8 separate from that, the Middle Yukon can be refined  
9 genetically and the Upper Yukon can be refined  
10 genetically and then the rest are broad categories in  
11 other regions. West coast of the United States,  
12 British Columbia and then Southeast Alaska.

13

14                   So as I mentioned every year now we  
15 receive a genetic overview of the bycatch stock of  
16 origin, the chinook stock of origin, in the pollock  
17 fishery bycatch. In general, it's been fairly  
18 consistent with other genetic reports that we've  
19 received in the past. Generally the broad coastal West  
20 Alaska stock grouping comprises about 60 percent of  
21 the bycatch of the total like it. North Alaska  
22 Peninsula is around 11%, B.C. is about 10% and the west  
23 coast of the U.S. is about 7%. The Upper Yukon is  
24 refined separately and so that makes up about 3% of the  
25 stock of origin.

26

27                   There are seasonal differences and how  
28 those proportions fall out. For example, based on  
29 where the fishery focuses, in the winter fishery closer  
30 to the Pribilofs, we know that in the winter there is a  
31 higher proportion of the Upper Yukon that's caught in  
32 the winter compared to the summer based on the fishery  
33 stretching out longer across the shelf break. We also  
34 have stock of origin information for chum salmon that's  
35 caught in the bycatch.

36

37                   Here it is a much different situation  
38 in that the majority of the chinook that is caught as  
39 bycatch is of Asian origin and presumably hatchery  
40 origin fish. The Western Alaska component of it is  
41 about 14%, with the Middle and the Upper Yukon combined  
42 comprising about 7%.

43

44                   So the Council requested that we do an  
45 impact rate analysis. This was not something that we  
46 were able to do to this degree when the Council took  
47 their original action in 2009. So what they wanted to  
48 know is the bycatch divided by the total run of the  
49 salmon by stock of origin. So we only have the total  
50 because of the genetic breakouts. We can only look at

1 the coastal West Alaska grouping and the Upper Yukon  
2 grouping. For those, ADF&G compiled an aggregate run  
3 index for us for the coastal West Alaska grouping and  
4 then we have the annual run reconstruction for the  
5 Upper Yukon.

6  
7 So, as I mentioned a little bit  
8 earlier, we did an adult equivalent analysis where we  
9 looked at the accounting for the age of the fish in the  
10 bycatch using estimated maturity for when they would  
11 return to the rivers and then we use the genetic stock  
12 information to break the adult equivalent bycatch out  
13 to the individual genetic stock of origin in order to  
14 come up with an impact rate. Again the focus of it was  
15 on the coastal West Alaska and the Upper Yukon.

16  
17 So the impact rates then that we  
18 calculated out over a range of years basically from  
19 2003 through 2012 we looked at what the impact of the  
20 pollock fishery has been on those areas. For coastal  
21 West Alaska it has ranged from a low of about 1.6%,  
22 which was from the first year of the program in 2011 to  
23 a high in 2008 of about 7.7 percent. The Upper Yukon  
24 a low of 1.3% from the year 2003 to a high of about  
25 3.7% in 2010.

26  
27 Another thing the Council asked us to  
28 look at then is both the impact rates during the years  
29 that Amendment 91 has been in place, so 2011 and 2012  
30 so far, a range of 1.4-2% is the impact rate to the  
31 coastal West Alaska and Upper Yukon. They also asked  
32 us to look at what if the cap itself were reached. So  
33 looking at the higher cap, if you had reached that  
34 higher cap in those years, what would the impact rate  
35 on those stocks be. So for that our range is about 2%  
36 to 6% for coastal West Alaska and about 2% to almost 5%  
37 for the Upper Yukon.

38  
39 We also looked at chum impact rates  
40 again for those same groupings. Those were much, much  
41 lower. Again the proportion of chum that's caught as  
42 bycatch is much less for Western Alaska. So basically  
43 less than roughly around 1% or less for coastal West  
44 Alaska and then for the Upper Yukon the highest  
45 percentage was about 2.6% and the majority of them were  
46 much less than that.

47  
48 So, in general, what we presented back  
49 to the Council then the bycatch levels have been lower  
50 in recent years and overall since 2011, but based on

1 other analyses that we did at vessel level and  
2 behavioral level it was clear that there could be  
3 incremental improvements made specifically targeting at  
4 the vessel level. So not every vessel is avoiding  
5 chinook salmon to the maximum amount possible.  
6 Particularly what we noticed is that in the summer  
7 season, in the B season, there were more noticeable  
8 vessel level behavioral differences in terms of fishing  
9 behavior at the end of the B season where chinook rates  
10 are higher.

11  
12                   The one thing that we did also do a  
13 census of is to look at the fact that many of the  
14 vessels are using salmon excluder devices, which I'll  
15 walk through really briefly. Some of the sectors are  
16 beginning to mandate the use of salmon excluder  
17 devices. So salmon excluders, just briefly, is a  
18 design in the net where there's an opening in the net  
19 and a flap that's included inside the middle of the  
20 trawl net basically that provides a lee in the current  
21 and that gives the salmon an ability to move over to  
22 where the current is less and that way they get kind of  
23 shot out of the net, whereas pollock can't swim as well  
24 as chinook and they tend to drop back in the net.

25  
26                   The industry has designed these and  
27 iteratively worked on them to basically improve their  
28 performance. So a lot of vessels are now beginning to  
29 use excluders more and more frequently and a lot of the  
30 sectors are mandating that their vessels use these  
31 excluders.

32  
33                   MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair. Just real  
34 quick. Looking at these boats using them versus not  
35 using them, do you see a distinctive improvement then,  
36 enough to maybe convince the rest of them to use it?

37  
38                   MS. STRAM: Yeah, I think that in  
39 general the use of the excluders has been an industry-  
40 driven response. What we've been struggling to do on a  
41 management level is have you increased the incentives  
42 to reduce bycatch at any end counter level and one of  
43 the big incentives to do that was a hard cap in place  
44 and that really pushed a lot of the vessels into using  
45 excluders just to try to do anything they possibly can  
46 to avoid coming near a hard cap level.

47  
48                   So one of the other aspects is that the  
49 Council is concerned with managing chum bycatch. While  
50 the pollock fishery catches chinook in both the winter

1 and the summer, chum bycatch is only encountered by the  
2 pollock fishery in the summer fishery. Some of the  
3 issues that the Council has been struggling with to  
4 enact correct management measures that the chinook  
5 bycatch tends to be higher later in the summer season  
6 and a lot of the actions that we were looking at  
7 previously for chum bycatch, anything that slows the  
8 fishery down in the summer season would be more likely  
9 to increase your chinook bycatch at the end of the  
10 season. So some chum measures that we'd previously  
11 looked at doing in the earlier part of the summer  
12 fishery would end up slowing down the pollock fishery  
13 and making the chinook bycatch worse. So that's one of  
14 the balancing acts that the Council is looking at.

15

16                   So now to the action that's in front of  
17 the Council now, the alternatives that are being  
18 considered for management changes, they fall into three  
19 broad measures. One is to combine chum and chinook so  
20 that you can have complimentary programs. The next is  
21 to look at what management changes could be basically  
22 forced on the industry with their incentive plan  
23 requirements. There are general requirements for  
24 incentive plans that are in regulation. The industry  
25 has the latitude to figure out how their incentive  
26 program can be designed to meet those general  
27 requirements. So now we're looking at what kind of  
28 requirements could be changed to make their incentive  
29 plans more effective basically. And then the third  
30 main category is to look at lowering the bycatch cap in  
31 years of low chinook abundance.

32

33                   So starting with changes to incentive  
34 plans, the main bycatch management program that is  
35 being considered for chum is to have the industry  
36 incorporate some kind of chum bycatch management in  
37 their incentive plans themselves. In addition to that,  
38 then moving on to more restrictive chinook measures,  
39 the Council is looking at within the incentive plans  
40 mandating the use of salmon excluders, looking at  
41 specific weekly closures when bycatch rates are higher  
42 than designated threshold. Again, these would be  
43 enacted by the industry, but they would be mandated in  
44 their plans and then looking at penalties and  
45 restrictions on vessels which have consistently the  
46 highest bycatch rates.

47

48                   The next set of alternatives that are  
49 being considered are changing the pollock fisheries  
50 season. There is two different main changes. One

1 would be to move the start date basically 10 days  
2 earlier, which would encourage additional fishing in  
3 the early part of the summer and try to avoid when  
4 bycatch rates are highest in the latter part of the B  
5 season. Similarly, they are looking at shortening the  
6 B season so that it would close earlier in order to  
7 keep everyone from fishing in those time periods in  
8 September/October when the bycatch rates are highest.

9  
10 And then also looking at modifying the  
11 pollock quota. It is divided out by season and it's  
12 mandated that up to 40% can be taken in the winter  
13 season and then the remainder 60% in the summer. So  
14 now the Council is looking at shifting that, so  
15 basically providing the pollock industry the tools to  
16 catch more pollock in the winter fishery. Again, these  
17 are all measures that are looking at trying to  
18 discourage fishing in the latter part of the summer  
19 fishery.

20  
21 And then lowering the bycatch caps in  
22 times of low chinook abundance. So this would  
23 explicitly tie the overall cap level, both the higher  
24 and the lower, the threshold and the hard cap, to an  
25 index of chinook runs. So if the index is below a  
26 specific threshold, then we would switch management to  
27 managing under these lower caps for the years in which  
28 this threshold was reached.

29  
30 The threshold is based on an index of  
31 the three rivers, the Unalakleet, the Upper Yukon and  
32 the Kuskokwim. So that those three post-season inriver  
33 run reconstructions would be provided to the Council on  
34 an annual basis and if the sum of those three river  
35 indices is less than 250,000 chinook, that would  
36 designate it as being a low chinook threshold year and,  
37 therefore, options are being considered to reduce the  
38 cap. The options to reduce the cap would range from  
39 anywhere from 25% to 60%. That threshold was put  
40 forward by ADF&G as representative of historically  
41 very low Western Alaska chinook runs sizes.

42  
43 So we presented the first overview of  
44 this analysis in December. We are working on revising  
45 the analysis to incorporate the additional request of  
46 the Council. In general, incorporating chum salmon  
47 bycatch into the incentive plan is most likely to  
48 result in better bycatch management for chum without  
49 increasing the chinook bycatch. So it does get at the  
50 problem that the Council has been struggling with in

1 terms of comprehensively managing them both.

2

3 We were not able to estimate much in  
4 terms of chinook savings by making incremental  
5 revisions to the incentive plans themselves. There is  
6 some incremental savings of chinook by some of the  
7 measures that are being considered. The highest  
8 potential chinook savings is estimated by shortening  
9 the pollock season and the B season, but Alternative 5,  
10 which is lowering the cap in years of low chinook  
11 abundance, would provide the only alternative with an  
12 explicit mechanism to adjust the caps in years of low  
13 abundance. And understanding the ability to estimate  
14 what the actual savings of chinook would be is really  
15 dependent upon how the fishery responds to lower caps.

16

17 The Council in December then added this  
18 provision to move the pollock quota to the winter  
19 fishery as well as reducing both caps, the hard cap and  
20 the performance standard cap. We are in the process of  
21 analyzing what those impacts would be. Much of this  
22 really depends on fishing behavior changes, so there's  
23 only so much we can estimate as savings. A lot of it  
24 is just trying to discuss all these different tools  
25 that are being put forward to try to encourage the  
26 fishery to reduce their by-catch further.

27

28 So the Council in April will be  
29 providing a preferred alternative for changing this  
30 management approach. Again, we're working on the  
31 analysis now. It will be ready by the middle of March  
32 and posted on our website. The Council will take final  
33 action the week of April 6th, 2015 at the Hilton Hotel  
34 in Anchorage. At that time the Council will select  
35 their preferred alternative from the range of  
36 alternatives that we've analyzed. These alternatives  
37 are not mutually exclusive, so the Council can mix and  
38 match across them and combine different measures to try  
39 to formulate their best management approach.

40

41 Written comments can be received  
42 through April 1st. The Council takes public testimony  
43 every meeting. This analysis will be in front of our  
44 advisory panel and in front of the Council and public  
45 testimony is taken at both of those. We are in the  
46 process of these outreach meetings to try to get the  
47 information out and answer questions and bring your  
48 input back to the Council.

49

50 As Steve indicated, the comments and

1 concerns that we hear at these meetings will be  
2 compiled in a report that will also be presented to the  
3 Council prior to final action in April. This is just a  
4 listing of the different RAC meetings as well as a  
5 Kawerak meeting that we have held in Nome earlier this  
6 winter in January.

7

8 To provide comments, you can testify in  
9 person at a Council meeting, you can provide written,  
10 faxed or emailed comments and this is our address and  
11 the email address that we accept comments at.

12

13 I just provided in here links for more  
14 information. Again the analysis itself will be posted  
15 on our website. We also have on our website several  
16 different published analyses of many of these aspects;  
17 vessel behavior, bycatch impacts rates. All the  
18 genetic analyses that are produced on an annual basis  
19 are also available on our website.

20

21 Madame Chair, that's all I have. I'm  
22 happy to answer any additional questions. Again, we  
23 have our Council members here as well to answer  
24 questions.

25

26 MR. HILL: Madame Chair.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

29

30 MR. HILL: A question. Earlier you  
31 talked about the Asian chinook and the Western Alaska  
32 chinook. How can you tell the difference between the  
33 two? If I was to have them side by side, would I be  
34 able to look at them and tell the difference?

35

36 MS. STRAM: No. So they collect -- the  
37 observers on board the pollock vessels, when they're  
38 counting the chinook, they take genetic samples of them  
39 and those genetic samples are sent back to a lab in  
40 Juneau, Alaska and then the geneticist there run the  
41 analyses to tell you what the stock of origin is of  
42 those genetics from those fish and then map them. The  
43 map that I showed that had the broad regions, that's as  
44 far as they can resolve those genetics to region of  
45 origin.

46

47 MR. HILL: Just one more question.  
48 We've been having some  
49 weird-looking chinook salmon showing up in our area and  
50 I wonder if that could be one of the Asian salmon



1 following our chinook up into our spawning areas.

2

3 MS. STRAM: Madame Chair. To the best  
4 of my knowledge we've never been able to visually  
5 identify to a region of origin. We would love to be  
6 able to do it for chum and for chinook.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

9

10 MR. DUNAWAY: Thanks. Once again, this  
11 is a really nice presentation and I am hugely grateful  
12 and want to thank whoever made it possible for you to  
13 come here. I know some time ago when Eric Olson was on  
14 he came. You might have been here then too. Your name  
15 is familiar. I want to thank you.

16

17 I'm also really pleased because I was  
18 talking to Mr. -- and I don't have your last name  
19 right. Roy Hyer, Hyder?

20

21 MR. HYER: Hyder, H-Y-D-E-R.

22

23 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay, Hyder. I was  
24 really tickled to see that this bycatch that's being  
25 distributed to food banks is going through Alaska. I  
26 remember one summer listening to some folks kind of  
27 beat their chest about, okay, we're getting all this  
28 bycatch and we're distributing it to food banks in  
29 Seattle and I called up Robin Samuelson. But in the  
30 meantime our Yukon folks are going hungry. So I'm glad  
31 that's getting fixed and that's really good.

32

33 I have a number of questions if you  
34 don't mind. Could you put that chart that shows the  
35 bycatch plotted. It's a line graph. It shows kings  
36 and chums. Because on ours in here the chum line did  
37 not print. That one.

38

39 MS. MORRIS LYON: No, the chinook line.

40

41 MR. DUNAWAY: Or chinook. What did I  
42 say? Chum. Yeah, that's what I meant. The blue line  
43 didn't show up on ours. I wanted to kind of look at --  
44 I was trying to look at that variability since those  
45 two extreme events and trying to get a handle on -- and  
46 I'll have to ask this question. Frankly, this Council  
47 came out some time ago. We were playing hardball. I  
48 mentioned to Mr. Hyder that maybe the trawl fleet is  
49 kind of like the coyote and the jack rabbit. When we  
50 started going for these really severe hard caps, the

1 trawlers were the rabbits and they got smart and are  
2 doing better and I'm really glad to see that.

3

4 I was thinking if they're able to  
5 maintain this much lower level of -- and I've got to  
6 keep my scales straight here.....

7

8 MS. STRAM: Yeah, so the blue is the  
9 chinook level, so you're talking about these levels  
10 down here, which correspond.....

11

12 MR. DUNAWAY: Just under 45,000.

13

14 MS. STRAM: The highest here is about  
15 25,000 and here we're at about 10 or 11,000.

16

17 MR. DUNAWAY: I certainly want to  
18 commend the trawl fleets for all their efforts to stay  
19 down there. It also makes me feel like, well, then,  
20 maybe these caps don't need to be as high as they are  
21 and I would be somewhat of an advocate to drop them  
22 down.

23

24 Again, for any effort that they can  
25 improve that would be good. I'm curious of some of  
26 these boats that have kind of poor performance. I know  
27 you can't just run out and put another net on them very  
28 easily, but it sure makes me -- the scientist in me  
29 wants to go what if they just switched nets or what if  
30 -- and I assume that with this 100 percent observer  
31 coverage that you're trying to gather all that to  
32 figure out what's what.

33

34 I really like the idea of requiring  
35 salmon excluders. I would think that they could retro-  
36 fit a net, though from what I do know about trawling  
37 sometimes it isn't that simple. These nets are really  
38 high-tech and if you mess with them, they go from  
39 catching fish to not catching anything.

40

41 Finally, and this reflects a lot on my  
42 extensive lack of knowledge because I know this genetic  
43 stuff is tricky, but the Nushagak River chinook salmon  
44 run has a tremendous amount of catch/escapement data.  
45 Probably one of the best datasets for a king salmon run  
46 in Western Alaska versus kind of a guess and by gosh on  
47 the -- don't get mad at me, Gene -- on the Kuskokwim or  
48 even the Yukon. So when we were having a pretty poor  
49 looking king run this year on the Nushagak, the trawl  
50 fleet was getting the finger pointed at them really

1 hard and so were we down here in Bristol Bay with one  
2 of the next biggest king runs. They're going, well,  
3 look at us. And can this data be somehow used in there  
4 either in addition to or instead of something like the  
5 Unalakleet.

6  
7 It's kind of ironic that when it comes  
8 to chums and kings, Western Alaska genetics don't seem  
9 to work for us for either one in a level of resolution  
10 we'd hope to have. But I've posed a few questions, if  
11 maybe you could touch on that, and then I have one  
12 other one, I think.

13  
14 MS. STRAM: So getting to the actual  
15 issue of the Nushagak. So, genetically, we cannot  
16 resolve that, but there's a reason why the index is not  
17 proposed to use the Nushagak. ADF&G scientists went  
18 back and tried to look at -- first, the index that was  
19 being proposed was the total run reconstruction or the  
20 estimate for the whole coastal West Alaska CWAC group.  
21 That was done and compiled by ADF&G solely for our  
22 impact rate assessment because that's the genetic  
23 breakout, so that's not something that's annually  
24 available or readily available to ADF&G to compile all  
25 of those rivers.

26  
27 So then ADF&G looked at, well, which  
28 rivers have annual run reconstructions, so there's  
29 four; Unalakleet, Kuskokwim, Upper Yukon and the  
30 Nushagak. So they looked at should the Nushagak be  
31 included in the index. So the index being the run  
32 reconstruction and the level at which you would drop to  
33 a lower cap level. So it doesn't really get at the  
34 genetics, but it gets at which are the best rivers to  
35 estimate whether you're at a low level.

36  
37 The concern that was put forward by  
38 including Nushagak is that the magnitude of it is so  
39 much higher in some years than the sum of those other  
40 three. Because they were trying to get broad  
41 distribution across Western Alaska and look at what's  
42 going to represent the best trend in low chinook  
43 abundance, they were concerned that including the  
44 Nushagak would basically dwarf the index in those  
45 years.

46  
47 So that's why, while the trends are the  
48 same, if you look at when those four rivers generally  
49 tend to decline, there are years when the Nushagak is  
50 on a different level and there are years when the

1 Nushagak run is greater than the sum of the other  
2 three. So those other three were used as the index of  
3 low abundance, but the only thing that that does is  
4 just tell you which year to drop the cap down should  
5 the Council go in that direction. It's just an  
6 alternative.

7

8 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair. Thank you.  
9 You were ready for that one. I appreciate that and I  
10 can appreciate what you're saying there. It just  
11 really popped in right away. It's tough on everybody  
12 when we have poor runs in the Nushagak and it makes the  
13 commercial and the sport guys yell at each other even  
14 more.

15

16 I hope they continue to kind of keep  
17 looking at it, especially if -- and this is the fright  
18 that everybody, all users, subsistence, sport and  
19 commercial, have in the Nushagak, is what if we start  
20 following the Kenai River trend and the Kuskokwim  
21 trend. Let's not wait until things are really bad.  
22 I'm sure even over here in Naknek has a small run, but  
23 everybody is really critical or, you know, they really,  
24 really want it.

25

26 So my last thing is I'm still kind of  
27 uncomfortable and I appreciate Richard bringing this  
28 up. If you get this two of seven years exceeded, it  
29 almost, in some ways, almost looks like it's guaranteed  
30 that the trawl fishery might not really have to face  
31 the music very often. If you had a couple of years  
32 where it's pretty bad, I just sure hope this isn't too  
33 convenient. Just to be -- like I say, I'm going to try  
34 to maintain our coyote status on this to drive it down  
35 as hard as we can and I appreciate everything that you  
36 have done so far.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 MS. STRAM: I'm sorry, Steve wanted to  
41 answer the question.

42

43 MR. MACLEAN: Madame Chairman, Mr.  
44 Dunaway. When Amendment 91 package went in initially,  
45 that was when the two out of seven years was  
46 considered. That was seen as a way of making a single  
47 year of high bycatch more meaningful towards accruing a  
48 lower cap. So if it was one out of five years or two  
49 out of five years, that first year of bad bycatch would  
50 be off your record in four years. If it was two out of

1 three years, that one year of bad bycatch would be off  
2 your record in two years.

3  
4 So by maintaining that seven-year  
5 cycle, that one year of bad bycatch would still count  
6 against you for the next six years. So it was a way of  
7 strengthening the consequences of having a single  
8 year's bad bycatch. Because if you had one in the  
9 first year and one in the seventh year, that's still  
10 those two out of seven. Whereas if it was a five-year  
11 cycle, one in the first year and one in the seventh  
12 year, it would still only be one in that five-year  
13 cycle, so it wouldn't have triggered the lower caps.

14  
15 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you. That really  
16 helps a lot. My intuition was almost opposite of what  
17 you were explaining.

18  
19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

20  
21 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thank you.  
22 I really appreciate what you guys are doing here,  
23 taking the time to come up to good old Naknek here and  
24 fill us in on this. I mentioned earlier about the  
25 kings and it's sad to note that we, as a Naknek/Kvichak  
26 fishery, years ago we used to be very abundant in kings  
27 here. To not even be on your charts or not even be  
28 targeted is pretty sad.

29  
30 It kind of answered my question when I  
31 saw your graph about the chinook bycatch. The years  
32 that they were good, you know, picking up 2003 and you  
33 get up to 2006 is way up there. The cycle of the kings  
34 are like, what, five years, four years, so we had a  
35 very big run of kings, so there was a big bycatch. You  
36 look at the last six, seven years, the runs have been  
37 very small, so the bycatch is very small.

38  
39 In that component, here we are,  
40 Naknek/Kvichak. The Nushagak, thankfully, is somehow  
41 able to retain good escapements there. Here, on this  
42 east side of the bay, we're basically wiped out and I  
43 differ for ADF&G here to even -- I'd love to see some  
44 info on what we actually catch on this side. We used  
45 to have a very big king run and it supported our  
46 fishery like Nushagak does over there. It's a pre-  
47 season thing. But we don't get any returns. The ones  
48 that are returning are very small. Once in a while,  
49 last year perhaps, we seen some little bigger ones, but  
50 very small population of kings coming back into this

1 section.

2

3 That to me right there shows that we  
4 kind of wiped out a very big run. We wiped it out and  
5 now we're chugging along at this very low. So your cap  
6 is only dictating what's left. You get to take a  
7 percentage of what's left kind of thing and your graph  
8 kind of proves that. So just for your information. We  
9 had a very prosperous king fishery here and it no  
10 longer exists and that's one of the consequences of it  
11 there. I just wanted to note that.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Nanci,  
16 did you have a comment.

17

18 MS. MORRIS LYON: If I may, Madame  
19 Chair. I have a page full. Some of these are mostly  
20 just quickly answered questions. One would be you're  
21 saying that you're up to 100 percent coverage on  
22 vessels, observer coverage, which I applaud you for.  
23 That's a heck of a lot better than one out of five,  
24 which at one point it was pretty hit and miss whoever  
25 ended up with one. But how thorough is still 100  
26 percent? You always hear the stories about observers  
27 have to rest, they have to eat, they have to sleep. Do  
28 you feel much more confident about your observer  
29 program now compared to what it used to be? Do you  
30 feel it's much more thorough?

31

32 MS. STRAM: Madame Chair. We did  
33 estimates on the precision of the observer coverage  
34 prior to Amendment 91 and it's very precise in the  
35 pollock fishery because there was only the catcher  
36 vessels delivering to shoreside processors that didn't  
37 have 100 percent coverage, but about 70 percent of the  
38 catch was covered from the shoreside. The reason for  
39 100 percent coverage wasn't to get an even more precise  
40 estimate. It was for the ability to manage to very low  
41 catch levels.

42

43 In addition to that, we put in a census  
44 for salmon, so every single salmon is counted now.  
45 That's probably more of an impact than the additional  
46 observer coverage realistically because they used to  
47 basket sample and estimate. Even still we had fairly  
48 precise estimates because we had the highest observer  
49 coverage of any fleet in the Bering Sea or the Gulf of  
50 Alaska. But now that every salmon is censused -- so

1 if it's delivered to a processor, the observer at the  
2 processing plant is counting all the salmon that go by.  
3 If it's on a catcher processor, it happens onboard. So  
4 the combination of both of those things have made all  
5 those estimates even more precise, but they really  
6 weren't bad before either.

7

8 MS. MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank you. I  
9 was curious about that confidence level. I appreciate  
10 knowing that it's very high. How often are you, as a  
11 board, reviewing your current regs? Are you doing it  
12 yearly, bi-yearly or just as people are commenting or  
13 perhaps as science is catching up to genetics, how  
14 often are you guys -- do you guys have a set amount of  
15 time?

16

17 MR. DERSHAM: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
18 Ed Dersham, Alaska Council member. We receive annual  
19 reports both from the cooperatives, the individual  
20 programs, and from staff on the bycatch and on their  
21 cooperative performance. So we get updates and every  
22 Council meeting we get a NMFS report that tells us at  
23 that part of the season how many chinook salmon have  
24 been caught. So basically we get a census update -- we  
25 have five Council meetings a year, so we get a census  
26 update every meeting and we get annual reports from  
27 staff from the genetics. The total count on the  
28 cooperatives on their performance.

29

30 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you. I like  
31 that. I'm glad to know you guys meet that often. That  
32 way you guys can review seasons, in-season and just  
33 pre/post-season, which is great. I would like to offer  
34 the comments that I do think the closures, if weekly  
35 bycatch is high, is a wonderful idea as a mandatory. I  
36 mean talk about an immediate reactionary ability to  
37 limit bycatch and to minimize it. When you're in a  
38 fishery, I think that's a wonderful idea and I would  
39 love to see it implemented in the new plan.

40

41 I worry about the -- I have  
42 participated as a commentor for years now with the  
43 North Pacific Fisheries Council, but I would not call  
44 myself necessarily a student of it, but what fish are  
45 you going to -- it sounded like there wasn't going to  
46 be much change. If you changed the season pressures  
47 and extended your winter season as opposed to your  
48 summer season, I worry about the sausage effect, like  
49 we've talked about in Board of Fish. You close one  
50 fishery for one area and you're going to get the

1 pressure in another area. Is there any of that that  
2 happens in this particular fishery? Is there any  
3 strong motive not to go with a route like that, which  
4 would again reduce bycatch numbers? Where would the  
5 negative impact be on that?

6

7 MS. STRAM: Madame Chair, Ms. Lyon.  
8 What we're looking at right now in terms of that was a  
9 new development that came out of our December meeting,  
10 was to look at changing -- it doesn't change the  
11 season, but it changes the availability of the quota by  
12 season. With the idea being that that's not  
13 necessarily a mandate, but an option that's available  
14 to the fleet so they don't have to take all of it in  
15 the winter. The remainder would roll to the summer.

16

17 The conversations that we've had with  
18 industry on figuring out the downsides of that, I think  
19 as a tool that's available to them if they're still  
20 responsive to running into bycatch and not catching  
21 more of their quota in that season, from a tools  
22 perspective it's very attractive. From a trying to  
23 figure out whether or not that will work, it will  
24 depend entirely on when they catch the additional fish.

25

26

27 So in the beginning part of the winter  
28 season, chinook rates are extremely high, as high as  
29 they are at the end of the summer season. And pollock  
30 is more valuable in the winter season because it's the  
31 roe fishery. So we've discussed it with the industry  
32 in terms of trying to figure out -- for some platforms  
33 they're already maxed out in their processing  
34 capabilities at certain points of the winter fishery  
35 and the assumption would be that they would catch it at  
36 the latter part of the winter fishery, but it's going  
37 to be an individual incentive decision basically by  
38 vessel and by sector as to how and when they would  
39 catch the fish.

40

41 So we've been trying to couch it more  
42 as in a suite of available tools to them to provide  
43 them flexibility. It will not prohibit you from  
44 fishing at the end of the B season. Again, this gets  
45 back to the -- the Council would have the ability to  
46 mix and match across different things. So not just  
47 looking at one tool, but possibly combining several to  
48 ensure that you provide the maximum flexibility but you  
49 also have some backstop measure to prohibit it from  
50 being worse.



1 I hope that gets to your question.  
2  
3 MS. MORRIS LYON: No, excellent.  
4 Absolutely. I can see how it would be a tool in a  
5 toolbox, but it could possibly not help us all with  
6 chinook bycatch. So I understand the consideration for  
7 it and why it has to be weighed and measured in a  
8 longer means.  
9  
10 Can you tell us what the main age  
11 component of the chinook bycatch is since we get  
12 basically seven years' worth of kings in the river and  
13 a healthy return?  
14  
15 MS. STRAM: Yes. In general, the  
16 pollock fishery catch is three to seven year olds.  
17 They catch more predominantly three, four and five year  
18 olds. So that's why when we're estimating the impact  
19 of the fishery on the returns, we have the age  
20 component in there to lag it by year. So, for 2007,  
21 when we had that highest year, the reason why our  
22 impact rate is highest in 2008 is because it propagated  
23 forward because they catch the younger fish.  
24  
25 MS. MORRIS LYON: Okay, yeah. I guess,  
26 to me, I totally echo Richard's concerns. Our chinook  
27 runs out here do not have the same characteristics that  
28 they did 30 years ago, even remotely. Not even  
29 remotely. It used to be not unusual to catch multiple  
30 fish 50-60 pounds. I run a sport fishing operation out  
31 here and have for over 30 years and it's been at least  
32 five years since we put anything over 50 pounds on the  
33 dock from the Naknek or the Nushagak River. It wasn't  
34 unusual for me 30 years ago for me to bring home a boat  
35 full of them.  
36  
37 I'm not saying that the bycatch is the  
38 only reason, but it certainly explains a large -- you  
39 know, it's a portion of an explanation as to why,  
40 perhaps, we're seeing much smaller characteristics in  
41 our chinook runs on all sides of the bay here, which I  
42 fish all of them pretty much.  
43  
44 In many of my public comments that I've  
45 submitted, I have -- I'm going to say it again though  
46 because I think it's of high importance. The Nushagak  
47 run is of extremely high value in this area. There's  
48 no doubt about that. But I think as higher value, if  
49 for no other reason than they're there, we have a lot  
50 of rivers in Western Alaska, including the Naknek being

1 one of the them, Egegik, Alagnak, the Kvichak, all have  
2 small runs.

3

4                   When they used to have the money to  
5 count our fish on the Naknek, our escapement goal here  
6 -- and it's laughable when you look at the Nushagak,  
7 was 5,000 fish. They wanted to be able to count 5,000  
8 fish, not just in the Naknek but its tributaries as  
9 well, and then they were satisfied that we'd reached  
10 our escapement goal. It doesn't take much to wipe out  
11 those fisheries. Even the 3 percent that you're  
12 talking about in potential impact, that's huge in a  
13 fishery of this size.

14

15                   So I've made those comments before.  
16 It's been a couple years since I've submitted them, so  
17 I would like to have them in the record again. I think  
18 it's really important to remember that we do have a lot  
19 of rivers out here even though we have these huge Yukon  
20 runs and huge Nushagak runs, we've got a lot of rivers  
21 that are still just as valuable that have very small  
22 runs that have actually, in my opinion, a much higher  
23 impact by even a low mortality in the bycatch.

24

25                   I'll give the floor to somebody else.

26

27                   Thank you, Madame Chair.

28

29                   MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Billy.

30

31                   MR. MAINES: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
32 I appreciate the presentation you've given us and it's  
33 made me really think hard. I've been fishing the  
34 Nushagak subsistence-wise, commercially, even sport for  
35 probably 30 years. A story earlier today I mentioned  
36 that I spent three and a half hours landing a chinook  
37 on land and it was probably 65-70 pounds and it was  
38 more than six feet long. I don't know the last time I  
39 seen one of those. I agree that the average in the  
40 Nushagak is probably about 30 pounds, if that. I did  
41 notice last year that some of the bigger fish were  
42 finally showing up.

43

44                   When you were talking about 122,000 in  
45 2007, that's almost wiping out a complete chinook  
46 fishery. I do know that some of those were Nushagak  
47 fish because that year there was a decline in the kings  
48 that came back to Nushagak. Slowly, but surely, since  
49 that time it's been gradually growing. You say that  
50 when you take 122,000, then the years after that your

1 percentage is lower. Well, the number of fish there  
2 are lower. So the lower the number of fish, the lower  
3 number of bycatch you're going to get.

4  
5 When you're telling me that you've been  
6 concentrating on Unalakleet, Upper Yukon and Kuskokwim  
7 with your pollock season and thinking about moving it  
8 earlier, well then I'd really start seriously thinking  
9 about the Nushagak and Naknek/Kvichak because  
10 concentrating in those three areas and having the  
11 chinook wiped out basically in the upper part of  
12 Western Alaska, if you move the season to an earlier  
13 part, maybe then you'll really start concentrating on  
14 the Nushagak kings because we have had a return even  
15 with that high bycatch there. It's been smaller, but  
16 we've had it.

17  
18 If you moved the season earlier because  
19 our kings show up in mid-June with the early run and  
20 then we have the main run and then we have a late run.  
21 So if you move the season earlier, there's a good  
22 possibility you're not going to focus on Unalakleet,  
23 Upper Yukon and the Kuskokwim, you're going to focus on  
24 the Nushagak, Naknek/Kvichak and the other fisheries  
25 down south of us.

26  
27 I would just comment that whatever the  
28 Board or the Council decides to do that they really,  
29 really have listened to the comments, concerns and have  
30 done their homework to change any way that they do  
31 business other than to just get out of the fishery  
32 completely, you know. The chinook in our neck of the  
33 woods is the prime fish. Not only for subsistence  
34 uses, but commercial and sport too.

35  
36 It just, to me, were just some obvious  
37 things that popped up in my head during your  
38 presentation. You're concentrating on these three up  
39 here and not down here with your current way of doing  
40 business, but if you shift it, maybe it won't so much  
41 concentrate on here, but it will down here. It's, to  
42 me, just an obvious type of thing. All I know is my  
43 fish go out, they get bigger and they come back and  
44 provide me with what I need and also spawn and go back  
45 and develop new ones and come back.

46  
47 I was concerned about your two to seven  
48 year process too. Thank you for that explanation  
49 because I was saying, yeah, three to five years, that's  
50 the life cycle of our salmon, so why are you going

1 beyond five years, but I appreciate that explanation  
2 because, to me, it makes it that much more important to  
3 maybe keep that scenario in there so that it lasts  
4 longer. It's showing that, hey, you guys really messed  
5 up six years ago, let's not try to make that happen in  
6 the next six years.

7

8 As far as the life cycle of the salmon,  
9 that 2007 there, maybe by 2017 you might be able to get  
10 that many too because it takes a couple runs, cycles,  
11 for them to get back up to where they were before.  
12 Like I said, since that period we've been slowly but  
13 surely seeing an increase in our kings in the Nushagak.  
14 You may have gotten some back there where your target  
15 three rivers was decimated, ours was too, but we've had  
16 a return. But if you change the season again, I think  
17 you're going to decimate ours, maybe improve theirs.  
18 I'm not sure. It's half and half.

19

20 But I appreciate it.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any other  
25 comments from the Council. Nanci.

26

27 MS. MORRIS LYON: I would actually just  
28 like to give a positive. What William was saying made  
29 me realize too that we should be giving positive  
30 comments as well as sharing our concerns. I will say I  
31 have seen a big change in our chum return. Nobody in  
32 this particular area really focuses on chums. We go  
33 further north before they get to be an important source  
34 up on the Yukon, much more so than we have in this area  
35 because we're so rich with our sockeye and our chinook  
36 fishery here, but they are a great sport fish.

37

38 So I, by default, am quite aware of  
39 them as well and we saw a huge -- like the chums were  
40 almost non-existent in the Naknek and the Alagnak  
41 Rivers and I will complement you because I know that  
42 maybe it wasn't all the bycatch, but there's been a  
43 huge improvement over the past three years. The chums  
44 are actually swarming into the Alagnak again, where  
45 that was not happening even five and six years ago.  
46 I'm thinking that's due to sort of generational  
47 changeover too than the kings.

48

49 But I'm really hopeful, like William  
50 said, that we do see a change here turning towards the

1 positive for the kings. Not just in numbers but also  
2 in the quality of our escapement and we will see some  
3 larger fish coming back because I think it's a  
4 frustration to everybody that we can't get the quality  
5 of escapement as much as even the numbers. So that is  
6 a positive though. I meant to end with a positive on  
7 the chum there.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Do we have any  
10 more comments from the Council.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: If not, I'd  
15 like to give the public a chance to make comments. I  
16 see Randy's hand is up.

17

18 MR. ALVAREZ: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
19 I'd like to comment. When I served on the RAC, as you  
20 guys are, I had the opportunity to go to Kodiak to  
21 testify before the Council. It was during those years  
22 where we had -- on that map there, that chart, those  
23 years where we had the high chum and the high chinook  
24 bycatch. The Federal Subsistence Board had three of us  
25 go over to Togiak to testify before the North Pacific  
26 Council on the bycatch. I went for Bristol Bay. There  
27 was another person from Kuskokwim and one from the  
28 Yukon. We went over there.

29

30 Before we went to Kodiak we spent a  
31 couple days in Anchorage being briefed by OSM Staff on  
32 what we were going over there for. We had  
33 recommendations from Staff and the Federal Subsistence  
34 Board to -- we supported a chum bycatch of I think it  
35 was around 23,000 total and they came out a couple  
36 years later with a 600 -- or 60,000, I should say, cap.  
37 Well, according to Staff, that 60,000 number was out  
38 there as a proposal before they adopted it and we had  
39 that information. Staff commented to us that that  
40 60,000 cap wouldn't do anything. In fact, it would  
41 just continue to get worse and it did, according to the  
42 harvest.

43

44 A couple years later they were having  
45 -- the pollock fishery was having difficulty even  
46 finding the fish, so they figured there must have been  
47 not as many as they thought. When you have that big a  
48 bycatch, it's going to affect the total population.  
49 Even though the numbers have gone down after '06 and  
50 '08, the amount of bycatch is small, but the population

1 is still small, so it's still a fairly good size  
2 bycatch percentage compared to before 2000 where the  
3 population -- we used to have good fisheries.

4  
5 Like Billy, I used to go to Nushagak  
6 and fish kings. We used to fish kings over here  
7 outside of Libbyville before 2000. Well, those two  
8 high years kind of ended things for that. Now we're  
9 having difficulty. The Nushagak River, because of low  
10 returning chinooks, now the Wood River has a management  
11 plan that they can't fish sockeyes until the escapement  
12 is 100,000 sockeyes if there's not a certain amount of  
13 kings up the Nushagak River, so that has affected the  
14 commercial fishery. How many openings do they miss a  
15 year because of that over in Nushagak in June?

16  
17 It could happen here in the Naknek  
18 River. If we miss one or two openings, it's going to  
19 amount to thousands of dollars and I'm sure it does  
20 over there in the Nushagak district. So the Council  
21 has to do something about this to get it back to  
22 sustainable levels.

23  
24 So I just wanted to comment on that.  
25 The way I see it -- and I'm thankful some of the  
26 Council members come here to report on this to the RAC  
27 and to the public and I appreciate that, but I see it  
28 as they're here because they have to. They're probably  
29 getting pressure from the Secretaries of Commerce and  
30 Agriculture. If they don't fix the problem, they'll  
31 get it fixed for them. So we need to make sure that  
32 they do fix the problem.

33  
34 So I just wanted to comment to you guys  
35 on that.

36  
37 Thank you.

38  
39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,  
40 Randy.

41  
42 MR. DERSHAM: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
43 I just want to make one final comment from the North  
44 Council perspective regarding do we understand the  
45 importance of chinook salmon to Western and Southwest  
46 Alaska. I believe we do. I know all the other 10  
47 voting Council members personally. I know how they  
48 feel.

49  
50 A story that I like to tell, a short

1 story from my perspective, is I grew up in Oregon and  
2 my family, we fished for chinooks in the coastal rivers  
3 and chinooks were a very important fish. That first  
4 chinook we caught in the spring was a very big deal.  
5 And then I moved to Alaska and I became a fishing guide  
6 in Lower Cook Inlet and then I really found out how  
7 important chinooks are in Alaska because they're an  
8 iconic fish. They're the state fish of Alaska.

9

10 Then, the last 18 years I've been in  
11 fisheries management in one fashion or another,  
12 including nine years on the Board of Fish, and a lot of  
13 that time has been spent on subsistence. I understand  
14 in Western Alaska and Southwest Alaska chinook salmon,  
15 especially subsistence chinooks, they're more than a  
16 really good fish, they're more than the state fish of  
17 Alaska, they're more than an iconic fish, they're  
18 directly tied to the survival of the people in these  
19 parts of the state.

20

21 I just wanted to relate that as to how  
22 we understand how important chinooks are.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Billy.

27

28 MR. MAINES: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
29 And thank you for those comments. And thank Randy for  
30 coming up and more precisely speak about what I was  
31 talking about as far as the bycatch goes. Over the  
32 years your bycatch may be lower, but it's only because  
33 the population is lower.

34

35 As far as the importance of chinook,  
36 the pressure is not only coming from those of us in  
37 Alaska, but when you're looking at the Yukon, you're  
38 also looking at the First Nations of Canada. People on  
39 the Yukon have gone to jail just because of chinook.  
40 The First Nations in Canada putting the pressure on the  
41 State Department with the U.S. saying we want our  
42 chinook too. The heck with you Alaskans, we want ours  
43 too. In years past, it hasn't been a problem. It's a  
44 problem now.

45

46 So I appreciate your thoughts and your  
47 comments dealing with our cultural benefits and who we  
48 are. We are salmon people, but the First Nations of  
49 Canada want their culture preserved also too, so thank  
50 you.

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Do we  
2 have anybody else from the public.  
3  
4 (No comments)  
5  
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Is there  
7 anybody on the phone that would also like to make any  
8 comments.  
9  
10 (No comments)  
11  
12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Hearing none  
13 and nobody from the public. I guess we're -- oh, Joe.  
14 I have to go home with this guy, so I have to put him  
15 on.  
16  
17 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Good afternoon, Madame  
18 Chair and the rest of the Council. I got here a little  
19 bit late, but I guess just like the rest of Western  
20 Alaska, Southwest people I consider chinook a very  
21 important resource that we've had for many years. As I  
22 was briefly looking at the bycatch law used to work in  
23 the 1990s and then all of a sudden they started  
24 evaluating a little differently, I guess I'm just  
25 wondering how accurate some of the graph points were  
26 prior to 2005, I guess, and even 2007 after these new  
27 methods of evaluating and implementing different  
28 measures took effect. I guess since then I can see  
29 there's been a drop.  
30  
31 However, I guess I'm also wondering, I  
32 was just looking at the map, how the pollock fishery in  
33 reference to the winter and summer seasons, January  
34 through April in the winter and June to November in the  
35 summer. I can't tell from the map where the majority  
36 of the pollock fishery takes place during the times  
37 that, I guess, we're given for the seasons. I do see a  
38 real red within that area where it's enclosed. Really  
39 a red spot there and I don't know what that references.  
40 Maybe that's where the majority of the fishery is there  
41 in both times.  
42  
43 It seems that at both seasons that the  
44 concentration is right about in the same area. Winter  
45 season just kind of stretches up a little bit up  
46 towards the north or south peninsula. However,  
47 concentration is fairly close to the same area. So I  
48 guess, based on that, I'm not exactly sure how much the  
49 new method and the new fishery, I guess, how it relates  
50 to bycatch how really accurate some of this stuff is.



1                   You know, historically salmon fishery  
2 in Bristol Bay has had a real long historical record,  
3 even before Statehood. I started helping with  
4 commercial fishery in the '50s, got into my own fishery  
5 in the early '60s. I recall as a commercial fisherman  
6 that a good portion of our early start salmon fishery  
7 used to be from catching chinooks even as early as May.  
8 I also recall, I guess because of the low numbers of  
9 chinooks in other districts, that a good portion of  
10 east side fishermen used to come and participate in the  
11 chinook fishery during that time.

12  
13                   I remember some of them old Italians  
14 talking on the old ham radio and being part of our  
15 conversation about how we were doing. But, anyway,  
16 chinook has very important, not just subsistence, but a  
17 portion of our commercial fishery in Bristol Bay,  
18 primarily in Nushagak.

19  
20                   I have also been listening to some  
21 other folks from different areas. I sat on the AFN  
22 board for several years and one of the big concerns  
23 that the YK folks had that they're not catching enough  
24 chinooks for subsistence. I guess the real telltale of  
25 that is the last several years it's really been low up  
26 in that area. Them folks are really concerned about  
27 the return of chinooks to their systems just as we are  
28 down here.

29  
30                   I hope that whatever is implemented by  
31 the Council will help to bring the numbers back up to  
32 where most people that rely on chinook for subsistence  
33 lifestyle that they've had for years will not be denied  
34 in years to come and there will be less confrontation,  
35 for lack of a better word, between user groups when it  
36 comes to trying to ensure that we all get our share of  
37 the chinooks where we're from.

38  
39                   I guess just looking at the information  
40 I'm encouraged that the Council, especially from 2000  
41 on, seems to be really trying hard to figure out how  
42 they could help to improve and maintain and sustain our  
43 king runs and I wish them the best of luck. Anyway,  
44 thank you for the opportunity just to give my little  
45 two cents worth, Madame Chair, and the rest of the  
46 Council.

47  
48                   I guess Molly has to live with me. I  
49 don't know for how long we've been together. So thank  
50 you.

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Well, we've  
2 gotten along for 48 years, so I think we can make it to  
3 two more years. Anybody else from the board. Lary.  
4  
5 MR. HILL: I just wanted to comment. I  
6 appreciate being able to read the slide without  
7 binoculars.  
8  
9 (Laughter)  
10  
11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Anybody else  
12 from the board or from  
13 the public or anybody on the phone. I want to give  
14 everybody a chance to make comments. I think we've  
15 kind of talked it out.  
16  
17 (No comments)  
18  
19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I'll give my  
20 little two cents thing. I've never really been  
21 involved with this informational process. Well, the  
22 North Pacific Fisheries Council process and how it  
23 works. How I've learned about this is being on  
24 different marine mammal councils. The Yukon-Kuskokwim  
25 folks, I guess, have gotten so desperate about their  
26 chinook salmon that they've come to our different  
27 marine mammal councils wanting us to support the 40 cap  
28 versus the 60 and I guess that's the question. I  
29 didn't hear -- if I heard it, it didn't cipher in. I  
30 guess my question would be where is that? I know to  
31 this date, especially the YK people, are requesting to  
32 lower that cap. I'm sure this is the one that it  
33 involves. So how has your Council taken this into  
34 consideration?  
35  
36 MR. HYDER: I better check with my  
37 partner, Ed. He knows more about salmon than I do.  
38 Thank you, Madame Chair. Roy Hyder. I'm Oregon's  
39 representative to the North Pacific Council. Your  
40 question goes to the proposal of reducing the cap from  
41 60, that's the hard cap, or the performance measure cap  
42 at 47,000 to a lower level. Those are in the package  
43 that we'll be considering. Whether we do that or not  
44 or how much we do it will be part of this decision.  
45  
46 That's a big part of the reason why  
47 we're out here. That's why I'm here. I'm not here to  
48 talk. I'm here to listen and I've heard the message.  
49 Keep the coyote after the jack rabbit. And be careful  
50 what you do when you start shifting seasons, we may

1 shift fisheries from one area to another area. But  
2 whether or not to lower that cap and how far it goes  
3 down will be part of this decision.

4  
5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I know that  
6 I've been involved with  
7 the marine mammal councils and in the marine mammal  
8 councils we don't deal with fishery-related stuff  
9 unless it's to enhance the habitat of, you know, food  
10 sources for the marine mammals. Like I said earlier,  
11 Y-K Delta to this date, to my knowledge, is still  
12 really desperate for their chinook. I know that even  
13 at AFN there's a discussion requesting to lower that  
14 cap. It's been going on for a while and I was just  
15 wondering where that is to date, but it sounds like  
16 it's still in the process.

17  
18 Another question I had was I guess the  
19 chinook salmon genetics, Bristol Bay, that's almost the  
20 whole state and I don't know because I haven't been  
21 fully involved with the Council in any way. Do you  
22 think that these informational meetings you're holding,  
23 that's sufficient? Today, I guess, is one for Bristol  
24 Bay, but has there been any requests from especially  
25 the most affected areas to have you folks come in and  
26 give us this information?

27  
28 This information is good. I didn't  
29 understand 100 percent of it, but I think as lay people  
30 from the public and being involved with these two  
31 different species, I know from the subsistence point of  
32 view, and you heard it all from people that use chinook  
33 for subsistence, people are concerned. So I guess is  
34 this the only period that you're going to give Bristol  
35 Bay to give this information out to?

36  
37 MR. HYDER: Madame Chair. I would like  
38 Steve MacLean to answer that question. Your question,  
39 as I understand it, is how many meetings are we having  
40 and where are we doing them to get out enough  
41 information. He's been setting that up. If he could  
42 talk about that.

43  
44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Sure.

45  
46 MR. HYDER: More specifically to your  
47 question is it enough. I'll answer that from my own  
48 personal viewpoint. Probably it's not, but that's  
49 because in my view of these things we have a hard time  
50 ever getting enough because the decisions are so

1 complex. It's difficult to ever get enough information  
2 and really get it all the way right.

3  
4 For me, it's always worth listening to  
5 more people. That doesn't mean that we're going to get  
6 it right. We'll probably still make some mistakes.  
7 Governments always do. But to your question is this  
8 the only one for the Bristol Bay area and what other  
9 work is going on to talk to people in groups like this,  
10 Mr. MacLean can handle that.

11  
12 MR. MACLEAN: Thank you, Madame  
13 Chairman. As Diana pointed out in one of her slides,  
14 we do have a number of meetings that have been  
15 scheduled. We've already completed one in Nome. We  
16 had a statewide teleconference that was made available  
17 to provide this same information and then answer  
18 questions and take notes again from people's comments.

19  
20  
21 Tomorrow we'll be heading to Bethel for  
22 another RAC meeting and then we will have a meeting  
23 again with the combined Eastern and Western Interior  
24 RAC meetings. We chose these RAC meetings as the best  
25 way to speak with representatives from a broad range of  
26 Alaska. It's challenging to cover all of Alaska with  
27 these sorts of meetings and the RAC meetings were  
28 viewed as the best way to actually speak with people  
29 who could then go back hopefully to their respective  
30 communities and either bring our information to them,  
31 including our contact information, so that if there are  
32 additional questions people can contact us.

33  
34 So we're always welcoming of those  
35 sorts of things. If you have questions or people from  
36 your communities have questions, please let them know  
37 how they can get in contact with us to ask those  
38 questions and we'll do everything we can to answer them  
39 at the time. If we can't answer them, certainly bring  
40 those comments to the Council so they're aware of those  
41 questions as well.

42  
43 We do wish we could do more, but we do  
44 also appreciate the opportunity that we've been given  
45 to come out and make these sorts of presentations and  
46 get these questions and comments.

47  
48 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

49  
50 MR. WILSON: Just one final thought for

1 myself here. During the pollock season, the two  
2 seasons, winter and summer, I was just trying to get a  
3 reality check on how possibly you could lower bycatch.  
4 How difficult is it for them to get their quota during  
5 these times? Over time, has that worked out well  
6 lowering the cap and then getting what the predictions  
7 are? I'd like to know that one. Thanks.

8  
9 MS. STRAM: That's the delicate balance  
10 of trying to figure out what are the best tools. What  
11 we've been struggling with in terms of creating the  
12 right management measures is trying to allow the  
13 fishery the flexibility to catch their quota without  
14 slowing them down and making bycatch worse. So there  
15 are blunt ways to do it, which would ensure that they  
16 probably would not catch their quota by cutting off the  
17 end of the season.

18  
19 But, as you pointed out, it's a good  
20 point that we didn't think about actually, is that  
21 opening the season earlier might disproportionately  
22 affect some stocks. We can't tell you that  
23 genetically, but it's certainly a consideration. Those  
24 measures were intended to provide for additional  
25 fishing opportunities in times when we don't have the  
26 highest chinook rates, but it is an excellent point  
27 that we'll bring back, but that still may have  
28 downstream effects disproportionately by stock.

29  
30 The other consideration in terms of --  
31 because the different sectors of the pollock fleet have  
32 differential bycatch and a differential area in which  
33 to operate. So going back to those heat maps that show  
34 you where the fishery is concentrated, that's not  
35 showing you that there are certain sectors of the  
36 fishery that have to concentrate in certain areas  
37 because they don't have the ability to prosecute  
38 offshore, which also means that as you start squeezing  
39 the bubble you might force them into areas of higher  
40 bycatch because they can't get away from it because  
41 they have to deliver to a shoreside processor.

42  
43 I'm not sure if that gets at your  
44 questions.

45  
46 MR. HILL: It helps.

47  
48 MS. STRAM: Those are all the things --  
49 that's why at this point -- so first the Council put  
50 into place the original program in 2011 and then,

1 because of these concerns, normally the Council  
2 probably wouldn't be as likely to start to change a  
3 program that's only been in place for three years, but  
4 because of all these concerns the Council is looking at  
5 all of these suites of measures to try to say what's  
6 the best combination that would allow for the best  
7 flexibility. The more flexible the fleet can be, the  
8 better they can manage their bycatch, then the more  
9 constrained the fleet gets.

10

11 So one of the big measures is the  
12 incentive to not reach a cap, but now we're looking at  
13 can we make those incentives stronger by lowering the  
14 cap, by lowering the cap and giving them flexibility to  
15 catch it at a different time. We know that for sure  
16 within sectors some vessels are worse behavers than  
17 others, so that's why we're also looking at how do you  
18 get at the vessels that are the bad behavior, are  
19 certain sectors worse than other sectors. So it's a  
20 combination of all of it to try to incrementally get at  
21 what's the best way to reduce bycatch even lower.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: William.

24

25 MR. MAINES: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
26 I wanted to go back to the question that you talked  
27 about as far as public notification and gathering  
28 information to help the Council come up with a better  
29 decision on whatever they're planning on doing. Do you  
30 guys fall under the Executive Order dealing with tribal  
31 consultation?

32

33 MS. STRAM: The National Marine  
34 Fisheries Service does. The Council itself does not.  
35 We have often been asked to participate in tribal  
36 consultations at the request of the agency, but that's  
37 entirely a decision by the National Marine Fisheries  
38 Service. We don't fall under that, but they do, so we  
39 work in tandem with them. So tribal consultations go  
40 through the National Marine Fisheries Service and there  
41 have been several that have requested on this  
42 periodically.

43

44 MR. MAINES: I was just kind of curious  
45 because that would be another way for tribal  
46 governments within the affected area to be able to sit  
47 down across the table from the people who make the  
48 decisions to help them get a better understanding what  
49 they're looking at and looking for and be able to  
50 express their own concerns in their own way to make

1 sure that information is recorded and received and  
2 taken into consideration when it comes time to make a  
3 decision.

4

5 I know that's getting to be more  
6 popular in the past several years because tribal  
7 consultation with other Federal agencies is becoming a  
8 key issue to make sure that those tribal folks are  
9 being heard and the Federal government understands that  
10 special recognition between the two. So I just wanted  
11 to find out. Thanks.

12

13 MS. STRAM: Sure. And just in  
14 reference to that, when tribal consultations do occur,  
15 Jim Balsiger, the head of the Alaska Region National  
16 Marine Fisheries Service, is a voting Council member.  
17 When a tribal consultation occurs between National  
18 Marine Fisheries Service on a Council-related item, the  
19 Council is always informed of the results of the tribal  
20 consultation, both when it occurred and the discussions  
21 that were provided and that's made available to the  
22 Council. It's just that the actual formal meeting  
23 doesn't take place with the Council.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: One of our  
26 Council members that tells us to quit in Yup'ik is not  
27 here and he usually says doi, so we all quit. I guess  
28 we're -- if nothing else. So what you want from the  
29 Council, from the RAC is written comments before April  
30 1? Is that what -- could you come and reiterate that.

31

32 MS. STRAM: Sure. It's twofold. As  
33 Steve MacLean was indicating, we will be compiling our  
34 notes and any resolutions that come out of your  
35 meetings if you have them and that will be provided to  
36 the Council. In addition to that, under our normal  
37 public comment period, any written comments can be  
38 accepted to the Council by April 1st and will be  
39 provided in briefing materials. They can be emailed,  
40 they can be faxed. All that information is in the  
41 PowerPoint or you can contact us for more information.  
42 You can also provide written comments and public  
43 testimony in person at the meeting as well that will  
44 take place the week of April 6th in Anchorage.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.  
47 Any additional comments because of that? I guess we're  
48 done for the evening. I guess tomorrow's agenda is  
49 we'll reconvene at 8:30. Donald.

50

1 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. At the rate  
2 we're going today, I think at 8:30 we need to get  
3 started and deal with action item issues. If time  
4 allows tomorrow, I'd like to give the opportunity to  
5 the Council members to have the orientation tomorrow  
6 after the meeting is completed -- after we get our  
7 business items completed. Madame Chair.

8  
9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We were  
10 supposed to have our orientation first thing this  
11 morning, but we had technical difficulties with our  
12 machines here. I guess we'll move that to end of day  
13 tomorrow if our minds are still operating. And  
14 tonight's activities, Donald.

15  
16 MR. MIKE: Tonight's activities are we  
17 have a potluck at the Bear Trail Lodge, Nanci's place,  
18 and starting this evening at 7:00 to 9:00 we have a  
19 rural public hearing on the rural determination process  
20 and the public is invited to come and testify or  
21 provide comments. We'll have Staff summarize any  
22 public testimony for the Council to consider before  
23 they make their recommendation to the Board on the  
24 rural determination.

25  
26 Thank you, Madame Chair.

27  
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: The potluck to  
29 my understanding is going to be at 6:00 o'clock.

30  
31 MS. MORRIS LYON: I've got to get home  
32 and cook first. It depends on how fast I can cook.

33  
34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Then the rural  
35 determination hearing is going to be from 7:00 to 9:00  
36 here. So we have stuff to do still tonight and we  
37 still have stuff to read tonight.

38  
39 I guess we're done for today and I want  
40 to thank North Pacific Council for making the time to  
41 come and talk to us. Like I say, I still don't have  
42 100 percent knowledge, but I've gotten some, so I want  
43 to thank you for that.

44  
45 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Molly. Hear  
46 and been heard or, if we wanted to go farther, we could  
47 talk about a resolution. That takes a lot of time, but  
48 I thought I'd just throw it out there for something to  
49 think about during dinner if we want to go farther. I  
50 don't know where I want to take it. I'm really again



1 appreciative that I think we've been heard, but I don't  
2 know if we want to formalize it or not.

3

4                   So, thank you.

5

6                   MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay, Dan.

7 We'll maybe do a little discussion on that tonight.

8

9                   Thank you.

10

11                   (Off record)

12

13                   (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA                    )  
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STATE OF ALASKA                                )

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the  
state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court  
Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through  
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COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically on the 24th day  
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THAT the transcript is a true and  
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Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
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