

1 BRISTOL BAY ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
3
4 PUBLIC MEETING
5
6
7

8
9 VOLUME II
10

11
12 Naknek Native Village Council Hall
13 Naknek, Alaska
14 February 25, 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
32
33
34
35
36
37
38

39 Recorded and transcribed by:
40

41 Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
42 135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2
43 Anchorage, AK 99501
44 907-243-0668/sahile@gci.net

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Naknek, Alaska - 2/25/2015)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Call the meeting back to order now at 8:35. Okay, I think we left off yesterday with item 10(c), but normally we have a public comment period at the beginning of each morning, so that's what I'm requesting. Is there anybody that has any comments on non-agenda items. Okay, Randy.

MR. ALVAREZ: Good morning, Madame Chair. I was thinking about that presentation that the North Pacific Council members presented before the RAC yesterday and some of the stuff they came up with. They want the RAC to comment, submit comments on what they should do and I think that the RAC needs to, but like we did when we went and testified before the Council in Kodiak a few years ago, they probably need information from Staff on what would be appropriate.

On their slide yesterday, Joe Chythlook had commented on where they fish and their seasons, if you look at where they fish, it seems to me that's in the worst place they should be fishing if they're going to try to not bycatch salmon because this is not far from Port Moller where the Port Moller test fishery is prosecuted for returning salmon in the summertime to determine what's coming in and where it's going. That fishery goes out 70 miles from shore. There's 12 stations and they go out and fish 12 stations out to 70 miles and then they'll determine where those fish are headed back into the bay. This looks like they're in the middle of that area. It seems to me this is the worst place they should be fishing.

So I just wanted to comment on that. Maybe if they fished elsewhere, they would bycatch a lot less salmon. So I wanted to comment on that because you guys are going to have to send comments in to the Council of what your recommendations are for them to do. They're going to have to do something.

You know, not only salmon but because of halibut. Halibut is a big issue also. They recently this winter gave the bycatch 4 million pounds and they turned around and gave the Pribilofs 370,000

1 pounds and those guys out there were so upset that the
2 Council readjusted their numbers and gave them some
3 more. That's a lot of halibut to throw away, 4 million
4 pounds, and they only allowed the Pribilofs to catch
5 370,000, but I think it's been adjusted up.

6

7 That's waste. You know, it's like
8 mining. We're all upset about the mining up here, but
9 their dragging is like mining. They need to clean up
10 that fishery. If they moved it out away from this one
11 area, maybe it would be -- I'm sure they must have
12 studied it, moving it away from there. I just wanted
13 to comment on that.

14

15 Also another issue I wanted to bring up
16 was Fish and Wildlife Service has a proposal to shorten
17 wolf season in some of the Refuges on Federal land. I
18 don't see a biological reason for doing that. There
19 are plenty of wolves. In fact, there are more now than
20 there have been because we've not been able to hunt
21 them. I recently lost a dog in the yard to wolves, so
22 we've got quite a few around.

23

24 I was talking to Timmy Hedlund and
25 he's, as you know, a bear guide. He says that his bear
26 hunters, when they show up and moose hunters, they buy
27 wolf tags because it's an opportunity for them to shoot
28 a wolf. I was looking at a hunting magazine up in
29 Igiugig in the office the other day and it showed a
30 bear hunter in the state that shot a wolf. It wasn't a
31 full, wintertime hair wolf, but it was a nice-looking
32 wolf and he was happy to have it. The issue isn't that
33 the hair is long. It's a trophy for these guys, you
34 know. I don't want to take that away because when
35 these guys come bear hunting, they're paying big money
36 and wolf is part of the opportunity to harvest one. So
37 Timmy says that every bear hunter he gets, they all get
38 their wolf tags in case they get one.

39

40 Most people don't. Granted, there's
41 probably very little harvested of those guys that are
42 hunting bear, but there's an opportunity and we don't
43 want to take that away. There's plenty of wolves and I
44 don't think we should lower the seasons. When they're
45 hunting bear, if they don't want to harvest them when
46 they're denning or when they have pups, that's fine,
47 but in the falltime when they're hunting bear or moose,
48 they should have an opportunity to take a wolf if they
49 want.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you. Do

4 you have any questions for Randy. Randy, Dan has a

5 comment.

6

7 MR. DUNAWAY: Do you happen to know

8 what the current season open/close dates are and then

9 what they're proposing?

10

11 MR. ALVAREZ: No, because that final

12 rule I don't think it's come out yet. I was asking

13 about it yesterday and I didn't get a definitive

14 answer, but I know they want to eliminate part of the

15 season. I just would like to see it that when the

16 hunters are in the area hunting other things they have

17 an opportunity to continue to hunt wolves. If they

18 want to eliminate the season in the middle of the

19 summertime, that's okay because it's not really going

20 to affect -- there's probably nobody hunting at that

21 time. But the fall time it should be open when they're

22 hunting other things.

23

24 MR. HILL: Madame Chair.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

27

28 MR. HILL: This maybe even should be

29 said off the record, but, however, I feel like some of

30 that reason for closing was in reference to concern by

31 some of the tourist industry don't really want to see

32 their wolves be killed by a hunter during the summer

33 tourist season. I don't believe it has anything to do

34 with predator control. So there may be something to

35 that. Just a thought.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any other

38 questions for Randy.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank

43 you, Randy. At this time I'd like to check to see if

44 there's anybody online.

45

46 MR. E. LIND: Roger Lind.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: What was the

49 name? I missed that.

50

1 MR. E. LIND: Elliot Roger Lind.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Hi, Elliot.
4 Sorry. Thanks for being online. Is there anybody
5 else?
6
7 MR. OLSON: Hi, Madame Chair. Travis
8 Elison with Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
9 Commercial Fisheries Division.
10
11 MR. CRAWFORD: Drew Crawford, Alaska
12 Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Anybody else?
15
16 MR. SHARP: Dan Sharp, Bureau of Land
17 Management in Anchorage.
18
19 MS. CARTY: Good morning. This is
20 Courtenay Carty at BBNA in Dillingham.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Good morning.
23 Anybody else?
24
25 MR. JONES: We have John Jones and John
26 Jones, Jr. and Clem Garner in Chignik Lagoon.
27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We're
29 going to be running a
30 little bit behind time right now. We have one agenda
31 item to deal with and then we'll get you folks on if
32 you don't mind.
33
34 MR. JONES: That's fine.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We're
37 in the public comment period. Is there anybody else
38 either online or out there in the audience that would
39 like to make a comment.
40
41 MS. CARTY: Madame Chair, this is
42 Courtenay. For clarification, are we only providing
43 comment on non-agenda items right now and we still have
44 opportunity to provide comment during the agenda?
45
46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes, we are
47 only making comments on
48 non-agenda items at this time. Do you have any
49 comments to make?
50

1 MS. CARTY: Sure. I'd just briefly
2 like to extend my thankfulness to the tribes for
3 participating in this meeting. We don't have too much
4 tribal participation and it seems like over the last
5 couple meetings we're getting an increasing presence of
6 our tribes out here in Bristol Bay calling in or
7 attending in person and I'm just very appreciative of
8 them participating in the public process.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
13 Courtenay. Joe Klutsch, do you have a comment at this
14 time, public comment on non-agenda items?

15

16 MR. KLUTSCH: Yes, Madame Chair. My
17 name is Joe Klutsch. I live in King Salmon. I'm a
18 hunting and fishing guide, subsistence user as
19 required. Lived here for 42 years. Been a member of
20 the Naknek/Kvichak Advisory Committee for 35 of those
21 years. Just for clarification, I'm testifying on the
22 Fish and Wildlife Service proposed rule on predator
23 control, is that correct? I apologize for being late.
24 We had some car issues.

25

26 I have commented on this issue at
27 hearings held by the National Park Service regarding
28 the same issue. As I understand it, the Fish and
29 Wildlife Service is essentially proposing to adopt
30 similar rules regarding call it predator control. I
31 prefer to call it predator management, but I don't want
32 to get tangled up in semantics. I think that just in
33 an overview I think there's been an overreaction to the
34 intensive management programs that have been adopted by
35 the Alaska Board of Game.

36

37 When the Board of Game first moved in
38 that direction some years ago, I have some pretty
39 serious reservations about some of the actions they
40 were taking, particularly in terms of brown grizzly
41 bears and black bears in the Southcentral region.
42 There's some very strong sentiment there to reduce the
43 level of those bears for the purpose of increasing calf
44 survival and there was ample documentation that
45 predation by the bears and wolves as well was the
46 primary reason for the lack of calf survival.

47

48 Naturally, there's a very high demand
49 for moose along the road system. However, it wasn't
50 mentioned in those deliberations, never brought up,

1 that they run over more moose with cars and the train
2 than they actually shoot when they're hunting. That's
3 beside the issue here.

4

5 I think that both the Fish and Wildlife
6 Service proposed rule and the National Park Service
7 rule again are an overreaction and somewhat ingenuine
8 in their justifications. The argument about natural
9 diversity, I think, is overstated. It's a term that's
10 used loosely that people can read into it just about
11 anything they want. What hunting, trapping or fishing
12 activity couldn't be construed to affect natural
13 diversity. The harvest of 300-plus brown bears on the
14 Peninsula annually during the season or in an
15 alternating season, does that affect natural diversity?

16

17 I've got to be careful what I say or
18 they'll propose to close the bear season. But wolf
19 control, predator control has historically been a part
20 of the program here before contact and it was for the
21 purpose of increasing the availability of ungulates for
22 human consumption. I believe it can be done in a
23 manner, a measured manner, that does not jeopardize
24 natural diversity, however you want to define it.

25

26 It has been done as implemented by the
27 Department of Fish and Game and directed by the Board
28 of Game very successfully in other areas of the state.
29 There wouldn't be any caribou in Unit 9D right now if
30 it wasn't for that wolf control program down there.
31 They had zero calf survival. Zero in their study area
32 for two of the five years involved and then it was down
33 to six or seven. They implemented that program. I
34 think they took out 40, 50 wolves and now they're up to
35 26, 27 per 100. They're going to have a season in Unit
36 9D again.

37

38 They did the same thing in Unit 13, in
39 Unit 16 and other units around the state very
40 successfully. And, I might add, with support there
41 from Glennallen and down from the Ahtna people, who
42 were the main beneficiaries of that program and they
43 supported it wholeheartedly.

44

45 It's also to suggest in these proposals
46 that this doesn't affect subsistence. It's in the Fish
47 and Wildlife Service rationale and it was in the Park
48 Service rationale. I don't think that's being fair or
49 forthright or truthful. It directly affects
50 subsistence. The availability of ungulates is critical

1 to the people who live here and rely on these
2 resources. To suggest that you can go out there and
3 subsistence all you want, if there's nothing to subsist
4 on or not enough due to the high levels of predation, I
5 don't think they're meeting their responsibilities
6 under Title VIII of ANILCA to provide for subsistence
7 uses.

8
9 It's a management tool. It's been done
10 here on the Peninsula and there's inconsistencies as
11 well that I've seen and I know historically used to be
12 -- they set gillnets up at Naknek Lake to catch rainbow
13 trout. They took people from the village here up there
14 to teach them, show them, provide the nets because
15 rainbows were predators on the salmon species. I know
16 elders who participated in that program. They used to
17 pay a bounty on eagles. Members of the U.S. Fish and
18 Wildlife Service, including our former Governor
19 Hammond, used to fly for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
20 Service and airily shoot wolves. Now we're hearing
21 about the Organic Act of 1916 prevents us from doing
22 that and it's inconsistent with Federal law and then
23 the reliance on policy.

24
25 Let me back up. One other thing I
26 noticed. In the booklet on Emperor Geese, quite
27 lengthy, and I found that was interesting, there's a
28 section in there that talks about mitigating predation
29 on Emperor Geese. I wonder how they propose to do that
30 without intervening.

31
32 The policy end of it, I think these
33 proposed rules are based more on policy than they are
34 in Federal law. It's a policy and policies can be
35 changed and they can be revised. I think that's what
36 ought to be done. I'm not optimistic that it will be
37 done. It's kind of like trying to get the Titanic to
38 turn away from the iceberg when it's only 800 yards off
39 the bow. That's why you see the frustration and
40 certainly you see it at our advisory committee
41 meetings.

42
43 Our advisory meetings here in Naknek a
44 lot of people have just given up. They're frustrated
45 with the Federal system. They don't believe their
46 voices are being heard. There's a breach of
47 confidence. People testified before our committee that
48 it doesn't make any difference really what we say.
49 They're going to do what they want to do and that's not
50 a good state of affairs. That's not how this system

1 should work.

2

3 With that in mind, I would urge that
4 the Council and the Federal Subsistence Board as well
5 take a position that urges the agencies to rescind or
6 withdraw these proposed rules and work in conjunction
7 with the State to allow a measured, well thought out
8 predator management efforts both on State and Federal
9 land. It can be done. It has been done without
10 jeopardizing the number of wolves or the number of
11 bears and it will provide for more ungulates out there.

12

13 So you can read some of the other
14 things I put in that letter. I go into a little more
15 details. I thank you for your hard work and
16 willingness to attend these meetings and greatly
17 appreciate the opportunity to talk to you today.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
22 Joe. We appreciate having you come in and give us
23 information that we really need. Those of us that
24 don't live in this area do appreciate the information.
25 Is there anybody that has any questions of Joe.
26 Richard.

27

28 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Good
29 morning. I was just wondering. Is there a number
30 attached to this proposed rule? I'm sure we've had one
31 in the past, but I don't see an actual proposed rule
32 number associated with this one.

33

34 MR. KLUTSCH: I do not have a proposal
35 number. I'm going from the information sheet.
36 Actually this letter was drafted in a way that -- it's
37 pretty much what I intend to submit during the public
38 comment period, which is coming up, but I did not see a
39 proposal number.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
42 Joe. Donald, do you have a comment.

43

44 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
45 Just to answer the Council member's question, I think
46 the next presenters will provide you the information.
47 It's a proposal that's not in the process yet if I
48 understand correctly.

49

50 Thank you, Madame Chair.

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Is
2 there anybody else for public comment. Anybody online.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Hearing none.
7 I guess we can move to our next agenda item and that is
8 Refuge proposed rules on hunting. I think you can find
9 the information on Page 14 of our booklet. It's either
10 in our booklet or our supplemental information. Let me
11 see. Susan, it's on Page 14?

12
13 MS. HENRY: Good morning, Madame Chair
14 and members of the Advisor Council. I'm Susanna Henry.
15 I'm the Refuge manager over at Togiak Refuge, which, as
16 you know, has its headquarters in Dillingham. Also
17 with me is Susan Alexander, my colleague to the east
18 for Alaska Peninsula and Becharof Refuges. We both
19 came to our jobs that we currently have a little over a
20 year and a half ago. I moved up here from Arizona. My
21 husband is retired from Arizona Game and Fish
22 Department. We have two daughters. One that's a
23 sophomore at the University of Washington and she's now
24 a graduate of the Bristol Bay Fly Fishing Academy. And
25 we have another daughter who is in medical school at
26 the University of Arizona.

27
28 MS. MORRIS LYON: She'll be coming next
29 year?

30
31 MS. HENRY: She wanted to come this
32 past year, but medical school started too soon. She
33 had to decline. She was accepted, but had to decline.

34
35 MS. MORRIS LYON: We just opened
36 applications for this year.

37
38 MS. HENRY: All right. This morning
39 we're going to be giving you an update on the proposed
40 rules, changes for Alaska Refuges that have to do with
41 predator management and also have to do with closures
42 of the Refuges and public participation on those
43 closures. As Susan mentioned, it's under Tab C, the
44 supplements that have that purple cover on them. All
45 right. You can go to the next slide.

46
47 All right. Why is Fish and Wildlife
48 Service proposing these changes. The first reason is
49 to be consistent with our legal mandates to conserve
50 fish and wildlife in their habitats and natural

1 diversity and to maintain biological diversity,
2 integrity and environmental health. The next reason is
3 in response to the recent regulations passed by the
4 Board of Game that were mentioned by the previous
5 speaker.

6

7 Also, we want to point out that those
8 changes that were proposed are in conflict with our
9 mandates and we want to mention that the State of
10 Alaska does have different goals, purposes and mandates
11 regarding the take of wildlife than the Fish and
12 Wildlife Service does on Refuges.

13

14 The Fish and Wildlife Service is
15 required to conserve species on habitats on Refuges for
16 the long-term benefit of future generations of
17 Americans as well as the current generations and this
18 does include the continuation of the subsistence way of
19 life.

20

21 The proposed changes. The first part I
22 mentioned has to do with predator reduction activities.
23 We're saying that we're not going to do any of those if
24 their intent is to alter or manipulate the natural
25 diversity of species with the intent of increasing or
26 decreasing wildlife populations to provide more harvest
27 opportunity on any Refuge in Alaska.

28

29 So what does that mean specifically.
30 We're down now to five methods and means for predator
31 harvest that have changed. You might remember if
32 you've been following our efforts, we originally
33 proposed 13. This is part of -- the original 13 came
34 as part of the government-to-government consultation
35 that we began back in September and we've listened to
36 public comment. We've had a lot of concerns expressed
37 and we're down to just these five particular proposals.

38

39 The first is the take of bear cubs or
40 sows with cubs. There are exceptions on several Game
41 Management Units that are in the Interior of Alaska.
42 The take of brown bears over bait, the take of any
43 bears using traps or snares, the take of wolves and
44 coyotes during the denning season and the same day
45 airborne take of bears.

46

47 Some of the other proposals didn't have
48 to do necessarily with predator reduction activities.
49 The ones that we removed also had to do with collection
50 of natural resources, like fruits, berries, mushrooms

1 and other edible plant materials and downed timber and
2 that's been taken out.

3

4 How will these changes affect the
5 Refuge lands in Bristol Bay on the three Refuges that
6 we have here. Right now really no changes are expected
7 for our Refuges in Game Management Units 17, 18 and 9.
8 Already black and brown bear cubs cannot be taken, nor
9 can you take sows with cubs. Brown bear baiting is not
10 permitted. Wolf harvest is already limited to only
11 taking place between August 10th and April 30th. There
12 are already significant same day airborne restrictions.

13

14 These are the changes that are proposed
15 with regard to public participation and closure. The
16 first one has to do with increasing the list of closure
17 criteria to include natural and biological diversity,
18 biological integrity and environmental health.

19

20 The next one increases the duration of
21 an emergency closure from 30 to 60 days. Emergency
22 closures would only be effective upon public notice.
23 The closure duration is now only as long as reasonably
24 necessary, but not to exceed five years. Some of the
25 permanent closures would be published not only in the
26 Federal Register but in the Code of Federal
27 Regulations. We would require consultation with the
28 State and tribes and Native corporations and have an
29 opportunity for public comment prior to temporary and
30 permanent closures. This measure is currently not
31 required of Fish and Wildlife Service. This is going
32 beyond what we've normally been doing.

33

34 We also want to expand the methods for
35 public notice to include the internet and things like
36 Facebook as well as the more traditional methods such
37 as the radio and newspaper ads.

38

39 So in terms of these proposed
40 regulations, again back to predator activities, these
41 only apply to Refuge hunting and trapping under State-
42 regulated general hunting and trapping. It also
43 applies to the Fish and Wildlife Service in terms of
44 any intensive management activities that we might
45 propose on our Refuges. These regulations do not apply
46 to Federally qualified subsistence users that are
47 hunting or trapping under the Federal subsistence
48 regulations.

49

50 Where would they apply? They would

1 only apply on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska and
2 those are the areas highlighted in purple on this map
3 and it would not apply to any other Federal, State,
4 private, Native lands or waters, even if those lands
5 are within the Refuge boundary.

6

7 Where we are with our process. Right
8 now we are still doing the government-to-government
9 scoping and outreach, but we expect next month to
10 publish a proposed rule. There's no number yet for
11 that proposed rule until it does get published and it
12 will start a 60-day public comment period that we
13 expect will go on into April, maybe early May and that
14 will also be a time for public meetings. We expect at
15 least one to take place in Bristol Bay. In the fall of
16 this year, we'll be reviewing the public comments,
17 we'll be updating the proposed rule and we hope to
18 publish the proposed rule finally in January of 2016.

19

20 So that is where we are. Now we have
21 time for questions.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan or
24 Richard.

25

26 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thank you.
27 Your timeline, you're saying you're going to implement
28 or put a proposed rule out and you're going to have a
29 60-day. What's the rush? It seems like with your new
30 listings here that if there was more time for
31 committees to meet and to help put some helpful input
32 into these situations instead of being rushed through,
33 you know, summer is a very busy time for everybody in
34 Alaska because of the fisheries and hunting and things.
35 I hope that can be reconsidered and put more lengthy
36 comment periods onto these things you guys are having.

37

38 MS. HENRY: Madame Chair, Mr. Wilson.
39 I appreciate that comment. I think that's good. I
40 think we really -- the Fish and Wildlife Service did
41 try not to put this public comment period during the
42 summer. We were really trying to avoid that. In fact,
43 all this, I think, got pushed off a bit to get to this
44 winter to make sure that we did have a chance to meet
45 with all the Advisory Councils and that we've been
46 engaged in our government-to-government consultation
47 over the winter. I think that's a valid request to ask
48 for an extension. We've said already that we're not --
49 we're reviewing the comments in the fall. You'll
50 notice that. So I think that it's likely that there

1 will be an extension if you ask for it.

2

3 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Yeah, the
4 review is already -- you know, if your comment period
5 is gone already, there's nothing we can do at that
6 point. So the 60 days doesn't seem ample enough. If
7 we can get up to our next board cycle here or Council
8 cycle, have it open until that date, perhaps by then --
9 I mean this is some important stuff that you're talking
10 about here that you just breezed through very quickly.
11 There's a lot of things in there. I know we've
12 commented a little bit on it before. It's pretty
13 serious stuff and to just take this lightly just
14 wouldn't be right. Giving us a chance to formulate
15 some good suggestions for you I think is what I would
16 ask.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

19

20 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you. Yeah, I know
21 we've had some of this run by us. It seems to be a
22 little bit different shape this time. In the past, my
23 sense was some of this addressed like spring denning
24 period and I thought we actually kind of had some dates
25 around it for wolves and coyotes. My sense at that
26 time was that piece kind of lined up with what my sense
27 of the general ethics in the area were because we
28 discussed allowing denning in the past. Even members
29 on this Council were pretty much dead against it.

30

31 However, this seems a little different.
32 I'm concerned of a few things. One, the comment
33 period. Again, our Advisory Committee and the Nushagak
34 was too busy with just getting Board of Game proposals
35 together this winter. Looking at this, people are
36 going to be -- we're hoping to have another Advisory
37 Committee meeting in probably April, getting ready for
38 Board of Fish. We'll be totally busy with that. Then,
39 in April, the herring fishermen are thinking herring.
40 So we're going to be hard put to address this entirely
41 there.

42

43 Also, Mr. Klutsch reminded me of
44 something that's been a real sore spot with me because
45 I used to hunt the Cold Bay Caribou Herd a lot. Would
46 this rule now prevent predator control that did occur
47 on a joint basis in that area? Would that prevent it
48 from ever happening again down there? And I have some
49 more questions too.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MS. HENRY: Madame Chair and Mr.
4 Dunaway. If the reason for the predator control is
5 only to increase the number of animals for human
6 consumption, then I would say it would prevent it. If
7 the reason were for threatened or endangered species or
8 other species conservation reasons, then it could
9 happen again.

10

11 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank you.
12 Because there's a couple of things. I know I hunted
13 that herd. It was good for a while and then it was
14 plummeting. Some of it was that wolves showed up down
15 in there. I had other guides telling me that they had
16 a little resident herd in there hunting valley for
17 years and when wolves moved in over the course of one
18 summer they slowly thinned the whole herd out until
19 they had maybe two or three caribou. It got pretty
20 bad. Then my sense was it was a pretty successful
21 effort to reduce that wolf predation.

22

23 Then we also had the Unimak Island
24 issue where I guess it didn't turn out. There was a
25 refusal by the Feds to allow predator control down
26 there. There was a very real fear that they would
27 absolutely decimate the caribou on Unimak. I guess
28 that wasn't quite what happened, but -- and I think I
29 spoke about this last fall -- there was some blocking
30 by Federal employees of what I thought was a very
31 necessary effort. So now I'm concerned. I think
32 there's times we really do need predator control. I've
33 kind of resigned myself that most of these Federal
34 places aren't going to do very much, but I was really
35 heartened that there was some down there.

36

37 So if this closes a door to some
38 necessary predator control, then I'm going to be
39 against it. I want some opportunity. It's got to be
40 limited and have a more strict mission than the State.
41 I think it was wrong to block the Unimak predator
42 control effort. So maybe if you could respond to that,
43 please.

44

45 MR. WATTS: Madame Chair. Members of
46 the Council. Dominique Watts, biologist for Fish and
47 Wildlife Service for the record. I just want to point
48 out that the Southern Peninsula Herd predator control
49 that you were talking about as a joint effort, there
50 were requests to do predator control or wolf control in

1 that case on Refuge lands. They were all denied
2 though. So all that wolf control took place on State
3 lands on the calving grounds.

4
5 The difference being that in the SAP or
6 in that Southern Peninsula Herd most of the calving
7 occurs on State lands, so that's why it was a
8 successful venture outside of using Federal lands. In
9 this case, it would preclude any activities like that,
10 but in that case they weren't actually conducted on
11 Refuge lands anyway.

12
13 I just wanted to point that out.

14
15 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank you for the
16 correction. I'm disappointed to hear it wasn't a joint
17 venture really. I almost thought we had a little
18 breakthrough there. From what I know of caribou
19 calving grounds it isn't quite as strong in affinity as
20 salmon are to their spawning areas. We've seen it
21 north of Dillingham where sometimes they're calving in
22 Gemuk and sometimes they're up in Shotgun Hills. Other
23 times it used to be over towards Lary's country.

24
25 So, yeah, I can support some of that,
26 no denning and some of the stuff. The Board of Game I
27 think is overboard on trying to control predators in
28 some places, but I still want the crack in the door for
29 when we really need it. With that, I will thank you
30 and step back.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci and then
33 Lary.

34
35 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame
36 Chair. Yeah, I just have a few questions and comments
37 as well. I feel like I'm initially not in support of
38 this proposal. My reasons kind of follow along some of
39 the lines of my other colleagues. For one, I feel that
40 the terms adequate and natural and biological diversity
41 stink. They are open for interpretation. It depends
42 on who reads them. It's like me asking you to look
43 outside and tell me how beautiful that sunrise is. One
44 person is going to find it absolutely stunning because
45 they're alive and the sun is rising and another person
46 is going to say, no, there's not much color in that
47 sunrise at all.

48
49 Both of those terms are exactly like
50 that example. Unless you can use terms that can

1 clearly define something that is meaningful to
2 everybody who reads and interprets them, I won't feel
3 that they should be used. I think that it is extremely
4 important in certain areas and times to provide more
5 harvest for those of us who depend upon it out here in
6 rural Alaska. So for this statement to clearly state
7 that would never be a reason right there. It kind of
8 takes it off my plate for any support.

9

10 One of the other comments that Dan kind
11 of also touched on is, again, if you're going to say a
12 denning season, let's be specific. That can also
13 become very open to interpretation. What involves
14 denning? When is it or is it not happening? At what
15 point is it over? I think we need to clearly define
16 that a bit more. Otherwise, again, it's open to
17 interpretation. As Lary was afraid to say about
18 tourists who didn't want to see wolves taken, they may
19 feel denning takes place for two years after birth. So
20 I think it's really important that that be further
21 defined.

22

23 I also worry a little bit, which seems
24 like a total turnabout in its own way, about proposed
25 changes that are going to require public notice. I
26 would hope that some provision would still be given to
27 emergency closures that would not allow time for proper
28 public notice because Federal public notice requires 60
29 days. At times you don't have 60 days. It needs to
30 happen now. So, in some ways, I think you're not being
31 restrictive enough in that proposal.

32

33 Richard already touched on the 60-day
34 comment period. I think we, as a board, are asked to
35 represent our areas and the people, the users of the
36 resources. If you limit it to 60 days, it's not going
37 to allow us to bring this to our fall meeting. Nobody
38 even is aware of it yet. It's not even got a number.
39 You're going to close it in 60 days after publication,
40 which is going to be way ahead of our fall date.
41 There's no way that we're going to be able to bring any
42 input to you from anything we've heard or anybody's
43 brought forth to us by using that timeline.

44

45 With that, I'll be happy to relinquish
46 the floor.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Lary.

1 MR. HILL: First of all, any time I
2 hear the word permanent I cringe because permanent is
3 -- how permanent is permanent? Is it depending on who
4 is our President or who is our Secretary and those
5 things? I just cringe because circumstances change.
6 Migration patterns change. Food sources change.
7 Permanent, when it comes to dealing with our fish and
8 wildlife, that's wrong because things change so much.
9 How permanent is permanent?

10
11 Secondly, the timing of the hearing has
12 been touched on. Sixty days is going to be putting it
13 into June and July. Everybody here is out fishing in
14 the villages, we're out doing our subsistence stuff,
15 getting our fish and nobody is around. We're not even
16 going to be worried about anything but getting those
17 fish and the other things for our freezers. That's the
18 least thing is to be thinking about some paperwork and
19 sitting in on some meetings. I mean the middle of the
20 summer for goodness sakes. Twenty-some hours of
21 daylight, you don't want to be inside doing this as
22 important as it is.

23
24 The denning season for the wolves.
25 It's timed in each area depending on -- like in our
26 area, in Iliamna, and the area where I live in the
27 summer, the denning season is timed to coincide with
28 the salmon run, when the salmon come in. Because the
29 wolves do go around and eat the salmon and bring it up
30 to their pups and they'll come in in the fall and
31 scrounge up what the bears have left, so that denning
32 season is timed for that and other areas where the
33 caribou calve. The denning season is timed to coincide
34 with that because the wolves don't want to travel too
35 far to get the food for their pups. So it isn't the
36 same day or the same week in each area. I can only
37 tell you from personal experience. I'm not a biologist
38 or a scientist, just some stuff I've learned in my
39 short 70 years.

40
41 The last thing, the denial for the
42 predator control, was that based on pressure from other
43 groups or was it mainly economics?

44
45 MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you, Madame
46 Chair, and Ms. Lyon and Mr. Hill. I'd like to try to
47 answer or address several of your comments and thank
48 you for them. They are definitely good, substantive
49 comments and I appreciate that.

50

1 The current proposed 60-day period
2 would fall in March and April, perhaps early May. I
3 realize that's getting into some subsistence
4 activities. Herring preparation for fishing and that
5 sort of thing. We did try to shift this forward in
6 order -- originally the timeline would have had the 60-
7 day comment period coming out last summer in June and
8 July and we realized that was completely unworkable, so
9 we pushed the process into the winter.

10

11 The government-to-government
12 consultation, which we are just wrapping up at this
13 point with a second round of RAC meeting consultations
14 has taken up most of the winter partly because we
15 wanted to include a second round of RAC meetings, but I
16 realize that creates the problem now where we're
17 starting to push back into the summer season. We
18 definitely are making note of that comment. Also, the
19 staff in Anchorage who are working on this proposal
20 will be reviewing the transcripts from the RAC
21 meetings, so these comments all will be captured and
22 considered and whether or not that timeframe needs to
23 be adjusted.

24

25 The reason there are no specific dates
26 proposed for the denning season at this point is
27 because we're not at the point of putting out specific
28 language on any of this. The government-to-government
29 consultation we intended to put the general ideas that
30 we are proposing out there for discussion. Again,
31 those are all very good comments.

32

33 Yes, the dates do need to be
34 specifically thinned down. When we get to specific
35 language, it will be -- when we get to the proposed
36 language for the rule, it will be much more specific.
37 It's not at this point, but those comments are exactly
38 the type of thing we're looking for and having this
39 conversation is, yes, they need to be specific and they
40 vary from area to area, so that needs to be taken into
41 consideration. Again, thank you, those are all really
42 good comments.

43

44 I'd like to talk a little bit about the
45 natural diversity terminology because I know -- I mean
46 all of us in Fish and Wildlife are aware of the fact
47 that this is, in some ways, a very problematic term.
48 Unfortunately, it's one that Congress gave us and we
49 don't have a choice about our mandate to try to manage
50 for it. We have worked over the years to try to

1 understand what Congress's intent was in saying we need
2 to manage for natural diversity and how to implement
3 that, how to step that down to what does that actually
4 mean on the ground in terms of what you may or may not
5 do on a Refuge. This rulemaking is actually part of
6 that process.

7

8 As you all know, Congress gives us a
9 direction and some parameters and the normal process is
10 that frequently that needs to be stepped down to
11 something more specific in a rulemaking sort of
12 process. So that's actually what we're trying to do
13 right now is be more specific about what natural
14 diversity does and doesn't mean in relation to predator
15 control.

16

17 We have a few additional slides.
18 Excuse me if I just kind of move ahead to one that I
19 think may be helpful. Unfortunately, we don't have a
20 lot to go on in trying to determine Congressional
21 intent for the term natural diversity. One of the
22 things we do have is language from Congressional
23 hearings and deliberation proceedings and this is a key
24 piece of that that we feel gives us the direction that
25 predator control would fall on the other side of the
26 line in terms of natural diversity.

27

28 This was from the debate before the
29 passage of ANILCA and I think the key language there --
30 well, the entire quote I think is germane, but it's the
31 intent of the above language, meaning the natural
32 diversity language, to direct the U.S. Fish and
33 Wildlife Service to the best of its ability to
34 conserve, protect and manage all fish and wildlife
35 populations within a particular Wildlife Refuge System
36 unit in the natural mix as occurring now and not to
37 emphasize management activities favoring some species
38 to the detriment of others.

39

40 We realize that all -- you know, that
41 gives us some direction. All of this is still -- we
42 wish we had more specific guidance, but we are
43 attempting to take the mandate that we have and the
44 guidance that we do have from the Congressional
45 language and interpret that to the best of our ability
46 and that's actually why we're making this rulemaking,
47 to try to clarify rather than making it worse.

48

49 I don't know if that helps clarify our
50 interpretation of that issue.

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I've got Nanci
2 and then Richard and then Lary.

3
4 MS. MORRIS LYON: I'll make mine very
5 brief so I can certainly let others have the floor as
6 well. I would challenge then Fish and Wildlife Service
7 to take a look at the date on that. If our Northern
8 Alaska Peninsula Herd were at the levels it was in
9 1980, I think you'd hear a lot less of us asking for
10 predator control. It might be necessary. It says 1980
11 right there. Just saying.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard, Lary
14 and then Billy.

15
16 MR. WILSON: I just find it hard to
17 believe that we'd put in a system in our Refuges and
18 our Parks that excludes human behavior. Humans have
19 been around quite a long time. To eject that from
20 language, natural diversity, nature, we are part of
21 nature whether you like it or not. How does our
22 government extract human beings from this earth as part
23 of nature's natural diversity. That word is just so
24 different. You're trying to search out reasons to -- I
25 don't know.

26
27 It just screens that -- the language,
28 you know, fish and wildlife populations, period. It
29 doesn't have any room for -- I mean here we are in
30 Refuges now under ANILCA you recognize -- humans are
31 recognized, that there is a resource that we need to
32 survive and it's recognized in the Refuges now. Not to
33 even have that in there as part of your conversation,
34 that it's all -- it just boggles my mind. I don't
35 know. It's frustrating.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Lary.

38
39 MR. HILL: I'm also frustrated and have
40 been ever since I've been part of this process. We've
41 sent all kinds of bullets to Washington, D.C. about our
42 input and influence and we rarely get feedback. As an
43 example, some of the commissions I've been on it's
44 taken 20 years to get something passed. Natural
45 diversity that you're talking about, that's not a term
46 that comes from us. It comes from outside our area,
47 which is again frustrating because we're being asked or
48 told that we will follow these rules. Again it's
49 Federal overreach in my opinion, coming back in and
50 telling us you will do this and if you don't, then you

1 become a criminal under Federal law or State law.

2

3 I also believe that the mindset in some
4 of the people that make these rules in Washington they
5 don't want people in these Refuges or Parks. They'd
6 rather just have only animals. People are too
7 difficult to manage. You can't just go shoot people
8 and tell them not to go in and be in a Refuge.
9 Animals, you can kill the predators. The humans are
10 the best or worst natural predator and, as Richard
11 said, should be part of the whole equation here.

12

13 The government-to-government. The
14 government-to-government, I think that's a misleading
15 term. It's government-to-government on your terms, not
16 ours. We don't have an equal footing. We're just
17 advisory. Advisory is also misleading. The feedback
18 and the actual results we get are really, really bad in
19 my opinion.

20

21 Let's see, I had something else.
22 Sorry. Oh, with respect to the timing, the 60 days.
23 In our culture, let's say you asked us for comments and
24 we made no comments, that doesn't mean we approve. No
25 comments either means we were just busy doing something
26 else or that we don't approve. Silence doesn't mean
27 that we approve. Silence could mean we just are so
28 angry about it, we can't trust ourselves to say
29 anything and therefore we're silent about it.

30

31 That's where you'll get the absolute
32 our back's up against the wall and we'll fight you
33 tooth and nail for everything if we don't feel like we
34 have enough input. So we've got to have that and so
35 timing is important. Government-to-government means
36 that we should be on equal footing.

37

38 Okay. I'm getting worked up here.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Billy.

43

44 MR. MAINES: Thank you, Madame Chair.
45 I appreciate the comments of my fellow Council members.
46 It stirs a lot of frustration within my soul and my
47 spirit. I'm glad that Richard brought up the human
48 aspect of anything we do as humans affects other
49 humans. To me, it feels like with this issue here that
50 you're favoring the predator more than you are the

1 human or the animal that helps take care of the human
2 part of it because caribou or moose or fish have a
3 number of different predators going after them at all
4 times, including humans.

5
6 When I see catch phrases like diversity
7 or integrity or environmental health, I know that
8 Refuges and Parks and everything that's around us are
9 living, breathing organisms of one sort or another.
10 When you're looking at -- I take offense when I hear
11 that we're trying to force somebody to manage a system
12 for our benefit, I'm trying to figure out what's wrong
13 with that, what's wrong with that.

14
15 We rely heavily on our subsistence food
16 for many different reasons and whether it's to feed
17 ourselves or provide clothing for what we wear or make
18 crafts and barter with and sell and stuff. I look at
19 these things and I'm saying you guys are missing the
20 point all together. You know, you're just missing it
21 all together.

22
23 I appreciate Lary's comment on
24 consultation. I've been involved with the Federal
25 government for far too long than I really care for at
26 times because one of the main things that we are always
27 facing is to convince them that we are sovereign
28 governments. They do have to talk with us at the
29 earliest possible time. If they have an idea that pops
30 in their head like in the middle of the night, well,
31 it's time to start talking to us. We hope to make that
32 light brighter, not dimmer.

33
34 With the approval of the United Nations
35 Doctrine on Indigenous People, the Federal government's
36 got its hands full on trying to solve the issues that
37 they've created with breaking the treaties and rights
38 of Native Americans across the nation. But yet, when
39 it comes to lands that they seem to feel was theirs to
40 take for whatever reason, it raises my ire to the point
41 to where you ask us for comments, we give you comments,
42 we tell you what our real life situations are, but then
43 it just goes in one ear and out the other because
44 there's never a response or reply whether it's through
45 the consultation process or the public comment period.

46
47
48 There's no response back saying we
49 heard you. This is what we heard. Well, if you start
50 that stage, we're going to also come back and say,

1 well, I'm glad you say you heard me, but that's not
2 what I said. This is what I said. You know, it's a
3 back and forth kind of situation. So that's why when
4 we're talking with tribal consultation across the
5 country the earliest as possible and as often as
6 possible until there's some sort of consensus or we
7 never will always agree 100 percent.

8

9 As far as the comment period, you say
10 you started this a year ago. Great. And you're to
11 this point again to where maybe you're going to finally
12 put something out there for people to look at and only
13 give 60 days after spending a year and a half gathering
14 your thoughts to come up with a proposed rule and
15 during the time that's the busiest, especially for the
16 folks in this region because there are things going on
17 from May, April, June, July, August, September.
18 There's always something that makes us go outside and
19 do what we need to do to take care of us for the rest
20 of the year.

21

22 So with the consultations that we've
23 had before, myself, with our tribal government, we
24 always ask for at least a 90 if not 120-day comment
25 period because it takes us a little longer to go
26 through and find experts, such as yourselves, to try to
27 spell out exactly what you mean. Define what you want
28 and then once you define that, make sure I heard you
29 right. If I didn't hear you right, try to tell me
30 again. I've always approached this idea that I'm the
31 dumbest person you'll ever meet. I'm not the brightest
32 bulb in the room. But if you make me understand, then
33 we're 100 percent better than when we first started.

34

35 It would be great if you could, besides
36 bringing up a quote from 1980 to meet populations and
37 seasons and the environment change. You know, here we
38 are three decades later and it's still changing.

39

40 The other thing I wanted to mention
41 that you hopefully have made consideration of is just
42 the occurrences that are going on. The food that we
43 depend on, there's something happening to them anyhow
44 because of quote/unquote the catchphrase nowadays is
45 climate change. It used to be global warming, acid
46 rain, all these other type of things. Right now it's
47 climate change. With the temperatures rising, ice
48 melting, permafrost disappearing, things are being
49 released into the air, into the vegetation that our
50 animals rely on, into the water that they do their

1 rearing and stuff like that, that there are natural
2 causes that are having an effect on our food. Those
3 predators, it takes a lot to get rid of them. The only
4 way they can do that is if they run out of their
5 natural food and then start turning on one another.

6
7 I appreciate your presentation and the
8 thoughts of it, but at the same time I think you're
9 missing the boat because the boat is that we rely on
10 that food whether it's in a Refuge, in a Park, State
11 land, our backyard, corporate, private. I know when a
12 bear comes in my yard after my subsistence fish I have
13 spent a lot of time and stuff preparing it, having it
14 hang there, I may want to scare it off, but I know it's
15 going to come back and if it keeps coming back, it's
16 going to meet its own fate. That's on my own personal
17 land, but I know it goes on wherever you look at this.

18
19 I just want to reiterate and echo the
20 same comments that my fellow Council members here have
21 already said, but at the same time put in my words too
22 where there's got to be some better definition than
23 this quote. I know it's something you were given, but
24 I'm more keenly aware that those folks that gave you
25 those are no longer around. The world is changing, our
26 lives are changing, habitats are changing. We may have
27 some control over it, we may not.

28
29 The main thing that Richard brought up
30 and I agree with is the human aspect because that's
31 what we're doing this for, is for our human and Mother
32 Nature itself. Believe it or not, the Native Americans
33 across this nation know what Mother Nature's intent is
34 and takes care of her a lot better than those who are
35 not of the land.

36
37 Appreciate it.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Susan, do you
42 have a response?

43
44 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, excuse me.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

47
48 MR. MIKE: I just want to remind the
49 folks on the teleconference if you can mute your phone
50 or hit the mute button on your telephone or hit *6,

1 thank you.

2

3 MS. HENRY: Madame Chair and members of
4 the Council. You all have made a number of very valid
5 points and I think I can only -- maybe I'll respond to
6 a couple of them. Maybe Susan and others on the phone
7 might have others.

8

9 I want to mention about humans and
10 National Wildlife Refuges. They are a part of the
11 landscape and that is mentioned in the enabling
12 legislation for so many of the Refuges in Alaska that
13 were enlarged or created through ANILCA the importance
14 of subsistence activities when the animals were
15 available, when the plants were available. That was a
16 critical component.

17

18 It also looks like the denning season
19 -- the definition of the denning season right now in
20 the draft is May 1st through August the 9th. That's
21 what's currently proposed. You'll see once it's out
22 there for you to look at.

23

24 Do you have anything to add?

25

26 MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you, Madame
27 Chair. Council members. I'd like to comment --
28 actually, I guess my comment addresses concerns that
29 were raised by a number of you. This gets to what I'm
30 hearing about the fact that you feel you are not being
31 heard. Actually one additional comment in relation to
32 that is that we do appreciate hearing ways that we can
33 make this process work better for you.

34

35 I realize that the Federal government
36 is a big, cumbersome entity that is not easy to work
37 with. That's actually true for us. I mean obviously
38 we choose to work for it, but we see that on a day-to-
39 day basis in trying to accomplish our jobs, honestly.
40 So, if it's frustrating from the inside, I'm sure it's
41 10 times as frustrating from the outside.

42

43 In trying to accomplish an effective,
44 real government-to-government consultation, we
45 sometimes struggle with the best way to effectively
46 work with all the many, many different entities around
47 the state whom we need to consult with. If you think of
48 all the tribal entities, all the ANCSA corporations,
49 all the RAC Councils, we want to try to do this in a
50 way that will work for you all and that's possible

1 given the logistical challenges and the challenges of
2 communication.

3

4 So if there are ways we can be doing
5 that better, we are very much open to that, especially
6 on -- we realize that big issues like this need good
7 communication and that we need to be not only hearing
8 you, but letting you know what is coming out of the
9 comments you've given us. That's actually our main
10 purpose in being back here for this RAC meeting
11 following up on one in the fall and some of the changes
12 that Susanna was talking about that did come out of the
13 government-to-government consultation we've done so
14 far.

15

16 The other thing, and this is kind of an
17 assumption on my part and forgive me if I'm assuming
18 incorrectly, but I think some of the frustration may
19 come from the fact that the concerns I'm hearing from
20 all of you get at this principal really, that -- and
21 the quote that I put up there, that tries to elaborate
22 on that principal. The reason that quote is relevant
23 even though it's from 1980 is that it was part of the
24 process that created the law that tells us how we have
25 to do our jobs.

26

27 Courts of law have consistently held
28 that interpretation of the law that we're given that
29 Congressional intent can sometimes be determined from
30 committee language such as this. So that's what makes
31 that relevant, not the fact that it addresses any
32 specific condition on the landscape at this point in
33 time or 20 years from now or 100 years from now. This
34 was Congress's deliberation in their trying to set what
35 a standard was going to be for how they expected us to
36 manage Refugees.

37

38 I understand that you all have grave
39 concerns with how that standard was set. I wish there
40 was something that I could do to address those
41 concerns. I don't know of anything that I can do to
42 address your concerns with this principal because that
43 was an action of Congress in 1980 that now legally
44 tells Susanna and I and the people in Anchorage how we
45 have to do our jobs by law.

46

47 So your very serious and very real
48 concerns with this principal when they're expressed to
49 us, all I can say is I hear you and I understand why
50 you would feel that way, but there is nothing I can

1 change or anybody in Anchorage or Washington within the
2 Fish and Wildlife Service can change about the fact
3 that we've been told that that's how we're supposed to
4 manage Refuges.

5
6 So it's a valid concern. I understand
7 it's a very serious concern for you, but I believe it's
8 a concern with the action that Congress took that has
9 set the stage for the action that we are now taking.
10 So we can operate within that, but we can't change that
11 piece.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I've got
14 Richard, Billy and then Lary.

15
16 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thank you.
17 I believe we're wrong when we say we can't change
18 something. We're all humans. We make rules and
19 regulations that we all abide by and those guys in
20 Washington, D.C. are people just like yourself and me.
21 Things are not cut in stone. People change their
22 minds. Times change. Circumstances like this where
23 something that is so heartfelt to disclude humans from
24 natural habitats and things in language, to me, is off
25 the wall anyway.

26
27 So why couldn't we -- you know, the
28 suggestions, the comments are heartfelt stuff that, you
29 know, if you really are feeling what we're feeling, why
30 can't you pack this load and go to your supervisors and
31 why can't that load be packed again and go to the
32 places where it needs to be addressed? I mean to say
33 that this is my job and that's the way it is, you know,
34 I'll take your comments and end with it, that's not the
35 way it goes.

36
37 On the State level, you know, we all
38 put in proposals and it goes to our committees and then
39 from there you have public comment, you have -- you
40 know, there's a process there. Just before they vote
41 on it they break up into different committees and you
42 change language or you can adjust things or throw it
43 out, so there's plenty of opportunities there right up
44 to the time when they make the decision to change it or
45 to keep it.

46
47 For you to say that there's nothing
48 that we can do, I don't want to end there because
49 there's always something we can do and we just need to
50 follow through with it. It needs to go beyond yourself

1 and beyond whose in this room and we just need to keep
2 packing it until it's actually heard and discussed at
3 the level where they can change it.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 MS. ALEXANDER: Madame Chair, may I
8 clarify. Thank you, Mr. Wilson. Your comment makes me
9 realize that I should have -- there are a couple pieces
10 that I left out in what I said. They're important.

11

12 No one in the Fish and Wildlife Service
13 can change that language because only Congress can
14 change it. I didn't mean to imply it couldn't be
15 changed. There is actually a law that prevents Federal
16 employees from lobbying Congress as part of our job.
17 So I cannot and my supervisors all the way up to the
18 Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service cannot go
19 back to Congress and say you should change the language
20 in ANILCA. We are forbidden by law from doing that.
21 You all can do that. Members of the public can do
22 that.

23

24 I genuinely do understand. I mean I'm
25 sure I don't understand your frustration completely.
26 No one can ever completely understand someone else's
27 frustration. In doing our jobs, we have to abide by
28 the law that Congress has given us and we cannot go
29 back to Congress and say they should change that law.
30 So my only point was to say that if this issue is to be
31 addressed legally, it can only be addressed by
32 Congress. I don't know if that helps at all.

33

34 MR. WILSON: Can I just.....

35

36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

37

38 MR. WILSON: Then why aren't they here?
39 You know, if we can't accomplish anything through you,
40 then what's the purpose of you even being here? If
41 this issue is so great that we need it to be there,
42 then it seems like there should be steps to be able to
43 get there and not -- there shouldn't be a wall here.
44 Somehow there's got to be communication where it can
45 get passed on, this is what you're feeling, what you're
46 hearing, to be able to get passed on to where that can
47 happen.

48

49 Orville's probably got something for
50 us. Thanks.

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Orville, do
2 you have supplemental information for that?

3
4 MR. O. LIND: Thank you, Madame Chair.
5 Members of the board. I'm honored and privileged to be
6 here. I just thought I'd share a comment. When I
7 first got hired in '91, I was hired as a refuge
8 information technician. Mainly my job was to
9 communicate between the village and the government. In
10 1991, virtually Alaska Peninsula did not even know who
11 the Fish and Wildlife Service was. In 1993, the
12 Regional Advisory Council was formed. So until 1993,
13 before that we had really virtually no communication
14 between villages and the government. I think we've
15 come a long way. This is exactly what we're looking
16 for as far as communication between agencies and the
17 public.

18
19 I've got to say our mission statement,
20 along with this -- the first word is basically what you
21 and I grew up with. I was taught how to keep the
22 streams clean. I was taught how to keep our hunting
23 trails clean. I was taught how not to take the
24 trophies in order for them to be strong in generations
25 to come. We learned from the animals. They're a part
26 of us. We are connected to that. In our first three
27 words in our mission statement of this agency is
28 working together with people and to conserve the Fish
29 and Wildlife Service populations.

30
31 One of my jobs as a refuge information
32 technician was to get that government language into
33 understanding at the local level. I guess what I want
34 to say is that's exactly what we've been doing for
35 generations. We've conserved and protected our own
36 resource for our children and our children's children.
37 So I just don't want to see us get caught up in
38 interpretations is what I'm getting at.

39
40 I think for the long haul we're
41 mandated to communicate with tribes and my job as a
42 Native liaison, which I'm just enjoying so much, is I
43 get to reach out and communicate with tribes all over
44 the state of Alaska and I get to communicate with all
45 your tribes too. What I really want to point out is
46 that we are now making, I think, tremendous progress in
47 bringing some of those concerns out because we are
48 communicating and I really love that.

49
50 We have a lot to learn, and I'm talking

1 for the agency. We have a lot to learn yet and it's by
2 you making those comments that we're going to get
3 better. We're going to get better with communicating,
4 we're going to get better in trying to figure this
5 whole resource management thing out. It's not an easy
6 fix.

7

8 The elders have told me a long time ago
9 they've seen a lot of changes coming and we're losing
10 that traditional ecological knowledge, so we have to be
11 connected to that and continue to do that. We also
12 have to pay attention to there's environmental changes
13 happening so fast and it's not only here in the state
14 of Alaska but all over the world.

15

16 Important comments and concerns that
17 you have bring forth from your public and I think this
18 is -- we're in some really extreme times where our
19 communication is only going to get better. I think
20 agencies are going to learn a lot and we definitely are
21 going to continue to work together to figure things
22 out. I just feel I had to say that.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I think
27 the next one in line was Billy.

28

29 MR. MAINES: Thank you, Madame Chair.
30 Thanks, Orville. Susan, I just wanted to ask one
31 question and a clarifying comment. Why were the Parks
32 and Refuges set aside in the state of Alaska again?
33 What was your response on that?

34

35 MS. ALEXANDER: Well, there's a lot of
36 language in the law that talks about the purposes for
37 which the Refuges were established. The one that we've
38 been talking about this morning is to conserve fish and
39 wildlife populations in their natural diversity.

40

41 MR. MAINES: Okay. I wanted to hear
42 what I had heard earlier and that was to protect the
43 subsistence of us here in Alaska. I like that, but, at
44 the same time, it sort of contradicts the language from
45 Congressman Udall where it says not to emphasize
46 management activities favoring some species to the
47 detriment of others. Humans are a species and we're
48 protecting our subsistence rights. You know, it could
49 be said the same thing for predators or other species.
50 So I appreciate you doing that for us.

1 Just to make the comment again, what
2 we're trying to tell you is that maybe the predator
3 control that we've been doing along with you to make
4 sure that our subsistence foods are still there. I do
5 know that there are colleagues that enjoy bear. I do
6 at certain times a year. There are times I can't stand
7 the stench or trying to eat through the toughness of
8 some bear, but there are times when they're a real good
9 delicacy, whether it's brown or black or even a polar
10 bear. I was fortunate enough for the time up in Barrow
11 that I had one of their delicacies and it was polar
12 bear and it was really good.

13

14 But I just wanted to reiterate the fact
15 that I think that what this is is contradictory to the
16 practices and that humans are a species and play a role
17 in life and that it's within the Park Service and on
18 State lands and corporate lands and stuff like that
19 that our food comes from and that's what we're trying
20 to get people to understand is that we're thinking of
21 ourselves. We're thinking of ourselves and we want to
22 make sure that you think of us too when you're doing
23 whatever decisions you do.

24

25 I understand that as employees of
26 Federal government you can't go and lobby on our
27 behalf, that we have strong backs and broad shoulders
28 and two feet to walk and be able to do that for
29 ourselves. Sometimes they hear, sometimes they don't.
30 I've also learned that we have to be good storytellers
31 and we have to tell that story over and over and over
32 again until we see the light like I see in your eyes, I
33 can see it in their eyes and then I say, okay, I think
34 maybe I got through to them a little bit.

35

36 I just wanted to hear the words again
37 that you're doing it to protect our subsistence and we
38 appreciate that, but, at the same time, we're telling
39 you that in order to help you protect our subsistence
40 we still want to be able to do what we've done before.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

45

46 MR. HILL: I'm about ready to nod off
47 here. When I hear this, we hear you, we hear you, but
48 it's almost like when my son was a teenager. He'd say
49 I hear you, I hear you, but he's not really listening.

50

1 The other thing is I almost feel like
2 when we're talking about predator control, predator
3 management, you're talking about humans. The top
4 predators. We're being controlled, we're being managed
5 instead of the wildlife.

6
7 We don't mean to beat up on you because
8 we're killing the messenger. We don't mean to beat up
9 on you, but you're the face of Washington. Just so you
10 know that. It's very deeply felt. We're genetically
11 predisposed to eating salmon and caribou and moose and
12 bear, so you're messing with our genetics here and
13 that's how deeply it goes. That's how deep our
14 feelings go.

15
16 But we appreciate -- I appreciate the
17 fact that you're sitting here in front of us and gave
18 some of your talk to us.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci, did you
23 have a comment.

24
25 MS. MORRIS LYON: I do. I'll make it
26 very brief again. I guess the message I would like to
27 have you take back at least on my behalf is I still
28 totally disagree. I don't think we need to change
29 policy. I think we need to go back and look at our
30 interpretation of the policy. Even the words that
31 stand up there on that board, to me, can be read and
32 interpreted in many different ways and utilized in
33 those ways. That does not require us to lobby anybody.
34 It requires you to tell your bosses, which I'm sorry
35 you have to do that, that we feel that their
36 interpretation of this language is inappropriate and
37 ineffective.

38
39 MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you, Ms. Lyon,
40 Madame Chair. I hear you and that's our job and I
41 agree with you. Yes, we will take that message back.
42 That is the problem with this language is that it's not
43 clear. It is very subject to interpretation. That's
44 why we're having this conversation.

45
46 I also wanted to comment briefly to Mr.
47 Hill that I appreciate your comment very much and I
48 assure you we do not take this personally. This is our
49 job and we do understand that these issues are deeply
50 felt and we are not offended by that deep feeling or by

1 the strength of your comments. That's why we're here
2 and we want to hear that.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Is there
7 anybody else on the board here.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: If not, I
12 think we have Courtenay online to make a comment.

13

14 MS. CARTY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
15 This is Courtenay Carty, for the record, with the
16 Bristol Bay Native Association. I want to try to keep
17 some order and structure here to my comments, although
18 I very much appreciated hearing all the conversation
19 happening right now and it has obviously stirred up
20 some different talking points.

21

22 First I'll start by saying a comment
23 that I made in regards to supplemental information in
24 the packet yesterday. This is serious, serious
25 information and although I received a copy of this in
26 February here at BBNA, I feel as though important
27 information such as this should be included in a timely
28 fashion in the board book so that other members of the
29 public who might not have the working relationship that
30 I do with the Fish and Wildlife Service are able to
31 access this information and be able to provide adequate
32 public comments.

33

34 Also in regards to the tribal
35 consultation that we've been hearing so much about
36 today. As customary in other RAC and Federal
37 Subsistence Board meeting proceedings, when there is an
38 action item or even discussion item on the table that
39 has included consultation, generally speaking the
40 Native liaison or other member of Fish and Wildlife
41 Service staff opens in part of the presentation a
42 discussion including a summary of that tribal
43 consultation.

44

45 I'm really curious to know as to
46 whether or not this consultation that has been
47 discussed many times on the record today has been done
48 intensively in Bristol Bay with the tribes that will be
49 most impacted by this proposed rule and not just be one
50 tribal consultation teleconference held on February

1 13th.

2

3 In regards to people -- thank you,
4 Richard and others, for many, many comments regarding
5 people as part of the landscape and maintaining natural
6 diversity. One thing I really want to address I guess
7 is we've heard so much of Secretary Udall and the 1980
8 ruling regarding natural diversity. It seems as though
9 the Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska -- and
10 obviously Susanna and Susan are the messengers here,
11 they're the Refuge Managers tasked with presenting this
12 information to the RAC and within their region and are
13 not the decision-makers that created this rule, but
14 those higher up within the administration are really
15 picking and choosing which Federal law they're applying
16 to which circumstance here.

17

18 Although the National Wildlife Refuges
19 in Alaska are mandated to conserve species and habitats
20 in their national diversity and ensure that biological
21 integrity, diversity and environmental health of the
22 Refuge System is maintained for the continuing benefit
23 of present and future generations of Americans, these
24 Refuges and the Fish and Wildlife Service is also
25 mandated with providing subsistence opportunities and a
26 subsistence priority to rural residents within Alaska.
27 So let's not get away from that and pick one law over
28 the other to apply here.

29

30 The opening language of these possible
31 statewide regulatory changes cites the need to
32 streamline and be more consistent with other Federal
33 laws and Federal policies. However, the opening words
34 of the presentation today we're citing that this is a
35 response to the Alaska Board of Game's decision. So,
36 again, let's have some consistency here. You know,
37 it's like a double-edged sword.

38

39 The beauty of the dual management
40 system is that when the State side isn't working we
41 have the Feds to work with and that the Federal
42 government has a government-to-government consultation
43 and responsibility to work with the tribes within their
44 areas. However, here we are trying to be responsive to
45 a State situation. When it's appropriate to mainstream
46 the two processes to work together, that's right, but
47 maybe this isn't the right case there.

48

49 Another part of not only the language
50 but the presentation today is that this is only

1 applicable to Federal Refuges. That might be the case
2 for this Refuge rule, but let's not overlook the
3 cumulative effects of this regulatory proposed rule
4 because this same rule is being proposed for National
5 Parks and Preserves as well. So it's not just the
6 Refuges where this is going to be applicable. We're
7 also seeing this on Park Service lands, so the scope is
8 much larger here.

9

10 Another thing in regards to public
11 notice on closures and even engaging in the public
12 comment period, I understand we're in the scoping phase
13 here and the consultation period, but in regards to the
14 public comment period we need to be very careful
15 because public comment period, although the Refuges and
16 the Federal subsistence management system is set up to
17 manage for the rural resident's priority, public
18 comment periods are open to all members of the U.S.
19 public and sometimes you see comment periods getting
20 very inundated with comments by outside people who are
21 not Federally qualified subsistence harvesters that are
22 not directly affected by these rules and have a
23 completely different agenda and it's really important
24 that the Service is able to see through that and take
25 weight with the comments of the local people.

26

27 I guess that's pretty much the summary
28 of my comments today. BBNA will be working with
29 members of the public to make sure that we have
30 hopefully some public comments coming out of the
31 Bristol Bay region when we do go into this comment
32 period. Again, thank you for the opportunity to
33 testify telephonically today.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
38 Courtenay. Susan, you have a response.

39

40 MS. HENRY: Yes, thank you, Madame
41 Chair. Members of the Council. Thank you, Courtenay
42 for those very well organized comments. I just wanted
43 to answer a couple questions that you had. Our first
44 letters to all of the tribal organizations, including
45 the regional corporations, was dated September 24, 2014
46 and there were two statewide teleconferences that took
47 place back in November. We sent letters to all, as
48 well as emails and we called to encourage, request to
49 come and meet with different tribes. There were a
50 number of meetings held in villages. Of course, there

1 was the opportunity to participate in those
2 teleconferences.

3

4 Then we didn't think that was adequate,
5 so we started all over again with that this spring.
6 Then you mentioned the one teleconference that was held
7 earlier this month. So it has been going on for a
8 while. It's been both a formal and tried to be an
9 informal process with the government-to-government.

10

11 I appreciated your comment too about
12 being overwhelmed by comments from others who may not
13 be as impacted and that's really a challenge. We've
14 been talking about ANILCA. Remember it's the Alaska
15 National Interest Lands and that's always a challenge
16 for us in Alaska. We have to consider that those lands
17 are not just of interest to Alaskans but to all
18 Americans. But I understand what you mean when you say
19 but what about those locals. So it is a difficult
20 thing.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan, did you
23 have a comment?

24

25 MR. DUNAWAY: No, thank you.

26

27 MS. ALEXANDER: The only thing I wanted
28 to add to what Susanna just said is that we do
29 recognize that there is a subsistence purpose for every
30 Refuge other than Kenai and that that is a very
31 important purpose. Local commenters who are
32 subsistence users have status in relation to that
33 Refuge purpose. Other people in the rest of the country
34 have an interest in these lands by virtue of the fact
35 that they are Federal and they were set aside by
36 Congress as National Interest Lands, but local people
37 are subsistence users and there is a specific purpose
38 for the Refuges that relates to those users, so I think
39 that's relevant.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan, did you
44 have a comment.

45

46 MR. DUNAWAY: Real quick. It's kind of
47 come to me. I'm remembering our fall meeting and one
48 thing I want to comment the U.S. Fish and Wildlife is I
49 think they got their order and their process right in
50 that they're soliciting public comment and announcing

1 this intention and then we'll seek to make a rule.
2 That, in my mind, is the right order. Where I think
3 there's been some other agencies who had the rule kind
4 of slammed down and now we're reacting to kind of
5 after-the-fact responses. I seem to remember we talked
6 about that this fall. So following the right process
7 should be rewarded with recognition and I want to thank
8 you for that.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I guess we've
11 gone way over what we thought we'd spend time with
12 this. Although it's an important issue, we've just
13 spent a lot more time with this, but we need to move on
14 with our agenda. So I think I'll cut this off for now
15 and we'll move on to the next agenda item we were
16 supposed to pick up at 9:00 o'clock. So thank you,
17 ladies. We hope to continue to communicate with you.

18

19 I know from my past work with the State
20 of Alaska, I know you're in the box and I understand
21 exactly where you're coming from, but we appreciate you
22 being here.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MS. HENRY: Thank you.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

29

30 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
31 So we do have a lot to get done and I'm hoping that
32 rather than further formalizing what we discussed on
33 this that we could recognize that those are our
34 comments for now and we don't have to go to the trouble
35 of a fancy resolution or fancy language and we don't
36 maybe have to vote on anything, which would bog us down
37 further because we do need to move ahead. We do
38 appreciate you taking our comments.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Next on
43 the agenda, if we still have the Chignik people, we'll
44 pick you up on your letter right now. Chignik, John
45 Jones, are you folks ready?

46

47 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. Before we get
48 started I just wanted to refer to Council members that
49 we got a copy of the letter from the Chignik Lagoon
50 Village Council and I gave you each a copy for your

1 reference in preparation for their presentation.

2

3 Thank you, Madame Chair.

4

5 MR. JONES: Madame Chair. This is John
6 Jones. Roger Lind is on teleconference here. I'll let
7 him go first before I put in my 90 cents worth.

8

9 MR. E. LIND: Madame Chair. Elliot
10 Roger Lind here. Members of the board. Can you hear
11 me?

12

13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes, you're
14 loud and clear.

15

16 MR. E. LIND: Okay, Madame Chair.
17 Thanks for giving us this opportunity to speak before
18 the board. I think you have the petitions that were
19 signed by the Chigniks and Perryville.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes, we do.

22

23 MR. E. LIND: And the letter?

24

25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: We just have
26 the letter.

27

28 MR. E. LIND: Okay. There were a
29 couple letters actually enclosed with the packets that
30 were sent. This is the second time we actually sent.
31 The first packet apparently didn't make it to you guys.
32 Our concerns for Chignik and Perryville areas,
33 subsistence concerns, is that Alaska Department of Fish
34 and Game has pretty much micro-managed our second run,
35 which we depend our subsistence on during the winter
36 months.

37

38 The geography of the two spawning areas
39 in Chignik, the Black Lake area actually is the smaller
40 of the two spawning areas. Chignik Lake, where the
41 second run goes through, is actually larger. Fish and
42 Game has been managing the late run at 250,000. The
43 Black Lake run, first run, is managed for 350,000. The
44 low end goals that they've been going with those last
45 few years. We've actually seen a decline in the weaker
46 runs. I mean we actually used to have red fish to
47 subsist on until late February. In 2013, all the red
48 fish were gone in December. We think it's because of
49 the way Alaska Department of Fish and Game has managed
50 our escapement in the late run.

1 Our concerns is that if this continues,
2 commercial fishing in the area also has changed.
3 They've basically fished 24/7 once they open it. To
4 give you an example of this last summer, the first run
5 we didn't fish. The second run was barely any fish
6 coming in. Even though it was a very weak run, Alaska
7 Department of Fish and Game had the commercial fishers
8 on 24/7. They tell us that they -- we'll get 25,000
9 for subsistence escape for August and 25,000 escape for
10 September to take care of the subsistence issue.

11
12 Here's the problem with that. The
13 years prior to the Exxon oil spill, the Chignik weir
14 was always pulled out around the 5th of August. The
15 commercial fishery would drop down to three days a
16 week. So there was a lot of fish going up for a late
17 run to take care of our subsistence needs. After the
18 Exxon oil spill, they got money to keep the weir in to
19 count the fish into September. After they started
20 doing that, that's why they started counting less fish
21 in August. We know for a fact that there's a lot more
22 fish than 50,000 going through August for the late run
23 and September because of the way we fished.

24
25 Now because of continuous fishing
26 through August it's detrimental to our subsistence up
27 at the lakes there. People at the weir noticed that no
28 more red fish in February. No more red fish in January
29 and in 2013 there was no more red fish in December.
30 You've got to remember in the old days when it was ice
31 cold months, those were the days we had fish late into
32 the winter. Now it's a lot milder and the fish are
33 disappearing.

34
35 Those days, dog team days, people put
36 up a lot of fish to feed their dog teams winter time.
37 If we had dog teams now, those poor dogs would be
38 starving. We had bears coming into the villages. So
39 that tells you something is happening at these streams.
40 Bears are coming into the village looking for food, yet
41 Fish and Game hasn't done anything to try to (phone cut
42 out). They just keep it at the lower end goals they've
43 been having year after year.

44
45 (Indiscernible) signed and sent in to
46 State of Alaska and also the Federal Subsistence Board.
47 We want people to take notice that something is
48 happening here and we want something done as
49 subsistence users to protect our subsistence fish in
50 Chignik.

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Is
2 there anybody else in line to do further comment before
3 I turn the questions over to the board here? John?

4

5 MR. JONES: Yes, Madame Chair. We had
6 a fishery last year that was run. They allowed an
7 extra 25,000 fish to go up in the August month there
8 and September, which wasn't really much. What I'd
9 really like to see is that number go up a little higher
10 because your predators up there that are helping out on
11 that fishery. You know, 50,000 isn't quite enough.
12 I'd like to see 100,000 fish go up there for the month
13 of August and September.

14

15 Fish and Game seem to be able to manage
16 the fishery on that low end and throw a bone in there
17 every once in a while by allowing something like that,
18 so they should put a set number in there and I think it
19 should be 100,000 and to change the two months. The
20 fishery is over with early in August nowadays, where I
21 used to fish up until September, end of September,
22 middle of September. The September and August fishery
23 is disappearing totally. Every year it's getting to be
24 less and less days in August of Fishing. So if they
25 can put in something to help out on the subsistence end
26 of it of getting that lake system stocked a little
27 better. Maybe the Board could help us out on that.

28

29 It needs to go back to the old way.
30 I'm not a biologist, but I should have been. What I
31 see of it is later on, as the fishery is managed on the
32 low end every year for the last 10, 15 years on the low
33 end -- at a low end there's going to be no fish in June
34 and July pretty soon because we're coming back into
35 those months of lack of fish because they're keeping
36 that fishery open all the time.

37

38 Last year's fish, as everybody knows,
39 Chignik wasn't very hot fishing. The only reason there
40 was any bulk amount of fish caught was Western District
41 was open for quite a while, the longest I've ever seen
42 it open in 42 years I've fished here, and there was
43 only 200,000 fish caught for the whole season in the
44 lagoon where the fish normally are caught in abundance.

45

46 So we need to try to get these numbers
47 to change, which will help the commercial fishery and
48 the subsistence fishery.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any

1 additional comments from your group there.
2
3 MR. E. LIND: Madame Chair. Elliot
4 Lind here again.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Do you have
7 additional comments from your group there?
8
9 MR. E. LIND: Yes, Madame Chair.
10 Elliot Lind here. Do you guys have a copy of that
11 escapement goals for the Chignik?
12
13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: No, we don't.
14
15 MR. E. LIND: Okay. Before all this
16 started happening, you know, they managed the Chignik
17 area on the higher end goal in Chignik. The Black Lake
18 used to be 450,000. That's the higher end. The
19 Chignik Lake, which is the second run, was managed at
20 400,000 escapement goal. That's a big drop from
21 400,000 to 250,000 on the late run. So this is why
22 we're concerned. If this doesn't change, the
23 subsistence users are not going to be able to get any
24 more late red fish up those rivers.
25
26 Our concern has been brought to a
27 biologist that -- not in Chignik there, but nothing has
28 ever been done. So this is why we're all together
29 talking about this now at the Federal Subsistence
30 Board.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.
33 Orville, did you have supplemental comments for this?
34
35 MR. O. LIND: Thank you, Madame Chair.
36 Board members. I just want to give you a background
37 history of the request from Perryville and Chigniks.
38 It first came about probably in August, which they
39 actually submitted some of the petitions that were
40 signed. Unfortunately, we have to go through the
41 process and I didn't bring those with me as I came
42 down.
43
44 We do have the same letter from the
45 Village of Chignik Lake also with the same language as
46 from the Chignik Lagoon Council. We also had a request
47 from the Village of Perryville. They were going to
48 submit the same language from their council. I did not
49 have any feedback from Chignik Bay, but the message is
50 out there. Also, just so you know, they do submit

1 through you guys a proposal. It will begin by January
2 2016, the next cycle.

3

4 Thank you, Madame Chair.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Anybody else
7 from your group, John, for further comments?

8

9 MR. JONES: Well, I would really like
10 to know what you guys can do under the subsistence part
11 of it of trying to get our numbers to come around. I
12 mean would you guys as a Council be able to step up to
13 bat and say, okay, can we go back to guaranteeing the
14 Chigniks and Perryville to be able to get their
15 subsistence? I mean a fishery that's going downhill
16 because of micro-management there won't be no
17 subsistence. I mean if we end up with a June and July
18 run by August and September as fish that did go up
19 there, we couldn't harvest them anyhow. They'd be
20 spawned out by then. They'd be gone.

21

22 It's the late runs that you need to up
23 the numbers on them to survive for the subsistence part
24 of it. Over the last 10 years that micro-management is
25 not allowing this to happen. We have an abundance of
26 bears eating fish, you know, on these low numbers of
27 bears and we've got the wolves that can outfish the
28 bears and you go up there to try to subsist fish and
29 there is none. So we need to get a subsistence ruling
30 in there from you guys that would protect our
31 subsistence in this area.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

34

35 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair. As
36 Mr. Lind stated, the next fishery cycle will be in 2016
37 of January, but there's other opportunities. If their
38 subsistence needs aren't being met, we have what we
39 call a special action. A special action is an
40 out-of-cycle change in the season, harvest limits or
41 methods and means of harvesting. Special actions are
42 taken when unusual situations arise such as significant
43 changes in resource abundance that could not originally
44 have been anticipated.

45

46 So there are special action avenues for
47 those folks that aren't able to meet their subsistence
48 needs. We also have an in-season manager in Anchorage
49 that deals with the Chignik area and he will be
50 notified of their concerns. We also have a Board of

1 Fish liaison in our office and that person will also be
2 notified of this issue that has been brought up.

3

4 Madame Chair.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

7 Orville.

8

9 MR. O. LIND: Thank you, Madame Chair.
10 Council members. A correction. We just finished up
11 the fish proposals for the 2015. Wildlife proposals
12 will start in 2016, so it won't be until 2017 the fish
13 proposals will begin. But Donald is correct, they can
14 do a special action request.

15

16 Thank you, Madame Chair.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. And the
19 special action request would be working with OSM or
20 whoever is responsible for that? Donald.

21

22 MR. MIKE: Yes, Madame Chair. If those
23 folks from the Chignik area wish to submit a special
24 action, they just need to submit it in writing into our
25 office and the main contact for that would be Theo
26 Matuskowitz. If not, they can just directly work with
27 me and I'll make sure it's forwarded on.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Did you
32 hear that, John, Donald's comments?

33

34 MR. JONES: Yeah, I did. I know the
35 Board of Fish meets in different areas right up until
36 February or even into the summer. It doesn't have to be
37 a Board of Fish meeting that is scheduled for our cycle
38 and I understand that part of it. But, you know, if
39 it's in Fairbanks or wherever, in Nome, we can get on
40 their agenda if we have enough power behind this thing.
41 That's what we need to do is get it into play.

42

43 As the fishery declines, you know, any
44 fishery, even if it's Bristol Bay fishery, if it lapse
45 and you don't have enough fish to do anything, it takes
46 25 years to build the run back up. It's just not
47 something that turns up overnight, you know. So the
48 sooner you start trying to get your numbers up for
49 subsistence or whatever, the sooner you start it, the
50 better you are.

1 So if there's any way of doing it
2 sooner into one of these meetings, I would really like
3 to see it happen. If Donald's man in Anchorage can do
4 that, that would be highly appreciated.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald, do you
7 have a comment?

8
9 MR. MIKE: Yes, I was just going to
10 follow up on the comments I made. Through the Federal
11 Subsistence Management Program we have special actions
12 and through the Board of Fish cycle they have agenda
13 change request to address specific resource needs that
14 each particular region may have. The Board of Fish, I
15 believe, will be meeting this coming fall to address
16 Bristol Bay proposals. So that's another avenue for
17 the individuals in Chignik Lagoon is to submit an
18 agenda change request to the Board of Fish.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 MS. CARTY: Madame Chair. This is
23 Courtenay. I have some comments.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay,
26 Courtenay.

27
28 MS. CARTY: Thank you, through the
29 Chair. Courtenay Carty for the record, Bristol Bay
30 Native Association. I just wanted to provide some
31 information for the Chignik folks. I've been working
32 with Patrick out of Perryville rather closely on this
33 and I think he might have called in since the
34 discussion had started. I made sure to get him that
35 information.

36
37 But just to let you guys know, as well
38 as members of the RAC, I think there are a few
39 different ways we could be working on this. One is
40 definitely -- in reading the letter, the tribes are
41 asking the RAC and the Federal Subsistence Board to
42 essentially support them in working through the State
43 process. In order to change the escapement goals,
44 that's going to have to be a Board of Fish proposal.

45
46 We're currently in cycle, meaning that
47 the Board of Fish is accepting regulatory proposals
48 between now and April 10th, so this conversation is
49 very timely and we could be working with the Chigniks
50 to help them write up a proposal to increase that lower

1 end of the escapement goal, which is also kind of
2 interesting considering that in March the Bristol Bay
3 escapement goals are going to be evaluated and
4 determined by the Board of Fish. So you have until
5 April 10th to put that forward.
6

7 One thing that I think the RAC could
8 potentially include as an agenda item for the October
9 2015 meeting is to review the May 2015 Board of Fish
10 proposals for the Bristol Bay finfish cycle as well as
11 Alaska Peninsula/Chignik finfish cycle. Review those
12 proposals and make comment by the on-time public
13 comment deadline to show the Board of Fish the RACs
14 viewpoint in regards to these proposals and how they
15 may affect Federally qualified subsistence harvest in
16 our region.
17

18 Also working with George Pappas, our
19 State subsistence liaison to the Board of Fish to make
20 sure that he -- he obviously does a great job at every
21 Board of Fish meeting making sure that the real issues
22 regarding subsistence harvest on Federal lands or
23 within Federal waters are brought to light. He did a
24 good job working on the last Chignik proposal, which at
25 the January Federal Subsistence Board meeting the Board
26 did not adopt the proposal to change the method and
27 means harvest for chinook in the Chignik area.
28

29 You see Chignik coming up here again.
30 Our last regulatory cycle it was a chinook proposal.
31 Now we're addressing a sockeye issue. So the concerns
32 are relevant, the concerns are there. I think we need
33 to reach across the management systems that we're
34 burdened with and find ways to support our local
35 harvesters if it's through the Board of Fish or Federal
36 Subsistence Board, regardless of which cycle we're in,
37 and BBNA, as usual, is here to help and I'm looking
38 forward to working with them as well as members of the
39 RAC on this issue.
40

41 Thank you.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
44 Courtenay. Richard.
45

46 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. I guess if
47 it's time for board comments here. I would definitely
48 be in support of supporting the Chignik area
49 subsistence users down there with this. I know they
50 haven't really formalized -- it doesn't sound like

1 anything has really formalized yet, but informally I'd
2 like us to be in support of this. When we come out of
3 this session here that we would be in support of some
4 language that would increase their subsistence needs
5 down there with escapements in Black and Chignik Lake.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

10

11 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Richard.
12 That's the same place I was going. I guess my thoughts
13 were I would just like, at least as a board member to
14 support encouraging the proper entities to get together
15 to resolve this subsistence issue and I would like to
16 -- knowing that it's got the channels to go through and
17 in deference to the timeframe and the constraints we're
18 under and the matters we have to cover today, I would
19 ask that we put it on our agenda for the fall meeting
20 for an update as well as the actual proposals that have
21 been put together around the issue so that at that
22 point we could lend our support and/or comments to the
23 same issue.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

26

27 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you. I too am
28 really concerned. What I see right now are several
29 things. It would be very nice to find out if this
30 subsistence -- if there's a lack of subsistence, how
31 well documented it is. I was wishing Ted Krieg could
32 still be here today. Any documentation -- this is for
33 you, John and Elliot, any documentation of --
34 subsistence deficiencies is a huge concern to us. If
35 there's any way possible. If there's studies going on
36 or whatever.

37

38 My understanding we're heading right
39 into a Board cycle for the State government. This
40 spring is a perfect opportunity to submit proposals and
41 I would hope you can work with the area biologist and
42 the other folks even if they don't like what you're
43 proposing, they're supposed to help you write the best
44 proposal possible to put before the Board. I think the
45 Board liaison person could help out.

46

47 Also, I believe we now are re-staffed
48 in the State Board support section with Taryn O'Connor
49 there in Dillingham and I believe she's assigned to
50 help you out or find out who does and she could direct

1 you to that. It's probably not the right time to think
2 about an agenda change request. I think it's too late
3 in this winter's cycle. They usually settle that in
4 October and they'll deal with that in March, so it's
5 really short.

6
7 Adding to that concern though, and I'm
8 not quite sure how we can say it, if we even want to
9 have a short statement here. When we thought it wasn't
10 good enough what the State was doing with the Area M
11 stuff -- and this was a big step for me, but we voted,
12 and I personally voted, in support of extending Federal
13 jurisdiction if we didn't think the State was
14 sufficiently responsive and we did that. The Board
15 really bore down on Area M for a period of time there
16 when we had Lake Clark and very poor runs showing up in
17 Iliamna and Lake Clark. I believe we have actually a
18 similar situation where there's Federal uplands that
19 could possibly be the nexus to threaten such a thing.
20 Sometimes mentioning that possibility can help speed up
21 the State process.

22
23 So that's all I have, but if you have
24 supporting data, bring that out. If that data looks
25 strong enough, I think this RAC is ready to do what
26 they can to support you.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Do we have any
31 more comments from here.

32
33 MR. LIND: Madame Chair.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes.

36
37 MR. LIND: Elliot Lind here again. I'd
38 like the board to keep in mind, Madame Chair -- I
39 forget which entity it was, Alaska Department of Fish
40 and Game or the Federal, the ones that do the
41 population of bears in each area. The meeting I went
42 to one time they said the population had increased from
43 the late 1960s to the late 1990s. I guess they take
44 surveys. So the bear population actually increased in
45 the Chignik area. Take that into consideration also.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I think
48 the outline that both Nanci and Dan gave, if those
49 processes are followed along with the other processes
50 we discussed earlier, I think we should be able to come

1 up with something tangible for this.

2

3 I think we should be moving on to the
4 other agenda item. We need Pete Abraham to tell us doi
5 so that we could keep going here. We're going to be
6 picking up rural determination and customary and
7 traditional right now. This is a continuation from
8 yesterday. I know there was a public comment period
9 that I missed last night. With that additional
10 information hopefully we can come up with something
11 here. So, Robbin, you're back on.

12

13 We'll maybe take a five-minute break.

14

15 MR. JONES: Thank you, Madame Chair.

16

17 (Off record)

18

19 (On record)

20

21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: For your
22 information, we're going to get into the rural
23 determination and C&T and then I guess after that we'll
24 deal with the red fish. Under 10(f), the National
25 Park, that agenda item is going to move down to number
26 12 where they have their reports under National Park
27 Service, so that's a change. We've been having a lot
28 of changes to our agenda, but that's okay.

29

30 Robbin, you've got the floor.

31

32 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
33 Members of the Council. I'm here to report to you the
34 outcome of our public meeting last night on the rural
35 determination review process and the proposed rule in
36 particular. Regarding the proposed rule we received
37 three substantive comments. Well, primarily two. One
38 was really a request for more information.

39

40 Of the two that we did receive, one in
41 person and the other online, there was recognition of a
42 need to streamline perhaps the process. There was some
43 criteria that many people had received comments on and
44 people felt they weren't useful. However, both
45 comments did say that a criteria should be developed in
46 order to make determinations defensible and
47 justifiable. So having the proposed rule as it stands,
48 two comments felt that that may be -- there would be --
49 I guess it would be too loose.

50

1 Additionally, sorry, one more comment.
2 One of the comments, in consideration of Southcentral's
3 response -- as I reported to you yesterday,
4 Southcentral responded in support of the proposed rule
5 with an amendment, that put in the amendment the Board
6 would defer to the Councils, and they supported that
7 amendment.

8

9 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

12

13 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Robbin. Just
14 for those who may be listening or are present, I hope
15 they were not disappointed that the full RAC wasn't
16 here to hear the comments and certainly we didn't mean
17 any disrespect to that. It's the way it seemed to work
18 out and we certainly thank those folks for making those
19 comments.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So, Robbin, I
24 was one that wasn't here. Did you have any public
25 comments from within the room also or is that included
26 with these three? Okay. I had requested Robbin to
27 develop a little form like this so that we'll be able
28 to look at the purposes on one page and she has
29 developed this for us, so would you mind giving us the
30 information on this form. I appreciate it.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
35 I just wrote up a very brief overview of the two action
36 items I'm responsible for just to kind of keep them a
37 little separated on what's expected of you today. So
38 there are two action items. One is the rural
39 determination process. The other is the customary and
40 traditional use determination process. Both were
41 initiated by the Federal Review of the Federal
42 Subsistence Program. They're actions items though in
43 different ways.

44

45 For the rural determination process, it
46 is the Board that is seeking your action on their
47 proposed rule. For customary and traditional use
48 determinations, it is or was from many cycles ago the
49 Southeast Alaska Council that is requesting your action
50 on whether the customary and traditional use

1 determination process works for you.

2

3 Initially, when all the Councils had
4 considered the customary and traditional use
5 determination process, all nine said, yeah, it works
6 fine. Southeast said, wait, would you please look at
7 it again and that's what we're doing now. We're
8 looking at it again based on some of their concerns.
9 So the outcome of your action would be when you give
10 feedback to the Southeast Council. They may or may not
11 come up with a proposed rule that they would forward to
12 the Board for their consideration. So right now they
13 are looking for and are interested in Council feedback
14 on if it works and how it may work or whether you are
15 going to just keep apprised of their process because
16 they are moving forward and it's ongoing.

17

18 I have a little summary at the end.
19 Both of these action items, if they were to move
20 forward, the rural determination process, the customary
21 and traditional use determination process, if they were
22 to change, it's my understanding that nothing would
23 change in your region in regards to determinations
24 already made within both processes, but it would be the
25 process that would change from that point forward on
26 how determinations are made. That is my understanding.

27

28 If I need to be corrected, if there's
29 anyone on the phone or in the room that can jump in at
30 this time, I would be grateful.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

35

36 MR. HILL: When we last met on this, if
37 I recall -- I'm at the age now where I remember more
38 things that happened when I was 15 years old than what
39 happened last year -- but I think with that rural
40 determination let's leave it as it is as long as our
41 communities won't see any real major changes like in
42 the population. I think that's kind of how we left it,
43 if someone can correct me.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

46

47 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you. Yes,
48 Lary. The other things that I remember about it too --
49 I'm going to go back to the separation that you just
50 very briefly here as well because I think, as Lary and

1 Richard have so eloquently put it so many times,
2 people's definition of what we do out here is so
3 different than ours. These are two factors that
4 they've separated out that we're like what. It doesn't
5 matter how many times you bring in front of us, but
6 they don't make sense to us because we don't separate
7 the two.

8

9 Right now what we're addressing is my
10 understanding that how they decide that Anchorage
11 doesn't get to subsist on Bristol Bay lands and Bristol
12 Bay doesn't get to subsist on Southeast Alaska lands.
13 So that's where my mind has shifted to. I went home
14 and I did my homework. It brought to mind several
15 things, including what Lary said as well as the fact
16 that we were one of the boards that supported the fact
17 that we were tired of having to stand up for our
18 subsistence rights out here and said that the onus
19 should now be on the Federal government to prove that
20 we did not deserve the right to subsist.

21

22 I think that this is the effort to say
23 that that actually had some validity, you're right.
24 Instead, let's decide who doesn't deserve to subsist.
25 So, in many ways, I actually support this new language,
26 the simplicity in it. I guess I would just want to
27 make sure and hear some board discussion about making
28 sure that it does still protect our subsistence rights
29 well enough and the need for us not to have to
30 constantly defend them.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

33

34 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Molly. Yeah,
35 I had time to think about it and then I read more last
36 night. My thinking is kind of gelled on this. I'm
37 somewhat reluctant to abandon the existing process, but
38 the simplified language is very appealing. The points
39 that I really feel strongly about in this is whether
40 you define it in the positive or the negative or which
41 angle you look at, I absolutely think very strongly we
42 must have some objective criteria on how you are rural
43 or how you are not rural, otherwise this will look
44 absolutely arbitrary.

45

46 My concern, if we go to defining who's
47 not rural, we're doing that by default that ultimately
48 was originally decided by the criteria that we are
49 apparently discarding. So we need to have some
50 objective criteria to be defensible.

1 My second point is that I think one of
2 the criteria you cannot get away from acknowledging the
3 human population, the size of the human population and
4 the carrying capacity. It might be that one area or
5 community is well able to meet their subsistence needs
6 at a 15,000 people abundance and another place it might
7 not be as big. How we get there is real tricky, but an
8 arbitrary number maybe doesn't work.

9
10 Another thing, I think there should be
11 some sort of a review cycle. If 10 is too onerous,
12 maybe 15 years, but the 10 is based on the
13 Constitutional requirement to have a census. I think
14 there should be some way of incorporating a more sudden
15 population change and I'm thinking in the instance of
16 Adak as the handiest one where it went from 6,000 to
17 like 100 or something.

18
19 There could be a possible situation
20 where you might have the opposite happen. In both
21 cases, some criteria for saying we need a review and
22 we've had a sudden change. So some way intermediate
23 recognition that carrying capacity is being challenged
24 or is no longer challenged.

25
26 Another piece of language I saw in
27 there that really kind of concerns me, there were some
28 folks advocating that you have to recognize a spiritual
29 connection to the land. I want to absolutely respect
30 that. I think everybody has a spiritual connection to
31 the land, but it's a little bit like Nanci's sunrise
32 here earlier. Who is to say what each individual's
33 perception is and I don't want the government deciding
34 who is spiritual or who is not or even this RAC or a
35 Board deciding who has a valid spiritual connection. I
36 do want to be respectful.

37
38 So those are four points that gelled in
39 my mind. I don't know how the rest of the RAC wants to
40 go on this. If we vote on this in one sense or another
41 or if we just make these comments. I may submit these
42 as my personal comments.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 MS. LAVINE: Though the Chair. I just
47 wanted to remind you that the action that is required
48 today is not so much about what those criteria should
49 be, but should you support the proposed rule. I don't
50 know if that will help or not.

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

2

3 MR. DUNAWAY: Follow up. I would
4 support the proposed rule as long as they added my four
5 point or recognized them or incorporated them as part
6 of the process, which probably wouldn't simplify it
7 very much.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.

10

11 MR. MAINES: Thank you, Madame Chair.
12 Being the simple person I am, I would support the rule
13 as it's written because I know it's not going to affect
14 the Bristol Bay area. Bristol Bay is going to always
15 be rural as far as the Federal determination is. The
16 issue I may have is dealing with a review process
17 because I understand that people come, people go.
18 Populations change for the better or for the worse.
19 Sometime down the road, whether it's a five-year, ten-
20 year review process of the language or the
21 determination process might be something that I would
22 want to consider.

23

24 I understand the public comments and
25 what Dan was just saying as far as criteria and I'm
26 surprised the Federal government is taking a position
27 to where they really don't have a defensible position.
28 They're going to say, okay, you guys are rural, the
29 other folks are not, period. There's nothing saying
30 one way or the other is this based on this or based on
31 that. I know the Federal government likes to go to
32 court quite a bit and have the Supreme Court the final
33 say in the issue and stuff like that.

34

35 I was just surprised in reading that
36 we're going to change this entire page to a simple line
37 saying, okay, you guys are rural, these folks are not,
38 period. So I was kind of concerned about that. Being
39 the simpleton that I am, I liked it. I liked it
40 because it kept us in our rural determination and be
41 able to continue the practice that we do.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Robbin.

46

47 MS. LAVINE: Thank you. Through the
48 Chair. Actually, no, the Board would no longer
49 determine who was rural. They would only determine who
50 is nonrural with this proposed rule. It is my

1 understanding that, yes, in doing so and also in
2 eliminating the 10-year review, the burden of proof is
3 then shifted from the communities to prove that they
4 are still rural to the proponent of any kind of
5 requested change. The onus is then shifted upon the
6 proponent to prove that any community is nonrural.
7 It's my understanding that it may shift. People are no
8 longer going to feel as defensive in having to
9 constantly reiterate they are rural and this is why.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Anybody else.

14 Nanci.

15

16 MS. MORRIS LYON: I'd like to make a
17 quick comment to the review that Dan feels is
18 necessary. I just feel like that -- if I remember
19 right, I heard you relay an argument that you had heard
20 from somebody else as far as the review if timeframe
21 wasn't placed on it, that people would be wanting
22 things reviewed every month or something along those
23 lines. That's fine and dandy, but I feel like reviews
24 should not be mandatory at all. I think it's a waste
25 of time and energy by our Federal people or whoever is
26 involved in doing that review.

27

28 I think that if people feel a review
29 process is necessary, it shouldn't be mandatory but
30 requested and if they're worried about it being
31 requested too often, then once every three years it
32 could be requested again. You know, limit that number
33 on that time, but I do not think it should be
34 mandatory. I think that that's silly. I think that if
35 somebody in Anchorage really feels like they need to be
36 rural, and it will probably be a lawyer, and put it
37 forth every month, okay, fine. Tell them once every
38 three years they can put it forward and we'll look into
39 it, but after that forget it. I think also that that
40 three-year time period will also keep a fairly safe
41 amount of time for folks who may need subsistence that
42 aren't getting it that want to appeal a ruling without
43 being too onerous on time and office personnel.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.

46

47 MR. MAINES: Thank you, Madame Chair.
48 Correct me if I'm wrong. You said that this will
49 determine who's not rural and that review process is
50 out the door, right? The 10-year review. So the only

1 way to do anything about making a change is putting
2 forward a proposal or a request for a change, right?

3

4 MS. LAVINE: Yes.

5

6 MR. MAINES: Okay, thanks. I just
7 wanted to make sure because I thought for sure that
8 this rule would get rid of that review and I was just
9 trying to say that I'm in favor of that only for the
10 fact that it surprised me the Federal government is
11 putting themselves in that position. That's all.
12 Thanks.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

15

16 MS. MORRIS LYON: I honestly don't want
17 to hog the mic. I feel like I am. The other comment I
18 had also after listening to Dan's comments I think that
19 we also need to acknowledge as a board that one of our
20 major issues is that management in Federal government
21 changes all the time. So unless we actually do have
22 some criteria and I think that these criteria should be
23 angled towards nonrural, how do you define nonrural
24 should be brought forth.

25

26 I think we should abandon the criteria
27 we have used in the past to have to justify our rural-
28 ness and instead we should develop very brief, simple
29 criteria to establish, quantify and define nonrural. I
30 don't think this board should be the people that do
31 that, but I would suggest that some language would come
32 forth to us that we could analyze and possibly make
33 comments on.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any other
36 comments. Lary.

37

38 MR. HILL: I just woke up.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 MR. HILL: When we're defining
43 nonrural, we're also deciding who is rural. It's two
44 birds with one stone. The constant review, if someone
45 sees, maybe one of the members of our committee sees
46 that there is a problem, then we start the process and
47 that's how I would like to see it.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. If
50 there's no other comments from the board, we'd like to

1 hear any comments from the public if any of you have
2 anything to support this or give us some information.
3 Also people online I'd like to hear if you have any
4 comments at this time. I think we've lost our non-
5 agency public here.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Seeing none
10 from the floor or the phones, how do we move from this?
11 I guess there's an action item for both of them. I
12 guess we're looking at Donald.

13
14 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, there's two
15 action items you've stated earlier. I'd take action on
16 the rural determination. It's up to the Council what
17 they want to do. Either make it known to our Staff
18 that the comments stated before this Council is your
19 comments or you can direct me to submit the comments on
20 your behalf.

21
22 Thank you, Madame Chair.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: What's the
25 Council's wishes. Nanci or Richard.

26
27 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. There's
28 been a lot of discussion. It would be very hard to --
29 I mean I guess we could narrow it down to just a few,
30 but if we can just go in with the comments that we have
31 and somebody could formalize those instead of actually
32 voting on it. So if we can just be in favor of those
33 comments that were given and somebody could formalize
34 it and see what it looks like.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci, did you
37 have a comment.

38
39 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame
40 Chair. Yeah, I guess I was thinking along the same
41 lines and it might be something we can just do by email
42 afterwards. Would that be acceptable, Donald?

43
44 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. The actions
45 that this Council takes, as long as you stay on the
46 record, your intent -- as far as this agenda item is
47 concerned, you discussed your intent on the rural
48 determination agenda item and make it known on record
49 that this is your intent and through correspondence we
50 can submit it to the Federal Subsistence Board.

1 Another example, the Southcentral
2 Council recently met and they adopted this language and
3 placed it on the table and they made amendments to it
4 and then they took final action and that was their
5 comments to the Federal Subsistence Board.

6
7 Madame Chair.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

10
11 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you. Just very
12 briefly. That reminded me I was going to comment that
13 I can understand what the Southcentral board's
14 reasoning was behind protecting the rights by giving
15 deference to the Council, but I'm not sure -- I'm kind
16 of with Dan on that one. I'm not sure if it's all-
17 inclusive enough for me to throw my entire support
18 behind it and feel that it's being encompassing enough.
19 So that is just a comment to be shared for the board.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

22
23 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
24 I think I'd be comfortable if we could, by consensus,
25 if we would ask Donald to forward the comments we've
26 made as our concerns and position on this rule. I
27 could live with that.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Is that
30 good for the rest of you that we could direct Donald to
31 develop our consensus?

32
33 MR. WILSON: Hopefully Donald has got
34 some staff to help him. Maybe just state OSM and staff.

35
36 (Laughter)

37
38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I guess
39 we're doi with this section here. We'll move to C&T.
40 You've got the floor, Robbin.

41
42 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
43 Again, I hope my briefing last night was helpful in
44 guiding you through our customary and traditional use
45 determination briefing. It's composed at the beginning
46 of the briefing, which includes an analysis responding
47 to Southeast's request for such an analysis. So that's
48 what the first part is.

49
50 Appendix B of the briefing is the back

1 story and in particular it summarizes the various
2 comments and actions taken by all of the RACs statewide
3 in response to Southeast's request to review the
4 customary and traditional use determination process one
5 more time. So this is kind of like the second review.
6 A brief summary of your comments and actions begin on
7 Page 27.

8

9 If you'd turn also to the briefing,
10 this briefing analyzes the effects of eliminating the
11 eight factors, allowing each Regional Advisory Council
12 to determine its own process to identify subsistence
13 users and requiring the Board to defer to Regional
14 Advisory Council recommendations on customary and
15 traditional use determinations for each region. So you
16 can look at what it might look like from one area to
17 the next.

18

19 Again, this is an action item only in
20 that Southeast has requested you follow their progress
21 through this process, to comment on the usefulness of
22 the customary and traditional use determination process
23 as it stands and then perhaps to provide feedback as
24 they consider whether they might forward a change in
25 regulations or a proposed rule for the Board to
26 consider. So this is an ongoing process.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

31

32 MR. DUNAWAY: Again I managed to -- you
33 know, sometimes it's good to hear it all and just kind
34 of mull around it for a while and then sleep on it and
35 things will begin to gel for me. Personally, I'm very
36 inclined to support this proposal with the one
37 condition. This has been my ongoing fear that we
38 somehow do not allow or confer subsistence user status
39 out of region. I mean this in the situation like if
40 all of a sudden I had this status could I whiz up to
41 Barrow and join a polar bear hunt or sheep. I don't
42 think that's the intent here.

43

44 So I don't want to upset the apple cart
45 in that manner, but I want to recognize a community
46 that has a resource right out in front of it shouldn't
47 be denied access to it that I can think of. This is a
48 simple way to get at that unless I'm overlooking
49 something. I'm worried about that unintended
50 consequence. Otherwise I'm inclined to support it.

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

4

5 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. I just want

6 to make sure under -- the State subsistence rule, you

7 know, is different than customary and traditional uses.

8 We've just got to make sure we keep those

9 determinations on board.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

12

13 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame

14 Chair. After reviewing it, I think my statements from

15 yesterday I still stand behind. Because, in so doing,

16 I still -- we're different out here and I don't see

17 that their changing this proposal will affect us. So

18 if it helps them, fine. I rolled it around in my

19 brain. Again, I'm worried about unintended

20 consequences, which Dan also mentioned, but due to our

21 huge variety and diversity out here and everything from

22 cultures to uses of what we have available to us I

23 don't see an effect and I'm all for supporting other

24 subsistence users even in other areas of the state to

25 ensure that the proper people have access to the

26 resources.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.

29

30 MR. MAINES: Thank you, Madame Chair.

31 I guess I'm going to ask my idiotic question anyhow.

32 Again, this is a request from Southeast to this board

33 or any board in other regions too to allow them to

34 check out and see if the customary and traditional way

35 that's in the law right now works for them, whether or

36 not to get rid of the criteria or refer to RAC or

37 someone else. This is their proposal. They just want

38 our support for them to go ahead and do what they want

39 to do. Is that correct?

40

41 MS. LAVINE: Through the Chair. I

42 believe they would like support. I have an

43 understanding that their proposed rule would change --

44 if they were to change regulations -- would change the

45 way customary and traditional use determinations for

46 species and communities are made statewide. They are

47 looking for some regional independence. They are

48 looking for the Councils to determine the customary and

49 traditional use determinations for their regions.

50

1 They're looking, I think, to liberate
2 themselves from a species-by-species process and a
3 community-by-community process or particular users. I
4 believe they are looking to say, well, if you're from
5 this community and you were to move out from this
6 community and you come across a number of different
7 species, that you have customary and traditional use to
8 harvest whatever you come across. Some communities may
9 only have customary and traditional use let's say for
10 salmon and they have to go through the process -- or
11 let's say a salmon, sockeye or chinook, they have to go
12 through the process again for a different salmon or a
13 different species or a different kind of fish or moose
14 or caribou.

15
16 I believe that in your region it's kind
17 of all been done. You have actually -- it's gone
18 through most of these species and most of the
19 communities and you have done a laborious process to
20 ensure that your residents have access to these species
21 and that would not change. What would change is the
22 process for determining new species and potentially
23 maybe for all species. So they're looking for a little
24 bit of liberation and it's my understand that depending
25 on what the Councils say that you will have an
26 opportunity to weigh in on later whatever it is they
27 forward to the Board.

28
29 MS. MORRIS LYON: Because it would be a
30 statewide proposal.

31
32 MS. LAVINE: Yes, it would be.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy, you're
35 still thinking about this?

36
37 MR. MAINES: Uh-huh.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Anybody
40 else. Again, I want to invite anyone from the floor
41 and the phones to make a comment regarding this.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I guess my
46 only -- it's not really a concern, but our closest
47 conflicting -- well, it could be a future conflict that
48 we share resources with and have similar customary and
49 traditional information with is Unit 18. I guess
50 because both of our resources are pretty plentiful now,

1 except with our roaming moose and caribou, and seeing
2 that Y-K is in support of Southeast -- when we did
3 these action items, I guess we proposed to stay
4 neutral, is that my understanding? I guess that would
5 be my future outlook on this as far as C&T. On the
6 other hand, like I mentioned earlier, we're pretty much
7 inline with our Unit 18 hunters as far as sharing our
8 resources with. I don't know if this makes sense to
9 have that concern. You know, Y-K is in support of
10 Southeast. I guess we're moving differently now.

11

12 I guess we have Courtenay online.

13

14 MS. CARTY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
15 For the record, Courtenay Carty, Bristol Bay Native
16 Association. I don't know if I'm reading this
17 differently than the discussion of the RAC members and
18 even Robbin is having, but I'm looking in the briefing
19 that I have to access out of the Southeast Council book
20 since it wasn't in our book, but thankfully I was
21 directed to the right place.

22

23 What I hear Robbin saying is that our
24 determinations are already made. This would only
25 affect new determinations. However, what's written in
26 this briefing is absolutely the opposite of that. In
27 this table -- and I don't know what page numbers or
28 what you guys are looking at, but I'm in the Southeast
29 Council book on Page 29 and 30.

30

31 Under the current customary and
32 traditional use determination language they're giving
33 an example here for Bristol Bay regional affects on
34 moose in Unit 17A and it's very specific. It's broken
35 down into five separate determinations for different
36 residents of game units as well as different
37 communities, but if this new language would be adopted,
38 it would now be open to -- moose in Unit 17 would be
39 open to all rural residents. So that would be dramatic
40 changes. So it would be open to all rural residents as
41 long as there's no management concern, but if there
42 were a concern to come up, then Section .804 would be
43 applied and it would limit back to those same five
44 factors or the five determinations that were previously
45 made and are currently in regulation.

46

47 So I think we might also be a little
48 bit confused about the implications of this proposed
49 proposal, I guess. We don't even have a proposed rule
50 in front of us, so I feel like in order to -- I mean

1 we've been discussing this for multiple Council
2 meetings now. In order to have some really productive
3 and meaningful discussion we need to have a proposed
4 rule in front of us to help, I guess, make those hard
5 determinations.

6

7 Then, again, you guys do have a copy of
8 the October 1st, 2014 letter from BBNA with our
9 original comments that I read into the record
10 yesterday.

11

12 I think that's all I have right now.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Robbin, do you
17 have a comment.

18

19 MS. LAVINE: I believe, actually, that
20 would be all rural residents within the region and it
21 would be regionally based. But I also believe that
22 Courtenay is correct and that we do need to see a final
23 proposed rule to support what it is that we are going
24 to be commenting on or you will be taking action on.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MS. CARTY: I'll just read this text if
29 I may, through the Chair. Most of Unit 17A is Federal
30 public lands within the Togiak National Wildlife
31 Refuge. In Unit 17A, if the moose population was large
32 enough, any rural resident would be eligible to hunt
33 moose in Federal seasons on Federal public lands. If
34 the Federal manager determined that only enough moose
35 were available to meet the needs of rural residents, he
36 could close Federal public lands to hunting under the
37 State season. If the Federal manager determined that
38 not enough moose were available to meet the needs of
39 all rural residents, he could ask the Board to adopt an
40 ANILCA Section .804 determination.

41

42 I think the language that is outlined
43 in the example states all rural residents and not just
44 within the region or off that GMU.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Troy.

47

48 MR. HAMON: Madame Chair, members of
49 the Council. For the record, my name is Troy Hamon and
50 I'm with the National Park Service. I have not been

1 involved in the details of this analysis. I have been
2 following it for a couple years since it started. My
3 contribution here is, my understanding of how it would
4 affect us as Federal managers, I think what Courtenay
5 is reading is only an example. It's not what would
6 happen. It's what could happen.

7

8 In your book, if you go back to Page 6,
9 there's a statement of effects of the proposal. What
10 it says is the proposed changes could not affect
11 existing C&T use determinations until a proposal was
12 submitted. My understanding of what Southeast is
13 proposing is that it would give you the latitude and
14 the option of having a broad use determination for
15 times when the resource is at an abundance that allows
16 it. It's not to force you to. It could be all rural
17 residents, which is what they have been focusing on.

18

19 Cases where you might clearly not want
20 to do that, Dan was mentioning sheep, where sheep
21 population statewide are highly contentious, generally
22 not abundant. You probably wouldn't, as a Council, be
23 too excited about all rural residents having access to
24 limited sheep. You might have an abundant ptarmigan
25 population, you might have an abundant moose population
26 in some subunit. You might have another location where
27 the animals are more restricted. You have the option
28 of making a broad determination, which you could say as
29 broad as you want.

30

31 In your case, it could be Unit 9 and
32 17, it could include Unit 18, it could be rural
33 residents statewide, and in a time when there's not
34 enough animals, you would have the existing more
35 restrictive language that you could put in place for
36 those times. My understanding is that they're trying
37 to give themselves and, by default, you guys option,
38 but nothing that would tie your hands.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

43

44 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Troy. I
45 think that is totally what my interpretation of this
46 was as well. It was like a major tool in the toolbox.
47 I do say major because after going over it again last
48 night and realizing what they were asking of me, which
49 I didn't realize yesterday, I saw it for exactly what
50 you're describing, the opportunity for if there's an

1 overabundance of moose in the Togiak Wildlife Refuge
2 and Andy needs to get some of them out of there, the
3 opportunity for Naknek residents to go over and
4 actually harvest some of those moose and/or somebody
5 else. I'm not saying that would happen, I'm just
6 saying that's a tool in the toolbox we would now have
7 available to us should it become necessary or
8 warranted.

9

10 MR. HAMON: And that's my
11 understanding. I think it's correct. Hopefully Robbin
12 or somebody else will correct me if I'm not.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

15

16 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you for that
17 clarification. That has been kind of nagging at me and
18 I was not able to extract it on my own. That alone I
19 see on a statewide basis could throw us into a really
20 ugly situation. It would also require us to go through
21 and comb through these regulations at another level, I
22 think, and make us do a lot of work on some real
23 individual regulations. This is going to insert a
24 whole new level, I think, and I am not eager to be a
25 party to where we're throwing the other sport hunters
26 and other users into a -- because there won't ever be
27 enough moose statewide even I don't think for just all
28 the rural qualified people statewide to get theirs.
29 That's my fear. Maybe ptarmigan, but moose, caribou,
30 other items. I think this could turn into a mess is my
31 initial gut reaction here. From what I understand
32 right now I'm totally opposed to this change.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Robbin and
37 then Lary.

38

39 MS. LAVINE: Thank you. Through the
40 Chair. I just wanted to restate that this is a
41 proposal to change how determinations are made. From
42 this point forward, all determinations as they are
43 currently in the regulations would remain unless you
44 decided to change or you move forward with changes from
45 here on out. So the regulations as they are would
46 stand. It would not require a slogging through of
47 every single one unless you felt it was necessary.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.
2
3 MR. HILL: On the surface, my feeling
4 about, okay, it's okay for us to let somebody do all
5 the work and find all these extra tools for us to maybe
6 manage our own system, which I feel like we're doing
7 well already. Again, someone outside of our area to
8 tell us how we should do our own work and manage our
9 own area, the old expression is if it's not broken,
10 don't fix it.
11
12 I understand there is some support
13 needed. I feel like we could maybe support what
14 they're doing but not be bound by their actions. As to
15 how determinations are made, we already have something,
16 I think, in process. I could support their actions,
17 but not be bound by what they're doing.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard, did
20 you.....
21
22 MR. WILSON: No, go ahead.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.
25
26 MS. MORRIS LYON: Just real quick.
27 Yes, I hear what Dan is saying, I hear the dangers
28 involved. My comments in support are exactly that. I
29 want to see what they're going to bring to the table.
30 I'm not opposed to having them bring something to the
31 table. I don't know that I will support what they
32 finally do.
33
34 It is also my understanding, and I want
35 to make sure that this is clarified for myself as well,
36 that this is merely a ghost proposal at this point.
37 That they want to find out how other RACs feel about
38 it. By saying I would support looking at something
39 like this, that's exactly what I mean. I don't mean
40 that I'll stand behind it in the long run. I don't
41 mean that I think the wheel should be reinvented like I
42 think Lary so well just put as well because I do think
43 what we have going on here is worth fixing, but I also
44 understand that other RACs might be struggling. I'm
45 willing to look at what they may have as a solution.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard, did
48 you have a comment.
49
50 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. That's

1 probably where I'll stand with this. I'm willing to
2 look further at some final language that would come out
3 of this to see if it would benefit us or not.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
6 other comments.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any other
11 comments from the floor.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Robbin.

16
17 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
18 Just a thought. If there is anything that you can say.
19 You can support them in their process. You could also
20 add comments to say as you're moving through this, this
21 part really works for us or this part doesn't or you
22 can make recommendations or just say as far as we're
23 concerned it works very well for us, but we'd like to
24 see what you come up with. So you can provide some
25 kind of direction as well as comments.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

28
29 MS. MORRIS LYON: With that, if I may,
30 I'll put together an attempt, a stab at doing exactly
31 that. Saying, as a board, could I ask possibly for a
32 vote in support of letting the Southeast RAC know that
33 we support what they're doing and don't know that we
34 will support the final language, but encourage them to
35 move forward and we will take a look at the final
36 product as long as it also includes not removing what
37 we have in place out here right now because it's
38 working for us.

39
40 Could I put that on the table. Would
41 anybody give me a second on that.

42
43 MR. WILSON: I'll second it.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: there's a
46 motion and second by Richard. Comments. Billy.

47
48 MR. MAINES: I just want to get a
49 clarification. I would amend it not to the point where
50 it changes the intent, but say that the Bristol Bay RAC

1 supports the process that Southeast is going through to
2 solve other issues they may have with their C&T, but we
3 would like to be included with their process or as they
4 go through the process to come up with whatever their
5 final product is and that it doesn't harm our C&T here
6 in our region. I mean, to me, that's.....

7

8 MR. HILL: The same thing.

9

10 MR. MAINES: Yeah, it's the same thing.
11 It's just we're supporting the process that they're
12 wanting to go through and I think that's what their
13 proposal or their request is, that they get support
14 from other RACs for their process that they're going
15 through, which is their proposal.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Dan.

18

19 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, that's fair enough
20 to have them take a look. Like I say, I feel for them.
21 If they somehow can't use clams in their front yard or
22 whatever, that stuff has got to get fixed. If this
23 turns into a mechanism to disenfranchise a significant
24 part of the state from even more limited hunting to no
25 hunting, I'm not keen on it. But, yeah, I'll look at
26 what they have. When there's something more concrete
27 to respond to, it would be helpful.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 MR. WILSON: Question.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There's been
34 the question called. All in favor say aye.

35

36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
39 opposition.

40

41 (No opposing votes)

42

43 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Seeing none.
44 Motion carries. I think we are through with this.
45 Thanks, Robbin, for helping us through this. The time
46 now is 12:00. Maybe we can break for lunch until 1:00
47 and then we'll continue fast forward with pace. We'll
48 start putting time limits starting with 1:00.

49

50 (Off record)

1 (On record)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I'm going to
4 call the meeting back to
5 order. Let me see if I can keep this straight. We're
6 going to be dealing with red fish Board of Fish
7 proposal. We told you earlier that 10(f) is going to
8 be moved down to the agency reports under National Park
9 Service. Then we'll get into new business (a) wildlife
10 closure review and then we -- why don't you do this.

11

12 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
13 Just for clarification, on the remaining action items
14 for the agenda, we'll begin with the red fish Board of
15 Fish proposal. That shouldn't take very long and then
16 the National Park Service collections on antlers will
17 be moved to agency reports under NPS. Then under new
18 business management will go through Wildlife Closure
19 Reviews 14-04/06. After that's completed, we'll go to
20 Special Action 15-01. Once that's completed, the next
21 agenda item for action is the 2014 annual report and
22 then charter revisions. After those two are completed,
23 my suggestion to the Regional Advisory Council is to
24 move down to future meeting dates to confirm our fall
25 meeting dates.

26

27 Thank you, Madame Chair.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
30 Donald. Could you help with the process as we go.
31 This is all marked up. This is getting as bad as
32 yesterday, but I think we can do it. We're under 10(e)
33 red fish Board of Fish proposal.

34

35 Whose got that?

36

37 MR. MIKE: I do. Thank you, Madame
38 Chair. If the Council recalls at our last winter
39 meeting, the red fish issue was brought before the
40 table and we had some suggested language for the
41 Council to endorse. I worked with Richard Wilson from
42 Naknek on a red fish proposal. At the last winter
43 meeting, the Council endorsed to submit a proposal. I
44 did write up a Board of Fish proposal and submitted
45 that.

46

47 In front of you you'll find this log
48 number EFC15-008. Richard Wilson and I worked on the
49 language and I went ahead and submitted it to the Board
50 of Fish electronically. Behind that document, if you

1 turn it around, it's got the current regulations under
2 Alaska Department of Fish and Game 2014-15 subsistence
3 personal use statewide fishing regulations. That's
4 what's in the books currently under State regulations.
5 Underneath that I have Federal regulations from the
6 National Park Service 15.120 for traditional red fish
7 fishery NPS regulations.

8

9 Then if you follow along, I also have
10 pink documents that outlines the current state
11 subsistence and personal use statewide fisheries
12 regulations. If you can look at the bold letters in
13 italics, that's a proposal that this Council submitted
14 to the Board of Fish and that's the recommended
15 language that the Council endorsed at the last winter
16 meeting.

17

18 Thank you, Madame Chair.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Donald,
21 I think we're missing two -- well, it looks like Billy,
22 Nanci and I don't have the documents, especially the
23 pink one.

24

25 MR. MIKE: Okay. Anyway, it's just for
26 your information only. This information is what the
27 Council endorsed at their last winter meeting and I
28 went ahead and submitted a proposal to the Board of
29 Fish and it was accepted. This is informational. In
30 our fall meeting, I think what the Council needs to do
31 is identify a Council member to attend the Board of
32 Fish meeting and testify on behalf of their proposal.

33

34 Thank you, Madame Chair.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I guess
37 we need to do that. Nanci.

38

39 MS. MORRIS LYON: I would put forward
40 Richard's name if he would take it into consideration
41 since he was the main author on the wording for this
42 proposal.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Richard
45 has been chosen to attend.

46

47 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Only if it
48 makes sense. If there's somebody else out there that
49 can do this, I'd go that route also. But thank you.
50 What, three years, four years in the running here we

1 finally get this on paper. Thanks to the Park Service
2 and the efforts.....

3

4 MS. MORRIS LYON: I think even longer
5 than that.

6

7 MR. WILSON: Yeah. Everybody's efforts
8 that we've been able to formulate this red fish
9 proposal up in the Katmai National Park. Donald and I
10 have been working through this, emails and the final
11 language. The only thing, besides us here looking at
12 it, I want to make sure Troy and that department is
13 okay with this language also. So if you could just put
14 your blessing on this thing.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

17

18 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. As I stated
19 earlier, it's for informational for the Council and we
20 can bring this up at our fall meeting and identify a
21 Council member to attend the Board of Fish. They'll be
22 sitting on a committee and help clarify the proposed
23 regulations.

24

25 Thank you, Madame Chair.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

28

29 MS. MORRIS LYON: I think that was
30 already covered, but to make sure it's on the record,
31 then please make sure this is on the agenda. I would
32 still maintain my nomination of Richard to be our
33 representative.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

36

37 MR. HILL: Is it possible to comment on
38 some of the wording of this EFC15-008, some of the
39 definitions?

40

41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I think so,
42 yeah. Lary, go ahead.

43

44 MR. HILL: Well, specifically what is
45 meant by beach seines? It says gillnet and beach seine.
46 To me, a beach seine is one where your mesh is about an
47 inch square and you encompass the fish and bring them
48 to shore, take the ones you want. You have no bycatch
49 and that's a beach seine. A gillnet is different. A
50 gillnet is very difficult to release the bycatch

1 without harming the gills and it's really time
2 consuming. You get a lot of fish that you really don't
3 want.

4

5 So does beach seine actually mean a
6 seine or is it a method?

7

8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

9

10 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, Councilman
11 Hill. Yes, it does. For that purpose we put in beach
12 seine so that we can release untargeted species
13 unharmed. So it doesn't actually spell out mesh size,
14 which I don't really believe it's necessary at this
15 point. It's not like everybody in Naknek is doing
16 this. It's a very few that participate. Yeah, that
17 was our intention, just to -- the mesh size being small
18 enough so they don't gill so you can release untargets.

19

20 MR. HILL: Can I comment on that?

21

22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes, Lary.

23

24 MR. HILL: That's what I wanted to
25 understand because beach seine in our area was
26 considered a method but only using a gillnet as a beach
27 seine. So I want to make sure that that's not
28 referring to a gillnet, which is a legal size mesh size
29 which you have to use for your commercial fishing. As
30 long as it's beach seine where you use it in a way that
31 you don't take fish that you don't need.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

36

37 MR. MIKE: Yes, Madame Chair. I think
38 it would be wise for this Council to place this on our
39 fall meeting agenda and bring up these technical issues
40 on the proposal and develop our comments at the winter
41 meeting prior to the Board of Fish so that way you have
42 a representative ready to testify with the prepared
43 statements.

44

45 Thank you, Madame Chair.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thanks, Lary.
48 I think that beach seine wording we need to visit
49 because I do beach seining and I have a certain mesh
50 size that I use. Just in case it becomes a problem,

1 yeah, I think we need to visit this at our fall
2 meeting. Any other comment.

3

4 MR. DUNAWAY: I'd like to hear from
5 Troy.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay, Troy. I
8 guess we're ready for you.

9

10 MR. HAMON: Madame Chair, members of
11 the Council. I came up specifically just so I could
12 be available if there were questions. I've read the
13 proposal. There's two things, maybe three quick
14 things. One is it largely mirrors the intent of the
15 working group that we put together with Mr. Wilson and
16 others and it looks like it accomplishes that. It adds
17 the ability to use beach seine without restricting the
18 things that are already in regulation. That's the
19 intent of addition of beach seine from prior
20 conversation.

21

22 The Idavain Creek is something that Mr.
23 Wilson was interested in adding that was afterwards, so
24 if there's any additional concern it would be the
25 addition of the location. It looks like the seasons
26 that are proposed mitigate the potential for issues
27 with the heavy tourist season there, so it doesn't
28 strike me as a problem.

29

30 The one thing about it that is just a
31 minor technical is Idavain is not spelled in the manner
32 it's spelled on the map, so we should make sure that's
33 correct before it goes in.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. It
38 sounds like we'll revisit this in the fall. So let's
39 just leave it at that for now. Thank you, Troy. Are
40 we ready to move on to the next agenda item, which is
41 under new business, wildlife closure reviews.

42

43 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
44 Members of the Council. For the record, my name is Tom
45 Jennings. I'm a biologist in the Wildlife Division in
46 the Office of Subsistence Management.

47

48 Before I address these specific
49 wildlife closure proposals, I just want to give you a
50 brief summary of the closure review process and that's

1 in your booklet on Page 14. You've probably already
2 looked at it. OSM reviews wildlife closures every
3 three years to determine if the justification of the
4 closure is still consistent with the Federal
5 Subsistence Board's closure policy. I need to point
6 out a typo on Page 14. 2008 should be 2011. That's
7 when we last did these reviews.

8

9 ANILCA allows for the Federal
10 Subsistence Board to restrict or close the taking of
11 fish and wildlife by subsistence and non-subsistence
12 users on Federal public lands when necessary for, one,
13 the conservation of healthy populations of fish and
14 wildlife and, two, to continue subsistence users of
15 such populations.

16

17 Recognizing that the distribution and
18 abundance of fish and wildlife populations can
19 fluctuate along with subsistence use patterns, the
20 Board decided in 2007 to conduct closure reviews every
21 three years or earlier if new information becomes
22 available that would potentially allow the closure to
23 be lifted. That's in paragraph three.

24

25 Councils are asked to consider the OSM
26 preliminary recommendation, share their views on the
27 issue and make a recommendation to the Board. Input
28 from the Councils is critical to the development of
29 regulatory proposals needed to address adjustments to
30 regulations. After the Council considers the closure
31 review, they have three options, which should be in
32 the form of an action item.

33

34 One is to maintain the status quo,
35 which is obviously closed, either modify it or rescind.
36 If the Council recommends to modify or rescind the
37 closure, they should submit a proposal as a separate
38 action item at this time. Councils may choose to work
39 with OSM staff to develop a proposal; however,
40 proposals
41 addressing these issues can be submitted by other
42 individuals or organizations as well.

43

44 Regardless of the Council
45 recommendation, closures remain in effect until changed
46 by the Federal Subsistence Board. Any regulatory
47 proposals that may result from this review process will
48 be considered through the normal regulatory cycle.
49 That's published in your book as well. That's on Page
50 20. The current window for wildlife proposals for the

1 2016-2018 regulatory cycle closes on March 25, 2015.
2 Those proposals that would be submitted would then be
3 heard by the Federal Subsistence Board I believe in
4 January of 2016.

5
6 So that concludes the brief summary.
7 Does anybody have any questions on the policy itself?

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 MR. JENNINGS: If not, I'll go right
12 into the Wildlife Closure Review 14-04/06 and that's on
13 Page 15 of your meeting book. The issue is the Federal
14 public lands in 9C remainder, which is south of Alagnak
15 River drainage and Unit 9E are closed to the taking of
16 caribou. You can see that area on Page 47 of your
17 wildlife regulations booklet or on your regional map
18 that you all have.

19
20 The closure was initiated in 1999 to
21 non-Federally qualified users and in 2006 was closed to
22 all users because of the continued decline of the
23 Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou population. The
24 closure was last reviewed in 2010 and at the 2011
25 winter meeting this Council recommended to retain the
26 closure for the continued conservation efforts of the
27 herd.

28
29 The herd has ranged throughout Units 9C
30 and 9E, generally encompassing the area from
31 Naknek/King Salmon area down the Alaska Peninsula near
32 Port Moller. Historically, the population has
33 fluctuated from 2,000 to 20,000 animals when comparing
34 records since 1900. Most recently, the high population
35 was estimated at 20,000 in 1984 and has declined until
36 2008. You can see those figures in Table 1. From 2009
37 on, the population has slowly risen to about 3,000
38 animals.

39
40 The State management objectives for the
41 herd are 35 bulls per 100 cows and a population of
42 12,000 to 15,000 animals. Composition counts since the
43 last closure review suggests the estimated population
44 is increasing. Surveys in October of 2014 resulted in
45 ratios of 34 calves per 100 cows, 40 bulls per 100 cows
46 and a rough population estimate of at least 2,700
47 caribou. The current bull:cow ratio exceeds the State
48 management objective for the herd, but the population
49 size remains well below the
50 management objective.

1 The decline of the herd prompted both
2 the Alaska Board of Game and the Federal Subsistence
3 Board to implement more restrictive harvest regulations
4 beginning in the spring of 1999. The harvest is
5 summarized in Table 2.

6
7 Since 1999 those regulations were
8 intended to protect the survival of the herd while
9 allowing for a limited harvest of bull caribou for
10 qualified subsistence users. Since the 2005 fall
11 season there have been no permits issued because of the
12 continued decline of the herd.

13
14 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
15 maintain the status quo for WCR14-04/06. The
16 justification is while Northern Alaska Peninsula
17 Caribou Herd composition data has continued to improve,
18 including a recent bull:cow ratio above the State
19 management objective, the population estimate is still
20 well below the State management objective. The current
21 bull:cow ratio and potentially increasing population
22 indicates there could be a small harvestable surplus of
23 bulls. Managers would like to observe the continued
24 bull:cow ratio being achieved again before reinstating
25 a hunt.

26
27 This herd has not yet recovered enough
28 to resume general harvest of the population but
29 continued positive survey results may allow for resumed
30 subsistence harvest of surplus bulls in the future. A
31 limited subsistence hunt of surplus bulls could occur
32 while still allowing the herd to grow. However, until
33 future survey results can be achieved similar to the
34 2014 observations, the herd should not be considered as
35 recovered enough to resume a
36 harvest.

37
38 At this time, Federal public lands
39 should remain closed for the conservation of a healthy
40 population. The necessity of the closure to Federal
41 public lands in the affected area will be
42 reassessed in three years, per the Federal Subsistence
43 Board review process, or sooner if additional survey
44 data suggest the closure should be lifted. Most likely
45 the closure would be first lifted to Federally
46 qualified subsistence users.

47
48 That concludes this review, Madame
49 Chair. I'll try to answer any questions you may have.
50 I would acknowledge the area biologist from the State,

1 Dave Crowley, and the Refuge biologist Dom Watts
2 contributed to the recent survey data and their
3 on-the-ground knowledge of the herd.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

8

9 MR. HILL: Can we go back to Page 17 on
10 your chart. The asterisk at the bottom says from 2005
11 to 2014 the estimate of herd size is based on fall
12 composition surveys that were not designed to estimate
13 population size and are considered a minimum count of
14 herd size. How often is this herd surveyed if you
15 can't use this to estimate the herd size?

16

17 MR. JENNINGS: I think our local staff
18 might be able to address that a little better than I,
19 but I think their intent is to get annual data, annual
20 counts. The surveys that are designed to do the
21 population estimates can't be achieved because of the
22 way the animals are dispersed so those methods -- maybe
23 I'll ask Dom if he could step up here and address that
24 perhaps.

25

26 MR. WATTS: Madam Chair. Members of
27 the Council. For the record, Dominique Watts, Fish and
28 Wildlife Service. Essentially what you have is two
29 types of surveys here and what we're looking at with
30 these numbers is the composition survey, so that gives
31 you health and trend of the herd, recruitment. It
32 gives you an idea of what you can expect in the future.
33 When you want to estimate herd size, you usually do
34 what's called post-calving counts. So that's after all
35 the cows calve, everybody comes together.

36

37 What we've had in the NAP recently is
38 essentially after they've done their calving they're
39 not getting in those big groups and they're calving
40 spread out all over the primary historical calving
41 areas, like in the Cinder River, Aniakchak, but they're
42 also doing it up in the mountains. We tried to do
43 those surveys to get a feel for if the population was
44 increasing or, at that time, continuing to decline.
45 Our sample sizes were really, really small.

46

47 Basically these caribou were moving up
48 into the mountains in small groups of three, four, five
49 cows with or without calves and they were very
50 difficult to find. So we were actually seeing more

1 caribou in the fall during the rut in these October
2 surveys than we could find when they were spread out.
3 We just kind of basically quit doing those until maybe
4 there's going to be some behavioral changes. At this
5 point, this is actually these minimum estimates. At
6 least we know this is giving us a better reading of
7 what's going on. Then, of course, the calf survival
8 and what we can expect to see is also really important.

9

10 MR. HILL: Thank you.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

13

14 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Thank you.
15 You know, first off, I didn't know we needed to get up
16 to 14-15,000 before they felt comfortable about opening
17 this up. For some reason 3,600 or something was in my
18 head for that Northern Peninsula Herd. Once again,
19 here we are, it's a resource that the human population
20 here would at least minimally like to get on. We don't
21 have any real counts. I know it's difficult. Some
22 areas have managed to get some -- instead of
23 composition counts they've gotten some actual numbers.
24 Pretty good estimates.

25

26 It's hard for me to sit here and
27 knowing that our population is -- you know, the calf to
28 cow ratio and bull to cow is doing good. It just seems
29 like the necessity -- there's a need, but we still
30 don't have any good numbers, any population numbers to
31 go by to help the people on the way. They've been
32 standing by for so long and want to be able to get a
33 caribou once in a while.

34

35 You say those efforts are -- you can't
36 do it now or you've got to have snow coverage to do
37 caribou too or no or what's the reasoning, I guess,
38 behind not -- I understand they're spread out, but a
39 Cub going 90 miles an hour, you know, for a day's time
40 you can cover some pretty good ground there. If you
41 can explain, please.

42

43 MR. WATTS: Madame Chair. Members of
44 the Council. Basically when we do those post-calving
45 surveys, when we try to do them anyway, we had several,
46 two, three airplanes. We used even 180s to try to
47 cover more ground. We were still seeing more animals
48 in the fall. So these fall composition surveys, the
49 minimum we're seeing there, is probably a better index
50 of what's going on.

1 One thing I do want to point out, that
2 population objective size you were referring to, the
3 14,000, that's not necessarily where you have to get
4 before you're going to allow harvest, not in any case
5 actually. So once you start seeing population trends
6 going up and a harvestable surplus, you can begin to
7 start harvesting prior to those population objectives.
8 That number is an ideal population size that Fish and
9 Game would try to manage. Dave can come up here and
10 fill in too. That's basically what they're shooting
11 for, but you can start harvesting before that. I would
12 expect if these trends do continue as the way we're
13 seeing them that there would be harvest before we get
14 to that 14,000 mark.

15
16 Does that help?

17
18 MR. WILSON: Yes, it does. Thank you.
19 At our fall meeting I had suggested that in the
20 regulation if there's a clause in there that allows us
21 to EO an opening prior to this three-year cycle, that
22 we need that in place. I guess I was kind of unsure
23 that there was something in place, but if somebody
24 could answer that, that would be good.

25
26 MR. JENNINGS: As I mentioned in the
27 closure review process, we do have the ability to
28 revisit these closures before these three-year-review
29 cycles. So if the population trends and the health of
30 the herd are indicating that there could be some
31 harvest that could be considered to open, then yes.
32 That would be possibly through a special action,
33 something like that.

34
35 MR. WILSON: I guess that's why I was
36 asking for a count because we're getting so anxious to
37 get on. You know, you get a caribou that -- you know,
38 without any -- I mean you can do composition surveys
39 and I guess if you had 10,000, you get composition
40 surveys, you'd probably say, okay, I guess we're good
41 enough. Being down 2,700, 3,000 and you're just doing
42 composition surveys, is it a good enough reflection
43 that -- is there 8,000 more out there that would allow
44 us to open it?

45
46 I'm just getting anxious about getting
47 some real numbers. You say this lower end is possible.
48 Well, we don't know where that -- what's the -- you
49 know, 3,200? 3,400? You know, when -- I mean what is
50 that lowest number that you would feel comfortable with

1 so we can start looking at this?

2

3 MS. MORRIS LYON: Dave, if you have an
4 answer, I would encourage you to join us at the table
5 here.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 MR. CROWLEY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
10 Members of the Council. My name is Dave Crowley. I'm
11 the King Salmon area wildlife biologist for the
12 Department of Fish and Game. Been here just shy of a
13 couple years and before here I was in Cordova for 14
14 years.

15

16 I do have some more information on the
17 NAP Caribou Herd. We intend to open a season as soon
18 as next year, 2016. In regulation, there's levels set
19 and I can't recall exactly what they are for the NAP,
20 but if we're under a certain level of harvestable
21 quota, say 1,500, then we are allowed to open a Tier II
22 drawing hunt for residents only. If we're between,
23 say, and this is again an example, we're between 1,500
24 and 2,200, then we can move to a registration hunt,
25 Tier I registration hunt for residents only. What we
26 call a subsistence hunt. Then above a certain level we
27 can open it up to non-residents.

28

29 I've seen enough recovery in this herd
30 and I'm optimistic that we can hold a hunt this fall.
31 It's going to be very limited. I kind of want to feel
32 my way back into harvesting on this herd because it's
33 hard to say how much participation there's going to be
34 right off the bat, how much hunter success. So we're
35 going to have a minimum hunt, I suspect, and just kind
36 of manage it proactively from one year to the next.
37 That's kind of our intentions here in the next couple
38 of years.

39

40 MR. WILSON: Thanks, Dave. That's
41 exactly what I wanted to
42 hear.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 MR. WILSON: You know, people up and
47 down this coastline, we have a generation that's old
48 enough now to hunt and they know nothing of this
49 caribou. It's just a great thing to be at that point
50 again or close to that point where we can start

1 introducing our youth to this resource. So it's a good
2 thing.

3

4 Thank you, Dave.

5

6 MR. CROWLEY: Thank you.

7

8 MS. MORRIS LYON: Since Molly handed me
9 the gavel, I'm going to take the liberty of possibly
10 jumping in front of a few others, but my question
11 hopefully is brief and may add clarity for others as
12 well.

13

14 I want to know -- maybe this is more
15 for Tom than you, Dave, but I wanted you here in case.
16 So my wishes -- I echo Richard's sentiments. I want to
17 be wise as a Council member. Is it my correct
18 assumption that we would be thoughtful in also pursuing
19 your recommendation on this because it's not going to
20 preclude the ability for us to have a Tier II hunt as
21 available as long as we keep the status quo on the
22 closure. I just want to make sure that we're all on
23 the same page. If we maintain that closure, we're
24 mostly saying this is not an open-to-the-public herd
25 for hunting, but yet we're still going to be able to
26 potentially have animals available. Does that make
27 sense?

28

29 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, that makes sense to
30 me. The State hunt would be, as you said, a Tier II
31 hunt and you've got to be qualified for that, certain
32 criteria. Then any Federal hunt is only open to
33 Federally qualified residents.

34

35 MS. MORRIS LYON: Right I am trying to
36 get clarification for us as a board unit up here. I
37 want to make sure that if we vote to maintain status
38 quo on this herd, that should not all the animals be
39 taken on State grounds that could potentially be
40 available for harvest, we would be able to access
41 Federal grounds in order to accommodate that harvest.

42

43 MR. JENNINGS: Okay. Thank you. My
44 understanding would be it still remains closed
45 currently if you continue this closure. The Board
46 needs to change it to an open hunt and that would
47 require a proposal for them to take action on. So that
48 could be done in the form of a special action in the
49 nearest term unless you put one in in this proposal
50 period, which ends next month on the 25th. It sounds

1 like, given the data right now, it's a little
2 premature. He's forward-looking and being optimistic
3 as being able to allow for a hunt, Tier II, but not
4 this season. Even so, you're kind of guessing whether
5 that's truly going to happen or not. Those numbers
6 should be achieved some more I would think.

7

8 Regardless, you can do that in two
9 forms. You can put a proposal in right now or I would
10 say probably a special action when it's warranted if
11 you see action being taken on the State side.

12

13 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you. That does
14 help clarify it for me because I thought maybe we would
15 have more latitude than that and we'll have to
16 carefully consider what we may want to move forward
17 with, I think.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

20

21 MR. WILSON: Thank you. I'm just
22 trying to get this all figured out. So we have the
23 State regulation book and we have the Feds regulation
24 book here. The State is already on board with an EO.
25 They have the ability to open as they see the herd
26 population. On the Fed side of the stuff, we have to
27 go to a special action to the Board in order to open it
28 up, correct?

29

30 MR. JENNINGS: Through the Chair.
31 Yeah, Mr. Wilson, the special action does allow for
32 quicker resolution to an opportunity, so you wouldn't
33 be necessarily as constrained going through the full
34 regulatory process. So I think that would be something
35 that you could do to take advantage of an open season
36 like that.

37

38 MR. WILSON: So I guess with that then
39 is there something that this Council can do ahead of
40 the opportunity to have it in place. A special action,
41 I suppose there's got to be times and dates with it in
42 order for that to happen. It just seems like if we
43 could have that same flexibility in the Federal booklet
44 as we do in the State, so when the State decides that
45 this is an opportunity for a surplus harvest that we
46 can be on board with the Federal side at the same time
47 I guess is what I'm looking for.

48

49 MS. MORRIS LYON: I'm just wanting to
50 piggyback on Richard's comment, and, Richard, please

1 correct me, but I think I'm following you down your
2 same path. I'm wondering if we could, instead of
3 maintaining status quo, initiate a proposal to modify
4 the closure that would state if it was -- if the State
5 deemed it feasible to have a subsistence. I mean we
6 could make it specifically subsistence opening. At
7 that time the Federal lands would become open and
8 available for those permits to be fulfilled, something
9 along those lines.

10

11 Am I down your path and is that
12 something that would be feasible?

13

14 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, it is very
15 feasible. You could submit that proposal this cycle, I
16 believe.

17

18 MR. CROWLEY: And I'd like to point
19 out, Madame Chair, that we did just go through this
20 process in the SAP. We reopened hunting in 2013 on the
21 SAP under very similar circumstances where we started
22 with a Tier II drawing, which we're in now and
23 hopefully next year 2015 we will be going to a Tier I
24 registration hunt. So I assume as the Kodiak RAC took
25 some action to make that happen and this is just a few
26 years ago, so there would be a place to start.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

31

32 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Nanci and guys.
33 Well, good. I'd like to create this proposal before we
34 adjourn today for some informal language and then have
35 OSM put something together for us.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. If
40 there's no other comments. Donald, did you hear
41 Richard's request?

42

43 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. As the
44 presenter stated, there's a possibility we can submit a
45 special action request and at the same time submit a
46 proposal for our winter cycle or this proposal cycle.
47 Staff can correct me.

48

49 MR. JENNINGS: If I may. The Council
50 wants to be as opportunistic as possible, so you'd want

1 it -- whichever means we would go through, whether it
2 be a special action or through this regular. The Board
3 would consider the proposal in January of 2016, so,
4 yeah, they could take action on it in time for the fall
5 season, I believe.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

8

9 MS. MORRIS LYON: Right. That's the
10 season that you're hoping potentially may be available,
11 correct? So I guess what we're talking about doing,
12 Donald, is modifying a proposal that would state that
13 we, as a Board, would propose that Federal lands would
14 become available to hunting of the NAP herd if and when
15 the State deemed a hunt feasible within the guidelines
16 and parameters of hunt take for that particular hunt.
17 We might want to put a time certain on that because we
18 may want to change things around after those initial
19 hunts and/or maybe state that we want to revisit it
20 again at our next spring meeting. Yeah, because we
21 need to submit this by March 25th, correct?

22

23 Help me out here, Richard. Are we
24 getting there?

25

26 MR. WILSON: Yeah, Nanci. I like the
27 your language there on the proposal. I was almost
28 going to give it a second.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

33

34 MR. DUNAWAY: So help me out here. So
35 are we thinking about not approving this closure?

36

37 MS. MORRIS LYON: No. What we're
38 talking about doing is the
39 list of options on the bottom of Page 18 was what I was
40 working off of and they're recommending maintaining
41 status quo with the thought that special action would
42 be available. We're talking about having it as readily
43 available as possible instead of even waiting on a
44 special action and having it ready to go should the
45 opportunity take place and that's what I'm proposing
46 instead would be a proposal to put in March 25th
47 stating those things. Actually, could you just pull
48 them out of the minutes, please.

49

50 I'm just wanting to make sure that we

1 have it kind of all inclusive covering the things that
2 we need to cover on it. Also, I mean I think I can't
3 resist saying this too, but I would like to -- just
4 because the recovery of this herd has been so painfully
5 slow and some of the things that were stated this
6 morning, I would like still to have the State and
7 Federal management entities take a really good hard
8 look at potential predator control in the area in order
9 to reach the natural and biological diversity and
10 levels of this herd that we saw in 1980.
11 In the meantime, I would like us to be able to hunt
12 that herd when it became available.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

15

16 MR. DUNAWAY: So you're suggesting that
17 we go for the second one.

18

19 MS. MORRIS LYON: Modification.

20

21 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. I just wanted to
22 make sure if we were going to do a separate proposal
23 and support this or we're going to oppose the
24 recommendation here and come up with -- yeah, I think
25 we should be maybe not quite cocked, but definitely
26 loaded on that.

27

28 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah. Actually I'm
29 saying we should support it with modification. That
30 the closure remains in effect until the State would
31 deem a hunt feasible.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy. You
34 look like you have a question.

35

36 MR. MAINES: Well, Madame Chair, I
37 thought I was on track until that last comment. So, I
38 guess, Nanci, you're saying to go with OSM preliminary
39 recommendation of maintaining status quo with the
40 caveat that the State says it's okay to do a registered
41 hunt.

42

43 MS. MORRIS LYON: Until such time, that
44 is correct, because we do not want to open it up before
45 then.

46

47 MR. MAINES: Okay. Because I was
48 looking at initiate proposal to modify or eliminate the
49 closure since it was talked about putting together a
50 proposal and submitting that, that we're not going to

1 recommend closure -- well, we will recommend closure
2 but, at the same time, initiate a proposal to modify or
3 eliminate the closure itself altogether. So I'm just
4 under the assumption just because it's black and white
5 and I'm staring at it that I wouldn't go with
6 maintaining the status quo, that I would then recommend
7 that this Council initiate a proposal to modify or
8 eliminate the closure as it's recommendation.

9

10 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, I think I'm
11 just using different words, Billy. I'm right along
12 that same path and saying we want that closure in place
13 until such time a hunt is feasible.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Tom.

16

17 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you. So just the
18 terms, it's like you won't be maintaining the status
19 quo. That would be an indefinite closure until there's
20 another three-year review or another warranted change
21 that the biology shows that you can change it. So you
22 would just be modifying. We currently have a closure,
23 so you would modify it with your provisions that you've
24 stated already.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

27

28 MR. WILSON: Yes, that's the way I see
29 it too. Just another thought there. If and when this
30 does happen, that the opening and closing dates would
31 mimic what the State has so that there's no conflict
32 there. Hopefully that will be the same.

33

34 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes, Richard. Yes,
35 that was what I was looking for. I knew we needed
36 something there. I think that would cover that piece
37 right there on using the same dates. Again, for just a
38 little bit further explanation on the record, my
39 reasoning behind this is so that we wouldn't be limited
40 to just State lands for this hunt. We have so many
41 Federal lands for us in the King Salmon community,
42 Naknek area in particular, that are on Federal lands.
43 We would be able to access those lands and that animals
44 in the same manner if permits were issued to us.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Are we
47 good with this? The only comment I could make is I'm
48 glad I live in Dillingham area. The only Federal lands
49 that we deal with over there is Togiak Refuge and I
50 think Togiak Refuge lands are pretty well understood

1 and managed.

2

3 MR. JENNINGS: Yeah, a point was
4 brought to me. In terms of being specific in your
5 suggested proposal, that the closure would remain in
6 effect and if allowed by the population numbers that it
7 would be open to Federally qualified users only, not to
8 all. So that would be something in there.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes, that is correct.
13 That's what I keep looking over at Donald for and he
14 tries -- but if you could capture that in the
15 transcript, that is our purpose, is to make sure that
16 both Federal and State lands would be available for
17 hunting at the time that a hunt may be deemed available
18 for Federally qualified subsistence users.

19

20 MR. MAINES: Madame Chair.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.

23

24 MR. MAINES: Nanci, is that a motion?

25

26 MS. MORRIS LYON: Should it be?

27

28 MR. DUNAWAY: I think so.

29

30 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes.

31

32 MR. MAINES: I'll second it.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

35

36 MR. MAINES: Question.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: The question
39 has been called. All in favor say aye.

40

41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any

44 opposition.

45

46 (No opposing votes)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Seeing none.

49 This motion passed.

50

1 MR. MAINES: Doi.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Doi.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Moving on. I

8 guess we're down to 11E and F. Oh, that's right.

9 11(a)(1) is what were going to be dealing with things.

10 Moose special action.

11

12 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

13 I have an analysis of an emergency special action

14 request. This type of special action does not require a

15 public hearing but the timing and such that we are

16 providing this to your Council and look for a

17 recommendation that we can share with the Board. I

18 apologize it wasn't in the book but we just got this

19 recently and wasn't available.

20

21 So Emergency Special Action WSA15-01 is

22 submitted by the Alaska Peninsula/Becharof National

23 Wildlife Refuge. And it requests that a Federal

24 registration permit be required to hunt moose in Unit

25 9C, only that portion draining into the Naknek River

26 from the south during the August 20th to September 20th

27 season. A Federal registration permit is already

28 required for the December 1st to December 31st season.

29 The Unit 9C Federal fall moose hunt starts 12 days

30 before the State season and it continues for five days

31 beyond the State season as well. This hunt is only

32 open on Federal public lands on Unit 9C within the

33 Becharof National Wildlife Refuge. You can see that

34 area on your map one, the Big Creek area and that

35 extends down into the Refuge.

36

37 A State registration permit is required

38 for the fall portion of the Federal hunt, however

39 Federally qualified subsistence users in Unit 9C are

40 currently hunting with a permit whose dates differ from

41 that of the Federal season. The proponent is concerned

42 that this causes confusion and conflicts between the

43 State and Federally qualified subsistence users due to

44 the issuance of permits prior to the start of the State

45 season.

46

47 The proponent states that requiring a

48 Federal registration permit would alleviate concerns

49 and reduce confusion by simplifying requirements for

50 the entirety of the Federal season. Further

1 discussions with both State and Federal managers
2 indicated that although the requested special action
3 would be a change from the recommendations made by the
4 Unit 9 moose working group, both parties felt that
5 having a Federal registration permit for Unit 9C would
6 be preferable from a law enforcement and reporting
7 standpoint even if it may be less convenient for some
8 hunters.

9

10 I'll just try to be concise given the
11 timeline we've got here this afternoon. The regulatory
12 history, how we got here. Starting in 2008 proposals
13 were submitted to the Federal Board by this Council and
14 most of those proposals were to address user conflicts
15 and lower moose numbers. Specifically one of the
16 proposals was requesting closure of Federal public
17 lands to non-Federally qualified users in 9C of which
18 this action is proposed.

19

20 After extensive discussion and input
21 from the State of Alaska and the Council Chair the
22 proposals were deferred by the Board so a working group
23 could be formed to identify other management options
24 that would address conflicts in the subunits of Unit 9.
25 The working group discussed a number of management
26 strategies and came to consensus on three
27 recommendations and the main one was to submit
28 proposals to the Alaska Board of Game and the Federal
29 Subsistence Board to create the registration permit for
30 all the moose hunts in Unit 9. So that's what we're
31 really addressing right here, the intricacies of the
32 permit itself.

33

34 Both the Board of Game and Federal
35 Subsistence Board adopted proposals for creating a
36 registration hunt and more recently the Federal
37 Subsistence Board also adopted a proposal to lengthen
38 the fall season. That's why we have the disparity
39 between the permit dates. I believe this RAC submitted
40 that proposal to lengthen the season has well.

41

42 So I am going to skip over the
43 biological status of the moose and the harvest history
44 and get to the effects of the proposal. If this
45 special action is adopted, it would require Federally
46 qualified subsistence users to use a Federal
47 registration permit for the fall and winter moose
48 seasons in Unit 9C. Again that's the portion draining
49 into the Naknek River from the south while hunting on
50 Federal public lands. This hunt is only open on

1 Federal public lands of the Becharof Refuge. During
2 the December season users are already required to use a
3 Federal registration permit on Federal public lands
4 which are closed to the harvest of moose by non-
5 Federally qualified users.

6
7 This would reduce confusion among State
8 and Federally qualified subsistence users by having a
9 separate permit for reporting under the State hunt and
10 one for the Federal hunt which starts before and ends
11 after the State moose season is closed. This should
12 result in better harvest reporting as many Federal
13 hunters are unsure of reporting requirements while
14 using a State permit during Federal season.

15
16 Additionally, this should help reduce
17 conflict among user groups who often questioned why one
18 group is allowed to hunt while another is not while
19 they are both required to use the same permit. The
20 moose population in Unit 9 appears to be stable
21 although at low densities. Changing to a Federal
22 registration permit would have no effect on the most
23 population.

24
25 OSM's preliminary conclusion is to
26 support WSA15-01 and justification is both State Board
27 of Game and Federal Subsistence Board have passed
28 regulations aimed at minimizing user conflict among
29 moose hunters in Unit 9 in recent years, including the
30 use of State registration permit throughout the unit.
31 In Unit 9C, the use of this permit appears to have
32 resulted in conflict between the state Federally
33 qualified users due to the differing seasons and
34 issuance of these permits prior to the start of the
35 State season.

36
37 Additionally, the use of a State permit
38 has resulted in confusion for Federally qualified
39 subsistence users as they are unsure of the reporting
40 requirements while using this permit to hunt under the
41 Federal season that starts before and is longer than
42 the State season. Adding a Federal registration permit
43 for the entirety of the Federal season in Unit 9C
44 should help to reduce this confusion and result in
45 better harvest reporting by Federally qualified
46 subsistence users while also eliminating the potential
47 for conflict with the State. The fall season dates
48 could be added to the existing Federal registration
49 permit required for the December hunt in 9C.

50

1 That concludes the special action
2 summary.
3
4 Thank you.
5
6 Any questions?
7
8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.
9
10 MR. HILL: I'm going to maybe throw a
11 little monkey wrench in the works here. Either
12 intentionally or unintentionally the State season seems
13 to coincide with the rut of the moose, which makes it
14 easier in my opinion for the trophy hunters to get the
15 bull moose because they're easier to get because they
16 are fearless and you can call them real easily during
17 that time.
18
19 Now August 20th they're not so far into
20 the rut and you can get better usable meat. I feel
21 like if it goes into the rut, you will not get as many
22 moose be killed by the local users because they aren't
23 after trophies they are after the meat. So I just
24 wanted to throw that in as maybe it was intentionally
25 open during the earlier times to get the more usable
26 meat from the moose than you would if you were a trophy
27 hunter.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.
30
31 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. They must
32 have got tired of us coming in asking how come, why
33 this, why that every year, you know. You had to go to
34 one entity to get the registration permit and then the
35 other one goes you don't need one and it's like huh.
36 But they are different times, so yeah. This could
37 clean up a bunch of that. I like the idea of aligning
38 the dates because like I said that's always been a
39 confusion. It is on Federal lands. This is basically
40 Big Creek that we are talking about here, south of the
41 Naknek, that's basically Big Creek and that's where are
42 the confusion is and that's probably about the only
43 place that you can find a moose nowadays.
44
45 But, yeah, I'm kind of in favor of
46 this. September 15th just doesn't seem like it's
47 enough even though we are out there for two weeks
48 already. We don't get to see them until the 15th of
49 September and then they start showing themselves. So
50 it's a crazy world that we live in. It's getting

1 warmer, you know, they aren't moving until later. The
2 same thing is happening up Big Creek. Some are getting
3 them on early, but they're able to get them right until
4 the end of the closure there.

5
6 I like the language.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

9
10 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. We're having
11 static interference on our units in this room here.
12 Whoever called in in the last 10, 15 minutes, can you
13 please hang up and try calling again. I think the last
14 person calling has static and it's transferring into
15 our system.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.

20
21 MR. MAINES: Thank you, Madame Chair.
22 Richard, did I hear that you made a motion to approve
23 the emergency moose special action WSA15-01? Were you
24 making that motion?

25
26 MR. WILSON: Well, let's hear
27 discussion from the Council here first before I get
28 that far along.

29
30 MR. MAINES: We can always discuss it
31 once.....

32
33 MR. WILSON: True. I guess I will make
34 the motion.

35
36 MR. MAINES: I'll second it.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There's been a
39 motion to I guess deal with the WSA15-01. Is that the
40 right one?

41
42 MR. WILSON: Yes.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And a second.
45 Discussion. Dan.

46
47 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
48 I was wondering since we have a State biologist here
49 has he reviewed this and what does he think.
50

1 MR. CROWLEY: Madame Chair. Dave
2 Crowley, Department of Fish and Game. I have reviewed
3 this, had several discussions with the Refuge as well
4 as our troopers in King Salmon, Fish and Wildlife
5 troopers, and we all agree that this would be a good
6 way to go.
7
8 Thank you.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.
11
12 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you and that's very
13 helpful. It looks like another biologist is eager to
14 say something, so I would be eager to hear from him.
15
16 Thank you, Mr. Crowley.
17
18 MR. HAMON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
19 Members of the Council. My name is Troy Hamon with the
20 National Park Service. The only thing I wanted to add
21 is the Refuge has run this by us and we've run it
22 around our office trying to sort it out and I spoke
23 with Dave Monday and got the State perspective. It
24 makes sense.
25
26 What I do want to say is that this
27 leaves in Unit 9 a State registration permit for
28 Federal season on the Alagnak River and in the Katmai
29 Preserve on the window of September 15th to September
30 20. This solves the local potential for issues with
31 understanding of which permits work for what on Big
32 Creek, but there is a Federal season in the remainder
33 of Unit 9C that is different from the State season and
34 as this is written you would still use a State
35 registration permit for that hunt. That's just
36 informational, but if that was an improvement you could
37 choose to make a suggestion.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.
40
41 MS. MORRIS LYON: I don't even know who
42 to address this question to and it might be you or Dom
43 or possibly Donald, but I thought about that and
44 wondered how it would affect those hunts up north. Is
45 there any way that it could be printed on the permit so
46 that people, especially specifically substance users
47 are aware of that difference so that -- I mean I think
48 that that could cover that.
49
50 MR. WATTS: Madame Chair. Through the

1 Chair. Dominique Watts, Fish and Wildlife. Yeah,
2 we're still kind of fine tuning exactly what that
3 permit is going to say and so we can easily add
4 provisions like this is only applicable in the 9C
5 draining in from the south. It will say that.

6
7 I would also like to point out that in
8 the original working group one of the things we were
9 striving to do was get better reporting information by
10 going into that State registration system and forcing
11 reporting. We are still going to maintain that in this
12 and we're going through the motions anyway trying to
13 figure out if we can possibly add like a check box to
14 the State registration harvest report.

15
16 If you harvest it outside, that way you
17 aren't afraid to put that I harvested outside of the
18 registration dates, that you could just check that this
19 was outside and harvested under subsistence
20 regulations. That way we can kind of keep track of
21 that information too. So it kills that bird in that
22 you still get the right information and it's applicable
23 to the harvest and we can set other provisions like
24 this is only applicable here.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

27
28 MR. WILSON: I've got a way to
29 eliminate all that. Let's make it all September 20th
30 and then you don't have to worry about who's opening
31 when and who's closing when if you make them all the
32 same. We need to do it anyways. Sooner or later we
33 are going to put up a proposal on the State side of the
34 stuff to go to September 20th because of the way the
35 moose have not been showing themselves because of the
36 warm weather that we so much enjoy that it's getting
37 more difficult to get one early on. I wouldn't mind
38 entertaining the idea of putting one together so that
39 we can match the Federal side.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay, Dan.

42
43 MR. DUNAWAY: I'm sympathetic to that.
44 I think that we kind of just missed the opportunity
45 because the Board of Game just addressed that. Though
46 like over in the Nushagak area I think we still have
47 been convinced that we shouldn't open up to the 20th
48 due to it could be dramatically increased harvest and
49 some other stuff.

50

1 This is the kind of stuff that I
2 usually harp on that if we can keep seasons aligned,
3 dates aligned, everything else to minimize confusion to
4 the users out there. My biggest concern is that it
5 looks like a lot of the agency guys agree. I'm looking
6 at the Naknek/King Salmon residents. If they think
7 this is better, I would certainly want to support it,
8 but it does seem like it's getting fractured a lot.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

13

14 MR. HILL: I'm all for decriminalizing
15 our subsistence activities certainly, but again I feel
16 a little bit frustrated that we continually have to
17 bend to the State rules. I just don't like it. Again,
18 I like Richard's idea. Let's put them all on the same
19 date and be done with all this extra stuff. I mean
20 this area here the moose move around later than they do
21 up at Iliamna, so that's my problem with that. But,
22 yeah, let's decriminalize this as much as we can so we
23 don't have to be looking over our shoulders and pray
24 that we don't end up in the Federal pen or something or
25 pay ten thousand dollars.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

30

31 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Yeah, there
32 is already Federal lands in 9B that are still subject
33 to the September 20 closure as to State September 15,
34 so that already exists as a mix in our communities
35 here. That's already there. I mentioned that they
36 don't start moving until later, which shows you the
37 effort that we're trying to get out there and finally
38 get one, which really leads to the bigger problem is
39 that there isn't enough there anymore. It's getting
40 harder and harder to score on a moose, especially one
41 of any size, very few.

42

43 For the last two cycles here on this
44 board I've suggested getting into some sort of resident
45 hunt here only because of this problem we are having
46 and that's still at the tip of my tongue. I mean I
47 haven't seen any numbers that really indicate really
48 good populations. We've seen good cow and calf
49 composition stuff here this last fall and this winter.
50 Survival rates seems to be improving, but the actual

1 numbers out there we're just not seeing any more, so
2 there is another issue.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Go ahead.

5

6 MR. WATTS: Dominique Watts, Fish and
7 Wildlife Service. I did want to point out though that
8 I'm all about aligning seasons to eliminate confusion.
9 It totally makes sense to me and I get where you're
10 coming from, but I do want to point out that having
11 those differences in seasons allows local residences
12 additional opportunity both before and after on Federal
13 lands. So you have State registration hunters from
14 anywhere versus Federally qualified subsistence users
15 being able to hunt earlier and/or later in this case.
16 I just wanted to point that out.

17

18 MR. WILSON: But you're still on
19 Federal lands. You have to be qualified in order to
20 participate in that, so it's not just any State
21 resident. You still have to be a Federally qualified,
22 correct?

23

24 MR. WATTS: That's correct, inside
25 those Federal seasons, yes. So it's an amplified
26 opportunity I suppose.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any other
29 questions?

30

31 MR. MAINES: Question.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There's been a
34 question. All in favor say aye.

35

36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
39 opposition?

40

41 MR. HILL: I want to exercise the
42 democratic process. I'm in opposition.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. There's
45 been five in favor and one opposition for the record.
46 Okay, I think we're done with this and let's move onto
47 the next agenda item. We need to step up here.

48

49 MR. JENNINGS: Madame Chair, excuse me.
50 One last thing since this is the wildlife thing and

1 it's related to you are going to submit a proposal for
2 the caribou closure issue and then coupled with that,
3 if there is any other wildlife proposals that the
4 Council has considered in the past or has talked about
5 in the past, I'm not familiar with all your
6 discussions, but, again, to reiterate, March 25th is
7 the deadline for submitting that. You can either do it
8 as a Council, people can do it as individuals,
9 organizations, agencies. So you can give it some
10 thought. If you have anything else today, staff is
11 here too to help construct something.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you. On
14 behalf of the Council I guess we'll rely on Donald to
15 keep us informed and inline. For individual people, I
16 don't know, I guess we could help to inform each one of
17 us, so thank you. Next on our agenda is 11(e) and (f).
18 Are those together? Which is really approve FY2014
19 annual report and then Charter revision.

20

21 MR. WILSON: Where are you at?

22

23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: We're under
24 11(e) and (f).

25

26 MR. WILSON: Thank you.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

29

30 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
31 Just for the Council's reference at the last fall
32 meeting in Dillingham we had an opportunity for this
33 Council to bring up 2014 annual report items. We got
34 lost in discussion and we did not have an opportunity
35 to add to the annual report items. I went through the
36 transcripts and what came out was the Messick River.

37

38 Basically, in summary, we heard some
39 local testimonies stating that the Port Heiden
40 residents express not meeting their subsistence needs
41 for chinook and they attributed that to the commercial
42 fishing fleets affecting the run into the spawning
43 streams in the Messick River.

44

45 And during the discussion, what this
46 Council discussed during its meeting, is in recent
47 public meetings the Council has discussed the need for
48 management tools on the Messick River to ensure
49 escapement goals are met and to meet the needs of other
50 user groups. Fish counting towers or fish weirs placed

1 on the Messick River will assist managers to establish
2 accurate escapement goals to ensure the fishery can
3 sustain multiple harvests.

4

5 So that was an annual report item I
6 pulled out of our transcripts from our last fall
7 meeting in Dillingham. If there are any additional
8 annual report items this Council wishes to submit to
9 the Board, this is the time to do so.

10

11 Madame Chair.

12

13

14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. That's
15 informational. Nanci, you have a comment?

16

17 MS. MORRIS LYON: Donald, do you think
18 it would be appropriate for us to bring up the Chignik
19 fishery issues that seem to be ongoing as well, knowing
20 that we have several of those communities in alliance
21 with the problems that they are having with their
22 second run fish?

23

24 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. Yes, that
25 would be an item for this Council to submit as an
26 annual report item and any action that you would like
27 to see the Board take on the Chignik fishery.

28

29 Thank you, Madame Chair.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
32 other comments.

33

34 Nanci.

35

36 MS. MORRIS LYON: I'll kind of follow
37 up because I'm going to take that as a request for a
38 possible action we might want to see and ask to see if
39 the Board would agree that we would like to see OSM
40 continue discussions with the State to address this
41 problem. The communities feel that the State's
42 management is not appropriate to allowing enough of
43 that second run come up. So that is my initial
44 reaction, is to pursue further discussion with the
45 State to enhance that second run of fish for
46 subsistence needs if the Council would be in agreement
47 or the Board.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan?

50

1 MR. DUNAWAY: I would certainly support
2 that and including A mention of our concerns for
3 Chignik in our annual report. I am hoping that Drew
4 Crawford, State liaison, would be listening closely and
5 pass this on to western region staff.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Donald,
10 did you -- okay. I guess we are ready to move on
11 to.....

12
13 MS. MORRIS LYON: Do we need any other
14 action?

15
16 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. This is an
17 opportunity -- we only have two items, the Messick
18 River and the Chignik. If there are any issues that
19 the Council would like to see on their 2014 annual
20 report, now is the opportunity to do so. Otherwise you
21 can take action.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So we can take
24 action as to what you have and then would we be able to
25 add in if need be?

26
27 MR. MIKE: If you need to add anything,
28 we need to probably discuss the annual report items so
29 the public is also involved. But right now we have two
30 items for the Council to submit to the Board; one is
31 the Messick River and the other is Chignik River
32 subsistence fishery.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

35
36 MS. MORRIS LYON: Sorry, guys. You
37 know, I can't let go of our discussion earlier this
38 morning and our seemingly agreeable view on the point
39 that Fish and Wildlife, their interpretation of rulings
40 on Federal lands. Again, if I can have agreement from
41 the board that -- you know, I think it's important
42 enough to want to highlight in our annual review items
43 to make a point that we feel that interpretations are
44 wrong. Not just now, but have been for a long time and
45 continuing down these paths is detrimental to
46 subsistence users. Just something simple along those
47 lines. I'm open for further suggestions. We spent
48 over two hours on that subject this morning and I think
49 that it warrants highlighting in our annual report.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay, any
2 other suggested items. Richard.
3
4 MR. WILSON: Donald, did you get that,
5 as another highlight?
6
7 MR. MIKE: Yeah.
8
9 MR. WILSON: Okay, we're good.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I figured
12 Donald had gotten that. S I think that we are good.
13 Is this a doi for this side? Okay. One more. Dan.
14
15 MR. DUNAWAY: It sounds like he's
16 looking for a motion so I am willing to move those
17 three topics be submitted as our annual report, thank
18 you, for 2014.
19
20 MR. HILL: I'll second it.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. There
23 has been a motion and second.
24
25 MR. MAINES: Question.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: The question
28 has been called. All in favor say aye.
29
30 IN UNISON: Aye.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
33 opposition.
34
35 (No opposing votes)
36
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Seeing none,
38 that's carried. Okay, next item.
39
40 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. The next
41 action item for this Council is the Charter revisions
42 and you can find that on Page 87 of your Council
43 materials. If you recall at our last winter meeting we
44 had OSM recommendations. The charters are reviewed
45 every other year. It's an opportunity for this Council
46 to review their Charter. At our last meeting this
47 Council was presented some options as far as membership
48 on our Regional Advisory Councils. The Council
49 endorsed a membership and designation in your draft
50 Charter and that will be under 12, membership and

1 designation.

2

3 At the last meeting our OSM staff
4 presented to you some options and one of the options
5 was for memberships and I'll just read it on record.
6 Members will be appointed for four-year terms. If no
7 successor is appointed on or prior to the expiration of
8 the member's term, then an incumbent member may
9 continue to serve until the new appointment is made or
10 120 days past expiration of term, whichever is sooner.
11 A vacancy on the Council will be filled by an appointed
12 alternate if available.

13

14 That is the new language if the Council
15 wishes to support this language for membership. The
16 Council could take action on it today to either endorse
17 the recommendation or add more comments to it.

18

19 Thank you, Madame Chair.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay, Richard.

22

23
24 MR. WILSON: Make that in the form of a
25 motion.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Uh-huh.

28

29 MR. WILSON: So move

30

31 MR. HILL: Second.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There has been
34 a motion and a second to adopt this.

35

36 MR. MAINES: Question.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: The question
39 has been called. All in favor say aye.

40

41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any

44 opposition.

45

46 (No opposing votes)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Hearing none,
49 this has been carried. Moving on. Donald.

50

1 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair. The
2 last action that this Council needs to take is future
3 meeting dates. And if you turn to Page 101 of your
4 meeting materials. We currently have for the fall
5 meeting is October 27th and 28th scheduled for
6 Dillingham. If the Council wishes to affirm those
7 dates, now is the time to do so. And when that
8 business is taken care of, I'll give you an update on
9 our 2016 meeting plans.

10

11 Thank you, Madame Chair.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So the October
14 27th, 28th were suggested at the last meeting. Is
15 there any different dates that anybody has?

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: If not, then I
20 guess we could -- if it was discussed and these dates
21 were suggested, then I think we'll be good on these
22 dates. Do we need a motion?

23

24 MR. MIKE: No.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We're
27 good.

28

29 MR. MIKE: I need to talk to the
30 Council about the 2016 winter meeting schedule. If you
31 recall, the Council had some interest and some other
32 Councils also had interest of having an all-RAC meeting
33 in Anchorage. It's either going to be in Anchorage or
34 Fairbanks, but the Council had an opportunity to
35 discuss this at their last meeting and the Council was
36 in favor of a winter 2016 meeting in Anchorage since
37 that would be more logistically feasible. Right now
38 that looks like March of 2016.

39

40 Molly was at the last Federal
41 Subsistence Board and we had an all-Chairs meeting and
42 we had a discussion with the Chairs and Staff as far as
43 what type of agendas should be in the all-RAC meeting
44 of 2016, March. We are planning for those dates and we
45 are currently planning on a five-day meeting starting
46 March -- we haven't confirmed a date yet, but that will
47 be in March of 2015.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: '16.

50

1 MR. MIKE: Yes, '16.
2
3 MS. MORRIS LYON: I'm aware you
4 probably know that, but that's also State basketball
5 time, so please stay away from those dates.
6
7 MR. MIKE: Yes, we considered those
8 dates. We realized that those dates are very important
9 and we are trying to work around those March basketball
10 tournaments. It's currently planned for five days and
11 the first day will be a joint session of all the RACs
12 during the first day and then after that we will have
13 concurrent meetings during the day where we'll speed it
14 up. One or two Councils will meet on the first day and
15 address the specific issues for the region and also the
16 concurrent session on the ANILCA training, FACA
17 training and communications training. But it's going to
18 be a five-day meeting, but it will bring all the
19 Councils together. So that March 2016 will cover our
20 winter and fall meeting, SO that's the plan. A
21 location has yet to be determined in Anchorage.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.
24 Richard, do you have a question?
25
26 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Yes, just
27 for the Council to note that on October 27th in the
28 fall here I have also commitments with our local
29 village corporation and that's our monthly meeting
30 times. So all depending on the severity of it is what
31 direction I am going to go. Just so you know.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I guess I need
34 to ask Joe or somebody when is AFN week? In October?
35
36 MR. MAINES: It's usually the third
37 week of October.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I am usually
40 involved with that, our Native corporation for that
41 week. Who else also had a comment.
42
43 MS. MORRIS LYON: I just had a question
44 for Richard. If we shifted it over to the 28th and
45 29th, will that conflict or will that open that up for
46 you and allow you to attend?
47
48 MR. WILSON: My meetings locally here
49 are in the evenings, 7:00 in the evening on the 27th of
50 October and if I was able to get out in the morning of

1 the 28th, that would work. But I realize that
2 everybody else has schedules too, so I could -- like I
3 said, it all depends on what's on the agenda for my
4 corporation on whether I will attend or not.

5
6 MS. MORRIS LYON: Well, I personally
7 would love to see you there and I would be happy to
8 shift it one day in order to assist in making that
9 happen, even if you arrived a little bit late for the
10 start of our meeting. So if anybody else has a problem
11 with that, then we could switch it, but otherwise I
12 would propose maybe we shift it down one day, to the
13 28th and the 29th, to allow for that.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, we are
16 going to need Richard there to deal with that red fish.
17 So let's revisit the dates.

18
19 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. That would
20 work for me, October 28th and 29th. If that's doable
21 for everybody, then I would appreciate it. Thanks.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I guess
24 there's no objection. We are changing the dates from
25 the 26th, 27th to October 28th, 29th. I guess we are
26 good with that. I guess we are going to be moving on.
27 We are trying to take care of action items. Let's go
28 to that National Park Service.

29
30 MS. ANDERSON: Madame Chair, members of
31 the Board. Sherri Anderson speaking as the subsistence
32 manager for Katmai, Aniakchak and Alagnak. The
33 Aniakchak SRC Board currently has two vacant positions.
34 One of them is a RAC-appointed position. Last October
35 you appointed Mr. Elliot Lind as a member of the SRC.
36 He has declined that position. So at this time we have
37 one person who is interested in the position. Her name
38 is Gerda Kosbruk. She is a resident of Port Heiden.
39 She is very active in the tribal council and very
40 active with subsistence issues and meets all the
41 qualifications. She would like you to consider her for
42 this RAC-appointed position.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

45
46 MR. DUNAWAY: I know Gerda a little bit
47 and have tremendous respect for her and I am willing to
48 nominate her or move to seat her.

49
50 Thank you.

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.
2
3 MS. MORRIS LYON: Second
4
5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay, there has
6 been a motion, second.
7
8 MR. DUNAWAY: Question.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There has been
11 a question called. All in favor say aye.
12
13 IN UNISON: Aye.
14
15 (No opposing votes)
16
17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: No opposition.
18 Gerda has been appointed.
19
20 MS. ANDERSON: Thank you very much.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Is that it,
23 Sherri, for.....
24
25 MS. ANDERSON: That's just the action
26 item, not our full report.
27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I guess
29 the next action item would be the Kodiak/Aleutians
30 Council.
31
32 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. Under new
33 business, Kodiak/Aleutians Council Emperor Goose
34 resolutions. The Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory
35 Council recently met and they had the Fish and Wildlife
36 Service Migratory Bird staff at their meeting and they
37 defined a resolution to adjust the Emperor Goose issue.
38 I think they are going through a planning process, but
39 it's just an informational item right now for this
40 Council to be aware of right now.
41
42 The Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory
43 Council wanted to give this Council a notice that any
44 future management plans that comes out of their
45 Regional Advisory Council they can notify the Bristol
46 Bay Council for comments and review of any potential
47 management plans in the future. So it's just an
48 informational item and a heads up.
49
50 Thank you, Madame Chair.

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Moving
2 on. What is the next -- Donald, what is the next.....

3
4 MR. MIKE: The next informational item
5 is the funding notification, I think. Robbin, is that
6 information? It will only take a couple of minute's,
7 right?

8
9 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair. Members of
10 the Council. I'm just here to notify you of the FRMP
11 funding opportunities. They listed their call for
12 proposals. It comes out every two years and provides
13 over \$4 million worth of funding per year to support
14 research on subsistence-related issues. The purpose of
15 the FRMP, Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, is to
16 merge current science with traditional and ecological
17 knowledge to fund projects that assist with subsistence
18 management or regulatory concerns.

19
20 We are soliciting projects for stock,
21 status and trends and harvest monitoring or TEK
22 projects. All of these projects are funded through
23 cooperative agreements. The notification is provided
24 through a notice of funding availability and is posted
25 on grants.gov on the OSM website. There is a copy of
26 the news release in you're supplemental packet that
27 lists the website. Additionally, over 500 postcards and
28 emails were sent out to notify potential applicants of
29 the open period. The current cycle opened in December
30 2014 and closes on March 11th, 2015. And I am here to
31 answer any questions you may have.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

34
35 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Did our
36 chinook salmon get anywhere near on this monitoring
37 program? I know we had discussed at some point trying
38 to get -- I can't remember where it came from. Trying
39 to look at our king population and eel grass, that kind
40 of stuff. Am I off base here, guys?

41
42 MR. DUNAWAY: I seem to remember early
43 on in this process didn't we have a weir on Big Creek
44 trying to count kings? There was something quite some
45 time ago. I was thinking like this Messick River thing
46 that maybe somebody could submit on it. But as far are
47 some new effort on Naknek kings, I think he's expressed
48 interest, you've expressed interest, but I don't know
49 -- boy, I miss the fisheries office guys here.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MS. MORRIS LYON: Well, I thought that
4 last fall we had gotten a list put together of
5 priorities. Okay, good, here it is.

6

7 MR. MIKE: Yeah, last fall we had a
8 list together of priorities and I think that Karen Hyer
9 and Courtenay Carty were involved in this discussion.
10 But when I get back I will remind Karen Hyer and
11 Courtenay Carty if those items that this Council
12 discussed at it's last fall meeting will be going
13 forward as an FRMP project.

14

15 MR. WILSON: Thank you.

16

17 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, because,
18 Richard, those items were indeed on there. We said
19 that all the kings that involved Federal lands. I
20 totally remember that as well, but I remember having
21 gotten a list put together for that purpose too.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And I think at
24 our earlier conversation OSM was going to look into
25 additional information like, for instance, if there has
26 been any recent surveys down there to include into the
27 project. But, anyway, thank you. I think we've got
28 this.

29

30 MS. CARTY: Hi, this is Courtenay and I
31 could provide clarifying information if you'd like.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Only a minute
34 or two.

35

36 MS. CARTY: All right. Just for the
37 record, Courtenay Carty, Bristol Bay Native
38 Association. Yes, during our October RAC meeting there
39 was a committee formed during the lunch time that
40 actually modified our list which incorporated -- I
41 think we had four or five at the beginning when the
42 draft priority information needs came out, but we did
43 modify that to include chinook spawning, escapement and
44 evaluation of the quality of escapement measures for
45 the Messick River as well as the Togiak, Big Creek,
46 Naknek, Alagnak, Nushagak and Chignik. And I also
47 spoke to these priority information needs in depth at
48 the Federal Subsistence Board meeting last month. I've
49 been working with different investigating organizations
50 to prepare an FRMP proposal to be submitted and I just

1 know what BBNA has been working on. I know that other
2 organizations are likely working on their own.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
7 you, Courtenay. I think we're good with that. Thank
8 you, Robbin. Moving down. I think we are down to
9 agency reports. Robbin. My day is shot.

10

11 Donald.

12

13 MR. MIKE: Yes, Madame Chair, we are
14 down to agency reports. That completes all our
15 necessary business that we need to take care of and we
16 have Council members that need to get a plane back to
17 their homes. Madame Chair, Mr. Dunaway wishes to
18 address the Council.

19

20 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I have to take off.
21 I want to thank all

22 the agency people that have brought material to us. I
23 want to thank the rest of the fellow board members and
24 apologize that I couldn't stay for the duration because
25 I usually learn a lot with the agency reports. It is
26 sure exciting to hear that caribou might come back. So
27 thank you. Have a good spring.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thanks,
30 Dan. I'd like to discourage people leaving early, but I
31 know we have stuff to do. Is there anybody else that
32 is going to be leaving early besides Dan?

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: If not, then
37 let's get to our agency reports. I guess the first one
38 on our agenda is tribal governments, Native
39 organizations.

40

41 MS. CARTY: This is BBNA. We wanted to
42 make an agency report.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay,
45 Courtenay.

46

47 MS. CARTY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
48 Again, for the record, Courtenay Carty, Bristol Bay
49 Native Association. I will be brief. I understand we
50 are trying to work our way through this agenda and I

1 have had plenty of time on the line. Thank you again
2 for the opportunity to attend telephonically.

3
4 As you can tell, we have been busy
5 working with the RAC and our State and Federal partners
6 in regards to not only rural determination and
7 customary and traditionally use determinations, but
8 also preparing for the upcoming 2015 Board of Fish
9 cycle for Bristol Bay, the Ocean, Peninsula and Chignik
10 areas. We are going to be working with tribes and
11 organizations, individuals and preparing proposals to
12 put forward by the April 10th deadline that I've
13 already stated and will probably be giving Richard a
14 call to work with him on his red fish proposal if need
15 be.

16
17 Other than that I was going to speak in
18 depth on FRMP, but I think I'm good and I think we've
19 all kind of talked all these issues through quite a bit
20 today. So I guess that will conclude my report at this
21 point in time. Hoping that potentially in the near
22 future our next meeting our books with a lot more
23 documents in it ahead of time and not be included as
24 supplemental information after the fact.

25
26 Also that our RAC meeting could
27 potentially be three days long so that we're able to
28 spend all the time that we need on these agenda items
29 instead of having to quickly move forward with them.
30 Although I do feel though if we had our board books not
31 so full of supplemental information and we had the time
32 to adequately review the information ahead of time, it
33 would save time during the business session.

34
35 Thank you so much.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
38 you, Courtenay. If no questions, let's move to Fish
39 and Wildlife Service.

40
41 MR. ADERMAN: Thank you, Madame Chair
42 and Council members. My name is Andy Aderman. I am a
43 wildlife biologist with the Togiak Refuge over in
44 Dillingham. There is a report in your book that starts
45 on Page 91. However I am going to skip right over to
46 the top of Page 93, Nushagak Peninsula Caribou, just a
47 brief update. That herd has been doing really well.
48 We harvested 15 last August and September, which is the
49 highest during that period when we've had a fall hunt.
50 Thus far this winter I know of only one that has been

1 taken and it's largely because of travel conditions
2 being so poor. That hunt will go until the end of
3 March. Hopefully we'll get something between now and
4 then like last year. We killed about a hundred caribou
5 in the last two weeks of March. We need to kill a lot
6 more than that or I fear that herd is going to go back
7 down like it did.

8

9 MR. WILSON: Was that an invite?

10

11 MR. ADERMAN: We might have to revisit
12 the C&T thing. But, no, we really need to harvest more
13 caribou out of that herd and we're struggling with that
14 given the current conditions. Just an update.

15

16 Moving on to moose over in 17A, the
17 winter hunt. Again, poor conditions. That hunt didn't
18 open until January 1st; that's a 31 day to-be-announced
19 hunt. At the end of January, there were four cows and
20 one bull that were taken. The hunt got extended to the
21 end of this month. Where we stand at right now is nine
22 cows and four bulls and I don't think we're going to
23 get much more than that. There are no plans at this
24 time to extend that any further. I talked with Neil
25 Barton with Fish and Game, but that's where we're at
26 there.

27

28 The moose are spread out like they are
29 in the summer time. That's good for the habitat. It
30 take some of the pressure off some of the concentrated
31 areas. In the past, when you get a lot of snow in the
32 lower rivers, the moose are all grouped up. It's
33 harder for the hunters.

34

35 My supervisor wanted me to mention on
36 the same page below moose we started a brown bear/wolf
37 predation project on moose last year, 2014. Put out
38 some hair snares for bears. That just gathers hair.
39 We plan to do that again this summer as well. Also put
40 collars on wolves. Again, depending on if we have
41 conditions here next month. That project just got
42 started and will be ongoing.

43

44 And my final thing here, you might
45 remember at the last meeting Member O'Hara mentioned
46 the importance of eel grass. The Togiak Refuge has
47 been involved with looking at eel grass along our
48 coastline in conjunction with some researchers out of
49 our regional office and in Anchorage. They just came
50 out with a report here. I have paper copies here and I

1 can get a digital copy to Donald if that's what you
2 would prefer.

3
4 But basically what they found on the
5 Refuge is one of the largest known complexes of eel
6 grass in the Bering Sea. The two that are bigger are
7 the Port Moller complex, so Port Moller, Nelson Lagoon,
8 Herendeen Bay and then Izembek Bay are larger. It's
9 important habitat for migratory waterfowl, herring
10 spawning, juvenile salmon rearing. Worldwide eelgrass
11 is in decline. We don't know if that's the case here,
12 but it's really good habitat for a lot of critters.

13
14 That concludes my report.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

17
18 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Thanks,
19 Andy. I know we discussed this before, but on the
20 caribou side of stuff was there the thought of same day
21 airborne to try to help out that population over there.
22 Is that considered at all?

23
24 MR. ADERMAN: It hasn't been talked
25 about recently. I know quite a while back there was a
26 proposal for that and it did not pass. Not that it
27 couldn't be entertained again. I think that we
28 mentioned it at our last -- we have a planning
29 committee that meets roughly annually, sometimes every
30 other year. We were looking at options, you know,
31 increasing the season, increasing the bag limit, things
32 like that. Nobody felt that those were justified at
33 the time, but that could be something that could be
34 looked at.

35
36 MR. WILSON: Thank you. And then the
37 other thing was we are neighbors. That was the other
38 part of it. You could somehow implement -- I mean if
39 you are really worried about over-populating, it seems
40 like we should be able to open a couple of doors to
41 help that out. You know, either airborne same day or
42 invite the neighbors kind of thing.

43
44 Another comment I had is that it's
45 interesting to know that this eel grass is so
46 concentrated in very few areas along our coastline and
47 interesting enough the eel grass that you talked about
48 down around Moller in that area is -- we had National
49 Marine people here yesterday indicating that most of
50 the pollock and most of the bycatch is being caught and

1 those hot spots are right in that area, interesting
2 enough. I mean you know that's something we need to
3 probably keep track of. It's rearing stations for
4 outmigration and other stuff. So I think it's
5 something to be well noted and I really appreciate that
6 info.

7

8 MR. ADERMAN: Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
11 other comments. Judy.

12

13 MS. MORRIS LYON: Nanci, but that's
14 okay. I've been called a lot worse.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 MS. MORRIS LYON: I appreciate you
19 mentioning the predator report because I really
20 appreciated that last fall when you guys did that and
21 this is merely a special request, not only to recognize
22 the great job you guys did on that in conjunction with
23 Pat -- was it Pat that helped you on that? Which isn't
24 important, but I would request a report that would
25 maybe mirror it or you could work off it a little bit
26 for those of us who took so much away from it for next
27 fall to see where we are at. I mean you were doing a
28 great job of that tracking at that point, so I'm sure
29 you will, but just a special request.

30

31 MR. ADERMAN: I'll mention that to Pat.

32

33

34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any other
35 comments from the board. My day is getting shot here.
36 I guess I'm asking if there is anybody from the public
37 or from even the phones, any comments.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I've always
42 commented on how good Andy's reports have always been.
43 They aren't pages and pages long of each resource item
44 and they are easy to read and follow, so I thank you
45 for that. And with that caribou issue, I know that in
46 the past we've discussed our aerial and people had
47 really opposed it before, but I think with the
48 overpopulation and with the condition we've been having
49 over there, instead of having that heard crash we need
50 maybe to visit what Richard discussed regarding this.

1 Any other comments.
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.
6
7 MR. ADERMAN: Thank you.
8
9 MS. HENRY: Madame Chair. This is
10 Susanna Henry back in Dillingham.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: You're on.
13
14 MS. HENRY: Good afternoon, everybody.
15 I just wanted to let you know I got safely back to
16 Dillingham. I really enjoyed participating this week
17 with the RAC and I really appreciated everybody's
18 comments this morning and how heartfelt they were. I
19 think it was great for us to hear that. And thanks,
20 Andy, also a great job on your report.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: We did
23 appreciate. I know it was a little bit tougher than
24 probably what you expected, but we worked it out, I
25 think. We've always worked stuff out even though we
26 may conflict, but in the end we shake hands and move
27 on.
28
29 Next on the agenda, are we going to do
30 the National Park Service again or are we going to move
31 down to BLM?
32
33 MS. MORRIS LYON: No, Alaska Peninsula.
34
35
36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Oh, Alaska
37 Peninsula. Sorry.
38
39 MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you, Madame Chair
40 and members of the Council. We'll make this quick.
41 You have our written report in the book on Page 97 and
42 it also includes some information on the Northern
43 Alaskan Peninsula Caribou Herd, which obviously we've
44 already had a good discussion on. We are not going to
45 be presenting on the herd. We are deferring that to
46 Dave Crowley from Fish and Game since they are the
47 primary managers of the herd, but we worked in
48 cooperation with Dave to get that written information
49 into our report so you'd have it in your book.
50

1 We are having a number of staff changes
2 on the Alaskan Peninsula/Becharof staff. You may
3 remember our new Deputy Refuge Manager was here
4 yesterday, Tom Cady. He is not here today because
5 their household goods are being unloaded even as we
6 speak. His wife is our new avian biologist, replacing
7 Susan Savage who retired in December, but who is
8 volunteering for six months in her former position to
9 close out, which is extraordinary. We really
10 appreciate it.

11
12 We are also filling a subsistence
13 biologist, supervisory biologist, and visitor services
14 manager in the next few months, so we'll be busy.
15 We've had a number of vacancies but we are working
16 through it.

17
18 Some disappointing news. You may
19 remember in the fall we talked about a project that
20 we've been working on in partnership with BBNA that we
21 were calling our youth ambassadors. I know a lot of
22 you are familiar with our Refuge information technician
23 positions that are frequently folks out in the villages
24 that help act as liaisons. This was an effort to
25 recruit younger people, eighteen to twenty-five in the
26 villages and kind of an RIT trainee sort of capacity
27 working for -- they would actually be employees of
28 BBNA.

29
30 We didn't get any applicants for the
31 program in spite of a lot of personal outreach on
32 Orville's part. We talked about it on some village
33 visits. I know BBNA did some outreach. But we are not
34 giving up. We did receive \$20,000 in grant funding for
35 that. That is now in BBNA's hands and we've been able
36 to -- well, I don't think that the paperwork has
37 happened yet, but we have been told that we can extend
38 that for another year so we are going to take another
39 shot at it. Not giving up on that. I really want to
40 make that project work.

41
42 And so that is all I have. I was going
43 to turn it over to Dom briefly to talk a little bit
44 about moose.

45
46 MR. WATTS: Madame Chair, members of
47 the Council. Dom Watts, Fish and Wildlife service.
48 Like Sue said, we aren't really going to talk about the
49 NAP, but some really good news. I'm sure everybody's
50 thrilled to hear that we are headed in the right

1 direction, possibly seeing some herd recovery. For the
2 moose composition survey, usually we do those in the
3 fall and spring. Last year, you guys were here, we
4 didn't get any snow so we didn't do any surveys and
5 this year it's looking pretty much about the same.

6
7 Someone had mentioned possibly some
8 alternative methods and I have in the past looked into
9 it with what's called FLIR, forward-looking infrared
10 thermography (radar). It's heat sensing. You see like
11 in that movie Predator where you can see the heat
12 signatures. I've tried it on deer and turkeys and some
13 other things before, so I'm actually pretty familiar
14 with the survey technique.

15
16 There is some inherent problems with it
17 in Alaska with ambient temperature and animals that are
18 designed to hold in heat instead of put it off. But I
19 wanted to mention that we are looking at it as a
20 potential avenue to get better data for you, but I also
21 have to mention that we're talking hundreds and
22 hundreds of thousands of dollars just to get set up
23 with that kind of survey. Anyway, it's a potential
24 avenue that we are looking at. Right now we are not
25 actively pursuing it because of the potential costs
26 involved with it.

27
28 So I would like to end up with a bright
29 note. The moose. I have a bunch of collared cow mouse
30 and so I monitor their reproduction and survival of
31 twinning rates. That information is in there. I
32 didn't give a lot of specifics, but basically we had
33 good news. Last year we had pretty good calving and
34 survival and this year it's even better. Really high
35 twinning rates, which says that the habitat is really
36 good condition. So it's looking up not only in the
37 caribou department but for the moose.

38
39 The only thing I want to say with that
40 is, you know, moose survival and calf survival in
41 particular can be highly variable and so we want to
42 look at several years in a row of that kind of data
43 before we start making definite conclusions.

44
45 There is some bird information.
46 Seabird monitoring. They monitor reproduction survival
47 of murres and thick-billed murres and common murres,
48 also some other birds. They are testing some shore
49 bird abundance methods to monitor shore bird attendance
50 at certain sites. Pilot study with baseline owl

1 species I mentioned at previous RAC meetings. It looks
2 like we had science and culture camp which seemed
3 like it went good. I think we did it in the office
4 this year.

5
6 MS. ALEXANDER: Yes. Thanks, Dom. I'm
7 going to jump in briefly on that one. We did have our
8 science and culture camp, which I think a number of you
9 heard us, we mentioned a few times last night, we are
10 still hoping to have that camp out on the Refuge again
11 at the site most people know of as Bible Camp. Being
12 good Federal employees, we call it Bear Creek to avoid
13 any confusion. We haven't given up on that idea either
14 and we've solved some of our funding and transportation
15 problems I think. So hopefully we can get the kids
16 out on the Refuge next year -- this coming.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

19
20 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Dominique,
21 Andy over there in Togiak, I think last year you
22 brought us some info on a study and they were doing
23 some of that heat -- that program you just talked
24 about that cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. I
25 think they've got a system over there that they are
26 using, aren't they, for counting their population. Has
27 that even been considered?

28
29 MR. WATTS: Actually, not that I know
30 of. I haven't talked to Andy about what he's doing.
31 Last time I talked to him, which admittedly was years
32 ago when we were comparing survey techniques, we were
33 pretty much doing the same thing. If they are
34 designing some new FLIR stuff, I should probably be
35 talking to him. I did talk to several people that are
36 pioneering the methods on the East Coast, particularly
37 in Maine and New York, and they gave a presentation at
38 a moose conference in Anchorage this past spring.
39 Really good information, but they were talking about
40 206s outfitted with windows and a system that marks
41 locations of moose and takes photos and software that
42 counts the most for you. Otherwise you are sitting
43 there for 40 hours in front of a boring video watching
44 the trees go by hoping for a moose. So I'll talk to
45 Andy and see if we can get something solved there.

46
47 MS. ALEXANDER: I guess my last comment
48 is that it's unfortunate that Dan Dunaway couldn't be
49 here because he is the one who asked us about the
50 infrared, but the main point being, if Togiak is doing

1 something that we can key off of, that would be great.
2 What we were seeing wasn't affordable at this time, but
3 definitely we are keeping an eye on it and if it looks
4 like it is something doable -- you know, we want moose
5 counts as badly as you all do, so if there is a way of
6 getting around our lack of snow, then we are all for
7 doing that.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: We're
10 wondering, Susanna, are you still on the phone?

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I guess not.
15 We were hoping that since Andy is not here that she'd
16 give us a little bit more information. Any other
17 comment?

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I guess a
22 question I have is -- I know that we value the RITs.
23 What is the problem the no recruit? Why aren't the
24 young people interested?

25
26 MS. ALEXANDER: I'm honestly not sure.
27 And if the Council has any insights, I would definitely
28 welcome them. We had -- Orville had approached a
29 number of people who he felt were good candidates and
30 had gotten some interest. There were at least two or
31 three that we thought were going to apply. We did end
32 up having a little of a delay in getting the
33 applications out and that might be why. Maybe we
34 missed our window of opportunity there. I think once
35 both of the partners have been through this once now,
36 maybe the wheels will be a little more greased next
37 time around. I don't know whether it was the delay
38 that caused the problem or whether people thought that
39 they were interested and then something else came up.

40
41 I still feel like that kind of personal
42 outreach and making that kind of contact with the
43 people in the villages, both in a general sort of way
44 to make folks know about it but also where we know
45 there are folks who might be candidates to approach
46 them one on one is probably our best means of outreach.
47 To spread the word generally, but also try to have some
48 targeted outreach. So the only thing that I can think
49 of was that we did have a little bit of a delay on
50 getting applications out beyond what we expected, but

1 I'm open to ideas. I was very disappointed. I was
2 really looking forward to getting that program going.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah,
5 especially with Pete Abraham, I don't know how long or
6 if he is even going to be going back. I think that my
7 suggestion, if it hasn't been worked out this way, is
8 to work with the RITs you have already in hand and have
9 them educate and recruit RITs. They are the most
10 important right now to get the information out and
11 especially if the RIT's that are selected are
12 respected. So, thanks for that effort.

13
14 If nothing else, let's move on.
15 Richard.

16
17 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, just a short
18 one. Native councils here, I mean corporations, we
19 meet once a month. If you haven't gone to these
20 meetings, maybe check out the calendar dates for our
21 local corporations that meet every month and you might
22 get some connections. Thanks.

23
24 MS. ALEXANDER: Good idea.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

29
30 MS. MORRIS LYON: I would just ask if
31 Orville -- I just respect him as somebody who has been
32 in the area and has worn several different hats in Fish
33 and Wildlife Service, if he would have any suggestions
34 for us on why we are having trouble filling these
35 positions.

36
37 MR. O. LIND: Orville Lind, Native
38 liaison, OSM. One of the problems is timing, I guess.
39 We had a long timeframe in between getting the PD
40 formalized and actually out. We had certainly two
41 people that were willing to sign up because they were
42 really looking for some work. By the time the PD came
43 out one had already landed a job with the village
44 council and the other one was just getting over having
45 a baby. I guess the third person decided he was going
46 to buy a boat and start fishing.

47
48 I think the problem is that as much as
49 I've tried to encourage our youth, at least in the
50 Alaska Peninsula, most of the kids are either fishermen

1 and that's all they know and that's all they've done
2 and the other ones have moved out to acquire jobs
3 elsewhere.

4

5 Now one of our greatest programs I see
6 is the Science Spirit Camp where we actually have
7 hands-on, kids get out. I'm sure your daughter had
8 told you about the things she had done in our science
9 camp. I think that is one of our strongest programs to
10 actually spark the interest in our youth, but I would
11 also encourage the board members or the RAC Councils to
12 keep an eye out for the young people to either take a
13 Council place at sometime in the future.

14

15 One of the greatest programs in the
16 Fish and Wildlife Service is the Refuge Information
17 Technician Program. I mean those guys have come
18 forward and breaking down the language barriers. They
19 are helping out several programs in marine mammals.
20 It's very popular. For Alaska, as important as the
21 resources are here, I think it's time to step up and
22 educate and saturate and educate again for our youth.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
27 you. Next on the agenda is BLM or.....

28

29 MR. HAMON: National Park Service, if
30 it's okay.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes.

33

34 MR. HAMON: Madame Chair, members of
35 the Council. Troy Hamon. I'm with Katmai National
36 Park. I will be the National Park Service master of
37 ceremonies. We are going to try and move pretty quick,
38 but we have a whole bunch of different pieces. So we
39 are going to start by having Clarence Summers from our
40 Alaska Regional Office cover the agenda item that was
41 moved down to the agency report, which is under 10(f)
42 on your agenda National Park Service subsistence
43 collections.

44

45 MR. SUMMERS: Madame Chairman, Council
46 members. On Page 11 of the book there's a brief
47 summary which covers the latest information on our
48 proposed regulation to allow for the subsistence
49 collections and uses of shed and discarded animal parts
50 and plants in National Park Service areas in Alaska

1 that are open to subsistence.

2

3 The National Park Service has worked
4 with our Subsistence Resource Commissions and with
5 Councils in the development of the proposed
6 regulations. There is a draft language on Page 13
7 which gives some background detail, but this is an
8 attempt to address collections in National Park Service
9 areas that are open to Title VIII subsistence, emphasis
10 on Title VIII.

11

12 This would allow for renewable
13 resources such as the shed and discarded animal parts
14 and plants to be used to make handicrafts, for use for
15 personal or family or barter or sale and customary
16 trade areas. The proposed language on Page 13 empowers
17 the superintendent to establish either an individual or
18 a community authorization for this type of use. On
19 Page 13 you'll know several definitions that are
20 proposed which will be used in our 36 CFR, that's the
21 Code of Federal Regulations if these regulations affect
22 NPS areas in Alaska.

23

24 I'll stop with that. Do you have any
25 questions?

26

27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

28

29 MR. HILL: Madame Chair, Clarence. I
30 particularly don't like having the written
31 authorization to pick up discarded antler for myself.
32 I'm a qualified subsistence user in Parks and I cannot
33 see myself going out to -- or people I know going out
34 to pick some berries, finding a set of antlers,
35 stopping, going to see the superintendent, getting
36 written authorization and going back down to get the
37 antlers. Like berries and fish, they are kind of
38 targets of opportunity. I really don't see this being
39 workable to have this written authorization. I don't
40 like it at all.

41

42 MR. SUMMERS: Lary, as you know, you
43 serve on Lake Clark SRC, and I want to point out in our
44 preliminary draft on Page 13 in your booklet, it allows
45 the superintendent to make a community authorization,
46 similar to what we have in regulation for eligibility
47 for subsistence in Park areas, such as Lake Clark,
48 where we have a named community where people can engage
49 in subsistence uses under our eligibility requirements.
50 It's at the discretion of the superintendent and that's

1 why I'm here today to let you know that this
2 opportunity to engage in the collections is moving
3 forward.

4

5 We are going to have a proposed rule to
6 allow for public input, but we are not there yet. But
7 in the meantime, if you have any specific concerns or
8 ideas about the development of the proposed language,
9 you have an opportunity to let your superintendent know
10 that. We have a contact, I think it's on Page 13, Bud
11 Rice, and there's a contact number and information
12 there. He's our lead person in the region.

13

14 Like I said, this is an opportunity for
15 the Regional Council and others. Our subsistence
16 commissions have been discussing this for the last
17 several meetings. I know the one in Aniakchak just
18 recently, but also in Lake Clark soon to meet. I
19 believe at your next meeting you'll have an opportunity
20 to bring those concerns to your superintendent, who is
21 here today. So I'll stop with that.

22

23 MR. HILL: Again, it really seems
24 unworkable and a community authorization will probably
25 be more likely. Speaking for myself as a user and the
26 community itself, it just really seems unworkable. You
27 don't know if you are going to get a discarded antler
28 until you run across it. It may or may not happen.
29 The caribou migration always changes. The moose
30 migration always changes. The sheep we go up on the
31 mountain to get. Unless they're dead, we don't see
32 them. So I think this would be so ponderous and so
33 unworkable to wake up Margaret up from her noon nap and
34 say, Margaret, I need a letter, I need a letter. And
35 so if we could just address that and I will when we
36 meet in April.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 MS. GOODRO: So Madame Chairwoman and
41 the board. We discussed this at our last SRC meeting
42 and I agree with Mr. Hill and so I think we, for Lake
43 Clark, would want that to be a broad authorization and
44 the only reason we would get into written permits is if
45 we started to have issues down the road with abuse of
46 the system in some way. But I don't think it would be
47 reasonable to request that with the amount of users we
48 have and the four million acres people are on. I think
49 the SRC covered that pretty well during our last
50 session and that was our consensus, is that would be a

1 good way to start if this were approved.

2

3 MR. HILL: I could not even think of a
4 good reason why you would even need individual unless
5 someone was concerned we'd be going out there with our
6 AK 47 mowing down a bunch of caribou and taking the
7 antlers, something like that.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MR. SUMMERS: Just one quick note.
12 Lary, Madame Chair and Council members. You've got to
13 remember this is a statewide regulation proposed rule
14 in development, so it depends on the situation in each
15 area and it just gives the superintendent more
16 flexibility.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

21

22 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank you.
23 Lary, I agree with you 100 percent in our area also
24 down here. And the thing we've advocated for as long
25 as I have been on this Council is that it should not
26 burden us as users any new proposals any more than
27 absolutely necessary and I would see this as being an
28 unnecessary burden. And I would support actual full
29 board weight behind comments that would allude to that
30 including -- possibly my suggestion might be to the
31 Park Service to automatically offer subsistence
32 identified communities residents as excluded from
33 needing the superintendent's permission. Just a
34 thought.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Donald.

37

38

39 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
40 For the benefits of the new Council members, I was
41 approached and asked about the environmental assessment
42 process. So if the Park Service could summarize the EA
43 process and what follows for the benefit of the new
44 Council members.

45

46 Thank you, Madame Chair.

47

48 MR. HAMON: Madame Chairman, Troy
49 Hamon. The National Park Service in this case
50 undertook a broad statewide environmental assessment

1 and that was before they drafted any rule. So what
2 you'll notice is that -- well, one, you've probably
3 noticed that you've heard about this before from us.
4 And what you have on Page 11 is an explanation of the
5 history, the issue.

6
7 In April, almost a year ago, the
8 environmental assessment was finalized. I want to say
9 it was a three-year, certainly a two-year process where
10 we actually came out with alternatives. We discussed
11 in public meetings the various alternatives and public
12 comment was received. It was brought to Councils like
13 this. Public comment was received. And the proposed
14 rule is a reflection of the final result of that
15 environmental assessment.

16
17 The environmental assessment was
18 looking at the environmental effects of authorizing
19 this use. The proposed rule is how to manage the use.
20 And so now, on one hand, we were focused in that
21 assessment on making sure that we could authorize the
22 use and what sort of potential impacts there are. This
23 rule is what will determine how the subsistence user in
24 the field interacts with the Federal agency
25 representatives in the field.

26
27 This is really a critical point, as Mr.
28 Hill has pointed out, in determining not just whether
29 or not it's okay to have this activity, the EA
30 accomplished that decision. What's happening now is
31 how to have this activity and that has a substantial
32 impact on the user and that's where we are at.

33
34 MR. HILL: I am sorry, but I have to
35 release some of my frustration with this. It seems
36 like every single little thing that we do has to be
37 monitored and permitted. It just goes against my
38 grain. Living in the area and all of a sudden we've
39 got people coming in. Some are armed and some are not.
40 Every little berry we have to count for, every little
41 leaf. Who are we managing the parks for? Our visitors
42 or the people who live there?

43
44 I really really am frustrated with
45 this. Every time we turn around everything we had once
46 gets taken away and we have to have a regulation for
47 it. It's really frustrating to me and I am not only
48 voicing my own concerns and frustrations, but it's our
49 local residents. Nothing personal. It's just venting
50 because of this. Are we going to also be asking

1 permission to breathe, take the pure air from the
2 earth? It just seems so ridiculous. All these little
3 tiny things that are forced upon us and we have to
4 contend with them. It's just really really
5 frustrating.

6

7 MR. HAMON: Mr. Hill, if I may, through
8 the Chair. I completely understand that. I live here
9 too. One of the things that I'm not -- I don't work in
10 law enforcement, but one of the things you have to
11 understand from the other side is the problem they are
12 trying to solve. And if we have an idea that helps
13 them solve their problem, and their problem is how to
14 know since they are not local necessarily or all the
15 time or maybe just recently here, how do they know so
16 they don't have John from New York out there with his
17 50 best friends engaging in an activity that isn't
18 appropriate or reasonable for them but is for you. And
19 this is part of their challenge, is how to know that
20 the right people are the ones engaging. It needs to
21 not be onerous on the user, I absolutely agree, but
22 that's the problem they're trying to solve from their
23 end and you have an opportunity to offer a better
24 solution from your end.

25

26 MR. HILL: Let me reply a little bit to
27 that. Some of that could be just for orientation as to
28 who to look for and having to say, for instance, your
29 people going through the villages and meeting the
30 people and seeing who's there and who is likely to be
31 there. Understand you've got to have people coming in
32 and spending money at the Parks to help with some of
33 the programs and the concessions. Again, I'm really
34 totally frustrated with this whole process, that every
35 single thing is being regulated.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

38

39 MS. MORRIS LYON: I still go back. I
40 think that established residency could still work with
41 it. I do not see why we could not at least for that
42 portion of the proposal eliminate that need. Just
43 merely with a blanket for identified Federal
44 subsistence approved residents. I meet up with a lot
45 of law enforcement out in the field with my clients and
46 they all want to know where you are from. It's already
47 an asked question and they should know automatically if
48 you are from King Salmon. All they have to do is say
49 have you lived there for a while and you could say,
50 well, I've been there for a week or I've been there for

1 25 years or I've lived here all my life and that should
2 pretty much establish whether you have the right to do
3 that in the field or not. And I do not see that as
4 being a huge onerous for law enforcement personnel to
5 learn that.

6

7 MR. SUMMERS: Madame Chairman and
8 Council members. I want to address Nanci's concerns.
9 If you notice on Page 12, that's one of our questions,
10 which type of authorization would be best for your area
11 and why. I think that's on the record and this is
12 great conversation.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

17

18 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. I'm looking
19 at the title of this thing here on Page 11 and its
20 showing that it's subsistence collections and uses of
21 shed or discarded animal parts from National Park
22 System areas. In just the title itself, I'm asking
23 myself why not -- if in National Park, why not up there
24 at Brooks, why not around there. I mean you're saying
25 specifically in ANILCA-set areas, is that correct, and
26 that's what this is targeted for, for our Preserves,
27 not for the Parks prior to '71.

28

29 MR. HAMON: Madame Chair. This
30 provision for harvest opportunity was promulgated
31 through ANILCA Title VIII provisions. As a result of
32 that, it won't apply to Katmai Park. It will apply to
33 Katmai Preserve, it will apply to the Alagnak River, it
34 will apply to Lake Clark Park because Lake Clark Park
35 is a subsistence authorized Park. I don't know in this
36 state necessarily why the subsistence was the avenue
37 they approached this from. Not being the legal eagle,
38 but that is correct.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any more
41 comments. Lary.

42

43 MR. HILL: Madame Chair. I'm looking
44 at Page 12, which areas of resources should be opened
45 or not opened to subsistence collections and why.
46 Which areas. Are we talking geographical or individual
47 items as an area? What should be included in the
48 public education program. Those seem kind of
49 ambiguous. I don't know how to define either one of
50 those.

1 MR. SUMMERS: Madam Chairman, Council
2 members, Lary. That question will help the
3 superintendent and the Park Service decide if there are
4 certain areas that are significant for cultural or if
5 there is some other biological concern that you're
6 aware of through your own traditional knowledge. So
7 it's more specific to the Park Unit and the area that
8 you would like to protect.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MR. HILL: I would just like to add to
13 that a little bit. I feel like whichever areas that
14 are open to subsistence collections, are they the areas
15 that are open to subsistence collections for berries
16 and those kinds of things that should also be the same
17 that are open to the discarded antlers and animal
18 parts.

19

20 And, secondly, what should be included
21 in public education program. Anything that you open to
22 the public I believe you also should open to your
23 staff, the rangers and the new people especially that
24 come in. One of which is some of the history of the
25 area and who the people are that traditionally come in
26 and can use that, so that's part of it. Also relate to
27 the public and the staff, the rangers, that we really
28 do want the people to come in with an open mind,
29 especially new staff. We do not want -- I'm sorry, but
30 there are some rangers that want to do the old Rambo
31 style type of enforcement, which is really really bad
32 for you guys.

33

34 But we really really do respect the
35 land. We really do respect the animals and the people
36 too. Keep that in mind and that we have such a rich
37 history of the area. Any association with us should be
38 treated with that kind of respect and not we are the
39 invaders. We were there first. Those things included
40 in the public education program. I don't know how you
41 would do that, but we wish to be treated with respect
42 from having lived there and sometimes we don't see
43 that.

44

45 My opinion is that some of the rangers
46 come in and don't want people around, especially local
47 people. It seems to conflict with the visitor
48 impression of our people and whether or not they can
49 have a nice antler to photograph against the skyline,
50 where we might take that and use it to make a thousand

1 dollars to help feed our family. So those kind of
2 conflicts. I don't know. I could go on, but thank
3 you. That's enough.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

6

7 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame
8 Chair. Yeah, and to piggyback on some of Lary's
9 points, I would like to address perhaps the -- I think
10 that pretty much all our areas or our parks up here
11 should be open for resources. For subsistence
12 collections, I don't think that an explanation needs to
13 be given on that. I mean we are the ones who were
14 taking care of the place before you guys got it, okay.
15 And I speak for people on this board. If I wasn't
16 lucky enough to have my ancestry here, I speak for my
17 friends who do.

18

19 And what should be included in a public
20 education program, I would like to expand on that. In
21 addition to the new hires that you end up training each
22 and every year pretty much, I think there should be a
23 public visitor education program too and perhaps that
24 was included in here. And I think that it should
25 include an explanation of subsistence lifestyle and how
26 important it is to us as residents and why we are given
27 deference and why they should also honor that and
28 recognize that.

29

30 I think that you could never educate
31 people too much and I think even if it wasn't a fifty-
32 page testimony, if it was done in a proper format, it
33 might go somewhere.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Are we
36 done? Troy.

37

38 MR. HAMON: Thank you. That was the
39 first of a section of items and I think we've hit our
40 fifteen minute limit. Would you rather we resume the
41 rest of ours after the other agency reports time
42 allowing or would you rather us move through the rest
43 of our updates?

44

45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: You're here,
46 so you might as well just finish.

47

48 MR. HAMON: Okay. Next we'll just give
49 the Katmai section and I'll have Sherri Anderson come
50 up in a minute to help with just giving a briefing on

1 the Aniakchak SRC. First off I just wanted to give
2 information updates. The National Park Service has put
3 through a set of hunting regulations and they've
4 recently put through the annual superintendents
5 compendium. The hunting regulations are similar to
6 those that were discussed for the Fish and Wildlife
7 Service this morning. The Park Service had those
8 regulations and our superintendents orders for the
9 previous few years.

10

11 In the fall, there was a proposed rule,
12 late summer actually, and there was a comment period in
13 the fall. We took comments, we had public meetings
14 here and elsewhere, and as those comments were being
15 assimilated we were asked to reopen the comment period
16 and we did that in January. It just closed sometime in
17 the last ten days I believe. And so that's been
18 through two comment periods and I don't have any sense
19 of how or when they are going to compile these comments
20 and come out with a final determination.

21

22 The first comment period gathered more
23 than 60,000 comments and I don't know what the second
24 one may have done. Before they reopened the second one
25 they weren't sure how they were going to do the comment
26 analysis. Now I'm sure they're not sure. Anyway,
27 those comment periods have closed. I don't know what
28 the next timeframe is because until we get analyzed
29 comments, there is no timeframe to discuss, but I will
30 update you with that when I can.

31

32 We've talked about Pike Ridge here for
33 a long time. One of the problems we've had with Pike
34 Ridge is it is an issue that involves choosing a path
35 to legally authorize something that we have authorized
36 already and there is a number of possible avenues to do
37 that. Some of them are beyond the purview. They would
38 require congressional action. Some of them are within
39 our purview, but there are some ramifications. Those
40 include boundary adjustments, ANILCA-authorized
41 boundary adjustments. People are nervous about doing
42 that. there isn't a real solid process. There's line
43 exchanges. There's a whole number of options.

44

45 We've developed those options a few
46 times, but they involve a lot of input from our
47 regional office. Right now seems to be the sweet spot
48 because we have a staff that was organized and prepared
49 to manage an Ambler Road Project that the State just
50 put the brakes on and they are working on Pike Ridge

1 right now. We have a sort of set of draft possible
2 approaches, things that we could do that's just being
3 prepared. We discussed it last week. We are going to
4 look at it and those are probably going to turn into
5 alternatives. You'll see some sort of compliance
6 document for public comment hopefully within the year
7 and we can actually make some forward progress. So
8 that's Pike Ridge. The best thing that has happened to
9 us recently on Pike Ridge is failure of the Ambler Road
10 Project. Maybe you shouldn't put that in.

11
12 It's a little bit housekeeping, but we
13 think it's more important than that, so we handed out
14 the Aniakchak and Alagnak Wild and Scenic River value
15 papers and Donald is holding up the Aniakchak one.
16 Those documents are kind of fundamentally important.
17 There have been a number of court cases that have
18 clarified for us through the last ten years that we are
19 legally required to have a management plan for every
20 river designated wild, scenic, or otherwise. And we
21 have rivers designated wild. We do not have management
22 plans that met the needs.

23
24 We couldn't have a management plan
25 because in order to do that you have to have defined
26 the outstanding and remarkable values of the river.
27 Usually you take those kinds of things from
28 congressional intent language. there was none in
29 ANILCA. The national office had this issue not just
30 here but elsewhere and they came up with a method to do
31 it. We had a sitdown this fall with a number of
32 stakeholders, we had input from scientists of a number
33 of different specialties, we had Naknek Native Village
34 Council member present. We had people trying to come
35 from villages that didn't make it, so we sent the
36 document out to them for review and discussion
37 afterwards.

38
39 The important point of that document
40 and the reason I think it's worth taking your time and
41 looking at it and letting us know soon if you see
42 something missing. Is that that document defines for
43 the National Park Service the things that we are
44 responsible to maintain or to protect in managing those
45 rivers. And so if there's something there that
46 shouldn't be or if there is something missing that
47 should be there, the sooner we catch it the better. We
48 tried very hard to have a broad discussion with as many
49 people as possible, but if we missed something it would
50 be really excellent if anybody notices that to let us

1 know now. Because that is not a finalized document,
2 it's a draft, but they are wanting to make it final in
3 the next couple weeks.

4
5 I guess I'll stop. Real quick
6 questions on that?

7
8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

9
10 MS. MORRIS LYON: I will give it a more
11 thorough going over, Troy. It was a supplemental, so
12 we didn't really have a chance to concentrate on it.
13 But I understand you are open to any -- is there
14 contact information in here somewhere for us to be able
15 to either pick up the phone or send an email?

16
17 MR. HAMON: I don't know if there is
18 contact information there or not. You are certainly
19 welcome to call me at 246-2121 or anybody else you can
20 reach at the office and give us whatever feedback you
21 have.

22
23 One other thing before we -- we have a
24 brief update on the SRC. You've heard about moose data
25 a number of times here. As we've discussed, we've been
26 flying moose surveys in snow cover conditions that
27 don't meet the original intent or criteria of the trend
28 area analysis or the trend area definitions. We've
29 just about got to the point where we can -- in a couple
30 of those places, we have enough surveys where the
31 conditions are varied enough that we can start to have
32 a reasoned discussion about what we're missing and what
33 we're not missing. And if you survey it one day and
34 the weather conditions for snow are not good and you
35 survey it three days later after a snowfall and the
36 conditions are pretty good, it starts to get into the
37 range of being reasonable.

38
39 We've augmented that with just trying
40 to fly out as many times as possible and so we've seen
41 a few things. One of those things we'll talk about in
42 a minute that are fairly definitive. At the same time
43 we've been trying to take the trend area data, one of
44 the challenges is that you don't get every trend area
45 flown every year, so then you've got different years
46 where you have different trend areas flown.

47
48 So we put together a summary of the
49 three trend areas that we fly the most often where we
50 have the best record of data and we used a statistical

1 process that allows us to look at them without
2 weighting them in a manner that confuses it if we have
3 different ones flown in different years and that's one
4 of the graphs that I believe Sherri said she handed out
5 to you.

6

7 There's two things about that graph.
8 One is -- we had talked about this in the fall and I
9 told you I would report back. One is it shows a very
10 obvious decline in the number of moose that were seen
11 over the last few years. There are couple of things I
12 would like to point out. One is we have general
13 reports that there are fewer moose and we know that
14 it's a fairly stable, slow decline that people are
15 talking about mostly when people are out hunting.

16

17 But what we are wanting to be sure you
18 understand from that data is there are two things that
19 are strong limit -- three things that are strong
20 limitations. One is, although I am presenting data
21 from these last few years, we think that we are going
22 to be able to show that our numbers are pretty
23 accurate. We have seen that the moose survey window is
24 carefully designed. If we fly surveys outside that
25 window, we count fewer moose no matter what the
26 conditions. And so it looks like the moose trend areas
27 are really winter aggregation zones, is what it looks
28 like in the past.

29

30 And one of the things that we've seen
31 is some of our low counts might just be reflective of
32 the reality that there is fewer moose, but some of them
33 we know for a fact is a reflection of the reality that
34 the moose aren't moving in the same pattern and may not
35 be up on the hill where they were because its warm.
36 And so some of the counts we've had, we've had a very
37 low count in the Branch River trend area and we go
38 downriver two miles out of the trend area and there's
39 200 moose in the next ten miles of river. We've seen
40 that. I think I am seeing some of the same thing on
41 the King Salmon River downstream from Takayofu. If we
42 have a bad count in Takayofu, I can go find the moose.
43 They're just not in the area.

44

45 Keep in mind we are trying to make use
46 of these trend area counts, but they are intended to be
47 flown in weather that we don't get and they were built
48 around winters that we are not having. So what we are
49 trying to do is -- I visited with Dave about this and
50 we are going to try and make use of more trend areas.

1 He felt like it was a reasonable approach. We'll try
2 to make use of more trend areas. It won't change the
3 fact that while we might be seeing a decline in trend
4 area moose, we can do the best we can as managers to
5 make the right decisions based on that, but the right
6 decision might be to start adding some downriver zones
7 to our counts whenever we have a warm winter and we
8 don't have the moose up on the hills. So that's with a
9 caveat.

10

11 The other one, which is the bear
12 survey, I just wanted to point out we use the same
13 process to try to use all of our stream surveys to
14 start mapping out bear activities. And what you'll see
15 over there is that there are times when we didn't have
16 a lot of surveys, but what is very clear, even if you
17 separate out the blank spaces and just draw lines in
18 between, the alignment fit is just the computer's best
19 guess of how that looks, but even if you just draw
20 straight lines it's very clear that there is a 20 to
21 30-year cycle that we hadn't ever really officially
22 recognized before.

23

24 Obvious in our data we don't know
25 exactly what it means but it certainly coincides with
26 the change in bear activity that has been noticed at
27 every location in our Park and in the local community
28 we're clearly seeing fewer bears. I don't know, but I
29 think that probably also relates to the fact that in
30 Dom's data and certainly in our observations the
31 twinning rates and the calf/cow ratios in moose are
32 higher now than I've seen when I've been here.

33

34 That's all I have on that data and I
35 was going to have Sherri come up and talk about the
36 SRC. Do you have any questions on this stuff?

37

38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

39

40 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Thanks,
41 Troy. You were talking about a possible road system or
42 something on Pikes Ridge. You said it didn't go
43 through, but what prompted that and where is it at now?

44

45 MR. HAMON: I'm sorry, I didn't catch
46 the word. What did you think that I said, a possible
47 what?

48

49 MR. WILSON: Trail or road, Pikes
50 Ridge. What prompted it and where does it stand now?

1 MR. HAMON: So the Pike Ridge Trail --
2 I'm not sure what statement I made that you thought
3 came through that way. Pike Ridge Trail is within
4 Federal boundary part of the time, outside of the
5 Federal boundary. We have discussed the possibility of
6 doing a boundary adjustment. We've discussed the
7 possibility of doing a land exchange. We've discussed
8 the possibility of evaluating changes that would
9 require congressional analysis and actions such as
10 re-designation into a different status, like Preserve
11 or something similar. Those all are based around the
12 fact that there is a trail there already and the
13 trail's been in common use for a very long time and a
14 long time ago the National Park agreed that if you hunt
15 on the one side of the trail and not the other, that
16 there would be no prosecution. And that functionally
17 solves the problem for the local user. It leaves us no
18 legal basis for that and we are trying to make sure
19 that we, at the very least, have a legal basis for what
20 we're authorizing. Depending on which approach is
21 chosen, it could be that there's other things that
22 could be done at the same time that might be helpful to
23 the users, might not.

24
25 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Thank you,
26 Troy. We've had slight conversation here before about
27 possibly land exchange or moving the boundary, you
28 know, putting a portion of the Park there into Preserve
29 status instead of Park. Where do we as a Council or
30 village corps or others, public, where do we get
31 involved with that? How do we help you make these
32 decisions or can we?

33
34 MR. HAMON: You certainly can and
35 that's one of the reasons why we bring that to the
36 Council repeatedly. At this point, this is an
37 information item. Our intention is to draft basically
38 a table of options that shows what the tool would be,
39 what the effect would be in terms of how use would be
40 authorized or how it would change, what the possible
41 downsides are, if any, and the possible time frames.
42 Ideally at that point we would be in a position to give
43 you an opportunity to look at how big of a solution do
44 you want because some things we control, some things we
45 don't, some things can happen in a two-year time frame,
46 some might take twenty. At that point we'll bring you
47 those options when we have them fleshed out. We are
48 just putting them all down. We've talked them over,
49 but we've never organized them in a way that helps us
50 to get somewhere and that's what we are working on

1 right now.

2

3 MR. WILSON: When you say we, are you
4 just talking about the agency, you're not talking about
5 public participation here yet when you say we?

6

7 MR. HAMON: Right now it's just in the
8 agency. We've had public meetings on this before and
9 then we usually have lost the planner. So we have a
10 planner who is compiling everything that we've done on
11 this before including public meetings. And we are not
12 viewing that as a replacement for public process. We
13 are going to start the public process with a set of
14 options so that people can sort of see what the range
15 of timeframes, alternatives, solutions and problems
16 are. And I don't know if we are talking six months
17 from now, nine months from now, but our intention is to
18 bring you something that gives you a real focused
19 opportunity to see the sort of pluses and minuses and
20 make informed decisions about even which path or paths
21 to support.

22

23 MR. WILSON: I guess at this point I'd
24 just encourage if there was any to involve maybe not
25 public but maybe landholders adjacent to the park on
26 all sides into some of the discussion to help you
27 formulate some of these options. Especially if you are
28 talking about -- or there is a possibility it sounds
29 like turning part of it into a Preserve and Preserve
30 you have subsistence status and things like this. I
31 guess being a landholder, you know, adjacent to the
32 Park, just invite the idea I guess if it's something
33 that's made possible to us as locals, as corporations,
34 landholders, I think we'd probably jump on the idea.

35

36 MR. HAMON: Mr. Wilson. We have --
37 everything you can imagine has been discussed. And
38 that doesn't mean I don't think that you should have
39 input. The reality is we've had public meetings and
40 we've had stuff here, so we have so many options now
41 that the list is more than nine and that's a lot.
42 Usually for these kinds of things you deal with three.
43 The list is more than nine. You'll see that full list.
44 We aren't going to cut it down and you can add to it,
45 but right now we have a planner that just saw this for
46 the first time two weeks ago and she's just getting
47 everything that's on the record down for her.

48

49 As soon as I have something from her,
50 as far as I'm concerned, you're welcome in my office.

1 We can go through everything on there and we can add
2 anything you'd like. And if you know anybody else that
3 you'd like to involve, you can send them to my office
4 too. I totally agree, but before we add something
5 let's start with the actual list we have so we know
6 what we're adding instead of just duplicating, if that
7 seems fair. I'll let you know as soon as I have
8 something.

9

10 MR. WILSON: Shy of just being invited
11 to help you with that list, yes.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

14

15 MS. MORRIS LYON: And correct me if I'm
16 wrong too, it was my understanding that at that point,
17 what you guys are doing is compiling this for opening
18 it for public comment. And I guess I would just voice
19 my desire, if that is indeed true, at which time public
20 comments can be incorporated into this final decision,
21 that hopefully we would have it in time or even
22 actually ahead of time for our fall meetings so that we
23 could even collectively as a Board perhaps come on it.

24

25 MR. HAMON: I'll try to do that. I
26 don't know what the timeframes will be yet, but just to
27 be very clear this is a pre, pre, pre list. We're
28 going to take this list and we're going to kick it
29 around and abuse it and hopefully some of you will help
30 us do that. This isn't even an alternative list for
31 NEPA. We will probably end up after discussions with
32 some of you and multiple internal dropping it down to a
33 more reasonable number for the open of the official
34 public discourse. We're just trying to get every
35 option out there to start with so we make sure that
36 what we take to the public process encompasses them,
37 but it's not so exhaustive that it's confusing.

38

39 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame
40 Chair. That answered my question. Just knowing we'll
41 still be able to have plenty of input into it.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 MR. HAMON: We'll have Sherri give a
46 quick update on the Aniakchak SRC and then we'll hand
47 it over to the Lake Clark.

48

49 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Are you taking public
50 comments on this one?

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Go ahead.

2

3 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Madame Chair and
4 Council. I guess I share the frustration that I heard
5 from some of our elderly Council members and I can
6 understand. I guess I'm an elder now too. Most of us
7 who have been around the regulatory process for many
8 years I guess we try to stay focused on the charges
9 that are given to us and try to make sure that
10 protection of our resources that we depend on for a
11 subsistence food, livelihood and the other uses that we
12 use are given adequate attention, whether it's on
13 Federal or State land.

14

15 I guess as I listened to this
16 discussion here, I'm just wondering how much of this
17 kind of program would help us as subsistence users to
18 really enjoy and to be able to, I guess, participate in
19 a subsistence process that's given to us under Title
20 VIII of ANILCA. It seems to me that even with our
21 input when ANILCA was adopted there was a lot of room
22 for broad and stretched out interpretations of how
23 ANILCA should be implemented on lands that National
24 Park Service and others have, I guess, been set aside
25 even before Statehood, a lot of these lands.

26

27 I guess I'm with Lary and many of
28 these. I was just looking at the map, particularly in
29 the North Peninsula area and the other places too.
30 Most of the land in this area is Federal land and
31 designated in several different agencies. I hope that
32 as you're presented with this kind of information and
33 notices from different agencies that a press release
34 has been put out to start a process of drafting new
35 regulations, that we never are allowed to lose sight of
36 the fact that the Federal Subsistence Board primarily
37 was set in response to the State of Alaska's lack of
38 having a real subsistence program for Alaska Native
39 people or Alaska residents including Alaska Native
40 people.

41

42 Currently I sit on BBNC board, who is
43 one of the major landowners, subsurface landowners in
44 the region, and we represent, of course, many
45 shareholders that still rely on our corporation lands,
46 State land and Federal land to carry out our
47 subsistence lifestyle. Of course, there are many uses
48 within these lands as well that we share with people
49 that utilize many of these same resources.

50

1 So I hope that the RACs and throughout
2 Alaska -- it seems like, if I understand this
3 correctly, sort of a blanket new regulation that's
4 going to be placed before our people and it's going to
5 take many of us who have been trying to help to
6 understand and help to promulgate a lot of regulations
7 on behalf of our people, to explain to them, well, this
8 is just new regulations in place now. You can go out
9 and collect bones and whatever else that you happen to
10 find if you have a permit. If you don't have a permit,
11 you might be cited. Well, for what? Well, because you
12 picked up a dead bone.

13
14 Well, you know, it talks about
15 historical uses and whatnot. I'm trying to be creative,
16 I guess, as an elder that has hunted and participated
17 in fisheries and whatnot for years of where this type
18 of deal comes from. This might be targeted primarily
19 for visitors that's coming to our Park systems and
20 others from out of state. Maybe that's okay. I hope it
21 does not become another burden on our people who have
22 depended on subsistence lifestyle for years. Another
23 regulation on top of another regulation I guess is what
24 I'm talking about.

25
26 I worked for a Board of Fish/Board of
27 Game program for 21 years and I know it takes a long
28 time for people to even understand a simple regulation
29 pertaining to use of fish and game and then you throw a
30 bunch of other stuff on top of that.

31
32 Another issue that I'm thinking of is
33 for every regulations that's been in place there's a
34 cost involved. Time, human resource time, your time
35 and public's time of trying to figure out and
36 assimilate what this regulation proposal is about. I
37 hope that as some of these new regulations come into
38 play that doesn't take away some monies that have been
39 designated for real subsistence needs and programs
40 throughout the state of Alaska, including the need for
41 a public process such as the RACs in Southwest Alaska
42 as well.

43
44 I guess these are just my comments at
45 this point here. We have this process -- I guess
46 Office of Subsistence Management, in my observation, is
47 very top heavy. We have very few people out here that
48 are actually doing something that I think is
49 meaningful. I come from Dillingham area where U.S.
50 Fish and Wildlife and Togiak National Wildlife Refuge

1 staff I think have spent some meaningful time with our
2 people within the area to come up with a real classic
3 example of how people can participate and grow a
4 caribou herd on Federal land.

5
6 As a result, people within the villages
7 in that area, Unit 17A, Unit 17, have the harvest
8 results of the time they've spent in working with both
9 State and Federal agencies to where that herd has grown
10 and it supplied red meat. Ironically, that herd was
11 from down here in Unit 9 years ago. That's the place
12 where it came from. You folks can't even hunt caribou
13 at the moment.

14
15 But anyway, after listening to my
16 friend Lary over there and the frustrations he's had, I
17 just thought as a fellow elder and one who's also
18 worked with Advisory Committees and have sat on many
19 board meetings trying to help people understand what
20 regulations mean and how they could live with them
21 without having to try to figure out on top of other
22 regulations what meaning they had for our subsistence
23 lifestyle.

24
25 So thank you for giving me the time.
26 And good afternoon. I hope you get done soon.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Troy, you have
29 a.....

30
31 MR. HAMON: Just a quick note. Thank
32 you, Joe. We've certainly heard and I agree with the
33 concern about regulations being onerous for the local
34 users. One thing I did want to point out is that as
35 far as the reason for the regulation, the National Park
36 Service, because of the nature of our Congressional
37 basis, is a place where on our lands you can't take
38 anything unless authorized.

39
40 So the reality of the current situation
41 is that none of these collections are legal even for
42 local subsistence rural residents. This regulation is
43 intended to authorize the use that is normal and
44 customary historically for these people. So that's the
45 reason why it exists. Whatever you can help us do to
46 make that normal activity legal and not onerous is
47 greatly appreciated. That's where we would like to
48 get.

49
50 So thank you.

1 MS. ANDERSON: Madame Chairman.
2 Members of the board. Sherri Anderson, subsistence
3 manager. So Aniakchak SRC met last Friday. They held
4 elections. Harry Kosbruk was named chairman.
5 Kalmakoff, excuse me. Kalmakoff was elected as the
6 chairman. He's from Chignik Lake. Mark Kosbruk was
7 elected as vice-chairman for the committee.

8
9 The committee looked over some of the
10 proposals that you looked over today and at that time
11 they decided that they were not going to make any
12 comments. We also discussed the vacancies that were on
13 the board. One that you took care of earlier. The
14 other one is a Secretary of Interior appointment and in
15 January I sent out publication notices to all the
16 villages, Chigniks and Port Heiden, that we had this
17 opening. It's an application process. I sent along an
18 application to the tribal councils and to the village
19 post offices so that it can be posted. As of Friday, I
20 had not gotten one application back from anybody who
21 was interested.

22
23 So on Friday we talked about spreading
24 the announcement out to the resident communities, so
25 I've already done that. They have until March 31st to
26 apply. I have applications with me if anybody on the
27 board knows of somebody from that area that you think
28 might be interested. I can give you an application to
29 give them or, if you want to give me their phone
30 number, I can call them and approach them and explain
31 the situation and see if they would like to apply. We
32 are going to meet again the end of September.

33
34 That is my quick update for you.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
37 you, Sherri.

38
39 MR. HAMON: Okay. Last, for the
40 National Park Service finally. Sorry for keeping you
41 waiting, Margaret. This is Margaret Goodro from Lake
42 Clark, the superintendent.

43
44 MS. GOODRO: Good afternoon. Madame
45 Chair and Council. This is a tough time to be on the
46 clock, so I'm going to speed through this literally.
47 First I wanted to give some positive updates and one is
48 the National Park Service for the Alaska Region started
49 a program called SCA Academy. It's a partnership with
50 Student Conservation Association and we take 20 Alaskan

1 youth and we put them through a week-long orientation
2 and then they have a summer internship with National
3 Parks throughout Alaska. So this will be our third
4 year doing that. We hold that at Kenai Fjords and it
5 happens the third week in March.

6
7 It's been very successful and very
8 successful in getting Alaska youth into the Park
9 Service and learning more about conservation jobs. Last
10 year we had 153 SCA youth internships in the Park
11 Service, so it's been a very successful program for us
12 to diversify and get our youth out there working in
13 conservation jobs.

14
15 For Lake Clark, I came on board two
16 years ago and it started with sequestration and then
17 followed up with a flat line budget. Luckily we have
18 an incredible staff at Lake Clark who have done a great
19 job with -- we work on strategic planning and basically
20 prioritizing where we're going to put our people and
21 where we're going to put our money to get the most
22 done.

23
24 Lary, one of the things I agree with
25 you is we have these wonderful ideas, we meet with
26 folks like you, but if I want to go make it happen on
27 the ground, I then have to start consultation and then
28 I have to get money for an environmental analysis and
29 then I have to get money for the project. By the time
30 that idea happens and that work happens on the ground,
31 it's generally three to five years. So I'm not that
32 patient of a person. So I feel you on a lot of this.

33
34 With the EA that was talked about here,
35 that's us trying to provide something that we think
36 should be provided, but we have to go through these
37 hoops just like that frustration you have. We have
38 that frustration. But those hoops were designed so
39 that we're making good decisions and as managers
40 we're not making poor decisions and didn't look at
41 environmental issues that might pop up. So, it's
42 painful for us too, but we're doing the best we can and
43 getting a lot done.

44
45 That's what I want to talk about with
46 Lake Clark. Our visitation has almost doubled in the
47 last five years. A lot of that is bear viewing on the
48 coast. So, as a result, we have more staff in the
49 field than we ever have and a lot of those are youth
50 intern positions. So I doubled the staff last year

1 using youth positions, so there's 23 youth positions at
2 Lake Clark. We now will have staff at all our coastal
3 locations where a lot of that bear viewing takes place.

4

5

6 And we got a grant for some junior
7 ranger programs to take place in Nondalton and Iliamna.
8 We accomplished more trail work last year than has ever
9 been accomplished. Again, that's a lot because of the
10 SCA crews.

11

12 One of the things you talked about was
13 resource briefs. I don't have them ready yet, but I
14 asked for us to have resource briefs of a lot of the
15 projects going on. A simple one-page brief that
16 captures the elements and that we can share with the
17 public, we can share with our partners, they can be
18 taken to schools. So I'm hoping they'll be rolling
19 those out in the next month, but some of those projects
20 we'd be talking about is a bear study, which we just
21 started this last year. So far we've got 28 bears
22 collared and that will be a three-year project.

23

24 We're on the last year of a wolf study,
25 so the wolf study so far what I've learned is we've got
26 five to six packs and the pack size is five to six per
27 pack. So all of these studies that are going on we'll
28 have those one-page briefs that we'll be able to share.
29 You'll be able to have them at your lodges, share with
30 folks there to inform them in a way that's easy for the
31 public to understand.

32

33 Also subsistence. When I came on
34 board, I tried to get on the website and learn more
35 about subsistence. There wasn't a whole lot of
36 information on there. So I asked for our subsistence
37 website to be updated in an easy, understandable
38 format. Also we had a subsistence booklet that was
39 about 20 pages long, so I've asked for that to be
40 reworked so that's a simpler format and more user
41 friendly for the folks in the local communities and
42 have the kind of maps that will help them when they're
43 conducting subsistence activities.

44

45 For cultural work, they're going to
46 finish up that subsistence. We also assisted on an
47 ADF&G whitefish study and the ADF&G should be getting
48 that report out here in the next couple of months.

49

50 I'm going to leave it at that. Is

1 there any questions?

2

3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

4

5 MR. HILL: Just a comment. You also
6 helped with the Kijik Restoration Project.

7

8 MS. GOODRO: Yes. We've got a lot
9 going on with cultural projects. We've got a whole
10 list of those. With Kijik, we have multiple projects
11 that have been funded and they're overlapping, but we
12 did LIDAR studies and the LIDAR shows. Basically it
13 can see through the vegetation to see where there was
14 historic ground disturbance and then we had
15 archaeological work done where it showed that there had
16 been disturbance.

17

18 We also have a culture camp that will
19 be happening this year out at Historic Kijik. There is
20 a land transfer that was supposed to take place that
21 won't take place, so Kijik will stay with the Park
22 Service for management. There was also a ceremony last
23 year where I think there was about 70 people that were
24 brought out and that was a really great historic
25 ceremony for Kijik. We're hoping to do that again this
26 year.

27

28 We have a liaison, basically a position
29 that was hired through Nondalton Tribal Council to
30 manage the projects through that cooperative agreement.
31 It's been very successful. We've had a lot of great
32 cultural projects that have been very rewarding.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any comments.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I guess we're
39 happy with what
40 you're doing. It sounds wonderful.

41

42 MS. GOODRO: All right. Thank you.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I know the
45 reason why you're here and the agencies are here is to
46 help us understand and to help us. I know that the
47 majority of our frustration is when we have
48 misunderstanding. We haven't quite, I guess,
49 understood your purpose.

50

1 You know, when Troy -- maybe I was
2 asleep when he first started talking, but if Troy would
3 have come out to tell us the reason why this is
4 happening is because, you know, the purpose of -- oh, I
5 guess the subsistence removal of whatever is not legal
6 and then we're trying to work this out for you so that
7 it will be legal for subsistence users and I think if
8 -- maybe you did and I was asleep, but I think if you
9 had come out strongly with that from the very
10 beginning, we might have been done already.

11
12 MS. GOODRO: I agree with you. And one
13 of the things that the government is not good at is
14 messaging or marketing. So sometimes our head is into
15 those environmental analyses and our head is into the
16 regulation and we forget to tell the story of why we
17 are where we are in a simple way. So that happens to a
18 lot of us and it's good sometimes to just remind us or
19 the questions that you bring up, then we're like, wow,
20 we didn't even say why we were doing this in the first
21 place. We're not trying to impose a new reg, we're
22 trying to make something possible that's not possible
23 now.

24
25 So that's a really good point, but
26 that's why it's so valuable to hear from all of you is
27 it helps us remember what we need to be doing with our
28 messaging or areas that we're not thinking of in a plan
29 or an environmental analysis or a new idea for a land
30 swap or a possibility. So that communication is so
31 important to get the ideas, but it does take us a while
32 to make those ideas happen.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.
35 Thanks for that information. Moving down the line.

36
37 BLM.

38
39 MR. SHARP: Madame Chair. This is Dan
40 Sharp with BLM. I don't have a formal report for the
41 Council today. The only information I'll pass along is
42 Merben Cebrian, the wildlife biologist in the Anchorage
43 office, has moved down to the Lower 48 and Bruce Seppi
44 will be filling his role. Other than that, if there
45 are any questions related to BLM-managed lands, I'd be
46 happy to try to address them if the Council has any.

47
48 Thank you very much, Madame Chair.

49
50 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I'm not seeing

1 anybody jumping for the mic. I guess one question I
2 have is I know in the past we've discussed BLM
3 integrating their lands to somebody else. Is that
4 still ongoing or is that my understanding?

5
6 MR. SHARP: Madame Chair. BLM is sort
7 of the warehouse of Federal public lands that haven't
8 been selected or designated for other uses. The State
9 has made selections as have Native corporations. Both
10 entities were allowed to over-select their allotments
11 and so what's happening now is, as final selections are
12 made, some allotments or some over-selected lands are
13 coming back to BLM. But, in general, BLM is finalizing
14 those Native land selections and State land selections.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thanks
17 for the update. If you don't have anything else,
18 thanks for your update and we'll move on down to ADF&G,
19 State of Alaska.

20
21 MR. CRAWFORD: Madame Chair. This is
22 Drew Crawford, Alaska Department of Fish and Game in
23 Anchorage.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. You're
26 on.

27
28 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes. We've got two
29 presentations for you this afternoon. Dave Crowley,
30 our King Salmon wildlife biologist is there. He's
31 going to give you an update on Northern Alaska
32 Peninsula Caribou and moose. We also have Travis
33 Elison. He's on the teleconference and he'll be
34 available to answer questions on the 2014 Bristol Bay
35 salmon season summary and the 2015 salmon forecast.
36 Last, but not least, I've got just a few comments for
37 you after that. Over.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Well,
40 we'll get started.

41
42 MR. CROWLEY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
43 Dave Crowley, Department of Fish and Game. I'm going
44 to take about 30 seconds and start with the Mulchatna
45 Caribou Herd. I've been briefed by Andy Aderman and
46 Neal Barton. I'll just update you since the photo
47 census and our composition survey. We're currently at
48 about 26,000. Last year 2013 there were 105 caribou
49 reported harvested, 30 calves per 100 cows and that was
50 the highest since 1998 except for two other years, so

1 third highest since 1998, 35 bulls per 100 cows,
2 highest since 2000, and we've seen a steady increase
3 during the last five years.

4
5 Moving on to the NAP. I think Dom and
6 Tom covered that pretty well. I'll just kind of touch
7 on the highlights here. Currently minimum count about
8 2,700. We did get a good survey in October of -- just
9 this last October. The clouds lifted off of most of
10 the mountains so we got up high. We saw I think all of
11 our collared cows except for one, so we feel this
12 minimum count is one of the better ones that we've had
13 in quite a while, so pretty confident with that.

14
15 Again, 35 calves per 100 cows, the best
16 since 1994. Seen a steady increase since our bottom in
17 2005 at about 7 calves per 100 cows. It was way down
18 there. 40 bulls per 100, best since 2002 and that's
19 been increasing since 2008. Population data showing
20 slow but steady recovery. Pregnancy rates have been
21 good. Newborn calves that we've handled are healthy
22 and body condition of captured adults has been
23 excellent, so a lot of optimism there. As we discussed
24 earlier, a possible hunt beginning in 2016.

25
26 Moving on to moose again, we've kind of
27 covered this and Troy did a good job of kind of
28 bringing you up to speed. We have seen this long-term
29 decline. Very long-term decline since the '90s. Not
30 only has moose density declined, but also the number of
31 moose hunters and harvest to go along with that. So
32 since the 1990s we've seen a 40 percent decline in the
33 number of moose hunters in Unit 9. Most of those have
34 been non-locals, either residents of Alaska or non-
35 residents. The local hunting population has stayed a
36 bit more stable, but we have seen a decline in that as
37 well. And then a 57 percent decline in the reported
38 harvest since the 1990s.

39
40 One area of improvement that we saw the
41 last several years in 9B there was a record high and
42 that was related to that very heavy snowfall that we
43 had that really assisted with getting out there after
44 the moose. This year, 2014, was the second highest
45 harvest reported in 9B. I mean ever since we started
46 keeping track. So it looks like maybe some improvement
47 there.

48
49 In 9E, harvest success for local
50 hunters went up to nearly 50 percent, but I think part

1 of that is because we're now at a record low in the
2 number of local hunters in 9E. Very few local hunters.
3 I was one of them in 2013. Not very much hunting
4 pressure at all out there.

5
6 In 9C, hunter success has remained low,
7 less than 20 percent for local hunters. Low calf/cow
8 ratio until recently is probably part of the problem.
9 The last couple winters there's been very little wolf
10 harvest in Unit 9C. It was like nine and five the last
11 couple of years versus 48 the year before that, so
12 quite a difference there.

13
14 The most important part of the wolf
15 harvest is hunters and trappers. We have the intensive
16 management program for caribou in 9C and E. It's just
17 not effective. There's not much success there at all.
18 It's really important that hunters and trappers know
19 that they are important for calf survival in 9C.

20
21 Okay. I'll leave it at that, Madame
22 Chair.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

25
26 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. 9B you
27 mentioned that it was the highest catch or the highest
28 report or there was a highest number there. Could you
29 give me that number and what was it about. It was on
30 moose.

31
32 MR. CROWLEY: That's correct. Madame
33 Chair, Mr. Wilson. It was for moose in 9B and it was
34 reported harvest by local hunters.

35
36 MR. WILSON: Four?

37
38 MR. CROWLEY: Let's see. The number
39 was 29 in 2011 and in 2014 it was 19. And that's
40 versus Unit 9 wide reported harvest of around 100.

41
42 MR. WILSON: So what percentage was
43 that from the previous year? Do you have that harvest?

44
45 MR. CROWLEY: Yes, I can just from
46 memory. It was in 2010 and '11 the reported harvest
47 was more like 15 to 20 in 9B.

48
49 MR. WILSON: Is that percentage or is
50 that actual.....

1 MR. CROWLEY: That's actual number.
2
3 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. I'm still
4 concerned about this population. We're seeing less and
5 less consistently. We've got better calving ratios
6 coming up, but our numbers are still down. To me, it's
7 still getting to a point where it's getting pretty
8 scary. I've mentioned this at a couple meetings in a
9 row. At some point here -- what, in your mind, the
10 Department's mind, what would be the minimal amount
11 before we start shutting the door on nonresident? What
12 kind of cap are we putting a minimal cap on? Where are
13 we at with this? Do you have any idea there?
14
15 MR. CROWLEY: Madame Chair, Mr. Wilson.
16 That's a tough question because when the amount
17 necessary for subsistence, for example, was designated,
18 I believe it was back in the '90s, it was 140 to 170
19 moose and that's when we had five, six hundred hunters.
20 We just don't have that many hunters. We're pretty
21 sure we don't have that many moose on the ground
22 anymore. It is a lower density, but it's hard to weigh
23 that. The harvest the last couple years has been 90 to
24 100. The bulls are out there. The number of bulls,
25 you know, 140 or better, are out there, but we're just
26 not seeing the effort, the number of hunters, that we
27 used to see, so it's kind of tough to pin that number
28 down and it is worth discussing.
29
30 MR. HILL: Your 140 bulls, is that for
31 the entirety?
32
33 MR. CROWLEY: Uh-huh.
34
35 MR. HILL: That's the entire
36 population. What's the bull to cow ratio of those 140?
37
38 MR. CROWLEY: Sorry, Troy just
39 clarified that question for me. The designated amount
40 necessary for subsistence is 140, but that is not the
41 total number of bulls in the population. We don't
42 really know what that is without doing some more
43 analysis. As you know, we just don't really have very
44 good population data. We've generally managed by
45 composition, looking at historical harvest and looking
46 at composition. Bull to cow ratio lately -- I don't
47 think I have that in front of me here. Let me look. I
48 want to say our last survey at least in 9C was around
49 30 bulls per 100 and I think it was about 19 calves per
50 100, which is not very good.

1 So we are concerned about the
2 population density. There's no way of getting around
3 the predation because we've got an intensive management
4 program for wolves already in the area. It's really
5 not doing any good. Kind of our best hope is that
6 apparently the bear population is down and we have seen
7 this flush of calves in the last year or two.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

10
11 MR. HILL: Again, in 9B, we locally are
12 getting pretty concerned about the low moose
13 population. This winter and last winter it was very
14 difficult to get out locally and get any. Also hard to
15 do a count because of lack of snow, but we're really
16 concerned. We don't want to shut everything down, but
17 I almost feel like maybe it should be -- funding, of
18 course, is always a problem, but a more extensive
19 study. We're starting to get a little scared. We
20 don't want them to disappear.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.

23
24 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. At this
25 point, what would it take to get into a conservative
26 mode and just have resident hunting? What would be our
27 next step for us to start conserving and just have
28 resident hunting? How do we go about that?

29
30 MR. CROWLEY: Madame Chair, Mr. Wilson.
31 I think you're talking about going into a Tier I
32 registration hunt for residents only. Not having a lot
33 of background in the King Salmon area, I really don't
34 know how to answer that. Where I came from, we just
35 didn't have that kind of absence of moose that we have
36 here.

37
38 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, Council
39 members. I feel it's time. I mean we've been talking
40 about this for a couple of seasons now. We've
41 continually asked the agencies to give some realistic
42 numbers of what's out there in our moose population.
43 Everything we see is going down. Their composition
44 surveys, the ratio of bull to cow seems to be okay yet,
45 but the calf stuff was falling. We're on a downward
46 trend and we've been there for a while. I believe it's
47 time and I would entertain the idea of moving us into a
48 Tier I program here before it's too late. How do we do
49 that? Is that something for discussion with this
50 Council here?

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.
2
3 MR. HILL: In 9B, in my area, the same
4 thing. We're seeing real low amounts of moose and the
5 ones we see are small. The bulls are small. There's
6 some twinning of calves and that's encouraging. Again,
7 I don't want to be the one to pull the plug, but it's a
8 matter of concern. People are going to Fairbanks and
9 Tok and Togiak and everywhere else and get moose and we
10 can't get them locally. We're really concerned.
11
12 MR. CROWLEY: Madame Chair. I should
13 point out that we just finished a board process and we
14 did go to a three-year cycle, the same as the Board of
15 Fish cycle, so the Board of Game would not be able to
16 act on this in a normal cycle until -- I think the call
17 would be 2017.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard.
20
21 MR. WILSON: It seems like there should
22 be -- I mean isn't there some -- Donald, isn't there
23 some things in place that we can address this sooner?
24
25 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. Currently we
26 are in the cycle of wildlife proposals and one of the
27 proposals that this Council can consider submitting to
28 the Federal Subsistence Board is to request to close
29 Federal public lands only to rural residents and that's
30 one option. The other option is to approach the Board
31 of Game and that's a different regulatory cycle and
32 we'd have to have our liaison to the Board of Game help
33 address that.
34
35 Thank you, Madame Chair.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.
38
39 MS. MORRIS LYON: Just as a point of
40 reference, I believe we have until March 25th, so we're
41 still perfectly in line on that. Richard, if you've got
42 something you'd like to put on the table, this is the
43 perfect time, I think.
44
45 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. This would
46 be a special action then, is that what I understand,
47 Donald?
48
49 MR. MIKE: No. As I discussed earlier,
50 we are taking wildlife proposals until March 25th. My

1 suggestion to the Council is to submit a wildlife
2 proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board requesting
3 that Federal public lands in Unit 9 be closed only to
4 rural residents of the region.

5
6 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, Council
7 members. I think at this time that's what my proposal
8 would be, to close Federal public lands so that -- you
9 know, just for residents only.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Is that your
12 motion?

13
14 MR. WILSON: That is my motion.

15
16 MS. MORRIS LYON: I'd like to second
17 the motion.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There's been a
20 motion and second to close Federal public lands to
21 Federally recognized residents only. Donald.

22
23 MR. MIKE: For the record and
24 clarification, that would be 9B or all of Unit 9?

25
26 Thank you, Madame Chair.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: We don't have
29 a quorum. Donald.

30
31 MR. MIKE: Okay. We lost the quorum.
32 The other option is I can help a resident from King
33 Salmon/Naknek to submit a proposal to the Federal
34 Subsistence Board. That's what we're here for, to
35 provide technical assistance.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Donald,
40 you'll be working with Richard to form this proposal or
41 others.

42
43 MR. MIKE: Yes, Madame Chair. I'll
44 work with the locals and we can identify which unit are
45 we specifically talking about, either 9B or all of Unit
46 9.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50 MR. CROWLEY: Thank you, Madame Chair.

1 I'd just like to comment that 9E is distinctly
2 different from the other areas in Unit 9 in that the
3 majority of it the moose harvest is by guided
4 nonresidents. We're down to a very small population of
5 local moose hunters in 9E.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 MR. WILSON: Yeah, just a short
10 explanation of why I'm going this way. I think putting
11 the pressure on at this point or making up a proposal
12 before the Board is going to put pressure on perhaps
13 trying to get some better recognition of what's going
14 on here. Because we are on a down trend and it seems
15 like it's pretty serious, so that's the direction it
16 took.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I think
21 we're set on this. Do we need anymore discussions.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: How about the
26 ones on the phone, were they going to be giving
27 additional information.

28

29 MR. ELISON: Yes, Madame Chair. This
30 is Travis Elison.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: You've got the
33 floor.

34

35 MR. ELISON: Thank you. Once again,
36 Travis Elison. I work for the Commercial Fisheries
37 Division of Fish and Game. I replaced Slim Morstad
38 last summer as the Naknek/Kvichak District Manager. I
39 believe you guys have two documents from me. One is
40 the 2014 Bristol Bay salmon season summary and also the
41 2015 Bristol Bay sockeye salmon forecast. I was just
42 going to read you off the highlights of these two
43 documents and then take any questions.

44

45 So for the 2014 season summary. The
46 2014 inshore Bristol Bay sockeye salmon run of 40.6
47 million fish ranks seventh out of the last 20 years and
48 is 17 percent above the 34.7 million average run for
49 the same period. This year's sockeye run was 53
50 percent above the preseason inshore forecast of 26.6

1 million fish. Togiak was the only district to come in
2 lower than the preseason forecast with Naknek, Kvichak,
3 Egegik, Ugashik and Nushagak districts all larger than
4 predicted.

5
6 The 28.8 million sockeye salmon
7 commercial harvest was 61 percent above the 17.9
8 million preseason forecast. All escapement goals were
9 met with a total sockeye salmon escapement of 11.8
10 million fish. That's bay wide.

11
12 Approximately 13,0000 king salmon were
13 harvested in Bristol Bay in 2014. Preliminary harvest
14 for other species was chum salmon 557,000 fish, coho
15 salmon 266,000 fish and 1.3 million pink salmon.

16
17 Moving on to the 2015 forecast, a total
18 of approximately 54 million sockeye salmon with a range
19 of 44.8 to 63 million fish are expected to return to
20 Bristol Bay in 2015. This prediction is 40 percent
21 greater than the previous 10-year average of total runs
22 and 51 percent greater than the long-term average of
23 32 million.

24
25 All systems are expected to meet their
26 spawning escapement goals. A run size of 54 million
27 sockeye salmon can produce a potential harvest of about
28 40.5 million fish. The projected harvest includes 38.5
29 million fish in Bristol Bay and 2 million fish in the
30 South Peninsula fisheries. A Bristol Bay harvest of
31 38.5 million would be 45 percent greater than the
32 previous 10-year average harvest of 26 million and 60
33 percent greater than the long-term mean of 24 million.

34
35 Madame Chair, those are the highlights.
36 I've kind of summarized everything up from these two
37 documents and if anybody has questions I'd be willing
38 to take those.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Do we have any
41 questions from the board. Richard.

42
43 MR. WILSON: What do you think of
44 Bristol Bay gone wild?

45
46 (Laughter)

47
48 MR. ELISON: I try not to think about
49 it.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. This is
2 informational. If we don't have any other comments, is
3 there any other additional comments from -- I think
4 there was one or two more online.

5
6 MR. CRAWFORD: Madame Chair. This is
7 Drew Crawford, Fish and Game in Anchorage. I just have
8 one comment for you. Earlier in your meeting you had a
9 teleconference with Chignik Lake and I wanted to let
10 you know that I have already contacted our Comm Fish
11 staff to let them know about this letter that you
12 received from them and their concerns about their
13 Chignik Lake subsistence salmon. Over.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We're
16 chuckling because you sound like you're out in the boat
17 on your VHS. When you completed, you said over, but
18 that was cool. Any questions from the board.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: This was again
23 informational and we thank you. Anybody else from the
24 phone? I think you were the last person under ADF&G.

25
26 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, ma'am. That
27 concludes the presentations. Over.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
30 you. Going on to OSM.

31
32 MR. O. LIND: Good afternoon, Madame
33 Chairman. Council members. I'm going to give you a
34 quick report on OSM staffing. I know at the last
35 meeting in Dillingham there was a lot of questions on
36 what's happening with OSM, where are these positions.
37 Well, good news is Gene Peltola and his staff got some
38 hires and I'm just going to go down the line.

39
40 Karen Deatherage was hired as a
41 Subsistence Council Coordinator and she's assigned to
42 the Kodiak/Aleutians Region. Adrienne Fleek was also
43 hired as a Subsistence Council Coordinator and she's
44 assigned to the Y-K Delta and the Seward Peninsula
45 Regions.

46
47 Jennifer Harding was hired as the
48 Anthropology Division Chief and she will be leading a
49 staff of four anthropologists and social scientists,
50 filling a position that's been vacant for over a year

1 and a half.

2

3 Kayla McKinney was hired as an
4 administrative records specialist and she comes to us
5 after serving nine years in the U.S. Army as an IT
6 specialist. She was stationed in Fort Campbell and
7 Fort Richardson and she will be assisting our
8 regulations specialist in record compilation and
9 organization.

10

11 Lisa Mauze was hired as a wildlife
12 biologist and she was also responsible for preparing
13 complex and NEPA documents and Endangered Species Act
14 Section 7 of biological evaluations.

15

16 Suzanne Worker was hired as a wildlife
17 biologist and she's been working with the Western
18 Alaska LCC since April of 2012. In this position, she
19 will help make recommendations to senior staff and
20 steering committee personnel on a variety of complex
21 natural resource management issues. She's developed a
22 cooperative agreement a variety of partners, Federal,
23 State, tribe and non-profits.

24

25 And also me, your new Native liaison.
26 I've been at the job now for 11 weeks and I really look
27 forward to greater increasing our relationship with the
28 tribes and such as yourself, the RAC Councils, and the
29 whole state of Alaska. I'm looking forward to working
30 with you. Quyana, thank you.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any questions.

33

34 MR. WILSON: Just a comment. Orville,
35 I really appreciate you securing that position. We're
36 thankful it was you and we're right behind you.

37

38 MR. O. LIND: I'm happy as a clam in
39 high water. It's an amazing job for me. It's a huge
40 step from being a local Refuge information technician
41 and being able to secure this position. It's a
42 blessing to me.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. If no
47 other comments, thank you, Orville. Okay. I think
48 we're down to the wire.

49

50 MR. HILL: Motion to adjourn.

1 (Laughter)
2
3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I guess before
4 that we had talked about new board member training.
5 Could we not have that until maybe next time.
6
7 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. We can do
8 that. It's been a long day. I don't think Billy or
9 Lary is wanting to continue on sitting in a meeting and
10 going through regulations. So we can plan that for our
11 fall meeting. We'll make sure we have a work session
12 prior to our meeting and that way we can fit everything
13 in our two days.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy, I guess
16 if you don't mind, you're a great new addition to our
17 board and we really appreciate already your input, your
18 knowledge and also with Lary. I don't know if you need
19 any more training.
20
21 (Laughter)
22
23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: You sound like
24 you're already on board. We'll do a little work
25 session at our fall meeting in Dillingham if you don't
26 mind.
27
28 MR. MAINES: Thank you, Madame Chair
29 and thank everybody for your patience. As I mentioned,
30 I'm not the smartest person in the room. My education
31 is by the seat of my pants. What my grandmother and my
32 great uncle and other elders around have taught me and
33 my travels throughout the region with working for
34 various organizations, seeing the lifestyle, there's an
35 abundant natural renewable resources, our sense of
36 ecosystem and the constant battle to maintain our
37 rights for what were ours way before anybody else came
38 in and said hi to us or stopped by and wanted to have a
39 cup of coffee or something.
40
41 Thanks for your patience. I look
42 forward to our journey down the road and hopefully I
43 can add a little something to it too. Thank you for
44 your chairmanship, Molly, and the rest of the Council.
45 It looks like it's going to be fun.
46
47 Thank you.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
50 other closing comments.

1 (No comments)
2
3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I guess, Lary,
4 you've already made a motion to adjourn.
5
6 MR. HILL: That was a joke actually,
7 but just to kind of speak on my position here. I'm
8 always open to learning new things. This is my ninth
9 commission that I'm on or something like that. It gets
10 kind of confusing sometimes. But they all have one
11 thing in common, is helping to preserve our wildlife
12 and our way of life. That's my agenda and I'm going to
13 do everything I can to help preserve that. Just so you
14 know, I don't get riled up very much, but this does get
15 me riled up.
16
17 Thank you for your patience. I guess
18 you don't have to be patient for my sake. It's who I
19 am.
20
21 Thank you and goodbye.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any other
24 comments.
25
26 (No comments)
27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I just wanted
29 to again extend my appreciation for your longevity
30 today. I want to extend my thanks to you folks. I
31 know if you didn't care, if you didn't want to help us,
32 you wouldn't be sitting where you are now, especially
33 until now. So I want to thank you for your patience,
34 for listening to us and educating us.
35
36 Thank you.
37
38 Quyana.
39
40 MR. MIKE: Thank you, everybody. If
41 the Federal staff are available to help clean up. I
42 really appreciate our gracious host, the Native Village
43 of Naknek.
44
45 Thank you, Richard.
46
47 (Off record)
48
49 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33

C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
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 123 through
280 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the
BRISTOL BAY FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY
COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically on the 25th day
of February 2015 at Naknek, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and
correct transcript requested to be transcribed and
thereafter transcribed by under my direction and
reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and
ability;

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 6th
day of March 2015.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/18