

1 BRISTOL BAY ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
3
4 PUBLIC MEETING
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9 VOLUME II

10
11

12 Bristol Bay Native Association
13 Dillingham, Alaska
14 October 29, 2014
15

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18 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

19

20 Nanci Ann Morris Lyon, Acting Chair

21 Peter Abraham

22 Dan Dunaway

23 Thomas Hedlund

24 Daniel O'Hara

25 Richard Wilson

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30 Regional Council Coordinator, Donald Mike

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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 P R O C E E D I N G S

2
3 (Dillingham, Alaska - 10/29/2014)

4
5 (On record)

6
7 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: I'd like to
8 start off with just saying good morning and thank you
9 again for the wonderful potluck, that was a real treat.
10 And I think that I speak on behalf of all the Council
11 members who were able to attend and we really enjoyed it.
12 So appreciate that thoughtfulness very much and know that
13 everybody went to a lot of trouble to put it on for us
14 and we enjoyed it very, very much so thank you.

15
16 Let's get started this morning. I'm
17 going to ask Karen if she'd come forward and speak to her
18 list that she's put back together with us. The Council
19 members have seen a copy of it. In fact, I should have
20 put -- in case anybody else wants a copy I have some
21 leftover copies up here. And we can put those probably
22 in back for anybody else who'd like to take a look at it.

23
24 Thanks, Karen.

25
26 MS. HYER: Good morning, Madam Chair and
27 Council members. This is the report back from the
28 subcommittee and it is my best effort to capture what was
29 said at the meeting and so we're going to go over it line
30 by line and I've already been told there's some
31 corrections. So I'll just start and we'll go through one
32 and then you can tell me what your corrections are or if
33 there's anything I missed or anything I wanted to add.
34 So again this is the report back from the subcommittee
35 meeting we had over lunch yesterday and it dealt with
36 establishing the priority information needs for Southwest
37 Alaska.

38
39 And so for Bristol Bay, the Chignik area,
40 the first one I had, reliable estimates of chinook and
41 sockeye salmon escapement in the Lake Clark watershed.
42 For example projects utilizing weirs, sonar, tower and/or
43 mark-recapture methods. So with that I'll let you give
44 me your input on that.

45
46 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: My only input is
47 I would just remove the word chinook and, and then it'll
48 read just fine. There are no chinook up in the Lake
49 Clark drainage so I would just remove those two
50 words.....

1 MS. HYER: Okay.
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON:and you'll
4 have it perfect.
5
6 Yes, Courtenay.
7
8 MS. CARTY-GOMEZ: Thank you, Madam Chair.
9 For the record Courtenay. At the Lake Clark SRC meeting
10 there was a lot of conversation regarding coho coming
11 into the system and them wanting to understand that
12 population dynamic. I'm not sure that that's necessarily
13 something we need to put in the PIN right now, but that's
14 something that we could look for in the future maybe in
15 the next round.
16
17 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Now I think
18 that's a good point. Why don't you just replace the word
19 chinook with coho. I would be curious on that as well.
20 Those Kvichak stocks fluctuate drastically from year to
21 year so it would be interesting to see if we could get
22 some information on them.
23
24 Okay.
25
26 Does anybody else have anything on bullet
27 point one.
28
29 Dan.
30
31 MR. DUNAWAY: Just I would be also
32 interested in the coho, but we should recognize that coho
33 are really tricky from my understanding everywhere
34 they're hard to understand. So, yeah, as far as a
35 priority I think they should -- sockeye is the real
36 priority there.
37
38 Thank you.
39
40 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Mr. O'Hara.
41
42 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, you would pray that
43 the sockeye -- that the coho does not show up in your
44 watershed because they are a predator and a coho, a chum,
45 a pink and a king, they're all predators. The only one
46 that's not a predator that doesn't have a bycatch by the
47 way is the sockeye and they're a plankton eater. So you
48 don't want too many kings or cohos are those things in
49 your watershed.
50

1 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Go ahead, Karen.

2

3 MS. HYER: Okay. Madam Chair, Council
4 members. Just for clarity you want coho left in the
5 list, you just want to acknowledge that sockeye is more
6 important than coho and coho are difficult to monitor
7 because of many things. Okay.

8

9 All right. The next one is historical
10 salmon escapements into Lake Clark watershed using
11 isotopic analysis of lake sediment cores, lake sediment
12 cores.

13

14 Any comments on that one.

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: My only comment,
17 and this is purely -- I mean, I would -- I don't want to
18 waste a bunch of time with it, but it almost sounds like
19 you've written the plan for it so I guess if anything
20 just knowing that you're looking for proposals back from
21 these make sure they don't get too restrictive I guess so
22 that they can use their own -- I mean, you -- it pretty
23 much says what you want done exactly instead of giving
24 any leeway to the investigator.

25

26 MS. HYER: Yeah, absolutely. And I just
27 want to make the point that they would have to tie the
28 historical salmon escapements into Federal subsistence
29 management now. So some of this stuff is really
30 interesting to know, but it has to have a nexus into
31 Federal subsistence management. And so that's what the
32 investigator would be required to tell us how they -- how
33 we could use it.

34

35 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay.

36

37 MS. HYER: So then the third one is
38 document the diversity in size and age structure of
39 sockeye salmon among spawning populations within Lake
40 Clark National Park and Preserve.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MS. HYER: Okay. The next one is rearing
45 habitat capacity for juvenile sockeye salmon in Lake
46 Clark National Park and Preserve.

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: I guess that one
49 asks -- bears me to ask the question do we want to
50 specify that we want to investigate rearing habitat, we

1 want to -- what -- I guess what was our intent there, is
2 it focused on identifying, investigating. Any thoughts,
3 guys, or you just want to leave it like that?

4

5 Mr. Dunaway.

6

7 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, it would probably be
8 a lot more precise is -- yeah, is this going to -- you
9 know, what do we want to learn about it. Yeah, where it
10 is and how much, maybe -- I'm trying to think of the
11 right words, identify and the extent -- location and
12 extent of rearing habitat.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MS. HYER: So it would read identify
17 location extent of rearing habitat. Okay.

18

19 All right. The next is description and
20 analysis of social network.....

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: You skipped one
23 there, Karen, just to back you up one.

24

25 MS. HYER: The one I put is the rearing
26 habitat and capacity, right or which one are we talking
27 about?

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Correct. And
30 then distribution and timing of spawning by sockeye. Do
31 you have a different list of them?

32

33 MS. HYER: I do. So this -- that's the
34 Katmai one, right. Yes, I -- I've got it right here.
35 Courtenay just -- the original draft I gave her which is
36 this one it was down lower and she fixed that for me.
37 Okay. Yeah, perfect.

38

39 Distribution and timing of spawning by
40 sockeye salmon in the major Bristol Bay watershed of
41 Katmai National Park and Preserve.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 MS. HYER: Okay. All right. Then back
46 to the description and analysis of the social network
47 underlying the distribution of fish harvested for
48 subsistence by residents of Bristol Bay and Chignik area.

49

50 (No comments)

1 MS. HYER: All right. Keep going? All
2 right. Reliable elements of chinook salmon escapement
3 and evaluation of the quality of escapement measure for
4 example potential egg depositions, sex and size
5 composition of spawners, spawning habitat quality and
6 utilization for determining the reproductive potential of
7 spawning stocks in the Meshik River. Okay. Is that
8 good?

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 MS. HYER: All right. Two more to go.
13 So the next one is evaluation of quality of escapement
14 measures for example egg deposition, sex and size
15 composition of spawners, spawning habitat quality and
16 utilization for determining the reproductive potential of
17 chinook salmon spawning stocks in Big Creek and the
18 Naknek River, the Alagnak River and the Nushagak River
19 and the Chignik River. Okay. Is that good?

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 MS. HYER: And then the final one is
24 reliable estimates of chinook salmon escapement into the
25 Togiak River. For example projects utilizing weir,
26 sonar, tower and/or mark-recapture methods.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MS. HYER: Okay. Did I catch everybody's
31 notes?

32
33 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Please, Mr.
34 Abraham.

35
36 MR. ABRAHAM: As for Togiak River I've
37 been in that river for a long time and where the spawning
38 areas are for king salmon are dry up -- drying up right
39 there. And some of those are dammed by beavers. So the
40 king salmon are concentrating in the main river. And
41 then -- so the survival rate of a king is impossible to
42 estimate because of the swift water. There's hardly any
43 eddies over there where these spawn. They can't -- can't
44 spawn many more. So when you put radios out and
45 everything you find the king salmon in the main river
46 most of the time. Even the -- way, way up there where
47 they used to -- I mean, they never used to go up that
48 far. So an estimate of escapement maybe is like -- so
49 it's alarmingly low rate after like 35 years I've been
50 over there. And the numbers can't -- that number's

1 dropped down last spring. Last year and before that we
2 were averaging about maybe 60 per home and it went down
3 to about 20 per home this year. The people at -- were
4 out to King Salmon over there are not more than 10 homes
5 over there. The -- it used to be like maybe 30 people,
6 30 homes harvesting king salmon, but not that many
7 anymore. Because I myself harvest king salmon over there
8 for five families we got over there.

9

10 It's scary, we're losing them over there.

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Very timely

13 then.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 MS. HYER: Madam Chair. Am I on?

18

19 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Yeah, you're on.

20

21 MS. HYER: Madam Chairman, Council
22 members. There now I can hear myself. Okay. Right now
23 we have reliable estimates of escapement. I'm wondering
24 if we want to put the Togiak River into the quality of
25 escapement too if the habitat is changing. I'll just put
26 down that the Council gave me their input on that.

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Yeah, I would
29 agree with that. I was also going to suggest that we add
30 the opposite for the other drainages that were mentioned
31 above the Big Creek, Alagnak, Nushagak and Chignik we
32 also should have reliable escapements. So I think that
33 we need to have both of those on both of those rivers
34 perhaps. That would be a suggestion I would have.

35

36 Courtenay, did you have something you
37 would like to add.

38

39 MS. CARTY-GOMEZ: Thank you, Madam Chair.
40 I just wanted to point out the multi regional priority
41 information needs which we really haven't discussed much,
42 it's on page 64 in your book. And within those needs
43 that are available for any investigator to look at and
44 try to incorporate into their investigation plans are
45 changes in subsistence fisheries resources in the context
46 of climate change and then it gets into detailed examples
47 of different types of climate change parameters that
48 different populations may be facing. So what Mr.
49 Abraham's saying could definitely be worked into
50 investigations looking at the changes in habitat.

1 But in regards to that one thing that is
2 missing in the details here in the multi regional
3 priority information needs, it mentions water quality and
4 temperature, but it really doesn't talk about the amount
5 of water available in our river systems and I know that's
6 something that the Bristol Bay region has worked on very
7 much in regards to ensuring flow reservations in the
8 Upper Nushagak and the Kvichak drainages. So that might
9 be something that the Council might want to consider as
10 a suggestion to incorporate into the changes context of
11 climate change priority information needs.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MR. ABRAHAM: Also the -- if we had a --
16 if we started survey again on sportsmen over there, we
17 have now four companies over there, I used to do that, I
18 used to survey King Salmon there during king season. And
19 when I compare my numbers with ADF&G obviously very, very
20 close the numbers. But I think it's a good idea to start
21 surveying them again. And -- yeah.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MS. CARTY-GOMEZ: Thank you, Pete.
26 Through the Chair. That is one section -- I guess that's
27 one objective that we put in the proposal that I
28 mentioned yesterday for the Alaska Sustainable Salmon
29 Fund to look at sport, subsistence and commercial harvest
30 dynamics in the Togiak district. So hopefully we might
31 get some money, but funding announcements should come out
32 in November I believe.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Then we also had
37 -- it just brings to mind with the limited amount of
38 funds that are around these days I think that it would be
39 another thing for the Partners Program to make sure that
40 funds are not overlapping so we're not doing the same
41 study so we can make the best use of the funds that we
42 have available. So I appreciate you being on top of both
43 of those projects and think it would be another thing
44 that, you know, we should think of in the future and
45 monitor.

46

47 Karen.

48

49 MS. HYER: Madam Chair. I just wanted to
50 follow-up with what Courtenay said and I do appreciate

1 her pointing out the multi regional bullets and we had
2 talked about that yesterday at lunch and I -- the issue
3 with those and they'll stay in there as they are, if
4 there are specific rivers you want it's really beneficial
5 to have them in your call. So I would recommend if you
6 think the amount of water is an issue that we work those
7 right into the quality of escapement. And so then the
8 investigator has it twice and that one's related to
9 climate change so they want to come up with a proposal
10 that's related to climate change at least. We've listed
11 the rivers that are important to us in Southwest Alaska
12 and I think that's really important. So I think we
13 should have it twice myself if that works for you.

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: No, I think that
16 makes perfect sense. And I would add the Alagnak too
17 because I -- it's having more water problems over there
18 than the other ones that I'm directly involved with. And
19 I think that it would have -- hold the most priorities
20 for the west side or the -- yeah, the east side of the
21 bay so that.....

22

23 MS. HYER: So we can -- we can do that,
24 I can make those changes.

25

26 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Any --
27 yes.

28

29 MR. O'HARA: This is kind of an
30 interesting wish list, but, you know, you don't have a
31 whole lot of control over water. And this summer or this
32 spring we had about three weeks of absolute sunshine and
33 we're real happy about the sunshine until it dawned on us
34 that hey, you know, there's way too much sunshine going
35 on here and not enough rain.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 MR. O'HARA: And so this is the first
40 year, Dan, that we started looking at this water
41 situation. And that's just one of the problems that we
42 have and you have no control over that. You can make as
43 many proposals as you want and water does what it does.
44 By the way it's the most valuable element in the world,
45 way more valuable than -- you ask California. They
46 thought Hickel was crazy when he said he was going to
47 build a water line from Southeast down, but he's not
48 crazy anymore, but he doesn't answer his phone either so
49 that's also another problem you got. The situation is
50 every one of these river systems is not getting the fish

1 they need and it's due to the bycatch more than climate
2 or anything else that's happening. And, you know, the
3 processors encourage some of their fishermen in the
4 Naknek River to throw their fish back, but by the time
5 you catch those fish in a gillnet they're probably not
6 going to make it anyway. So it's interesting to go over
7 the list, but I don't think there's a whole lot of sense
8 to it really, you know, you're not going to change
9 anything, water is water and fish are fish. If you want
10 to -- and then Alaska Department of Fish and Game
11 according to similar studies is retired and gone, you
12 know, that the Nushagak just kept changing their
13 escapement records to make it look good on paper, it
14 didn't bring any more fish back. So you're dealing with
15 an issue of getting more fish back into the area and just
16 hope that you've got about a week of rain and two weeks
17 of sunshine because we have got to have the water. And
18 you can have too much water or not enough water and that
19 is the bottom line. And I guess you got to go to your
20 prayer meeting or do a rain dance or something to fix
21 your proposal because that's what the bottom line is.

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Courtenay, go
24 ahead.

25

26 MS. CARTY-GOMEZ: Thank you, Mr. O'Hara.
27 Through the Chair. Just another bullet point in the
28 multi regional priority information needs which I failed
29 to mention yesterday and your conversation just now
30 reminded me to point that out. It is noted in here and
31 we'll probably receive some pretty substantial proposals
32 I would think trying to investigate the affects of the
33 Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska pollack fishery on Federal
34 chinook and chum -- I'm sorry, chum subsistence resources
35 throughout Alaska. So they're definitely thinking about
36 that and know it's an issue and hopefully we'll get some
37 good investigations on that.

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Mr. Dunaway.

40

41 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, looking through this
42 list, that second to the last one that laid the Nushagak
43 River on quality escapement and chinooks and all, there
44 is an ongoing study right now and I haven't been updated
45 for about a year, but they were doing some pretty
46 extensive tagging and other work just this summer. And
47 I'm wishing that I'd alerted the folks in charge of that
48 and they probably could have been here to give us a
49 rundown of where it is in the process. But so I -- and
50 also giving that the minimal amount of Federal nexus on

1 the Nushagak I'm not sure if that should be quite as high
2 a priority. I mean, it's priority as it's the biggest
3 run in the bay, but as far as being able to reel in some
4 Federal money for it, unless we're looking way up at the
5 bits of it that come out of the Lake Clark area. So
6 anyway I don't know what we want to do with that, but a
7 couple thing.....

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Are you
10 suggesting we remove the Nushagak from that list?

11

12 MR. DUNAWAY: Or somehow indicate that
13 it's -- due to the variety of existing studies, existing
14 knowledge and a minimal Federal nexus that it is
15 certainly a lower priority or probably recognize that it
16 might not rise to the top for those reasons. But they
17 are doing an awful lot of work to figure out what's going
18 on there.

19

20 Thanks.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Mr. O'Hara.

23

24 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, you know, this is a
25 voice crying in the wilderness I realize, but Sea Grant
26 and everybody where I've gone and when we had a fisheries
27 at the -- had a big fall meeting in Naknek in the gym --
28 the high school gym and there was a lot of people there
29 and Slim Morestead was a retired geologist, gone by now.
30 And I asked him, I said, Slim, I said, you know, we had
31 an eight year decline of the sockeye in Bristol Bay and
32 we all were inside the rivers and finally the Kvichak
33 came back on cycle and now we're back with some pretty
34 good fish. And I said has any research been done on why
35 we had an eight year decline and he said, no, none. And
36 I said well, tell me about the eel grass going from here
37 at Naknek which connects all the rivers, a deposit from
38 all the rivers you're talking about, from there all the
39 way to Moore, that's 208 miles on a GPS. And I said
40 well, why haven't we looked at, you know, what's
41 happening with that eel grass because these fish go down
42 that eel grass all the way down and then they go from
43 there and they become one, two or three ocean fish as we
44 well know. And he says nothing's been done so I asked
45 the Sea Grant people, I said now you got a brand new
46 research vessel coming in, it's an incredible vessel and
47 it's coming to Alaska, it's in Hawaii right now. No clue
48 why it's in Hawaii, it needs to be where the fish are at.
49 I went to D.C. representing the Sea Grant people and
50 there was only four of us representing the millions and

1 millions of dollars that come to the Sea Grant and I
2 heard the lady from New York saying well, we have got an
3 erosion problem downtown New York. I said no kidding.
4 The guy gets up and he says we're trying to figure out
5 the dollars of what happened to Katrina. I said you're
6 worried about the dollars, what happened to Katrina, I
7 said we're desperately trying to get some fish back to
8 Alaska and preserve our environment. And so I said if
9 you wanted to do something you could take that ship when
10 you bring it back from Hawaii and swing through Bristol
11 Bay and go down that and look what this eel grass does
12 for all of the escapement that goes out of Bristol Bay.
13 And, you know, somewhere along the line some -- the
14 light's going to have to come on in somebody's head
15 saying that we've got to take a look at this. Not that
16 you have to put it into your program here because it's
17 State water and Federal water so it becomes a very
18 difficult situation. But it's something that we're going
19 to.....

20
21 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Any more
22 questions for us?

23
24 MS. HYER: No, I think I have an idea.

25
26 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
27 whoever's online, please.

28
29 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, this is John
30 Christianson from Port Heiden.

31
32 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Great. Thanks,
33 John, thanks for calling in, we'd love to hear what you'd
34 like to add to this.

35
36 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, I just wanted to
37 say thank you for adding the Nushagak River for
38 subsistence, checking the quality of the river. And then
39 really we have no monitoring down there right now. And
40 hopefully we'll find some -- I know there's fish there,
41 we just need better monitors.

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Great.
44 Yeah, we totally agree with you and hear what you're
45 saying. Do you think that what we have in there for the
46 Meshik is -- covers it well enough, did you want to add
47 anything else or would you suggest any other studies that
48 you think might be helpful?

49
50 MR. CHRISTIANSON: So far it looks good.

1 I could show what you have to the rest of the fishermen
2 when I get back home and I'll talk to them about it, but
3 it looks good.

4

5 Thank you very much.

6

7 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Yeah,
8 thanks, John, that's -- that would be helpful. This is
9 kind of a living, breathing document that changes on a
10 regular basis and we would be welcome to hear, you know,
11 anytime that you've got something to add or would like to
12 make sure something is heard, please don't hesitate to
13 let us know.

14

15 MR. CHRISTIANSON: All right.

16

17 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Anybody else.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. And
22 again, Karen, I thank you for going to the trouble of
23 putting it together and making sure you got it right.
24 That's very appreciated and I appreciate your efforts.

25

26 MS. HYER: Madam Chairman, Council
27 members.

28

29 Thank you very much for your input.

30

31 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Let's
32 move on to Togiak. I know we're going to -- we're going
33 to do a little jumping around just for everybody's
34 benefit either online or in the room due to time
35 constraints for people and timeliness today. So we may
36 not follow the agenda specifically, but we just want to
37 make sure we get everybody's reports heard, they're
38 valuable information for us and to make sure that
39 everybody gets in that needs to.

40

41 We're moving to Togiak next so please go
42 ahead, boys.

43

44 MS. HENRY: Good morning, Madam Chair and
45 members of the Council. I'm Susanna Henry, I'm the
46 Refuge Manager at Togiak Refuge. I've been here about a
47 year and a half. I live here in Dillingham with my
48 husband and we have two daughters that are both in
49 college, one that's in medical school. So that's where
50 most of my salary goes.

1 I wanted to mention that for Fish and
2 Wildlife Service today we really have four parts. We
3 have the Togiak Refuge report, we Alaska Peninsula and
4 Becharof Refuge report, we have the Western Alaska
5 Landscape Conservation Cooperative report and we also
6 have information about a proposed rule change that is
7 being worked on statewide. And -- oh, and one
8 additional part for Togiak Refuge, we're going to have a
9 presentation by Pat Walsh that is well illuminated over
10 there on the side.

11
12 So for the Refuge part I would say that
13 we have a report that's in your folders that you --
14 we're not going to read, but I have Andy Aderman, one of
15 Wildlife Biologists here and he's going to update you on
16 information about moose and caribou.

17
18 MR. ADERMAN: Our report starts on page
19 103. For the record I'm Andy Aderman, Wildlife Biologist
20 with the Togiak Refuge. What I'm going to talk to is at
21 the top of page 105 and it's just an update of Nushagak
22 Peninsula caribou. And just kind of going back to the
23 hunting season last -- 2013/2014, we ended up taking 101
24 animals out of that herd. We wanted to take about 70
25 more than that, but winter being what it was or wasn't
26 last year we were very fortunate to get what we did. We
27 killed four of those 101 in the fall season and then it
28 wasn't until March 13th that somebody got the first one.
29 We had some snow and so we killed the remainder, that 97
30 in the last 20 days of March. And I just throw this out
31 there, that's four less than what was taken or reported
32 taken in the entire range of the Mulchatna herd during
33 the same period. And again it's an access thing, people
34 -- you know, if the caribou weren't close by people
35 couldn't get to them.

36
37 Going into the spring, the calving
38 season, had normal calf production among the adults. I
39 left out the word radio collared after 18 on line 3
40 there, the end of -- that should be 14 of 18 radio
41 collared adults. We have four two year olds, three of
42 which each produced a calf so there's still pretty good
43 calf production going on down there. In late June we did
44 a photocensus and found 1,018 caribou. We were actually
45 able to do it again like two and a half weeks later and
46 counted 1,014. So very close numbers. That compares to
47 926 the year before using the same method.

48
49 Going into the fall hunt this year, this
50 regulatory year, we made 200 permits available and that's

1 between Dillingham, Aleknagik and Manokotak I know about
2 180 that actually got issued and I know of 15 caribou
3 that were reported harvested, 13 bulls and two females.
4 We plan to make at least another 200 permits available
5 for the winter hunts, those permits that were issued for
6 the fall hunt are still good for the winter hunt so we're
7 looking at trying to kill over 200 caribou if we can.

8
9 I guess one last thing that's not on your
10 -- on this update and this just happened. Well, about
11 two weeks ago we did a composition survey down there and
12 we came up with an estimate of 44 bulls per 100 cows and
13 52 calves per 100 cows which are both increases from the
14 previous year and are really good numbers, but we don't
15 want to see that herd get too big so we're really trying
16 to harvest more caribou out of there.

17
18 MR. O'HARA: Madam Chairman.

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Yeah, I was just
21 going to suggest let's -- after we do each one of these
22 let's see if Council has any questions if that's okay.

23
24 Okay.

25
26 Mr. O'Hara.

27
28 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, I was in Manokotak
29 here oh, it would be opening season and there was some
30 good caribou brought in. And I guess you probably
31 already got those numbers, but there was a lot of caribou
32 being skinned out. King or KIMO TV from Seattle was
33 there and it became a statewide issue in the state of
34 Washington on your caribou because my daughter Christina
35 was there with Big Marijuana, Big Mistake type thing and
36 channel -- that channel from Seattle came up to cover a
37 community that had no alcohol in it, how is that going to
38 affect the marijuana thing, but the caribou got in on it.
39 And they went to homes and these people are skinning out
40 caribou and they had caribou stew and it became quite a
41 huge, huge thing. But it was nice to see the people
42 having several places where we walked around town had
43 your caribou spread around. But the question I had is,
44 Nanci, do you have any information on the predators that
45 took place, whether it was bear or wolves because it
46 doesn't seem like they're being bothered very much, I see
47 very few bear in that area when I fly that area, but I
48 haven't seen any wolves?

49
50 MR. ADERMAN: We really don't have any

1 detailed information, you know, both brown bears and
2 wolves use the area, I see tracks, you know, on the
3 beaches where we land. In addition there's coyotes,
4 wolverines, eagles, all of which would take, you know,
5 moose calf, caribou, but don't really have any new
6 information on numbers or density.

7

8 MR. O'HARA: Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay.

11

12 Any other questions.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank

17 you, Andy.

18

19 MR. ADERMAN: I was just going to talk
20 about moose real quick. This is mainly on the Refuge.
21 Again due to the winter or lack there of no population
22 surveys were conducted last winter. So the last estimate
23 we have in 17A was 2,000 -- in -- from 2011 where we were
24 just under 1,200 moose. So if we get the conditions this
25 winter we're certainly going to try to get that count in.
26 We've had radio collars on animals over there for quite
27 some time. The calf production was a little bit lower
28 than the long term average, but nothing out of the
29 ordinary. The same can be said for the twinning rate, 40
30 -- about 46 percent. I think that's the first time it's
31 dropped below 50 percent. Nothing to be alarmed about at
32 this point, but it's something to watch in the years to
33 come. And I have information in there from the hunts
34 from last winter, I think that was presented at your
35 March meeting earlier this year.

36

37 I'm going to let Neil Barton with the
38 Department of Fish and Game talk about or give you an
39 update on the fall hunt. And he's also got some other
40 information for you on Mulchatna caribou and that, but
41 he'll give that when the Fish and Game report.....

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. So you'll
44 just cover these two and then we'll hear about the rest.
45 So just so all the Council members understand that.

46

47 Okay.

48

49 Any questions about the moose too for

50 Andy.

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
4 Okay. Next we're going to go to a dark room; is that
5 correct?

6

7 MS. HENRY: Yes.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
10 you.

11

12 MR. WALSH: Okay. Madam Chair and the
13 Council. I'm Pat Walsh from Togiak Refuge. And I'm
14 going to give some results from the study that we've
15 completed. I did want to mention one thing though in
16 response to Mr. O'Hara's question on predator studies.
17 What Andy reported was we don't have any new information
18 from the information we presented to this Council during
19 the March meeting in Naknek. The wolf study that we
20 conducted on the Nushagak Peninsula caribou ended about
21 a year and a half ago. But just to let you know we are
22 commencing a new study to look at the affects of wolf and
23 bear predation on moose for all of Togiak Refuge. We've
24 began collecting data on that project this summer by
25 collecting bear hair using snares and isotopic analysis
26 of the hair will provide information on their diet and
27 there will be a wolf component in this study as well. So
28 we are beginning a new investigation to understand
29 predation affects on moose throughout the Refuge.

30

31 The study I'm going to present to your
32 today though deals with salmon and one of the interesting
33 things here is on this priority information needs list
34 the number 2 information need listed there was historical
35 salmon escapements into Lake Clark watershed using
36 isotopic analysis of lake sediments and that's the topic
37 of the study I'm going to present to you now other than
38 the fact it didn't happen at Lake Clark, it happened at
39 about 20 other lakes. So you'll get an idea of what
40 information you're going to get if you do this project at
41 Lake Clark by what I'm going to show you on these other
42 lakes. A bit of a preface here. If you look at the
43 screen there in front of you and imagine you lived in the
44 village of Togiak in the 1600s you'd see some variation
45 in salmon abundance, but you'd see pretty much steady
46 increases for 100 years. That was before Pete's time,
47 but not much.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

1 MR. DUNAWAY: So what's the units there
2 on the vertical axis?

3
4 MR. WALSH: Vertical axis in escapement
5 in thousands. And for some reason this is not advancing.

6
7 Okay. Go to the next 100 years from the
8 year 1700 to 1800, you'd see just about the exact
9 opposite, you'd see 100 years of steady decreasing salmon
10 abundance. And then go to the next 100 years you'd see
11 very steady increases for 100 years. And then the cycle
12 would go the other way. And so what you're looking at
13 here is not random change, but you're seeing a regular
14 cycle. But the period of this cycle is 200 years in
15 length. And so that's the topic of this project that
16 we've done and it's how salmon abundance varies over long
17 time scales. We picked the time period of 500 years so
18 we could go far enough back into time that we'd get away
19 from the affects of the commercial harvest, you know,
20 back where people weren't really affecting salmon. We
21 did this work primarily with the University of
22 Washington. Daniel Schindler was the lead investigator
23 on the project. There were a number of other
24 collaborators and we published the results about a year
25 ago in the proceedings of the National Academies of
26 Sciences, that's the citation that's listed there so if
27 you want to read the paper I can make that available to
28 you. The study took place at these lakes on Togiak
29 Refuge and also the lakes there in the Wood River system
30 where the University of Washington works. We were later
31 provided data sets from other collaborators who worked on
32 the Alaska Peninsula all the way up to Cook Inlet and on
33 the Kodiak Island. So there's 20 some total lakes that
34 compose this study and if you looked at the total sockeye
35 salmon production that comes from these systems that's
36 about 70 percent of all there is. So the results are
37 larger than just Togiak Refuge, but pretty much apply to
38 sockeye salmon in Southwestern Alaska.

39
40 The other thing I'd point out to you is
41 three of these dots there on the graph are green. Those
42 green circles are reference lakes. Reference lakes are
43 lakes that salmon can't get into, there's some kind of
44 barrier to salmon getting in there and so those lakes
45 serve as controls for the lakes that salmon could get
46 into. So what do we do at each of these lakes. Well, we
47 collected a sediment core, the device you see that the
48 guy's holding goes to the bottom of the lake, then it
49 picks up that tube of mud that you can see there on the
50 right side. There's about 1,000 years of history in that

1 tube of mud that you're looking at there because it takes
2 that much time for that amount of sediment to be
3 deposited. That core was frozen and then sliced into
4 really thin slices and then the slices were dated and
5 then they were analyzed for two nitrogen isotopes. These
6 two nitrogen isotopes occur in different proportions in
7 different places. There's a much higher proportion of
8 nitrogen 15 in marine systems. And so if you understand
9 the background nitrogen levels that come from the
10 watersheds, you know, plants and other things that
11 contribute nitrogen to the sediments then you can
12 subtract out the amount that salmon contribute. So
13 that's why we had these reference lakes so we could
14 remove the background levels.

15

16 What you see here -- I just want to point
17 out these three green bars, those are the reference
18 lakes. They're much lower than all the blue lakes. The
19 blue lakes vary from low to high, but they're all higher
20 than the reference lakes. That's all I want to tell you
21 there.

22

23 Now these are the lakes again, but if you
24 look again at these three green lines those are the
25 reference lakes and you see there's not too much
26 variation in them, really pretty stable. But if you look
27 at the blue lines from the salmon lakes, there's a whole
28 of variation in them. That variation is because this is
29 a reflection of how salmon runs have gone up and down
30 over time. And if you look at them you see there's not
31 really any real consistent pattern. Go for instance to
32 -- this is Goodnews Lake.

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Yeah, would you
35 name those off just so we -- I can't read them from here,
36 but I'd be curious to know which lakes they're referring
37 to.

38

39 MR. WALSH: Okay. This is Goodnews Lake
40 here and there's an 80 -- a regular 80 year cycle. Do
41 you want me to tell you the names of each of the lakes?
42 Okay. The top one is -- from the top down is Kagati and
43 then under that is Goodnews, those are both in the
44 Kuskokwim side, then Nagoogin is the reference lake, then
45 Togiak, then Upper Togiak. And then in the second column
46 is Uwalik and then Amonka, the upper lobe and then Amonka
47 the lower lobe, there's two different sections to Amonka
48 Lake. Then Snake Lake and then Aleknagik Lake. Then the
49 third column is Little Togiak Lake, that's also in the
50 Wood River system, then Nurka, then the two reference

1 lakes are Grant and Tozimmina and then Illiamna. And
2 then in the third column is Kukatlik, then Naknek, then
3 Ashelof, then Lower Ugashik, then Bear Lake on the Alaska
4 Peninsula, then Packers Creeks Lake, Kolick Lake on
5 Kodiak Island, Red Lake on Kodiak Island and Atkulua.

6

7

Okay.

8

9

CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

10

11

Yeah. Okay. The point I'm starting to
12 make is you can see some cycles here that are very
13 regular like at Goodnews Lake where there's an 80 year
14 cycle. Then you can go to a lake like Togiak Lake and
15 see this 200 year cycle. This is Togiak Lake and Bear
16 Lake. What you can see when -- both of these have 200
17 year cycles, but when Togiak Lake's abundance is high
18 Bear Lake's at its lowest. When Togiak Lake's at its
19 lowest, Bear Lake's at its highest. So there's really
20 very little consistency among these lakes. The only real
21 pattern that is common to most of them is this downturn
22 in the last 100 years, 120 years or so. That downturn is
23 a reflection of the fact that the nutrients that would
24 have gone into the sediments in those lakes were
25 intercepted by the commercial harvest and were put into
26 salmon cans instead of the mud at the bottom of the lake.
27 But that downturn doesn't mean that salmon abundance is
28 lower now in these last 100 years, in fact, if you look
29 at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's harvest
30 records for all the fishing districts in Bristol Bay and
31 combine them all together the sockeye harvest is higher
32 now than it's ever been. You can see that this is varied
33 over the years of this commercial harvest. For this
34 period from around 1900 through around 1940 the harvest
35 averaged somewhere around 10 or 15 million fish. But
36 from the 1940s through around 1980 the harvest averaged
37 somewhere about 5 million, quite a bit less. But then in
38 the last 30 years it's averaged 20 or so million and then
39 in the most recent years it's -- these are the all time
40 records.

41

42

And so what can explain this. Well, one
43 of the things that can help explain this and this is kind
44 of a rough explanation is ocean temperatures in the
45 Pacific Ocean. You've probably seen this graph before.
46 This is a graph of the Pacific decadal oscillation
47 which is a weather pattern that causes the Pacific Ocean
48 to be slightly warmer or slightly cooler. When it's
49 warmer it shows up on this graph as being orange, when
50 it's cooler it shows up as being blue and scientists have

1 noticed that there is a pattern that seems consistent for
2 a few decades at a time where it'll be predominantly warm
3 then predominantly cool then shift to predominantly warm
4 again. And if you line up that PDO graph over that
5 escape or that harvest graph for Bristol Bay salmon you
6 can see during this time when it was in the warm shift
7 the harvest was higher, when it was in the cool shift the
8 harvest was lower and there again during the warm shift
9 the harvest was higher. So that helps explain what's
10 happening on a few decades at a time scale. It doesn't
11 really help explain what's happening on these deeper
12 scales, these patterns that last for 100 years or more so
13 we're still working on that.

14
15 Some of the bottom lines that came out of
16 this project is that salmon abundance varies all the time
17 regardless of whether there's a commercial harvest out
18 there, but there's forces of nature that cause even
19 greater harvest than the -- or greater fluctuations than
20 human fishing. Abundance changes not just a few decades
21 at a time, but on deeper scales, scales that last for
22 hundreds of years. This also showed that salmon stocks
23 have the ability to rebuild even when they've dropped
24 down to very low levels, they can come back to very high
25 levels. Productivity is widely variable from one lake
26 system to the next. The only real common pattern here
27 was this diminishment of nutrients coming back to lakes
28 during the last 120 years or so. Right now sockeye
29 salmon production is higher than it's been in the past
30 and, in fact, it's -- if you go back through this whole
31 500 year record the abundance right now is near the
32 overall all time high for that 500 year period. So it's
33 not just high for the last 100 years, but it's as high as
34 we have records for. And it seems to be consistent with
35 a warm shift in the PDO.

36
37 So that's all I've got, Madam Chairman.

38
39 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Thank you very
40 much, Pat.

41
42 Council members, questions.

43
44 Mr. O'Hara.

45
46 MR. O'HARA: Oh, my goodness, you better
47 get on that eel grass stuff because I -- you're doing
48 some good research there.

49
50 MR. WALSH: We're working on eel grass

1 too.

2

3 MR. O'HARA: Good enough. That's great,
4 I -- I'm glad to hear that.

5

6 We -- when I was on the Bristol Bay
7 Corporation Board of Directors we were -- we -- one of
8 our subsidiaries put in a contract to go south to
9 Antarctic to do research on the tube that you sent down
10 in the water to pick up the sediment year by year and we
11 didn't get the contract, but we had some really top notch
12 scientists that were bidding on the process and we didn't
13 get it. But they would take that big column and they
14 would go down there with a drill and, you know, take that
15 column and lay -- and at certain temperature it came out
16 of there. And then as it thawed out they would slice it
17 up bit by bit just like you were talking about there.
18 And they would find out just how many winds you had, what
19 the temperature of the earth was, every part of the world
20 was diagnosed in that system. So it was a very
21 fascinating process they could tell the various
22 temperature changes, they could tell where hurricanes
23 came from and where, you know, desert type situations
24 took place so it was pretty fascinating. And I think
25 you've hit on something really, really good there.

26

27 I think that one of the things that has
28 happened since 1983 when the Stevens-Magnuson Act passed,
29 I happened to be in Tokyo renegotiating salmon on the
30 high seas, and Japan in the late '70s and '80s were --
31 had 100 miles of net and they were getting about 13
32 million sockeye from Bristol Bay. And when -- we sat
33 there for 11 days and didn't have any progress with
34 Canada, the United States and America [sic] and if you
35 get into a war I don't think you want Canada to help you
36 because they weren't very much help in doing salmon and
37 Japan was very good. And so when the Magnuson Act
38 passed, Senator Ted -- the late Senator Ted and the late
39 Governor Jay sent a telegram over saying if the Japanese
40 don't get off the high seas with salmon there'll be no
41 permitting in the SEZ (ph) zone 200 mile limit. Well, we
42 were out of there the next day. And the run started
43 coming back in Bristol Bay huge. Now they had gone down
44 just like you said they cycled up and down, but the fact
45 that you have 100 miles of net catching everything in it,
46 they had orcas and seals and sea gulls and ducks and all
47 kinds of fisheries and you just go from one end of that
48 net back and you got a video -- we had -- we saw the
49 video of that thing and you have probably too, Greenpeace
50 got that video, very fascinating. But once they got off

1 of that high seas of the intercept of the sockeye from
2 Bristol Bay that had an interesting change on the scale
3 that you showed there toward the end of the '80s up to
4 2013 I think is a pretty fascinating situation.

5
6 And I really do appreciate, this is one
7 of the most productive -- appreciate your report today.

8
9 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Mr.
10 O'Hara.

11
12 Anybody else.

13
14 Mr. Dunaway.

15
16 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, it is a good point,
17 Dan, because I remember for a while working for Fish and
18 Game and we were going nah, the 200 limit really didn't
19 help and after a while you just couldn't deny it anymore.
20 But I just wonder has -- for some of your production
21 there, Pat, have you looked at the -- maybe some part of
22 the Japanese harvest as the -- or is it strictly the
23 domestic harvest records?

24
25 MR. WALSH: The records that I presented
26 here are just Bristol Bay harvest records that come from
27 ADF&G so, no, this doesn't include records anywhere else.

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

30
31 Anybody else.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Thank you. Very
36 good. Thanks, Pat.

37
38 Okay. Susanna, do you have anything else
39 up next or do you want us to move on.

40
41 MS. HENRY: Madam Chair. That concludes
42 the Togiak portion of the Fish and Wildlife Service.
43 There's still more to come.

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Good. Thank you
46 very much. I think we'll move on to the Alaska Peninsula
47 now if you don't mind.

48
49 MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you, Madam Chair,
50 members of the Council. You should have -- it's not in

1 your books, but you should have received a copy of our
2 report and I'm not going to go through it much in the
3 interest of time, but I wanted to give you just a little
4 bit more of a general update.

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Give us
7 one second. Everybody, it's this one that starts with
8 mammal projects.

9
10 MS. ALEXANDER: Our name's in the massive
11 letterhead up at the top.

12
13 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. I think
14 everybody's found it.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 MS. ALEXANDER: Great. Thanks. But
19 before I do that I did just want to ask if you have any
20 questions about the report.

21
22 REPORTER: Could you identify yourself,
23 please.

24
25 MS. ALEXANDER: Oh, I'm sorry. Susan
26 Alexander, Refuge Manager, Alaska Peninsula and Becharof
27 National Wildlife Refuges.

28
29 So the more general information that I
30 wanted to give you is like Susanna I've been in my
31 position for a year and a half and I am at a point now
32 where I'm able to turn more of my attention towards our
33 biological program. And over the next year or so I plan
34 to be not doing a formal planning process, but just as a
35 manager evaluating our program a little bit and possibly
36 looking at some different directions. One major piece of
37 that is I don't know how many members of the Council are
38 aware that in recent years we had been in the process of
39 developing a fairly extensive marine oriented program on
40 the Pacific side of the Refuge. Along with that went the
41 acquisition through excess from another Federal agency of
42 a 64 foot vessel which was kind the centerpiece and main
43 facilitator of that program. That vessel sunk in Kodiak
44 a little over a year ago. And that has caused some
45 reevaluation and with me coming in as a new manager
46 whether or not that program was the most appropriate
47 place to be putting that quantity of resources. One of
48 the things that attracted my attention before I even
49 arrived is the fact that we are doing not much in the way
50 of work with freshwater or with fish. And given the

1 presence of major watersheds on our Refuge and their
2 contribution to the Bristol Bay sockeye fishery and the
3 centerpiece of the Becharof Refuge being Becharof Lake
4 that seemed to me to perhaps be something that deserved
5 some attention. So I can't say at this point exactly
6 what direction I will take in relation to that, but I did
7 just want to let the Council know that this is something
8 that I'm looking at seriously and if you have any input
9 from the Council's perspective of work that you feel the
10 Refuge should be doing I'm very interested to hear that.

11
12 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: I'm not seeing
13 any hands, but I would like to say that I think -- I
14 speak from a number of different varying points around
15 here. I think my official seat on the Board is as a
16 sport fishing entity, but -- and which is actually what
17 I'm kind of approaching it from, but I would encourage
18 studies to be done on the freshwater fish as well as the
19 anadromous fish because I have been a user of the area
20 for 30 years and I'm seeing a huge change and variation
21 in the sport fishing dynamics that are happening, more
22 and more camps being set up on the peninsula and further
23 pressure being put on rivers that used to be just visited
24 by day trips only now lodges are located there. We're
25 hearing from -- directly from Port Heiden on the Meshik
26 end, some of those watersheds. So I would encourage --
27 you know, I think there's lack of monitoring -- well, I
28 know there is, I mean, I never see anybody down there,
29 you go north and you see people plenty of times.

30
31 So I -- that's my two cents worth, but
32 I'll open it up to other Council members if they would
33 have any suggestions or thoughts in addition.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Good
38 enough. Well, thank you. I appreciate the opportunity
39 to say something and.....

40
41 MS. ALEXANDER: Oh, well, thank you, and,
42 yes, I couldn't agree more.....

43
44 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay.

45
46 MS. ALEXANDER:on the subject of
47 freshwater fish and sport fishing.

48
49 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay.

50

1 MS. ALEXANDER: You're right, no one is
2 monitoring and that's a definite need.

3
4 One positive piece of news that I hope
5 will help bolster our entire program, but especially our
6 biological program is that we have filled our -- what was
7 formally a pilot assistant manager trainee or, excuse me,
8 Collateral Duty Law Enforcement position, has -- was
9 vacant for approximately a year and a half, two years,
10 has been refilled as a Pilot Biologist position. And we
11 picked up an excellent pilot who was already a resident
12 in King Salmon and so we hope he will be with us for a
13 long time. And he is -- having been a pilot with 4,000
14 hours of experience we had to put him through six months
15 of training so that he could fly our aircraft. But he's
16 there now, fully carded up and flying for us so we expect
17 that will help increase our capacity to hopefully get
18 some additional work done on the ground.

19
20 So with that if there aren't any
21 additional questions for me from the Council I wanted to
22 turn it over to Julia Pinnix and Orville Lind to talk a
23 little bit about a program we're initiating in
24 cooperation with BBNA, that's a Youth Ambassador Program
25 in the villages.

26
27 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Thank you. Let
28 me just ask again if -- I know some people had some
29 thoughts about moose surveys and whatnot earlier in the
30 meeting and did anybody want to say anything.

31
32 MR. O'HARA: Oh, yeah.

33
34 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Oh, good.

35
36 Well, please, Mr. O'Hara.

37
38 MR. O'HARA: Well, the moose study. And
39 I realize that, you know, last winter we couldn't go out
40 five miles past Naknek with a four-wheeler and there
41 wasn't any snow and there wasn't -- didn't have any
42 caribou so just nothing happened. And so I can
43 understand where a moose survey is a very difficult
44 thing, but you do have a pilot now, Dan -- what's his
45 last name, Dan?

46
47 MS. ALEXANDER: Peppin.

48
49 MR. O'HARA: Peppin. Yeah. A very
50 accomplished, very accomplished man. You are so

1 fortunate to get a biologist with his skills of Chignik
2 flying, Perryville and very, very careful and a good
3 pilot too. So I think those are good -- that's a good
4 thing for us to see, if it can be done Dan can do it, you
5 know, and you don't have to go outside and contract with
6 another carrier to get your surveys done.

7

8 But we do have to get the surveys done.

9

10 (Off record comments)

11

12 Now I know even if the survey has to be
13 done later.....

14

15 (Off record comments)

16

17 MR. O'HARA: You know, I realize that as
18 you get out of February the bulls drop their horns by
19 then and you're going to have a difficult time surveying,
20 but even if we had the count of bodies, you know,
21 planning a -- I see in your report that the number of
22 twins being born seems like there's good nutrition taking
23 place with the animals so those are good positive things
24 that are taking place. So we really have to emphasize
25 the survey because this is a subsistence issue and I know
26 when remote areas such as Meshik and down around Lake
27 Ugashik where you have some good browse people are not
28 going to get there, they have no way of getting there.
29 But we do have to have the numbers to find out if we're
30 going to have a subsistence use of them.

31

32 Thank you very much.

33

34 We appreciate your report.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Mr.
37 O'Hara. I couldn't agree more. And last year snow was
38 the limiting factor, but I am concerned with the number
39 of years that have gone by now without us being able to
40 survey. And I know that Katmai is now surveying without
41 snow and I want to have a little more conversation with
42 them about their methods to see if that's something that
43 we should perhaps adopt. I know my mammal biologist
44 would not be happy to hear me say that because I think he
45 has a professional disagreement of opinion with the
46 method that Katmai is using, but I agree with you that
47 it's a great concern that we have not been able to and we
48 frequently are not able to collect data because of
49 insufficient snow. I would really like to see those
50 numbers also.

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Mr. Wilson.

MR. WILSON: Yeah. Thanks for looking in other directions for trying to get surveys, I mean, we -- you know, we've been after this I believe since '08 trying to get something fresh, something new, something complete so we have -- you know, so we got something to make our decisions here on on our hunting seasons because we're -- you know, it's getting fearful out there as -- you know, the population. So something out of the box perhaps is necessary because we're not getting the snow. So if we're waiting on snow and snow -- and it ain't going to snow, got another winter going and it's going to be warm it looks like. So appreciate the out of the box method and let's keep up the good work.

CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Mr. Dunaway.

MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. Thanks, Madam Chair. This kind of popped into my head as I was driving in here today, I was listening to how they're trying to do some what thermal counts of polar and grizzly bears on the North Slope. Of course you have a really dramatic temperature difference, but, yeah, we've been trying to get some sort of survey out. Has there been any experimentation with some sort of thermal type detection, probably hugely expensive and there's complicating things with caribou and other animals out there, but I just thought I'd -- that's maybe way out of the box. So anyway just an idea.

Thanks.

MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you. That's not one that I'm aware of anyone considering, but as, you all are pointing out there does seem to be a need for something other than the protocol that we've been utilizing. And it will take some work to figure out what our options are there and to try to find something that we think is still reliable enough to give all of us good numbers, but, you know, what we're doing now is pretty spotty and that does concern me.

CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Anybody else?

(No comments)

CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: I agree and I

1 appreciate you hearing us because there have got to be
2 other methods. I won't say that I know what they are,
3 but you can't tell me that without snow we can't get some
4 sort of a population estimate somewhere along the line.

5

6 Mr. O'Hara.

7

8 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, I'll give you a very
9 dramatic and drastic situation that took place when I
10 Chaired the Council a number of years ago and we did not
11 have a moose count for a couple of years. And I got five
12 of the seven Board members of the -- our State -- you
13 know, the Federal Board and we shut down the commercial
14 operation of the Alaska Peninsula from all the guiding.
15 Now the old guys were in the back room kind of snoozing
16 as we were going along until the Federal Board shut down
17 commercial operations on and then they came to the front.
18 And the next day my late son, Tom, was a Park Ranger, he
19 was flying the Peninsula along with the Refuge and the
20 Park Service and everybody else to count moose in April
21 or else there wasn't going to be a commercial harvest of
22 moose. And that's the bottom line of what this Council
23 is dealing with. So we come back a year from now and we
24 shut these guys down all the way through Southwest
25 Alaska, you know, this is what this Council's all about.
26 And I'm on for the next three years by the way, I just
27 got appointed.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 MR. O'HARA: I may be removed too, but
32 that's.....

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Thanks for the
35 warning. Now we'll just turn your mic off, Dan.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: No, thank you,
40 Mr. O'Hara.

41

42 MS. LARSON: Madam Chair.

43

44 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Yes, Dorothy.
45 Please go ahead.

46

47 MS. LARSON: This is Dorothy Larson with
48 the Curyung Tribal Council. I'm very glad to hear about
49 the surveys and continued work in that area. That is one
50 of our Council's concerns also is that we get objects of

1 equipment in all areas to monitor our resources. And we
2 also need to do complete studies on other critters,
3 especially our winter critters, we don't seem to have any
4 information on those like whitefish and our plants and
5 berries.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
10 you, Dorothy. Would you mind please restating the first
11 part of your statement, we heard about the need for
12 information on other critters and then plants and what
13 not, but we had mic problems here on the first portion of
14 your statement.

15

16 MS. LARSON: Okay. Sure. Our Council is
17 concerned about equipment, upgrading equipment and
18 utilizing better methods to do these surveys so that we
19 have adequate information.

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
22 you. Really appreciate that.

23

24 Susan.

25

26 MS. ALEXANDER: No further questions?

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MS. ALEXANDER: Okay. Thank you. I'm
31 going to turn it over briefly to Orville and Julia to
32 tell you about the Youth Ambassador Program.

33

34 MR. LIND: Thank you. And (in Native).
35 Good morning. Thanks for the opportunity. Orville Lind,
36 Alaska Peninsula National -- let me back up. Alaska
37 Peninsula and Becharof National Wildlife Refuge. Title
38 is Ranger slash Native Liaison.

39

40 You know, I'm pretty excited about this
41 new program that we are working on and it's called the
42 Youth Ambassador Program. I'm going to have Julia talk
43 a little bit about it, but I want to give you a little
44 background history on where that spawned from. In the
45 early '80s we had a Refuge Information Technician Program
46 and a lot of you are aware that that's a very successful
47 program within our agency. And the RITs, Refuge
48 Information Technician Program people, they are so
49 valuable in relating wildlife issues, conservation issues
50 and working with the local people, you know, they're the
middle person of the Service and they're the eyes and

1 ears for the Service. And not only our Service, but
2 sister agencies also. And when this program started up
3 in 1991 on the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge
4 virtually a lot of the local people did not even know who
5 the Fish and Wildlife Service was. They were aware of
6 Fish and Game people and they were also aware of
7 uniforms, but that took a long time to build a trust and
8 a relationship with the -- between the Service and the
9 local people. And but the -- also the RITs were very
10 successful in relating important conservation issues from
11 the government to the local villages in a way that the
12 locals could understand what these new regulations meant
13 and why they were put in place. And as you stated before
14 in order for Biologists to do their job they need numbers
15 and in order for the Board to do their job they also need
16 the numbers so that surveys are very important. Long
17 story short is that we've decided that, you know, I've
18 been at the Refuge for a little over 18 years, I've been
19 with the Service for over 20 years and we're looking to
20 focus on our youth because I'm not getting any younger
21 and neither is Pete. And so we've got to look ahead of
22 this program and find a way that we can educate our youth
23 in following in the footsteps that need to be there for
24 our resource.

25

26 So with that, Julia, I'll turn it over to
27 you and you can explain the program.

28

29 MS. PINNIX: My name's Julia Pinnix, I'm
30 the Visitors Services Manager for Alaska Peninsula and
31 Becharof National Wildlife Refuge. Orville and I have
32 been talking about RITs since I arrived and I've had the
33 very good fortune of being able to attend some of the RIT
34 conferences that take place every year in -- usually in
35 Anchorage, sometimes other locations. But I certainly
36 see the importance of having eyes on the ground and in
37 the villages from people who can communicate well with
38 us. And we have lacked that for some time, Orville's it.
39 And he gets pulled onto a lot of projects. And another
40 thing I've noticed in doing school programs in the
41 villages is there's a lot of young people who would like
42 to find some way to make a living and still be at home
43 and that's very hard to do so we see a lot of outward
44 migration. And we have a need for communication with the
45 villages and they have a need for work. So this is an
46 opportunity for us to provide the kind of training that
47 somebody would need for that sort of position. We were
48 able to get some funding, Federal funding through our
49 regional office, \$20,000 matching grant and we've
50 partnered with the Bristol Bay Native Association so we

1 can hire up to three people, young people ages 18 to 25,
2 who can join us in the -- in a sort of an RIT position.

3

4 We're calling it the Youth Ambassador.

5

6 And we're going to provide training to
7 them in communications, in education. Orville will be
8 working with them I hope as well on what it's like to be
9 an RIT in our region, give them some really practical
10 advice. We'd like to get them into our office so they
11 can see what we do and how we do it and why we do it and
12 then we'd like to put them out in their villages and
13 support them while they learn to do education programs
14 and put together village meetings. That's our goal and
15 working with Courtenay Gomez at BBNA we're just about
16 done putting together an application that we'll be
17 sending out to all the villages and encouraging people to
18 apply. I know Orville's been working hard at calling and
19 trying to find folks that are interested and encourage
20 them to apply for those positions.

21

22 So we hope that'll work out in the long
23 run. You know, ultimately we'd like to see folks join us
24 and have a career with Fish and Wildlife Service and
25 this is one pathway.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
28 you.

29

30 Questions from anybody.

31

32 Pete, please.

33

34 MR. ABRAHAM: If you're going to hire --
35 there's a lot of local RITs over there. I'm an
36 experienced RIT, been at it for 21 years. At first when
37 he hired me I was on call and I'd be lucky to get 10
38 hours in one month. But when the fuel price went up you
39 could do it, you cannot -- a single RIT cannot support
40 himself with on call position, no way, not at today's
41 prices over here. Even at four hours a day right now
42 it's still a struggle. But you're -- you got to satisfy
43 who you're hiring. And the job description you give him
44 you abide by those job descriptions. But I enjoy being
45 RIT or we enjoy it because of the kids I work with. And
46 in the wintertime I read to school. If it wasn't for the
47 kids I'm working with I'd be gone. I'm a professional
48 carpenter, I'd be at my place and a carpenter somewhere.
49 But a long shot stick with the children it paid back
50 because there's some children over there willing or want

1 to be part of the Service now. So I'm not going to give
2 up today, I'm not going to give up tomorrow, but, you
3 know, we need some young kids to take our place in the
4 future. And those -- you know, before I became an RIT I
5 was a hunter, trapper, whatever.

6
7 When I look back the Native people were
8 better stewards than what we have today. So when you
9 hire an RIT he's got to know that he's going to be
10 teaching the kids about being better stewards when it
11 comes to fish and animals. I know I do a lot of things,
12 little -- I mean, when I have -- when I have time I spend
13 10 hours out to be with children and I log in eight
14 hours. And I give -- I mean, just to be thankful I give
15 two hours extra and I -- because I'm enjoying. Hire good
16 RITs over there, we need them. We're eyes and ears of
17 the Service.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Mr.
22 Abraham. I always enjoy your knowledge and appreciate
23 your willingness to step forward and -- especially on
24 behalf of our villages.

25
26 Anybody else.

27
28 Mr. O'Hara.

29
30 MR. O'HARA: Yeah. Julia and Orville,
31 very good report. This is just really close to home,
32 getting these young people into not just a job, but this
33 is something that might be a career. And like Pete says,
34 you know, being stewards of the land. And I remember,
35 you know, sunset clause to the fact that we killed a
36 moose every month and ate it, you know, and we're not
37 going to go to jail now because it's been over five years
38 and that's just really fine. But.....

39
40 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: You sure?

41
42 MR. O'HARA: Oh, yeah.

43
44 (Laughter)

45
46 MR. O'HARA: The -- I was just going to
47 have to question. Do you guys do job following by any
48 means, Naknek has had that program in place and they have
49 young people working there now. And the statistics show
50 that a lot of times when a young person gets into a job

1 following program they may -- it may become their career.
2 So and I know it might be difficult because, you know, we
3 looked at your map and we almost don't have a big enough
4 map to cover all the Refuge that you guys take in which
5 is a good thing too, but that's another subject.

6

7 Have you thought about that or had any
8 experience with that?

9

10 MS. PINNIX: Yeah, we certainly have.
11 And it is challenging. We face some limitations and ages
12 of students and putting them in our airplanes and that's
13 our primary means of getting out there. But we have
14 talked about that. One of the things that we do to try
15 to address that is our annual science and culture camp
16 and we talk about careers with them and give them an
17 opportunity to talk with different folks on our staff and
18 in the region.

19

20 And we hope that sparks some interest.

21

22 MR. O'HARA: What about career day at the
23 high schools in Southwest Alaska.

24

25 MS. PINNIX: Yeah, we typically
26 participate in that. We also go up to the AA meet, the
27 athletics and academics meet for Lake and Peninsula
28 School and we talk to them there about careers as well,
29 yeah. But good suggestion.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. I'm just
34 going to take advantage of my position here too and put
35 a plug in. I -- as you probably have heard I do the
36 Flyfishing and Guide Academy every year too. And we do
37 it for the area of the Alaska Peninsula and over here
38 specifically and we try to target Bristol Bay kids who
39 just like what you're looking for have an interest in our
40 resources. And obviously, you know, it's the Flyfishing
41 and Guide Academy so we're teaching them how to flyfish,
42 tie flies, as well as become guides. I would encourage
43 you to make sure that you have a representative that
44 would come in, it's a week long course, we do it every
45 year or at least we try to and we have for the last six
46 or seven years now, it's become extremely successful and
47 we've got seven of our graduates actually employed in the
48 guide industry which we're very proud of. But my point
49 is more that a lot of times the kids will find out that
50 guiding isn't necessarily for them. Their final exam is

1 to take somebody out guiding. So we have them in the
2 field at the end of the week.

3
4 It's great, it's phenomenal. But when
5 they find out that maybe they're not interested in
6 specifically guiding I think that we've already
7 established that their interest isn't in possibly an
8 outdoor career and it might be something -- might be nice
9 for you guys to be able to do a presentation as well
10 during the class, I would welcome it anyway, to let them
11 know what their other options are. We try to do that
12 anyway and we've invited Park Service personnel in
13 before.

14
15 We try to include anybody that's in the
16 area available.

17
18 So I would encourage you to kind of
19 partner up with us in that instance and see if you
20 couldn't get some recruitment that way too.

21
22 MS. PINNIX: Yeah, that's a great
23 suggestion. I know you've talked about that with me
24 before and issued an invitation. It's hard when there's
25 just two of us. So having the Youth Ambassadors with us
26 will actually give us a little more flexibility I hope
27 that we can respond to invitations like that more often.
28 I appreciate it.

29
30 Thanks.

31
32 MR. LIND: And just to add to that, you
33 know, during the RIT annual meetings we talk about
34 possible programs, new programs, create programs all over
35 the state of Alaska within the RIT Program. And I
36 believe we have approximately 27, 28 RITs in the state of
37 Alaska. And our biggest push in the last three years is
38 education of our youth. And, yes, the more we hear
39 opportunities arise we're totally game for that. And it
40 is important at this day and age I think and with the
41 resource issues we're having all over the state I think
42 it's going to be a very valuable tool for our youth.

43
44 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Good. Thank
45 you.

46
47 Well, I certainly applaud efforts too to
48 bring more youth into it.

49
50 Mr. Dunaway, go ahead.

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you. I --
2 something sparked me here talking about rules and planes
3 and I've also participated in this academy thing. And
4 I'm thinking, you know, I'm still -- I was frustrated
5 when I worked for Fish and Game and as I watch my own
6 sons grow older I'm getting more and more frustrated.
7 There was a time when I first started working for Fish
8 and Game there were guys that told me they ran fishing
9 boats at 13. And I've seen and known people that run
10 them at 15 and 16. And I am increasingly concerned,
11 we've got capable kids that can run skiffs, run snow gos,
12 fix chainsaws, some of them even are pilots or halfway to
13 a pilot license and what -- we've got this mindless law
14 from the Lower 48 that say they can't do a damn thing
15 until they're 18. And I'm fearful it kills initiative,
16 it kills their aspirations, they're told they can't do
17 this and yet they're doing it already. And if there was
18 a period of time where the state -- the state had some
19 exceptions for kids living in the Bush, they could do
20 some work at 16. And we've got enough people out here I
21 would like to see some efforts like maybe through your
22 program we could get some certifications, but then when
23 they have them don't tell them they can't work until
24 they're 18 because by then they're off to something else.
25 And I see this over and over, promising kids that got it
26 together, but then they're told they're -- and they --
27 oh, they have to sit in the boat, they're bored to tears
28 because they can't touch a gun, they can't touch a -- but
29 they've been doing it since they were 10.

30
31 So anyway I'd kind of like to -- if
32 there's a solution there to help encourage some of the
33 real hustlers that I know are out here.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 MS. PINNIX: Boy do I agree with you on
38 that. We have a lot of frustration with some of our
39 transportation issues because some of those rules might
40 seem to make sense to somebody else somewhere else, but
41 it's hard here. We've certainly been working to try and
42 expend our reach to younger kids too because I agree with
43 you I think kids step up if you give them the
44 opportunities they will. We took our science camp which
45 used to be for seniors only and we pushed it to all high
46 school and we're trying to get their interest earlier.
47 I've applied for grants in the past to try to get them a
48 program so that we can bring kids in and get them
49 certification so it does allow them to fly on our planes
50 and that sort of thing, but unfortunately didn't get the

1 funding.

2

3 But that's something I've been looking
4 for.

5

6 I'd like to see it happen.

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Yeah, I would
9 too. I would encourage you not to give up.

10

11 I totally agree with you, Dan, I -- some
12 of these kids that have been in the Guide Academy are
13 perfectly capable of taking guests out, probably more
14 capable than some of the guides I've hired in the past 30
15 years and yet they can't -- they cannot legally do it, my
16 insurance won't insure them if I allow it to happen. So
17 shame on government in that instance.

18

19 MR. O'HARA: Well, they'll probably get
20 the point.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Yeah, you're
23 absolutely right. Okay.

24

25 Yeah, anybody else.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 Yeah, let's take a 10 minute break and
34 then we'll be back on record.

35

36 Thanks.

37

38 (Off record)

39

40 (On record)

41

42 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: And I just want
43 to mention really quick too -- I just was informed that
44 they're requesting everybody sign in again today even if
45 you signed in yesterday. So if you could take just a
46 minute to sign in or next time you walk by that table I
47 think they'd really appreciate it.

48

49 Let's keep moving on. And we're going to
50 go to OSM reports next. So I'm not sure who is up.

1 Carl, are you looking to be up first for that or.....

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: I'm getting a
6 head shake from Jeff so I guess you're being volunteered.

7

8 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. I can do the OSM
9 report now. I can play DFO and LT lead at the same time.

10

11 Thank you, Madam Chair. Carl Johnson,
12 Office of Subsistence Management. Mostly what I have for
13 you is a staffing update. And a couple other small,
14 administrative things.

15

16 As you may have heard off and on over the
17 years OSM is very low in its organizational chart as far
18 as staff goes, we're up to as many as 30 percent vacancy
19 earlier this year. But our new -- new, he's been here a
20 little over a year now, Assistant Regional Director Gene
21 Peltola, has been working very hard in filling those
22 vacancies. And so I'm just going to kind of do a quick
23 overview as to where we're at on that.

24

25 I'll start with my Division. We are
26 currently in the process right now of interviewing to
27 hire two Native Subsistence Council Coordinators. We've
28 had one vacancy for over three years that never got
29 filled for budgetary reasons and then we also had Alex
30 Nick who was with OSM for 13 years and the Service for
31 over 20 years, retired this summer so we're filling his
32 vacancy. And then Jack Lorrigan who was our Native
33 Liaison went over to another agency so Gene Peltola is in
34 the process of interviewing this week to hire a
35 replacement for that position.

36

37 In the Wildlife Division we have two
38 vacancies, one where Trevor Fox went over to another
39 position within the regional office and then Chris McKee
40 who was one of our Wildlife Biologists was promoted to
41 the position of Division Chief. So I know that we are in
42 the process of actively recruiting or seeking waivers for
43 those positions.

44

45 In Anthropology Division we have a new
46 Anthropologist who started this week, she's already been
47 mentioned before in the record and that's Robin La Vine
48 who worked previously with the Alaska Department of Fish
49 and Game and Subsistence Division, but also at BBNA in
50 their Partners Program and prior to that even in the

1 Togiak Refuge. We are in the process of recruiting for
2 an Anthropology Division Chief. That is a position
3 that's been vacant for almost a year and a half when
4 Helen Armstrong left that position. But we will be
5 hiring somebody soon for that.

6
7 In Fisheries they are actively recruiting
8 a Fisheries Biologist and as a Biostatistician they're
9 going to be hiring as well to help us with our fish data
10 and making sure that's all collated and in a useful
11 format.

12
13 Glenn Westdahl who was previously with
14 another Division moved into the Council Coordination
15 Division to be a dedicated Tribal Clerk and
16 Administrative Assistant. And because of his hard work
17 we're now in a position right this moment where there are
18 currently no Councils that have outstanding vouchers to
19 be paid. We are caught up in that which as this Council
20 and other Councils know in recent years we've had some
21 struggles with some rather significant delays in getting
22 your vouchers paid, but now we have our own dedicated
23 Tribal Clerk. So I'm pleased to announce that to you.

24
25 Additionally Chuck Ardizzone who was
26 previously our Wildlife Division Chief took on a position
27 as our new Deputy Assistant Regional Director at the
28 Office of Subsistence Management.

29
30 And then David Jenkins who was our
31 Subsistence Policy Coordinator left for a position with
32 the Forest Service and so we are in the process of
33 getting a waiver approved to fill that position.

34
35 And then finally we have a new Fisheries
36 Division Chief, Stewart Cogswell who comes to us from the
37 Lower 48 in Wisconsin and has a significant background in
38 doing some really complex, multi region fisheries
39 management issues and working a lot with Tribes in the
40 Lower 48 and he's got over 20 years of service in the
41 Fish and Wildlife Service.

42
43 Those are kind of the big highlights. We
44 are also in the process of hiring a new Administrative
45 Assistant because the person in that position was
46 promoted to our -- basically our Chief Executive at the
47 office and her name is Pamela Raygor. So she handles a
48 lot of the Assistant Regional Director level
49 administrative work and also coordinating administrative
50 aspects for the Federal Subsistence Board.

1 So those are the highlights on the staff
2 changes at OSM.

3
4 And then currently the -- another
5 lingering issue is what is the status of the Tribal
6 Consultation Implementation Guidelines. There have been
7 some reviews and ads going back and forth on that with
8 the Tribal Consultation Working Group. They met this
9 summer and they went over some significant changes. The
10 Federal Subsistence Board has been apprised of their
11 status, but there's currently not a final draft
12 Implementation Guideline that the Board has yet reviewed
13 and put out to the Councils for comment. I do know that
14 the Working Group is meeting again this Friday, October
15 31st, to go over kind of the latest round of revisions.
16 So hopefully we'll have more to report on their status at
17 your winter meeting cycle.

18
19 And those are the highlights of what's
20 been going on at the Office of Subsistence Management.
21 I'll answer any questions.

22
23 Thank you, Madam Chair.

24
25 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Yes, thank you,
26 Carl.

27
28 Any questions from the Council members.

29
30 Pete, Mr. Abraham.

31
32 MR. ABRAHAM: I seen your -- I seen the
33 advertisement on Anthropologists for Togiak this summer.
34 And I have a couple young guys that was interested in
35 that position there, but after I printed it out and
36 looked at what needs to be or has to be or
37 qualifications, one of the guys it's impossible because
38 none in Togiak -- I mean, high school or college
39 graduates are not in a position to work with those. And
40 I told them hey, they're just thick in the old side over
41 there identifying what you find, you're going to have to
42 identify these things over here. The Anthropologist will
43 identify it for you. Why don't you apply for this over
44 here because you're from here. I haven't heard -- I
45 haven't heard from him, but, you know, that's -- I mean,
46 can you tell me some more of the help you need, what
47 qualifications does that person needs, there's some --
48 there's some willing people over there wanting to learn.

49
50 Thank you.

1 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, thank you. Through
2 the Chair. I'll answer in kind of two parts.

3
4 So right now we're going to be in the
5 process of hiring two Wildlife Biologists, a Fisheries
6 Biologist. I don't know where they're at on the
7 Fisheries Biostatistician, they -- that announcement
8 actually may already be out there or have closed. I'm
9 not entirely sure what the status of that is. I don't
10 believe we're going to be hiring another Anthropologist
11 yet at this point other than the Division Chief. So
12 those are kind of the big ones.

13
14 But the Region 7 does have a local hire
15 memo in effect that somebody and I think it's Kirkme
16 Armand (ph), but paraphrasing, if you're hiring for a
17 position that does call upon knowledge and skills where
18 somebody from a local community by virtue of their
19 experience and living in that area might have knowledge
20 and skills that replaces a certain education requirement,
21 they can be hired through this local hire preference,
22 this memo that allows for allowing that I -- we'll call
23 it traditional knowledge, to kind of overcome what would
24 normally be certain educational requirements. So I would
25 encourage anybody who might be interested not just in a
26 position at OSM, but with other agencies, offices within
27 the Fish and Wildlife Service, to enquire about what that
28 local hire memo might do for them in overcoming certain
29 educational requirements.

30
31 MR. ABRAHAM: I think we got our local
32 hire position open to -- I mean, the last time I talked
33 to Tracy I think it was two years ago I think, before I
34 had a cat. That's one of the frustrations I got over
35 there, local people are being hired for these, you know,
36 small things. And then you take -- for instance over
37 there even if Fish and Wildlife hires a boat handler from
38 Idaho to work in a big base over there and that kid
39 doesn't know whether it's sand, mud, water. And here's
40 a 15 year old kid over there that can run the boat better
41 than I do. And but the job description has say a
42 knowledgeable person with degrees and no degrees,
43 whatever. And that's what you get. And a new come --
44 and you go -- the guy that come to the area go through
45 about four engines, four outboard motors, maybe two
46 boats, cost the -- cost, I mean, my tax dollars going
47 down the drain when a 15 year old can save the Refuge,
48 the Service, tremendous amount of money to run the simple
49 things like that. So that's one of my frustrations in
50 that area over there and, in fact, the entire Service.

1 And I'm just pointing out my frustrations
2 so everybody can hear it from here.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Mr.
7 Abraham. Good to have those on the record.

8
9 Carl.

10
11 Any other comments or questions.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Good.
16 And also I'm going to refer to, Donald, for clarification
17 too, we're going to have somebody call in at 11:00
18 o'clock; is that correct, is that what you told me?

19
20 MR. MIKE: Yes, that is correct. And I
21 think -- I think we'll be able to make the afternoon --
22 next presentation, we should have enough time for her to
23 call in.

24
25 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Great.
26 So we've got this kind of timed out then so we'll -- we
27 will continue to go with the flow. Does that mean Mr.
28 Chen is up next?

29
30 MR. CHEN: Good morning, Madam Chair and
31 Council members. My name is Glenn Chen, I'm with the
32 Bureau of Indian Affairs. I will actually be co-
33 presenting this morning and actually Ms. Gomez will be
34 actually giving the powerpoint presentation. Courtenay
35 is the Steering Committee Chair for the Western Alaska
36 LCC and she'll be giving the presentation. I sit on the
37 Steering Committee as a representative from BIA and on
38 the phone we have a gentleman by the name of Dr. Joel
39 Reynolds.

40
41 Joel, would you like to introduce
42 yourself.

43
44 DR. REYNOLDS: Hello, everyone. This is
45 Joel Reynolds, I'm the Science Coordinator for the
46 Western Alaska LCC and I'm sorry I'm not there in person
47 today.

48
49 MR. CHEN: So we're waiting for Ms. Gomez
50 to come back in.

1 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: She's here.
2 Thank you, Joel.

3
4 MS. CARTY-GOMEZ: Good morning, Madam
5 Chairman, members of the Council. Good afternoon. This
6 is Courtenay Carty, I guess. So we're going to present
7 to you today about the Western Alaska Landscape
8 Conservation Cooperative. I don't know how much Glenn
9 was able to get into it before I walked in.

10
11 Okay. So the -- let's see, where are we
12 going to start. So Alaska has five of the Landscape
13 Conservation Cooperatives within the 22 member LCC
14 network nationwide. The North Pacific extends from
15 Northern California through the Kenai Peninsula;
16 Northwest Boreal covers areas of B.C., the Yukon,
17 Northwest Territories, Canada and a large part of Alaska;
18 Arctic covers a section of the Northwest Territories,
19 Canada as well as the North Slope, extending it out to
20 Kotzebue; and then the Aleutians and Bering Sea obviously
21 are the Aleutians and Bering Sea, Pribilof Island. And
22 then what we're going to talk to you today about is the
23 Western Alaska LLC where the Bristol Bay RAC's
24 jurisdiction falls into that LCC.

25
26 So the LCC's were initiated in 2010
27 starting with the Arctic LCC and seven others in the
28 Lower 48 states. And one thing that's important to know
29 is as the LCCs were developed the funding associated with
30 them came in waves also. So the first set of LCCs that
31 were developed had more funding than the next set and
32 then sequentially the third set received the least amount
33 of funding.

34
35 In 2011 the Western Alaska LCC, the North
36 Pacific and.....

37
38 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Can I interrupt
39 just one second.

40
41 MS. CARTY-GOMEZ: Go ahead.

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Just -- and this
44 is for my own information, I don't know if other Council
45 members, but what was the purpose of putting these LCCs
46 together?

47
48 MS. CARTY-GOMEZ: Basically they are each
49 a self-directed partnership that's focused on landscapes
50 capable of sustaining the region's natural and cultural

1 resources. So it's a set of partnerships that are
2 various agencies, present landowners, private
3 organizations, Native organizations and Tribes, that come
4 together to work on unique landscape conservation issues
5 that are unique to each geographic partnership within the
6 LCC boundaries.

7
8 The Western Alaska LCC's geography
9 extends from the Kodiak Archipelago north to Kotzebue.
10 The Mulotto Hills area is covered in there and the
11 Kvichak drainage of the north Lake Clark National Park to
12 the tip of the Alaska Peninsula. It borders the
13 Northwest Boreal, the Arctic LCC as well as the Aleutian
14 Peninsula -- I'm sorry, the Aleutians and Bering Sea.

15
16 The mission of the Western Alaska LCC is
17 to promote coordination, dissemination and development of
18 applied science to inform landscape level conservation
19 including terrestrial to marine linkages in the face of
20 changing climate and related stressors.

21
22 And I want you to think about the
23 geographic extent of the Western LCC is basically in the
24 northern region it's dominated by continuous permafrost
25 and then it goes all the way down to the Alaska Peninsula
26 where there's no permafrost and it's all volcano
27 dominated landscape. And another way to also look at it
28 is that although aside potentially from the Bristol Bay
29 region the Western Alaska LCC geographies are amongst the
30 least researched areas in America.

31
32 So up here you can see the different
33 partners. BBNA is one of them. I'm currently serving as
34 the Chair of the LCC for this fiscal year for the Western
35 Alaska LCC and our vice chair is Karen Kelleher of the
36 Bureau of Land Management in Anchorage. Our staff is
37 Karen Murphy who is our LCC Coordinator, Joel Reynolds is
38 our Science Coordinator and on the line and Suzanne
39 Worker also provides staff support to our LCC. Our
40 partners that make up the Steering Committee who governs
41 the work that the LCC does is the USGS, Fish and Wildlife
42 Service, ACE, somebody might have to help me with that?

43
44 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Army Corps of
45 Engineers.

46
47 MS. CARTY-GOMEZ: Thank you. Ann Kess
48 (ph) of the Park Service, NOAA International Weather
49 Station or National Weather Service, I'm sorry, BLM where
50 Karen's from, the BIA, Glenn Chen is serving in that

1 capacity, ADF&G, Kawerak, BBNA, AVCP and also the Ocean
2 for Ross Island Association, Incorporated. And then the
3 partner for the LCC Steering Committee is the Alaska
4 Climate Science Center.

5
6 Just some notes on our membership. Our
7 Chairman rotates from a Federal to non-Federal Chair
8 every other fiscal year or every fiscal year so last
9 fiscal year I came onboard into the LCC partnership and
10 served as the Co-Chair. And then this year now I as a
11 non-Federal rep am serving as the Chair with Karen as the
12 Federal Co-Chair.

13
14 A different -- different work activities
15 that we do are a lot of science planning, we host
16 workshops related to the different science calls that
17 we're in in regards to the funding availability that we
18 have. And basically we're trying to involve -- arrange
19 partners from local stakeholders such as you the RAC or
20 Tribes and service organizations such as BBNA and Kawerak
21 as well as resource management decision makers, field
22 scientists and research to try to understand some of the
23 conservation issues within our region.

24
25 So what you see here on this slide is a
26 long range demonstration of the science strategy that the
27 LCC has developed and it's kind of difficult to see based
28 on this projector, but on the left-hand side it says at
29 the top -- the topic of the coastal system, the
30 freshwater systems, terrestrial systems and then it
31 cycles back through. And so basically we're on a two
32 year science and operating plan that we cycle through
33 these three themes of coastal, freshwater and
34 terrestrial. Right now we're in our freshwater system,
35 but in 2012 and 2013 we were focused on the coastal
36 system with the theme was changes in coastal storms and
37 their impacts. You have a handout that describes the
38 success story from the 2012, 2013 coastal systems funding
39 call and if you want more information it is definitely
40 available on our website.

41
42 2014, 2015, where we're at now, we're
43 focused on the freshwater system. Our call was titled
44 changes in freshwater temperature and its impact. And
45 then we'll get into that a little bit more in depth and
46 it's also on page 8 of your handout that talks about
47 them.

48
49 We're currently working on planning to
50 select our topics for fiscal year 2016 and 2017 with our

1 program focused on terrestrial systems. It's definitely
2 timely for us to be having this presentation at the RAC
3 today because we want to help get involvement not only of
4 our Federal and State partners in the area, but the
5 Tribes and the RAC as well to help us focus the
6 development of this call on the science that would relate
7 to our region.

8

9 Joel, if I'm missing anything feel free
10 to chime in.

11

12 DR. REYNOLDS: You're doing a great job.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MS. CARTY-GOMEZ: Okay. Great. Thank
17 you. Where are we at here. I also just looked at this
18 powerpoint this morning.

19

20 Thank you for your patience.

21

22 So last year and this year we're focusing
23 on the freshwater system and basically what we're
24 focusing on is providing a voluntary statewide freshwater
25 temperature monitoring network of the lakes, streams and
26 rivers throughout the LCC's geographic range. If we
27 click again -- so this talks a little bit I guess before
28 we get into the map section of the different projects
29 that we have going on and if we click the mask I'll get
30 into detail. So these are different -- highlights of the
31 different watersheds at least within the Bristol Bay
32 RAC's geographic scope. And just of particular interest
33 to this group is our funding of -- our being the Western
34 Alaska LCC, funding of the Bristol Bay -- are we off mic
35 now?

36

37 Okay.

38

39 Hello.

40

41 There we go.

42

43 So basically the LCC funded a research
44 group that was comprised of the Bristol Bay Heritage Land
45 Trust which I know most of you are pretty familiar with.
46 BBNA's environmental program, Sue Flensburg being an
47 environmental program manager and Sue Mauger is the
48 researcher with Cook Inlet Keeper. And that group was
49 funded to develop an implementation plan for advancing a
50 regional freshwater temperature monitoring network in the

1 Bristol Bay lowlands geography and that's the map that
2 you see there. The strategy is identifying barriers that
3 need to be overcome in order to promote engagement and
4 functioning of the network as to support ability to
5 develop regional scale synthesis of changes in water
6 temperatures. And that's including trends and spatial
7 and temporal variations as well as develop future
8 projections. The Steering Committee will be reviewing
9 and making funding decisions regarding this strategy and
10 one developed partnership or one developed by a
11 partnership with similar goals for the Kodiak Archipelago
12 in this upcoming winter.

13

14 Another project of importance for this
15 region is with the University of Washington, what most
16 people know as FRI, Fisheries Research Institute.
17 Technically they're the School of Fisheries and Ocean
18 Scientists. But Professor Dan Schindler is compiling,
19 synthesizing and analyzing freshwater temperature data
20 from not only UW's network, but also the Togiak Refuge's
21 work and looking at observed and projected changes in
22 trends and spatial patterns as well as developing
23 recommendations for improving the monitoring network in
24 those sub-basins of the Togiak Refuge and the Wood River
25 Lake.

26

27 Okay. Alaska hydrography. Bringing
28 Alaska's hydrography into the 21st century. So this is
29 a lay proposal by all the five LCCs on Alaska -- could
30 you help me out with FHPs, please, Joel, the acronym?

31

32 DR. REYNOLDS: Fish Habitat Partnership
33 with the Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership.

34

35 MS. CARTY-GOMEZ: Great. Thank you so
36 much. And this was successful in garnering \$300,000
37 from the National Network of LCCs and this is for a
38 project to establish a statewide framework to improve the
39 hydrography mapping and stewardship in Alaska. This will
40 be achieved through creation of a statewide system to
41 make digital mapping data updates accessible and
42 affordable and through the creation of a statewide
43 Hydrography Mapping Coordinator position to help
44 synchronize updates and guide hydrography mapping
45 development. This framework is allowing agencies and
46 organizations to greatly improve their hydrography
47 mapping data as well as consume and uplift project level
48 hydrography data that would not otherwise be incorporated
49 into the NHD which is national hydrography data base and
50 is going to be made available to others. So early

1 achievements in this project is providing for coalitions,
2 quality control of T and C, really that's the nature
3 conservancies, corrections to the national hydrography
4 data base in the Nushagak Mulchatna sub-basins and
5 ultimately will incorporate these corrections into the
6 data base so that others can benefit from the Nature
7 Conservancy's work.

8

9 The project also includes updates in the
10 strategic areas for the Arctic and Western Alaska LCC's
11 development of long term funding strategies, training,
12 outreach and monitoring of partner usage.

13

14 Joel, do you want to get into some of
15 these other details that are associated with this slide?

16

17 DR. REYNOLDS: You're on the NHD slide,
18 please?

19

20 MS. CARTY-GOMEZ: Yes.

21

22 DR. REYNOLDS: Yeah. Well, I think the
23 basic gist was just one example of how the LCCs in Alaska
24 are trying to work together to improve the information
25 base for Research Managers. One of the big issues for
26 the fish habitat partnerships in trying to get a better
27 handle on climate changing facts is the fact that our
28 very basic foundational data subset, the NHD, in Alaska,
29 they're based on the 1950s topography so they're really
30 out of date and not very high resolution. And so this is
31 just an example of a project where the LCCs in Alaska all
32 work together to get a good chunk of money out of D.C. to
33 really try and address this at a statewide level.

34

35 So and if people want more details I'm
36 happy to talk about them, but I don't think we need to go
37 into them.

38

39 MS. CARTY-GOMEZ: Thank you, Joel.

40

41 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Let me just ask
42 him one real quick question.

43

44 Joel, so basically what you're doing now
45 is going through these watersheds that have been
46 identified by your group and updating geographic
47 landscape basically; is that correct?

48

49 DR. REYNOLDS: You mean the -- let me
50 think how I want to answer this question. In terms of

1 this NHD, this particular slide and this particular
2 project that's a good summary, you know, the T and C
3 example that Courtenay presented was a situation where
4 here's a group with a number of locations where
5 individual agencies or organizations have gone to the
6 labor to include the mapping and the quality of the NHD
7 in that region, but that information was just sitting on
8 their computers and nobody else gets to benefit from it
9 or use it. So this particular project is a way to try
10 and share that out so that that becomes available. And
11 I was hesitating a little bit because the slide before
12 even though Courtenay showed the map of the Bristol Bay
13 area for the ones monitoring that work, those -- the
14 projects listed on that slide in the background are
15 really things that are to promote a voluntary monitoring
16 network across the whole state and it's -- that's not
17 really necessarily being approached on a watershed by
18 watershed basis.

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Joel,
21 that answers my question perfectly.

22

23 DR. REYNOLDS. Okay. Thanks.

24

25 MS. CARTY-GOMEZ: Okay. So where we're
26 at now. We're getting into our -- we're technically in
27 the planning phase for our terrestrial system and right
28 now we're engaging with partners to finalize our topic,
29 to develop our RFP for the 2016, 2017 calls and that'll
30 be coming out next fall, sometime probably in September
31 and October. The LCCs -- the five LCCs within Alaska are
32 going to be meeting along with the Alaska Climate Center
33 next week in Anchorage for a workshop session called
34 Climate, Conservation and Communities I believe and also
35 have joint Steering Committee meetings of the five LCCs
36 so that we can start working together on some of the
37 unique problems for LCCs or issues within the Alaska
38 region. That's one thing we -- myself and Karen attended
39 the LCC National Network Strategic Planning Activity to
40 develop the strategic plan for the entire LCC nationwide
41 network in the last week of July back in Shepherdstown,
42 West Virginia at the National Conservation Training
43 Center and it was very apparent that the LCCs within
44 Alaska have some very unique situations in regards to
45 some of our conservation planning activities that are
46 completely different to some of the LCCs that are
47 happening or that go on in the continuous 48 states or
48 even there's an LCC that's in Puerto Rico and the
49 Caribbean as well as Guam is part of an LCC also.

50

1 So after that we definitely realized that
2 we needed to do some more coordinated planning together
3 as the LCCs of Alaska and as well as working with the
4 Climate Science Center some more too, work through some
5 of the issues that are happening within our state.

6
7 So that's kind of where we're at now and
8 if you guys have any questions hopefully myself or Joel
9 can answer them.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. I'll open
14 it up for questions at this time.

15
16 Council members.

17
18 DR. REYNOLDS: Can I make one addition to
19 Courtenay's presentation.

20
21 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Please, go
22 ahead.

23
24 DR. REYNOLDS: All right. So the one
25 point I want to make, you asked originally, Madam
26 Chairman, I think what was motivation.....

27
28 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Standby, Joel,
29 please, we're having speaker -- okay.

30
31 Please start again.

32
33 DR. REYNOLDS: I think at one point we
34 asked what the motives -- more or less what the
35 motivation behind the LCCs was so the network of the LCCs
36 and the sort of companion Climate Science Centers which
37 are USGS effort and those were initiated by the
38 Department of Interior back in 2010 as part of -- a
39 central mechanism for handle -- dealing with and
40 preparing for climate change and its impact on the
41 country's natural and cultural resources. So that's
42 really at the highest level what the big -- the big
43 motivating picture is for this is trying to figure out
44 how to get partners and entities in a region to work
45 together a little more efficiently to address these big
46 information needs that we see coming down the road.

47
48 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank you
49 for that clarification.

50

1 Counsel members, questions.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Well, that must
6 have been a very clear presentation. I know it made a
7 lot more sense to me and I'm hoping that we'll get future
8 updates on this as well or I'd like to request those if
9 we weren't planning on it.

10

11 I think it'll apply to us and as things
12 progress I'd like to hear about it.

13

14 MS. CARTY-GOMEZ: One thing that I just
15 wanted to follow-up with, Madam Chairman is that some of
16 the issues that we've heard today regarding some of the
17 terrestrial habitat functions that are affecting our
18 subsistence fisheries resources could potentially be
19 addressed through this coming RFP in 2016, 2017. And so
20 as we're developing this topic and our partners in the
21 room and online are going to hopefully be thinking about
22 ways that we can try to get some of these research needs
23 addressed through that RFP and will be responding to that
24 to try to, you know, definitely maximize research dollars
25 and leverage partnerships to try to address some of these
26 needs.

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank you.
29 I'm definitely hearing about water dropping and
30 everything else, I think that would be important.

31

32 Okay.

33

34 Anything -- anybody have anything else.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay.

39

40 Very good.

41

42 Thanks.

43

44 Donald.

45

46 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. At
47 this time I'd like to introduce Ms. Sarah Cooley. She's
48 the Science Outreach Manager in -- with the Ocean
49 Conservancy. And, Ms. Cooley, if you can introduce
50 yourself and tell them what you do with ocean

1 acidification and I'll get the powerpoint presentation
2 ready.

3

4 Ms. Cooley.

5

6 DR. COOLEY: Thank you so much. Thank
7 you also to Joel Reynolds and Donald Mike for helping get
8 me connected with this group to talk about our research
9 and speak to you today.

10

11 My name is Sarah Cooley. I am a
12 scientist and an outreach expert at the Ocean Conservancy
13 in Washington, D.C. I've been studying ocean
14 acidification for about seven or eight years. And I'm
15 originally a chemical oceanographer by training, but my
16 work has increasingly since I finished by Ph.D. my work
17 has increasingly moved over towards looking at the human
18 dimension of ocean acidification and thinking about how
19 changes in ocean chemistry can affect human communities.
20 So when my colleagues from Alaska called me to
21 participate in this study I was really excited to do so
22 because I think that it could really bring together a lot
23 of the issues that I've been thinking about for a long
24 time.

25

26 So today I'll be talking to you about
27 some research that I completed with some researchers from
28 University of Alaska at Fairbanks and some of the other
29 University of Alaska entities as well as some Federal
30 agencies as well. And this is an academic research study
31 and that also -- also a basket of supporters. And what
32 we wanted to do was to try to understand what the
33 implications of ocean acidification were for Alaska's
34 communities. I also want to preface my comments by
35 pointing out that both of my -- both colleagues of mine,
36 Jeremy Mathis and Steve Colt are definitely much more
37 experts on specific details about Alaska and Alaska's
38 communities. Unfortunately neither of them were
39 available today so I'm going to do my best at answering
40 any questions you might have, but if you have something
41 that's very Alaska specific we're going to have to email
42 the experts because I am not an Alaska expert. So with
43 that little caveat out of the way let's go ahead and go
44 into the presentation.

45

46 Let's see, second slide, please.

47

48 MR. MIKE: Ms. Cooley.

49

50 DR. COOLEY: Yes.

1 MR. MIKE: Yeah, this is Donald Mike. At
2 this time I'm trying to get back with you and coordinate
3 with the slides so just say next slide, please.

4
5 DR. COOLEY: No problem. Okay. So first
6 we'll talk about what ocean acidification is.

7
8 Next slide.

9
10 Ocean acidification is driven by carbon
11 dioxide that we believe to be atmosphere. The ocean
12 absorbs about 30 percent of the carbon dioxide that
13 humans emit from industry and changes in land use. And
14 some of that carbon dioxide goes on to change the climate
15 while about that 30 percent that the ocean absorbs goes
16 on to cause ocean acidification.

17
18 Next slide, please.

19
20 So about -- well, as you can see there is
21 some debate between 25 and 30 percent of the atmosphere
22 carbon dioxide dissolves in the ocean depending on whose
23 estimate you believe. And what we see here is actually
24 the data that shows what has been happening. If we look
25 at the red trace that's the atmosphere carbon dioxide
26 signal measured just north of Hawaii at station Aloha
27 since 19 -- or actually the red trace, sorry, is measured
28 at Mauna Loa on the Big Island of Hawaii since 1960 and
29 the ocean parameters, the blue and the green, are the
30 ones that have been measured at station Aloha. And what
31 we see is that the carbon dioxide of the content of the
32 seawater which is marked in blue is rising at the same
33 rate as the atmospheric content of carbon dioxide. And
34 at the same time the green line show that the pH in the
35 ocean there is dropping as a result.

36
37 Next slide, please.

38
39 So ocean acidification, it boils down to
40 two chemical equations. So when we dissolve carbon
41 dioxide in the water it releases hydrogen ions and that
42 is what lowers the pH. Some of those hydrogen ions then
43 scavenge out carbonate ions that are found in the water.
44 And so both of those things make life much harder for
45 many marine creatures.

46
47 Next slide, please.

48
49 The bottom line of ocean acidification is
50 that as carbon dioxide in the atmosphere goes up carbonic

1 acid is produced in the water. That decreases carbonate
2 ion levels in the water and it increases hydrogen ion
3 concentrations in the water which lowers pH and then the
4 result is that ocean acidification, it makes it more
5 difficult for organisms to form shells and hard parts.
6 And so right away you can see that the effects of
7 acidification probably won't be uniform across the ocean.

8

9 Next slide, please.

10

11 OA studies have shown that organisms
12 harmed by acidification include particularly warm and
13 cold water coral which provide a lot of benthic habitat
14 where.....

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Test, test,
17 test, test.

18

19 DR. COOLEY: Can you hear me?

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Test, test.

22

23 DR. COOLEY: Can you hear me? Hello?
24 Hello? Hello? I'm hearing test, test.

25

26 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Test.

27

28 DR. COOLEY: Is everything okay?

29

30 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Test, test,
31 test.

32

33 DR. COOLEY: Hello. Hello.

34

35 MS. LARSON: This is Dorothy, I can hear
36 you, but I don't know if they're hearing you at BBNA.

37

38 (Off record comments - speaker problems)

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Now we
41 can just hear you again for the first time. So, yes, I
42 don't know.

43

44 Donald, can you let her know what slide
45 we lost -- well, we lost you were telling us how it made
46 it harder for shells and other hard parts to form in the
47 ocean because of the effects of this.

48

49 DR. COOLEY: Okay. So I guess we haven't
50 lost too much time then. We can start on slide seven,

1 organisms harmed by OA.

2

3 MR. MIKE: Ms. Cooley, I.....

4

5 DR. COOLEY: Yes.

6

7 MR. MIKE:when we lost you were at
8 slide -- ocean acidification, the bottom line.

9

10 DR. COOLEY: Yes. So we can begin on
11 slide seven, organisms harmed by acidification.

12

13 Let me know when you're ready.

14

15 MR. MIKE: We're ready.

16

17 DR. COOLEY: Great. Okay. So we know
18 from experiments that organisms that have hard shells and
19 skeletons are often very harmed by acidification. That
20 includes things like corals, certain types of plankton
21 and zooplankton and many, many mollusks and then there's
22 some other non-calcifiers like fish, squid and sharks and
23 the crustaceans which are calcifiers, they're also harmed
24 by acidification. And some of the changes for the
25 shelled organisms includes slower formation of shell,
26 however for animals that don't have shell we see other
27 changes in processes like respiration or reproduction or
28 even just predator avoidance.

29

30 Next side, please.

31

32 So this is actually probably a bit hard
33 to read depending on the same situation, but this is a --
34 my synthesis paper that was put out about a year ago
35 looking at the responses among different major groups of
36 organisms. And what we see is that the organisms such as
37 calcifying algae, coral, certain types of plankton and
38 mollusks all show some significant impact in terms of
39 either their abundance, their growth rate or their
40 calcification rate. And when other organisms that are
41 non-calcifiers like fish and of course the algae and sea
42 grass don't have such distinctive major impact and those
43 tend to be sort of more species by species.

44

45 Next slide, please.

46

47 The logical thing to do then is to look
48 and see what the responses are on the ecosystem scale.
49 And there have been a few studies that have done so.
50 There have been studies looking at a vol -- near a

1 volcanic CO2 vent and these vents are found in areas
2 where carbon dioxide is bubbling up from the sea floor.
3 And that simulates sort of future carbon dioxide
4 concentrations. And we find that the numbers of
5 calcifying organisms are definitely much less near these
6 vents and things like sea grasses are much more abundant.
7 And of course the lagoon in the Pacific Northwest, in
8 Washington state, a rapid change in pH was observed, over
9 many years a rapid decrease and what the researchers saw
10 was that fleshy algae and sort of non-calcifying
11 invertebrates tended to dominate the system and calcified
12 invertebrates really kind of left the area. And we see
13 a similar thing near vents and near coral reefs which
14 have been studied in the Australia area as well. And you
15 see a really significant change in the community on the
16 sea floor in areas with higher carbon dioxide levels in
17 the ocean. So that's what the three panels show, sort of
18 increasing carbon dioxide and increasing temperature as
19 you go to the right.

20

21 Next slide, please.

22

23 The forecast of ocean acidification
24 suggests that ocean carbonate levels will drop over time
25 towards the -- through the end of the century which is
26 often how we predict these things. And we find at the
27 high latitudes, the Arctic Ocean and the Southern Ocean
28 are going to be inhospitable to these hard carbonate
29 minerals and calcifying organisms by the end of this
30 century and in the Arctic we're already seeing -- we will
31 see a much sooner progression of that happening even just
32 in the next 30 to 50 years as well as towards the end of
33 the century. And there's also going to be other shelters
34 (ph) that are happening.

35

36 Next slide, please.

37

38 These other stressors include a lot of
39 things that are both local and things that are global
40 with local affects. Along coastlines where human
41 populations are really heavily tied to productive marine
42 ecosystems we see natural and human processes sort of
43 intersecting. The carbon dioxide that is being emitted
44 into the atmosphere is taken up by seawater everywhere
45 and that causes ocean acidification, but at the same time
46 in some areas we see runoff with organic pollutants,
47 trace metals and even fertilizer which also affect
48 photosynthesis and respiration which leads to other
49 changes in the marine microbial community that can really
50 alter the ways that carbon dioxide cycles through their

1 systems and really worsens ocean acidification.

2

3 Next slide, please.

4

5 So the central question that everybody
6 wants to know is how is ocean acidification going to
7 affect Alaska in particular.

8

9 Next slide.

10

11 And since we don't have a crystal ball we
12 have to actually think about what the possibilities are.
13 And so my colleagues in their study broke it down to look
14 at where those possibilities are coming from to kind of
15 accommodate the fact that this is a really uncertain
16 game, predicting the future and then also making
17 decisions based on that.

18

19 Next slide, please.

20

21 So for Alaska the information we have
22 includes things like ocean forecasting models that
23 basically look at how atmospheric carbon dioxide is
24 expected to increase, how ice melt is expected to
25 proceed, how biological productivity is expected to occur
26 in near shore waters and kind of bring all that together
27 into a picture of what ocean chemistry will be in the
28 future. We also have present day measurements of
29 seawater chemistry and (indiscernible) you know, like in
30 terms of ocean mixing and things like that that are
31 governed by the ice and temperature and other local
32 factors as well. In Alaska we also have information on
33 harvest quantities and locations and we have commercial
34 harvest information, but we also have subsistence and
35 recreational information. And something I'd really like
36 to point out here that's really special about Alaska is
37 that the state of Alaska reports the subsistence harvest
38 information and recreational harvest information
39 separately and so that allowed us to go one step farther
40 with this study in a way that we have not been able to
41 before so that's something that was really special for us
42 as researchers. We also have social science information
43 about Alaska human communities. We have things like
44 educational attainment, employment rates, just who lives
45 where, you know, population estimates, things like that.

46

47 Next slide, please.

48

49 So for the oceanographic data we used a
50 combination of computer models which are sort of pictured

1 on the top and then we also have these local factors that
2 we can consider. The computer models do what I
3 mentioned, where we basically take estimates of carbon
4 dioxide concentration in the atmosphere as well as other
5 ocean conditions in the preindustrial time, we have them
6 for the present time and we have forecasts for the
7 future. And we can go ahead and put all of that
8 information into our models and predict what the ocean
9 chemistry around Alaska's coastline is likely to look
10 like. And this is very helpful for the large scale
11 picture, but the very fine scale picture also has to
12 include these local factors shown on the bottom. And the
13 local factors include things like ice melt and
14 seasonality and up-welling in local embayment. We also
15 have to think about river input that is also coming from
16 the land. And a lot of times these global models that
17 we're using on the top don't actually encompasses all of
18 those very local scale details as well. So what we've
19 done is used the global model to kind of give us a
20 general view of what might be happening and then think
21 about regional factors that might exaggerate the
22 situation.

23

24 Next slide, please.

25

26 We've also taken the harvest information
27 that we were able to get from the State of Alaska and we
28 included lots of different sorts of information, this
29 just gives you a little snapshot. On the top we have
30 things like the weight and revenue from commercial
31 harvest followed by taxonomic grouping or by census area
32 and borough. We also have let's see going clockwise on
33 the right we have things like information about
34 subsistence catch composition and the three colors in
35 this show catch composition for shellfish which are shown
36 in red, salmon which are shown in blue and then other fin
37 fish which are shown in green. And this breaks it out
38 for each census area and borough in Alaska. And then on
39 the left-hand part of the screen we also have information
40 that we use about -- sort of a biogeography of where
41 these harvests are happening. So what sorts of harvests
42 that Alaska residents are devel -- are depending on for
43 all sorts of reasons, but particularly focusing on the
44 species that we feel are at highest risk from
45 acidification based on what we know from laboratory
46 studies focusing on things like I mentioned before, the
47 impacts on calcifiers, on king and tanner crab and the
48 potential implications for salmon.

49

50 Next slide, please.

1 The information -- we still lack some
2 information and it's true that we lack this information
3 for pretty much everywhere in the world, it's not just an
4 Alaska specific information gap. What we lack are things
5 like how do these local and global factors interact to
6 alter acidification in the areas where specific fisheries
7 are located. And we also don't know how every single
8 Alaska species will respond to acidification. And even
9 if we understand how individuals respond in a laboratory
10 setting we don't know exactly yet how whole populations
11 will respond. And then thirdly we also don't know
12 whether additional specific factors in the human society
13 that are going to amplify or minimize the harm from
14 acidification. So we can make assumptions that cover
15 these things for now. We assume in this study that
16 anthropogenic carbon dioxide for the atmospheric carbon
17 dioxide and the large scale circulation that I mentioned
18 are going to drive major changes in ocean chemistry. We
19 can't get down to the level of like a particular bay for
20 example. We also have to assume that all of the
21 harvested shellfish in Alaska are going to be negatively
22 impacted by acidification and we assume that that's also
23 true for the red, king and tanner crab. And when I say
24 shellfish usually I'm speaking about bivalves like clams
25 and geoducks and things like that. We also need to
26 assume that salmon might also suffer affects from
27 tetrapods which are marine organisms that are one of the
28 salmon's major prey items might decrease as well. And we
29 also have to assume that we've caught all of the social
30 factors, we have to kind of assume that the social --
31 there's no sort of surprises in the human community and
32 that's never true so that's a bit of a simplification,
33 but that's what we had to do here.

34

35 Next slide, please.

36

37 We took this framework which was followed
38 and adjusted from something that the Intergovernmental
39 Panel on Climate Change did to look at the risks from
40 extreme events. And we assume that the hazard here is
41 only ocean acidification, we didn't look at temperature
42 rise. We assume that it was affecting all of Alaska
43 species and populations and individuals to the same
44 degree and that all of the affects are going to be
45 negative. We also assumed that current harvests are
46 going to affect future harvest. And so by that logic the
47 hazards stated by -- caused by ocean acidification could
48 affect the communities that depend most heavily on
49 economic and subsistence harvest of shellfish, crabs and
50 salmon. And so the human exposure here is evaluated at

1 the community level with the data looking at the
2 proportional nutritional dependence on various affected
3 organisms, what the economic value of affected organisms
4 is and this also tells us how important these activities
5 are relative to other areas of the state. And then
6 ability is going to be evaluated here by looking at per
7 capita figures of sensitivity, so wages, revenue and
8 forces and things like that. Adapted capacity is also
9 measured by looking at economic stability, employment,
10 job diversity, access to food, poverty and things like
11 that.

12

13 Next slide, please.

14

15 So this tree gives you a sense of how we
16 created a single index. So we put a lot -- we had a
17 different data stream for each of these things and so we
18 have to kind of normalize the data and any sort of
19 weighted aggregations of the data. And there's a lot
20 more detail about this in the paper if you're interested
21 and I'd be happy to talk to you about it offline, but
22 suffice it to say we took a lot of data and we put it all
23 together, next slide, please, and we came out with a
24 final index that tries -- that basically assesses how
25 Alaska's census areas involved measure up relative to
26 their neighbors at risk from acidification. And so what
27 this slide shows is that the areas in Southeast and
28 Southwest Alaska marked in red are at highest risk and if
29 you look at the little icons which are also a little bit
30 hard to see on this reproduction, I'm sorry about that,
31 I can never get this spot as crisp as I'd like it to be
32 on a slide, but -- and, you know, the little icons show
33 -- the little fish give you a sense of how important
34 subsistence fishing is in different census areas and
35 boroughs. And then the circles give you a feeling of the
36 population in each of these areas. And then the dollar
37 signs give you a feeling for how important the commercial
38 harvest value is in a different area.

39

40 And so what we find is that areas that
41 are more rural with higher contributions of subsistence
42 fishing or high dependence on commercial harvests are at
43 the highest risk.

44

45 And what we -- what we want to underscore
46 with this project is not that it's the last word in terms
47 of how acidification could affect Alaska communities.
48 This is just the first step and what is particularly
49 useful about this study is that we've been able to
50 compile different types of data to look at the total risk

1 to the human and the ecological system. And so this
2 actually gives us an opportunity to kind of look under
3 the hood of this whole system and figure out what makes
4 the community strong or weak relative to potential
5 changes in marine harvest. And that I think open the
6 doors to thinking more holistically about what we can do
7 to ensure sort of sustained access to these natural
8 resources as well as equitable access to these resources.
9 And so that's something that is -- that for -- you know,
10 is a conclusion of this study, but it's something that a
11 future study would really have to dig far -- much farther
12 into and involve a whole slew of social scientists I
13 think to really do it justice. But anyhow we're pretty
14 excited about how this study gives us a new way to think
15 about what progressive chemistry change in the ocean
16 could actually do, how it could touch human communities.

17

18 Next slide, please.

19

20 So here is actually the reference for the
21 paper, it is an open access paper if you're interested in
22 downloading it yourself and having a peak at it, but of
23 course as I said I'd be happy to answer questions and I'd
24 also be happy to talk to you separately if you have some
25 other questions that we can't get into here today.

26

27 Thank you so much.

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
30 Sarah.

31

32 Donald, did you have anything you wanted
33 to add.

34

35 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Ms. Cooley. I just
36 want to let you know that the Anchorage Dispatch News had
37 a article in the newspaper and -- in Anchorage and I
38 shared that article with the Council members and they
39 were interested in having a presentation at this Council
40 meeting. And I want to thank Joel and Ms. Cooley for
41 taking the time and presenting this ocean acidification.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: If you don't
46 mind can I ask -- see if we have any Council members with
47 questions.

48

49 DR. COOLEY: Absolutely.

50

1 I'm happy to answer questions.
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Council
4 members, anybody like to address Ms. Cooley while we have
5 her online.
6
7 MS. LARSON: Madam Chair.
8
9 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Yes, Dorothy,
10 please go ahead.
11
12 MS. LARSON: I would just like to know if
13 -- what kind of preventative measures we can take to
14 address this and if there's a plan being put together.
15
16 DR. COOLEY: Those are great questions.
17 I think I personally am not qualified to tell you all in
18 Alaska what preventative measures Alaska would be best to
19 take, but I can tell you how communities are starting to
20 think about this. What we are finding is that the search
21 for solutions is going to be local, you know, each area
22 in the nation is going to have its own recipe as being
23 things that are appropriate preparations. For example in
24 Washington state we have seen some serious losses in some
25 of the Pacific oyster hatcheries from acidification. And
26 the first preparation that these hatcheries have done is
27 to outfit their intakes with monitoring equipment to
28 watch for when pH begins to drop and they can go ahead
29 and take steps to avoid that by not pumping water into
30 their intake valve at that time. Some other hatcheries
31 are starting to do careful amendments to the water to
32 improve the chemical condition. However that only
33 approaches hatchery questions. What we are finding is
34 that communities need to convene stakeholders around the
35 table and that means people who make their living from
36 the water, people who live beside the water, people who
37 are making decisions and people who study the area to
38 start to identify possible solutions that are going to be
39 community appropriate. We are seeing other states on the
40 east coast for example who are starting to convene and
41 take customized actions. And many times they're starting
42 with a state panel that will convene experts and start to
43 identify what industry or communities are at highest
44 risk. And so we've seen that here, but what I think the
45 next step is going to be is to convene representatives
46 and experts from the communities to start thinking about
47 the specific risk factors that add up for their
48 communities and think about what that might be.
49
50 In some cases the risk is coming from --

1 largely from the social side, you know, where you have
2 low employment alternatives or you have limited access to
3 high quality food. And in some areas you have an undue
4 dependence on one particular harvest opportunity.

5
6 So the solutions are going to vary place
7 by place and I think that's something the study shows
8 really strongly. I wish I could give you a perfect
9 answer today, but I think that answer needs to be kind of
10 identified through a collaborative working effort.

11
12 MS. LARSON: Well, thank you, I
13 appreciate that. And I realize that it will need to be
14 individualized, but it's really sad that we wait until
15 damage is happening before we address it.

16
17 DR. COOLEY: Yeah, and that was a big
18 motivator for the study, we wanted to go ahead and try to
19 identify these risk factors well in advance to the damage
20 being seen in Alaska, to start the conversation about
21 what might be -- what might be smart things to do
22 preparing for the future that would sort of take care of
23 some of these risk factors or at least respect them and
24 think about how to work around them or work with them.

25
26 MS. LARSON: Thank you.

27
28 DR. COOLEY: Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank you.
31 And for those online if you're not currently online
32 speaking would you please put your phones on mute, we are
33 having some feedback from somebody. So that would help
34 us out hearing things better here a lot.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 Or your radios if they're playing in the
39 background, they can come through and -- I'm getting a
40 headshake, maybe we can't do anything about it. Okay.
41 Good enough. We can't. That's okay, we will hope that
42 it stays to a minimum.

43
44 Any other questions from Council members
45 or anybody on line.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Great.
50 Thank you. I would like to just give my appreciation for

1 you sharing that presentation. I think it was helpful
2 for all of us and I think we would look forward to
3 updates as they become available.

4

5 DR. COOLEY: Thank you. Thank you so
6 much for inviting me to speak to you today.

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Let's
9 move forward.

10

11 Do we want to put anybody in front of
12 Park Service or are we to the point where we can come
13 back online with our.....

14

15 Mr. Dunaway.

16

17 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, looking at the agenda
18 we had something about a statewide rule or did we do that
19 already or did I have it in the wrong spot?

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Looks like we'll
22 go back and finish up Fish and Wildlife. Okay. And
23 that's fine. I'm -- I didn't know if everybody was done
24 or not. So please continue.

25

26 MS. ALEXANDER: Madam Chair, members of
27 the Council. Susan Alexander, Refuge Manager, Alaska
28 Peninsula and Becharof National Wildlife Refuges. And
29 thank you for having us back up. I know we have a lot of
30 Fish and Wildlife presentation today, but we wanted to
31 make sure to cover this development with the Council and
32 to get your input.

33

34 And I wanted to say also with me is
35 Susanna Henry.

36

37 MS. HENRY: Yes, Susanna Henry with the
38 Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.

39

40 MS. ALEXANDER: And also online is
41 Heather Thomason in our regional officer. Heather, do
42 you want to say hello.

43

44 MS. THOMASON: Yes, hi, Madam Chair and
45 Council members. This is Heather Thomason, U.S. Fish and
46 Wildlife Service in the regional office here in
47 Anchorage.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Heather, would
2 you mind introducing yourself again please, we had some
3 mic overlap here.

4
5 MS. THOMASON: Okay. Sorry. Yes. Good
6 morning, Madam Chair and Council members. This is
7 Heather Thomason with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
8 in the regional office here in Anchorage.

9
10 MS. ALEXANDER: Thanks, Heather. We've
11 asked Heather to join us on this part of the presentation
12 because what we're going to be discussing is a statewide
13 proposed rule making. And so when we get to questions
14 from the Council we may be referring some of those to
15 Heather.

16
17 I wanted to double check that the Council
18 members have materials. There's a flyer with a lovely
19 picture of Togiak Refuge on it and also a question and
20 answer sheet.....

21
22 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Give us
23 a second to.....

24
25 MS. ALEXANDER: No problem.

26
27 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Donald, it looks
28 like we may need a couple more copies up here.

29
30 Thanks for your patience, everyone.
31 Thanks for your patience.

32
33 I think we're all ready now.

34
35 Please go ahead.

36
37 MS. ALEXANDER: Great. Thank you. I
38 wanted to make sure everyone had those.

39
40 What this is about is that the Fish and
41 Wildlife Service is considering some regulatory changes.
42 They would clarify allowable practices for take of
43 wildlife, some public use of other types of resources
44 such as berry picking and firewood and such and some of
45 our procedures relating to closures and restrictions.
46 These rule changes are similar to what is being proposed
47 by the Park Service that Mr. Dunaway referred to earlier
48 in the meeting, but there are a few differences. And of
49 course the Park Service will be speaking on their
50 proposal after we have finished. I want to state up

1 front one of the most important things to know about this
2 is that there are no proposed changes to the Federal
3 subsistence regulations. This all have to do with sport
4 or general hunting and fishing regulations. The purpose
5 of these changes is -- are several things. One is to
6 clarify what we can and cannot do on refuges in regard to
7 predator control. Obviously we all know that has been a
8 serious and contentious issues for a long time and this
9 is an effort on our part to clarify what the Service's
10 allowable practices are in that regard, also to clear up
11 confusion between State and Federal mandates which lies
12 at the heart of the predator control issues.

13

14 And also to ensure that we are managing
15 Refuges in accord with our legal mandates and the laws
16 that establish the National Wildlife Refuge System and
17 ANILCA which established the Refuges in Alaska or
18 expanded in some cases.

19

20 What these changes would do in summary is
21 that they would prohibit activities involving predator
22 reduction if those activities alter or manipulate natural
23 ecosystems or processes in order to increase harvest of
24 wildlife. They would limit some specific methods and
25 means of take and then kind of more along the
26 housekeeping line they would open noncommercial gathering
27 of natural resources to recreational users. And then
28 they would update some of the provisions for our change
29 -- our propose -- excuse me, our regulations for how we
30 go about instituting closures and restrictions on the
31 Refuges and that -- those are primarily things like
32 including internet as one possible means of
33 communication.

34

35 These changes again do not apply to
36 Federal subsistence regulations and one of the main
37 things that I want to convey to the RAC is that it's the
38 Fish and Wildlife Service's intention for these changes
39 to impact subsistence users as little as possible. If
40 you see specific areas where you believe these changes
41 will impact subsistence users we would like to hear that
42 from you. We are very early in our process, we have not
43 put a proposed draft regulation in the Federal Register
44 at this point, we are in the midst of our government to
45 government consultations, letters and the materials that
46 you all have went out to Tribes and ANCSA corporations at
47 the end of September requesting -- inviting consul -- the
48 Tribes and the corporations to consult with us. There
49 are two teleconferences planned for November to provide
50 opportunities to discuss these issues with the leadership

1 in Anchorage with the Regional Director and the Chief of
2 the National Wildlife Refuge System for Alaska. So we
3 are in an information gathering consultation phase at
4 this point. We anticipate potential publication of draft
5 regulations in the Federal Register in January.

6
7 So at this point we are here to listen to
8 your input and to answer questions.

9
10 And so with that brief summary I will
11 open to questions if the Council would like to ask
12 questions or we have -- I can -- we are taking notes and
13 we will be gathering the transcripts of all the RAC
14 meetings statewide and analyzing those for input from the
15 RACs.

16
17 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Let me
18 ask a quick question before I open it up to other Council
19 members. How -- if Council members -- how long is public
20 testimony going to be taken on this, how -- what is our
21 window of opportunity to respond if people want to get
22 their thoughts together and respond in addition or only
23 at a later point?

24
25 MS. ALEXANDER: The government to
26 government consultation phase -- well, it -- it's fairly
27 open ended. The date of November 21st is the last date
28 by which we can incorporate changes into the draft that
29 will be published in the Federal Register. But of course
30 after that point it will then be open for public comment
31 and so of course we still would like to hear -- if people
32 have not commented by November 21st we still would like
33 to hear whatever input you'd like to give us, it's just
34 that it -- we need it by November 21st if it's going to
35 be incorporated into any changes before the draft regs
36 are published.

37
38 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. So
39 everybody get that part, 21st last chance to make changes
40 on this one before it's actually published for comment.

41
42 Mr. Hedlund, go ahead, please.

43
44 MR. HEDLUND: Yeah, Thomas Hedlund,
45 Illiamna. Yeah, we as the Board in Nondalton here from
46 Lake Clark National Park and Preserve there, we supported
47 this and the reason was is it just goes against the grain
48 of all, you know, we stand for and want to do. We don't
49 want to go out and kill bears and stuff that's in a den
50 that we can't use. And so we did support it.

1 MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you very much.
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Mr.
4 Hedlund.
5
6 Mr. Dunaway.
7
8 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you. I've got
9 a few things I want to touch on and that was -- if I
10 understand right you're following through the MOU between
11 the State and the Federal government about consultation
12 prior to going to the public on this. I've been getting
13 a bunch of email from the State and I'm not sure where
14 else. It seems like kind of a spat has really developed
15 among -- between the Park Service and the State. And so
16 I'm just curious are you following that same MOU process?
17 That just my first question.
18
19 MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Dunaway.
20 I know that we have consulted with the State.
21
22 Heather, perhaps you could give us some
23 more detail on that.
24
25 MS. THOMASON: Yes, thank you. Heather
26 Thomason for the record and through the Chair. Basically
27 we have done an early consultation with the State on this
28 issue and that has come from our leadership to the
29 State's leadership and at this point we've been keeping
30 them apprised of where we're at in the process and the
31 things that we are considering. And so we're still
32 pretty early in those discussions, but we're working on
33 drafting a letter actually this week that would also
34 initiate that formal consultation with the State so we
35 can begin that formal consultation process with them in
36 the very near future before the proposal would go to
37 application for public comment.
38
39 Thank you.
40
41 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. That's good to hear
42 because I get really tired of seeing some of this other
43 stuff and, you know, that MOU's been in place a long time
44 and I know from the past it's been kind of a constant
45 battle to convince some agencies to work in the process
46 that's laid out and I hope they stick with it.
47
48 So thank you on that.
49
50 Looking down here further I -- in the

1 past this Council has spoken pretty strongly about
2 wanting the option of some predator control on Refuges.
3 And I think it's been -- in some cases we've seen some
4 excellent research here on the Togiak Refuge where it
5 would look like on say the Nushagak Peninsula it's not an
6 appropriate thing to do. But other places we haven't
7 been clear in Becharof and the caribou and plummeting
8 moose populations.

9
10 I think we said we'd kind of like to see
11 it and we've kind of gotten mostly I guess a negative
12 comment, but I think there's been some hope that that
13 could change. And then frankly from what bits and pieces
14 I've been able to gather about what went on with Unimak
15 caribou I think predator control should have happened.
16 It sounded to me like an individual at a rather low level
17 was allowed to run way too wild within the U.S. Fish and
18 Wildlife Service and I think the leadership was remiss in
19 not curtailing that. And that should not have happened.
20 Now I'm relieved to hear that it sounds like the caribou
21 population wasn't as badly impacted as it looked like it
22 was going to be. I think also -- and I -- you know, Cold
23 Bay we had some predator control. I don't know if that
24 happened on State lands, but my understanding was some of
25 the predator control down there was quite effective and
26 very needed.

27
28 So I'm kind of opposed to this idea of
29 you putting in a regulation now totally prohibiting it.
30 I'm -- I want it scientifically based, well documented,
31 worked out and it isn't the answer in probably most
32 cases, but I'm totally opposed to seeing it blanket
33 prohibited in that first paragraph. Now trying to lean
34 more towards what Tinney's (ph) saying about this kind of
35 unconventional out of season harvest of animals on a case
36 by case basis, I'm probably a lot more sympathetic to
37 that. And, you know, this is my first cut at looking at
38 this, but noncommercial gathering of natural resources,
39 I think some of that should be allowed, I think it has
40 occurred, berry picking, as long again as we're not
41 either impacting, you know, the truly subsistence
42 dependent people or overdoing the Refuge.

43
44 But those are some of my top of the head
45 comments here.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Mr.
50 Dunaway.

1 MS. ALEXANDER: Madam Chair. May I
2 reply.

3
4 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: You may, please.

5
6 MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you. I should
7 clarify that this is not a blanket prohibition on all
8 predator control activities. We do feel that predator
9 control is a legitimate wildlife management tool. What
10 we are attempting to do is clarify when and where and why
11 we will use it. And obviously sound science and the
12 individual circumstances have to be taken into account.
13 What this is specifically trying to address is that we
14 will not use predator control solely for the purpose of
15 increasing harvest by people. And I realize that in
16 itself may still be an item that you have qualms about,
17 but I wanted to make sure that the narrowness of the
18 focus of what we're proposing is understood, that there
19 certainly are circumstances to protect an injured species
20 or in a situation where there's an introduced predator,
21 where there's some human predation of the system that has
22 caused a population to decline, then we are not opposed
23 to using predator control in those circumstances.

24
25 And obviously all of those would need to
26 be looked at on a case by case basis with appropriate
27 NEPA compliance and public input.

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Go ahead.

30
31 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, okay. Well, I hope
32 it isn't only just to protect endangered species because
33 caribou on Unimak wouldn't have been endangered. And,
34 yes, when you're down to -- locally they'd have been
35 endangered and, yes, it was to provide or maintain some
36 meat source for some of the residents down there. So
37 carefully applied, but it gets into some real shades here
38 of what's -- the eye of the beholder of what's valuable.

39
40 I wouldn't want to totally eliminate
41 predator control even for the purpose of providing food
42 for people nearby.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Yeah, and I just
47 saw that discussion back there. I'm planning on bringing
48 you up next if you have the flexibility to stick with us
49 for ADF&G.

50

1 We just have time constraints.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 Mr. Wilson.

6

7 MR. WILSON: Madam Chair. Thank you.

8 Yeah, this is -- this is all very new, these proposals
9 and things and I -- you know, it's hard for me at this
10 setting to sit here and try to think of everything I need
11 to mention. So helpful for me would be if we could at
12 some point gather again in a workshop setting or
13 something to sort of formalize some of our thoughts so
14 that we can really get this down because this is a very
15 important issue and just to -- just to get comments right
16 now I don't think it would be -- really do it justice
17 with us here just being under time constraints and
18 things. So I just, you know, want to open that up for a
19 bit of conversation. And who's on this team or who's on
20 your staff or how do you determine this -- I don't know
21 what I'm trying to say here, the populations or how do
22 you determine when the -- you know, when it's necessary
23 to have reductions and things, I mean, who's actually
24 helping making these types of decisions.

25

26 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Susan.

27

28 MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you, Madam Chair.

29 To -- I want to make sure I'm understanding your question
30 correctly, that I believe you're asking that once these
31 regulational changes were in place and we were deciding
32 how to implement what predator control activities might
33 be prohibited who would be involved in making those
34 decision, is that.....

35

36 MR. WILSON: Yes.

37

38 MS. ALEXANDER: Okay. The local Refuge
39 staff would be the front line folks working on those
40 issues, they're the ones doing the kind of work you were
41 hearing Andy and Pat talk about today and have the best
42 understanding of what's going on on the ground. In
43 addition we have Natural Resources staff in our regional
44 office and obviously the folks up the chain from me and
45 Susanna as Refuge Managers would also be involved in
46 those sorts of decisions so it would be local Refuge
47 staff with the support and guidance of subject matter
48 experts and line -- chain of command supervisors for the
49 management side who would be involved in those sorts of
50 decisions.

1 Heather, is there anything you want to
2 add to that or Susanna.

3
4 MS. THOMASON: Yes, this is Heather
5 Thomason for the record. Through the Chair. I think you
6 pretty much covered it, but I did want to clarify one
7 point in regards to that question about when making a
8 statement on when we would allow predator control versus
9 when we wouldn't. And I think it's important to note
10 that even though some of those situations that we might
11 consider would not be limited to just threatened and
12 endangered species, another thing that we may consider is
13 I think the dividing line basically is is it for a
14 restoration action. So, you know, let's just say there
15 was a situation where we actually had been able to show
16 that population under it were well below historical
17 levels and that, you know, predation was a primary factor
18 that was -- a primary limiting factor that was affecting
19 those populations and, you know, there were good habitat
20 quality and all those things were in place, you know,
21 those would be some of the situations where we might
22 actually consider that too. So it's not just limited to
23 threatened or endangered species, but I think it really
24 extends from, you know, is it a restoration action, is
25 that the primary reasoning behind why we might want to
26 look at implementing some sort of predator control
27 actions or is it primarily just for other reasons such as
28 to provide artificially high levels of populations for
29 harvest or something like that.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 MS. ALEXANDER: Madam Chair and members
34 of the Council. The only thing I would add is the Fish
35 and Wildlife Service doesn't work alone in terms of
36 wildlife and population and habitat management. We do
37 have our State partners as well and others.

38
39 So I believe we all weigh in together on
40 those decisions.

41
42 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
43 you, Mr. Wilson. I have heard what you're saying and do
44 tend to agree and I think hopefully towards the end of
45 this meeting we will bring up the possibility and
46 potential of a workshop. I believe that this will still
47 be open for public comment by the time our next winter
48 meeting comes around in February and that I think that
49 that would be a great item for that workshop that we've
50 talked about to continue on with this if we don't have

1 immediate comments.

2

3 Does that make sense?

4

5 MR. WILSON: Yes.

6

7 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay.

8

9 MR. WILSON: Yes. Necessary, very

10 necessary.

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay.

13

14 Mr. O'Hara.

15

16 MR. O'HARA: Yes. Susan, Ms. Alexander
17 and Ms. Henry. Madam Chair. In this question and answer
18 paper you have here is there going to be a reduction in
19 the commercial harvest such as guides and then
20 recreational type use of the Refuge. And the Refuge is
21 probably -- it's huge, I mean, like between the Park
22 Service and let me -- let me qualify by saying that
23 within the Refuge there's a lot of things that can take
24 place, you can take -- do mining and other -- dig for oil
25 and different things, you know, but when you leave it all
26 goes away. And the nice thing about it and I know a lot
27 of my colleagues don't like me saying this, but the Park
28 and Preserve and the Refuge has given us a lot of
29 protection on our resources staying there. And I think
30 it's your job -- you know, it's your job to manage and
31 balance the system and if you've got to liberalize your
32 regulations in order to maintain whatever resource is
33 there and I don't -- you know, I think predator control
34 is good to a point, but you've got to be careful you
35 don't overbalance the system, in other words there has to
36 be a perfectly good balance.

37

38 Your job is to manage this resource and
39 it's our job to have input to you on what we think would
40 be best to manage this. Not for industrial or personal
41 gain, but for the overall health of the animals, the
42 system and our subsistence use.

43

44 And so if you have to liberalize your
45 regulations on -- when we -- the North Peninsula caribou
46 herd went from 18,000 down to 1,600 you got a serious
47 problem on your hands and it's in your Refuge. And it's
48 the wolves and the bears that, you know, have had a lot
49 to do with the fact that they haven't come back, but it
50 was a natural system that killed the caribou, it wasn't

1 the bear and the wolves that killed them, it was a
2 natural system that they died and nobody is complaining
3 about that. But I think what your big job is going to be
4 is to make sure that the rivers stay clean -- I heard
5 this lady and her scientific presentation here and Dan,
6 I forget his name, Bristol Bay Driftnetters, wanted to go
7 in the Naknek River and take off any branches hanging in
8 the river and any beaver dams that are around and Slim
9 Morestad said leave it alone, you know, you're not here
10 to manage the Naknek River or the fish run or anything
11 else. Those branches hanging there and that moss over
12 there and that rock over there and that beaver dam over
13 there, all natural processes and it's not hurting
14 anything. Lions Club came in and took 54 barrels out of
15 the Naknek River, now that's a good thing and it's a
16 clean river and they dammed up the barrel blocks (ph) on
17 the Federal government and the air force base that has
18 pollutants that would kill everything in Bristol Bay. So
19 I think there's a fine line that you got to walk on and
20 it's going to have to have some serious input from guys
21 like the people sitting at this table and people who live
22 in the villages who have -- who've lived there. Pete
23 over there, I mean, you know, and Kenny over there, they
24 -- these guys have got -- lived in areas that you'll
25 never know about. And if we didn't sit around talking to
26 them until 1:00 o'clock in the morning we wouldn't learn
27 about it either, you know. And so I think predator
28 control is very, very critical and when a wolf kills a
29 school teacher in Chignik Lake I think you're going to
30 try thinking seriously about how we manage the system.
31 I mean, we're getting down to the place where, you know,
32 it's very good. Two years ago we had a huge winter, lots
33 of snow and cold, a lot of bears never came out of
34 hibernation.

35

36 The guides in the Meshik, Jay King one of
37 them, said just never came back. So you got a big job
38 ahead of you and I do like the boundaries as much as my
39 friends say get rid of the Park and Refuge and I might
40 wave that flag once in a while, but it's protected a lot
41 of good things and we must address that as well.

42

43 Thank you very much.

44

45 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Mr.
46 O'Hara.

47

48 Any other comments.

49

50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Well, I'll just
2 add a couple. In addition I would -- I think that this
3 probably applies a lot to both Mr. Dunaway and Mr.
4 O'Hara's comments. I think that you're going to find a
5 lot of very hard and harsh response to the way your
6 current predator control proposed rule is worded. I
7 think that you would be very wise before you post it to
8 include -- my thought was to include the comments about
9 when it would be used or how it would be used. I think
10 that right now the way that's worded I don't feel like
11 that's subsistence friendly and knowing what we have
12 going on with our Northern Alaska Peninsula herd and the
13 struggles we've had with our moose over there and any
14 moose counts for populations to -- and I know what the
15 hunts have been doing too, we are not going to look
16 favorably upon that.

17

18 That's my advice on that one.

19

20 I would also say my only statement on the
21 other potential one through five is it for sports issues
22 would be to remember and I don't know that this needs to
23 be in wording, it could just be in support comments, but
24 remember that a lot of times there's crossover. When I
25 put on my sports hat I think of how many times I've been
26 in the field and taken advantage of being down in the
27 Egegik area and done blueberry picking. So remember
28 there are crossover elements involved in these different
29 roles that all people play in the field and, you know,
30 make sure that because I'm down there guiding I shouldn't
31 be not allowed to pick blueberries during my lunch break
32 or whatever.

33

34 So those would be my comments and I would
35 ask make sure.....

36

37 Okay.

38

39 Mr. Dunaway, please.

40

41 MR. DUNAWAY: And I might be missing this
42 because I haven't read through it, but one process to
43 have in the State regulation proposal is they -- the
44 person has to present what problem they're trying to fix.
45 And I wonder if for both Park and Refuge we -- because
46 we're involved with this stuff, but it's kind of --
47 probably not clear to some people.

48

49 So what problem exists that you need to
50 fix with these new regulations.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Go ahead.

4

5 MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you, Madam Chair,
6 Mr. Dunaway. This is an issue of I believe differing
7 mandates between the State and the Federal government and
8 as Mr. O'Hara was speaking I realized that one important
9 piece of this that I hadn't addressed yet is where this
10 is coming from in terms of our legal mandates. And so I
11 guess I would -- the way I would answer your question is
12 that given the differences between the State's legal
13 mandates and our legal mandates we see a need for greater
14 clarity in how we intend to carry out our legal
15 requirements. And perhaps the most important one of
16 those is that every Refuge in Alaska in ANILCA has the
17 purpose to conserve fish and wildlife populations and
18 habitats and their natural diversity. That's where our
19 limitation on use of predator control comes in in that we
20 feel that use of predator control for the sole purpose of
21 increasing prey populations so that there can be
22 additional human harvest if there is -- you know, if it's
23 not a recovery type situation like what Heather was
24 talking about, is counter to managing for natural
25 diversity. That our mandate is to let those natural
26 systems that Mr. O'Hara was describing play out unless we
27 feel there is a human caused problem that we need to
28 correct. And, Heather and Susanna, weigh in on this also
29 please if you feel that I'm not covering this adequately.
30 This is obviously at the crux of this and I'm glad you
31 asked us that question because I had been remiss in not
32 covering that.

33

34 And of course that is to kind of address
35 Mr. O'Hara's comment as well, subsistence is always the
36 priority consumptive use. And so you are absolutely
37 right in identifying that our jobs are to try to
38 understand what is going on out on the landscape as best
39 we can which comes back to, yes, we absolutely need
40 better moose numbers so that we can understand what's
41 happening on the landscape and if there is a need to
42 restrict non-subsistence uses of those resources then
43 it's our responsibility to do that.

44

45 MS. HENRY: I think the only other thing
46 was -- oh, Susanna Henry, Madam -- okay. The other part
47 of it was just housekeeping to try to straighten up what
48 things were already going on on Refuges, but yet were
49 prohibited under our 50 code of Federal regulations like
50 berry picking.

1 So there was another -- it's just an
2 opportunity to straighten things up in those areas.

3
4 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I hope it shows up in
5 the Federal Register exactly why you need to do these.

6
7 So appreciate that.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Great.

12
13 Thank you for bringing this to us too
14 before, you know, it was posted and allowing us to give
15 some input.

16
17 We appreciate that.

18
19 Okay.

20
21 And we're going to do -- just so my
22 Council members know I'm not going to starve them to
23 death we do have time constraints for one other report
24 that I know everybody wants to hear from and that's ADF&G
25 and so if the Council would please be patient with me
26 we're going to hear him and then we'll take our lunch
27 break.

28
29 Is that okay with everybody.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Great.

34
35 MR. BARTON: Thank you, Madam Chair,
36 members of the Council. For the record my name is Neil
37 Barton, I am the area Wildlife Manager and Biologist for
38 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game here in
39 Dillingham. And I have just moved here in February. So
40 it's a pretty cool place, lot of nice people and hope to
41 get all you -- get to know most of you pretty well too.
42 I did find out yesterday, Donald came walking up to me
43 and I worked with him back when I was working on my
44 thesis many years ago and Dan and I know each other
45 pretty well and I've met Pete in Togiak this summer, but
46 the rest of you I'll get to know.

47
48 So anyway I was just going to give you a
49 brief overview on some of the wildlife issues. There are
50 four species, brown bear, moose, caribou and wolves and

1 what's going on, kind of new things, there may be some
2 old things to some of you and then you can ask any
3 questions if you like, but I'm going to kind of just hit
4 the high points and we'll go from there.

5
6 I'll start with brown bear and really
7 about all I have to say is, you know, back in 2011 we
8 went from around one bear bag limit to two bears and that
9 made a big difference the first year, you know, we jumped
10 from about 120, 130 bears a year to about 170 and then
11 since then it's tapered back off. Part of that could be
12 due to what Mr. O'Hara was talking about where we did
13 have a deep snow winter and a lot of the guides I talked
14 to also think the bear numbers are down in some areas.
15 But I think this past year 2013, spring of 2014, we took
16 116 brown bears which was below the average that we've
17 had in the last five or six years. But anyway so we'll
18 watch that and see how that goes. But I think 30 hunters
19 took two bears over the last three years since the two
20 bear bag limit went into effect.

21
22 So mostly nonresidents as you would
23 expect and some of them are pretty excited about that.

24
25 I'm moving to wolves here. We do have
26 this wolf removal area in Unit 17B, C that went into
27 place I think 2011 was the first year. You know, it's --
28 the wolf removal aspect is mostly aerial gunners and it
29 hasn't been really that effective especially last year,
30 we didn't have any good snow, good for tracking, good for
31 landing, no wolves were taken at all last year and I
32 think only one person really went out and actually gave
33 it a shot. And we've had 30 to 40 people registered, you
34 know, and permitted to do this wolf removal. But the
35 first year in '11 there was 105 wolves taken in this
36 area, but mostly by snowmachine hunters and that kind of
37 thing. But the bottom line is in spite of the fact that
38 in three years, this will be the fourth year coming up,
39 we've taken I think 15 wolves under this control program.
40 When I get into the caribou you'll see I think that, you
41 know, the -- some of the aspects of the Mulchatna herd
42 are looking up and I think we're doing -- we're in a
43 stage where this population of caribou has a chance of
44 really kind of getting going. And, you know, caribou
45 populations do that.

46
47 So we do have the -- like I said the IM
48 thing and we're going to continue that this year, permits
49 are available, I think the beginning of the aerial hunt
50 starts February 1st goes through April 30th. So we'll

1 see if we get good snow makes all the difference in the
2 world.

3
4 With the Mulchatna caribou herd this is
5 a cooperative effort with managing this herd, you know,
6 we work closely with the Togiak Wildlife Refuge as well
7 as we have folks over with BLM a little bit helping as
8 far as, you know, some of the surveys, Lake Clark, even
9 down out of King Salmon, the Peninsula Refuge and they
10 just helped on actually a comp survey, one of their
11 pilots came up which is pretty good. So it's a pretty
12 good cooperative effort. And, you know, right now we're
13 on the second year of the registration permit for this
14 herd and the managing the hunt which is a new thing in
15 the last two years, previously it was done through a
16 harvest ticket which we can only get so much data and we
17 can only keep track of so much of what's going on with
18 hunters and their effort and their harvest. So we went
19 to a registration permit to give us a better idea of how
20 many hunters are out in the field, there's a five day
21 reporting period which really helps with in season
22 management if we need it and we also are able to get
23 permit reports from almost every hunter through the
24 requirements of the permit.

25
26 Last year we issued over 1,900 permits
27 and we got permits from all but fewer than 100 I believe.
28 Took a lot of work, you know, we were putting out a lot
29 of news releases, sending out letters, but it's a new
30 hunt, people -- it takes a while for people to get used
31 to it, but I think in the end we're all going to win
32 because we're going to have better data to manage this
33 population especially over the next few years as we're
34 hoping things improve.

35
36 I'm going to kind of walk you through a
37 real quick view of the last six or eight months since
38 I've been here which has been pretty -- kind of exciting
39 for me, some new stuff, some stuff I've done in the past,
40 but this is done with a lot of caribou herds, but just to
41 give you an idea of what we're doing with the Mulchatna
42 herd when I first got here oh, in February we started
43 planning for an April capture. We went out and put out
44 I think 20 collars on short yearlings which gives us --
45 these are 10 month old animals, we weight them and that's
46 done almost every year and it's done throughout the
47 state, it's kind of a real good metric of how the
48 population is doing and for what it's worth these 10
49 month olds in the Mulchatna herd are really doing well,
50 we were getting caribou in the 130, 140 some pound range

1 where, you know, four or five years ago they were much
2 lighter than that, you know. So we're seeing healthier
3 10 month olds which is leading to age of first
4 reproduction getting younger and high pregnancy rates and
5 we've got a population that's in really good condition.
6 The -- you know, the range is obviously pretty good
7 because they're at a high nutritional plane. And that's
8 going to I think really dictate what's going to happen
9 with this population.

10

11 So we put out 30 collars, 20 on the short
12 yearlings, 10 on bulls and the reason we put them on
13 bulls is to help us with our photocensus which we did in
14 July and we did a photocensus where we had a number of
15 airplanes flying, trying to find caribou, take pictures
16 of them, radio tracking in on every available collar we
17 have of which there was about 100 and we came up with a
18 population estimate just over 26,000. And it was a
19 fairly decent estimate, but we still need to do better
20 with finding more of the radio collared animals because
21 they're scattered all over between Lake Clark and Bethel
22 and from here all the way up into way past the Tikchik
23 Lake system. And through the use of some satellite
24 collars the U.S. Fish and Wildlife has worked with us in
25 putting on I think we have six on right now, those have
26 been priceless in helping us track these caribou, but
27 we're going to try to put out another 30 this spring and
28 that's really going to help us focus in on these
29 different groups of animals when it comes to next year's
30 photocensus.

31

32 So we should even have a better
33 population estimate come July 15 which will be pretty
34 cool.

35

36 The comp surveys we just did about two,
37 three weeks ago as Andy mentioned, he did them on the
38 Nushagak Peninsula, we did them for the Mulchatna herd,
39 we comped almost 5,000 animals I believe, we had really
40 good bull/cow ratios for -- considering what we've seen
41 in the past, I think we had 35 bulls per 100 cows which
42 is the highest we've had in 12, 13 years if I'm not
43 mistaken. We had 30 calves per 100 cows, that's one of
44 the highest counts we've had in the last 10, 12 years.
45 So things are starting to look up and I think we're -- I
46 probably showed up here at a good time, you know, things
47 are looking good, people think I'm responsible, I'm
48 happy.

49

50 (Laughter)

1 MR. BARTON: Anyway again for '15 we're
2 going to put out a bunch of sat collars, we're going to
3 work with Andy and put out more in the Nushagak as well
4 as up here I believe and it's a good, cooperative
5 program. And I was asked to mention a few things about
6 the SAP and the NAP and basically all I'm going to say is
7 because I know not that much about them, but they did do
8 comp surveys down there two weeks ago as well and on the
9 NAP they had 40 bulls per 100 cows and 34 calves per 100
10 cows which is really good and way beyond what they've had
11 in the last 15 years. So that's also looking good. And
12 the Southern Peninsula they had 45 calves and 45 bulls
13 per 100 cows which is pretty amazing considering back in
14 2006/2007 I think they had two consecutive years where
15 they had one calf per 100 cows in the fall survey. So
16 that is really looking promising and, you know, part of
17 that is obviously do to the removal of some wolves at a
18 strategic location on the calving grounds that really
19 helped a lot.

20

21 So in that case it was a very successful
22 program.

23

24 With the moose I'll just mention that,
25 you know, we've had the fall hunts, they're over, we're
26 getting into the winter hunt season here in another six
27 or seven weeks when we get -- 1st of December. We had
28 just a little below average harvest in the 583 hunt, 17A
29 and B, the registration permit. In 17A the 573 hunt we
30 had 34 moose taken and the average over the last six,
31 seven years has been about 26 I believe. So that looks
32 good. This was the first year of the DM570 nonresident
33 draw permit hunt for Unit 17A and we had 20 permits
34 available, 13 hunters applied and of those 13 hunters
35 four got bull moose over in 17A. And that population
36 continues to seemingly be doing good and as Andy
37 mentioned we're going to bend over backwards to try to
38 get moose surveys this winter if we get good snow and
39 he's going to try to work that area and I think the last
40 survey was in 2011. So we need another data point and
41 for 17A and 17B and 17C we try to get -- 17B and C a
42 survey every three years maybe with the different areas
43 if we can. We were able to get a survey in 17C last
44 spring in March of 2014 and many of you probably remember
45 late March we finally got a little bit of snow, just
46 enough to work the area. And we did come up with an
47 estimate that's still preliminary at this time, but
48 comparing -- and this was in 17C and the last survey was
49 2008 and I believe the estimate was 32, 3,300 moose plus
50 or minus about 400. And our survey this fall -- this

1 spring was more in the neighborhood of 4,800 moose, but
2 plus or minus more than a 1,000.

3
4 It was not as precise an estimate, but --
5 and we're still working on it to finalize it because we
6 need to run it by some folks in Fairbanks who do a lot of
7 work with these kinds of surveys and the analysis, but
8 generally speaking at this point it looks pretty good.

9
10 We are going to be going to village of
11 Koliganek, New Stu and Ekwok, here, middle of November to
12 issue permits for the winter hunt. Togiak will have the
13 Traditional Council issuing them. And I think Unis is
14 going to run over to Manokotak here in middle of November
15 as well as issue permits there. So and then we'll be
16 moving into the winter season.

17
18 And if we get cold weather and good snow
19 for good travel, you know, hopefully people will have a
20 good hunt.

21
22 So with that I'll just take any questions
23 if you have any and if you want me to expand on anything
24 I'll gladly do that.

25
26 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Neil.

27
28 We'll open it up for questions.

29
30 Mr. Wilson.

31
32 MR. WILSON: Madam Chair. Thank you.
33 Neil, thanks a bunch, it -- you know, a while back we had
34 some working groups when it was coming down to this
35 registered portion of life here for the residents.
36 They're trying to put together something because we
37 weren't getting any numbers, you know, both on the Fed
38 and State side, we weren't getting any good numbers. So
39 we thought well, as a community member we'll go to the
40 registered hunt, we'll help them improve their -- you
41 know, their -- you know, for keeping track of what --
42 what's coming down the pipe. And appreciate the effort
43 you guys are putting out there to help because, you know,
44 we feel like we've, you know, bent over just about
45 backwards here and done about all we can, you know, to
46 help this program out.

47
48 And the effort, you know, that you're
49 putting out is huge and it's well taken.

50

1 Thanks.
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Mr.
4 Wilson.
5
6 Any other questions or comments.
7
8 Mr. O'Hara.
9
10 MR. O'HARA: Yes, thank you very much.
11 You're lucky to get on the upside of things, most of it
12 has been on the downside of things and they didn't like
13 us very much. We're disappointed that the new Biologist
14 in King Salmon who's a very accomplished Biologist, he
15 and his wife moved in I don't know I think you've met --
16 I went and met him, too bad he's not here today because
17 he would need to add things. And one of the things about
18 the Refuge and the Park and Preserve I think that's
19 important related to the State of Alaska is with the --
20 with spring and fall hunt issuing a permit to get a wolf.
21 And I'm a retired 135 pilot for Penair, the last people
22 I flew for, and many, many moose permits came out along
23 with the guy who got a wolf, he was a happy individual,
24 he got a moose and a wolf or he got and he got a wolf.
25 And that is -- that insulted the predator type management
26 control and I hope you will not overlook that and keep
27 doing it because it's helping the game considerably.
28
29 And I think that's really important that
30 we do that.
31
32 Let's see, I guess that's about all I
33 had.
34
35 That sounds good.
36
37 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Mr.
38 O'Hara.
39
40 Mr. Dunaway.
41
42 MR. DUNAWAY: I'm not -- thanks, Neil.
43 I wasn't sure I heard your population for Mulchatna
44 caribou estimate, did you say 26,000 or.....
45
46 MR. BARTON: Yeah, 26 plus, just over
47 26,000.
48
49 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, that doesn't -- we
50 were hoping to hear over 30. That doesn't sound all that

1 great, but I guess.....

2

3 MR. BARTON: Well, I.....

4

5 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I don't know.

6

7 MR. BARTON:yeah, I think one thing
8 you got to realize though is again we -- you know, and
9 this has gone back years in talking to biologists like
10 Jim Woolington and folks like that who have been around
11 a lot longer than I, but back when the herd was really
12 doing well and we had a lot of animals in the tune of
13 200,000 they grouped up differently and they were much
14 easier to find and much easier to count. Now we've got
15 -- they're like scattered like ants on the sidewalk and
16 they're just all over the place so even though we had
17 going into the photocensus 99 collars of adults that we
18 believed were alive and available for the photocensus
19 estimate I think we missed like 16 or something and that
20 again is why we're going to put out 30 sat collars
21 because they've been proven to be very good at kind of
22 giving us a sense of what these caribou are up to, when
23 they're moving, where they're moving. And I think that's
24 going to really help us locate these kind of groups that
25 we've probably been missing. So this 26,000, I mean,
26 next year we could be sitting here talking about an
27 estimate a bit higher than that or not, but I think we'll
28 have a much better idea. So I think we're dialing into
29 this photocensus at a time where the caribou are
30 scattered, behaving differently, a lot hard to find, a
31 lot harder to locate groups. It's taken a whole
32 different tact to try to hammer that out.

33

34 And I think that's what we're working on
35 and, you know, again next year at this time we could be
36 looking at a whole different landscape I think, you know,
37 once we get a better estimate. So.....

38

39 MR. DUNAWAY: Oh, okay. Thank you. And
40 then I do recall I think some of the old timers here said
41 they remember a time when they were excited to have
42 25,000. So and I think it probably was a bad thing to
43 let the herd get as big as it did, but you kind of can't
44 -- I remember jokingly taking -- telling Larry Van Dale
45 we should go to market hunting just to control them. But
46 -- so okay. Well, I'm sure glad to hear the bull/cow and
47 calf ratio and we'll look forward to better science with
48 more collars.

49

50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Mr. O'Hara.

2

3 MR. O'HARA: I remembered the other --
4 it's bad when you can't remember what's supposed to be
5 going on. But I think one of the things that Richard and
6 I and others have talked about who hunt pretty regularly
7 for moose and we got a bullwinkle this year too, that was
8 pretty nice, he walked up to our tent within about 75
9 feet and shot him right in the head. Worked out real
10 well. The 15th is awfully, awfully warm and the moose
11 have not started tossing their heads and moving around a
12 little bit so I think maybe we're thinking about maybe
13 the 20th because the moose -- you know, the moose were
14 moving good on the 14th and the 15th was the last day and
15 then it was closed. It takes a few days to get a moose,
16 but that's something we're thinking about.

17

18 The other thing is just a comment about
19 the same day as airborne thing in Unit 17. I talked to
20 McMann, Chuck McMann up at Glennallen area and they just
21 said the fuel was too expensive to come down here. And
22 so, you know, and these guys are really good, top notch
23 pilots and hunters and others are -- here to the same
24 like Kenny and guys like that, it just -- at 8.50 a
25 gallon you got to see where you're at.

26

27 Thanks.

28

29 MR. BARTON: Yeah, I think everything
30 about this area is fairly remote and it's not an easy
31 place to get pilots out especially when you got short
32 daylight a lot of the winter. But maybe we'll get good
33 snow and once we get into March and early April the days
34 are longer and that might get people excited.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Any other
37 questions or comments.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: I'd just like to
42 add too I'm encouraged to hear that the quality of the
43 forage for the Mulchatna herd is obviously paying off and
44 I think your recruitment will happen a lot quicker as
45 you've already acknowledged. And I'm just -- it's been
46 a long time since I heard anything positive about the
47 Northern caribou herd and that's another strength so
48 yay, let's keep going there.

49

50 So I -- I'll look forward to hearing some

1 more of those reports and, gosh, can we even remember
2 what it's like to hunt that herd, that'll be great.

3

4 Anyway I thank you very much for -- any
5 other questions.

6

7 MR. O'HARA: Yeah.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Go ahead.

10

11 MR. O'HARA: We come back to almost go to
12 the park in Anchorage to figure out what a caribou looks
13 like, we didn't see nothing this year at all. And so,
14 Dan, 250,000 one time in Mulchatna we thought we'd died
15 and gone to heaven and then reality set in and here we
16 are. So.....

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Right before I
19 came over here I had my daughter and some of her friends
20 who's 15 years old and I was telling them how much fun it
21 was -- it used to be ski up Big Creek with the herd and
22 the wolves there and, you know, if you decided you wanted
23 to go back and get one you could. It was -- you don't --
24 she was like really, they were just there. I'm like
25 yeah.

26

27 So thank you very much.

28

29 Welcome onboard and, yeah, we'll look
30 forward to working with you in the future as well.

31

32 MR. BARTON: Yeah, thanks for fitting me
33 in and nice meeting you all and I hope to get to know you
34 better.

35

36 Thanks.

37

38 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Thanks for your
39 tolerance and then let's go ahead, you guys, we're going
40 to take an hour lunch break. Let's take an hour and 15,
41 it seemed like an hour didn't quite do us yesterday.
42 Hour and 15, we'll be back.

43

44 (Off record)

45

46 (On record)

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay, everybody,
49 we're going to go ahead and get started and have some
50 brief SRC presentations and we will get set up for our

1 treat here, we've got some dancers that are going to come
2 in and present to us which will be really nice. So if
3 everybody could take their seats again and if the SRC
4 reports, whoever's going to do those is ready and
5 prepared please go ahead and come forward and we'll get
6 you started here briefly.

7

8 Okay. Let's go ahead and call ourselves
9 back to order and we will begin with the SRC reports.

10

11 And, gentlemen, go ahead and introduce
12 yourselves for the record, please.

13

14 MR. SUMMERS: Madam Chairman. My name is
15 Clarence Summers, I work for the National Park Service in
16 the Alaska regional office for the Subsistence Division,
17 I'm the Subsistence Manager.

18

19 MR. HAMON: Madam Chair. For the record
20 my name is Troy Hamon, the Resource Manager for Katmai,
21 Aniakchak and the Alagnak.

22

23 And just a quick update on the Aniakchak
24 SRC. We've had two consecutive meetings where we were
25 unsuccessful in getting there physically, the last time
26 we did manage to have a quorum. It was early in
27 September and many of the things that would be of
28 interest to the SRC that are at this meeting hadn't been
29 formally released and so the agenda was fairly light and
30 did not include some of the things that you're
31 considering here.

32

33 Couple things I did want to mention. One
34 is that we have had some conversations with the SRC over
35 the last year about the Aniakchak area caribou, the
36 Northern Peninsula herd. As you might have gathered a
37 little bit from the discussion from Fish and Game the
38 metrics that we have on that caribou herd are somewhat
39 limited. However, they look a lot better. The animals
40 are healthy, they have been looking healthy for probably
41 most of the last five years which is a big improvement.
42 We see calves on a regular basis when we see caribou now
43 which wasn't true 10 years ago. And as discussed with
44 the Mulchatna herd it's very difficult to get a good
45 census when the herds are at sort of low numbers they
46 tend to be more spread out, it's really difficult. Fish
47 and Game doesn't have a population estimate that they
48 feel confident in, but we've been seeing what looked like
49 better just bull/cow and calf/cow metrics and Fish and
50 Game is concurring with that. We did offer them the

1 opportunity to consider whether they wanted to look into
2 the sort of regulation that would be in place for an
3 early subsistence hunt if we start into the harvest
4 framework or the other alternative being to consider
5 keeping it close and waiting for the herd to grow more.

6
7 At this point they didn't take any
8 action, they're interested in seeing a proposal
9 specifically on what that would look like on either side,
10 but it was probably the main topic of subsistence harvest
11 discussion at our conference call.

12
13 The other item that I wanted to mention
14 here for the RAC is that of the nine seats on the Council
15 one of them is a RAC appointee who is going to be -- his
16 term will be expiring or it has -- it'll expire next week
17 and that's Elliott Lind. We have not had a chance to
18 verify that he continues to be eligible for that seat and
19 so we're trying to reach him, but we'll bring you back --
20 we'll bring you in the winter meeting the person or
21 persons that are eligible and interested in serving on
22 that seat which may be Mr. Lind, but at this moment we
23 haven't been able to verify that.

24
25 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Donald, can I
26 ask a -- I'm wondering if in the interest of not having
27 -- in the interest of not eliminating a valuable seat
28 position if -- could -- I guess what popped into my head,
29 could one of us as Council members nominate him and could
30 we approve that nomination and then he could choose to
31 accept or decline it, is that something we can do?

32
33 MR. MIKE: Sure.

34
35 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. So that's
36 my two cents. I don't if anybody on the Council would
37 like to move forward with that, but.....

38
39 MR. O'HARA: Oh, so we make a motion to
40 put who on the Board?

41
42 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Well, I
43 understand anybody can nominate an individual.

44
45 MR. O'HARA: Yes, nominate Elliott Lind.

46
47 If we could have a second.

48
49 That's a motion.

50

1 MR. WILSON: Second.
2
3 MR. O'HARA: Okay. I've got a motion and
4 a second to accept Mr. Lind as a member of the SRC should
5 he so choose to accept that nomination.
6
7 MR. O'HARA: Call the question.
8
9 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: The question's
10 been called. All in favor signify by saying aye.
11
12 IN UNISON: Aye.
13
14 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Opposed same
15 sign.
16
17 (No opposing votes)
18
19 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Hearing none, so
20 moved.
21
22 MR. SUMMERS: Madam Chairman. Clarence
23 Summers, National Park Service. The Regional Council
24 appointments have a requirement that they -- that the
25 individual serve on a Regional Council such as Thomas,
26 Mr. Hedlund, or be a member of a Local Advisory
27 Committee. And that's a requirement in the charter, it's
28 also referenced in ANILCA. So we need to verify that Mr.
29 Lind still has affiliation with a Local Advisory
30 Committee.
31
32 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: That's why I
33 don't think that that would make us withdraw our
34 nomination, I see that as eliminating him from being able
35 to be nominated.
36
37 So I would -- unless somebody tell me
38 otherwise I would still support our vote and nomination.
39
40 MR. SUMMERS: Madam Chairman. The
41 charter allows the -- well, requires the individual to
42 serve at the pleasure of the appointing source.
43
44 So you can -- we'll verify and if you've
45 taken action today he'll continue to serve.
46
47 Thank you.
48
49 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Good. We
50 have taken an action. I think we'll stick with it.

1 Thank you.
2
3 Thanks for the clarification.
4
5 Okay.
6
7 Any other questions or comments from
8 Troy's report.
9
10 Mr. Wilson.
11
12 MR. WILSON: Madam Chair. Thank you.
13 Mr. Hamon, you indicated that and we've heard it earlier
14 that the caribou population in the North Peninsula herd
15 seems to have grown to a point where people are getting
16 pretty comfortable in a possible opening. I'm wondering
17 if somebody could fill me in, seemed like when this
18 proposal was put in or at the point where they thought
19 that the herd was big enough, that there was already
20 tools in the box to make it happen and we didn't have to
21 create something new; is that correct?
22
23 MR. HAMON: And through the Chair. I
24 don't know the response to that right now, it's shown on
25 the books as no -- no season in the Federal books so I'll
26 have to go check. I don't think it needs to be a lengthy
27 process, but I do think we would have to propose and
28 authorize a season. The State can also authorize a
29 season through the tier two process.
30
31 And again we're trying to start this
32 conversation early, I don't think we want to be out there
33 this winter, but next winter might not be unreasonable.
34
35 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Mr. Wilson,
36 could I suggest maybe we put it on our winter agenda to
37 revisit it again at that point and perhaps we'll have
38 some research in front of us, would that satisfy perhaps
39 some of your questions?
40
41 MR. WILSON: That would. Thank you.
42
43 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Donald, do you
44 think that we could maybe put that in your notes, please.
45
46 MR. MIKE: Yes, Madam Chair.
47
48 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay.
49
50 Any other questions or comments.

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Great. Thank
4 you.
5
6 Mr. Dunaway.
7
8 MR. DUNAWAY: I was just wondering if
9 John Jones is still on or on today and if he has been
10 able to hear enough to add any comments.
11
12 Thank you.
13
14 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Mr.
15 Dunaway. I'm sorry for those of you online, we do
16 appreciate your participation and I was negligent in not
17 asking who is with us on the phone. If you could please
18 let us know who you are and who you're with we'd
19 appreciate that.
20
21 MS. LARSON: This is Dorothy Larson with
22 the Curyung Tribal Council.
23
24 MR. CRAWFORD: Drew Crawford, Alaska
25 Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage.
26
27 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
28 you.
29
30 And I guess that answers our question
31 there.
32
33 Thanks, Dan.
34
35 MR. WILSON: Madam Chair. I was
36 wondering since Drew Crawford is online with Alaska
37 Department of Fish and Game I wonder if he was able to
38 answer that question I had with Troy about already being
39 tools in the box for this herd once it got up and running
40 in the subsistence part of it, if it was -- if there was
41 already tools enough there to do it when the numbers were
42 good.
43
44 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Mr. Crawford.
45
46 MR. CRAWFORD: I'm afraid I can't answer
47 that question, but I can check with our area manager.
48 Which herd are we talking about?
49
50 MR. HAMON: Through the Chair. This is

1 Troy Hamon. Drew, the herd is question is the Northern
2 Alaska Peninsula herd and I know -- I know that Dave
3 Crowley's been thinking about this, he and I have visited
4 about it a few times already. So he should be pretty
5 familiar if you have a chance to speak with him.

6

7 MR. CRAWFORD: Okay. I'll check with him
8 on that and try to get back to your Council Coordinator.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
11 you, Mr. Crawford.

12

13 Any other comments or questions.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Go ahead.

18

19 MR. SUMMERS: Madam Chair. Clarence
20 Summers, National Park Service. Another item.
21 Unfortunately Amy Craver had to leave and so I'll touch
22 on a couple of items affecting the Lake Clark National
23 Park Subsistence Resource Commission.

24

25 There's a similar need to address two
26 individuals serving currently as members appointed by the
27 Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council, Carl Jensen of
28 Pedro Bay and George Alexi of Port Heiden -- of Port
29 Alsworth. And as you can see the terms expire in
30 November and it's a similar scenario where you could
31 address this by making a reappointment and we'll do a
32 follow-up to confirm affiliation with a Local Advisory
33 Committee.

34

35 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Great. Thank
36 you, Clarence.

37

38 Wishes of the Council.

39

40 Go ahead, Mr. Hedlund.

41

42 MR. HEDLUND: I'd like to address this
43 just a little. I know both these gentlemen. And I'd
44 like to see us somehow try to replace Carl Jensen. His
45 health really isn't good and he hasn't, you know,
46 attended many meetings here. He's also on the State
47 Advisory Committee and he doesn't attend those meetings
48 either.

49

50 And George Alexi, he -- you know, he's,

1 you know, a shoe in as far as I'm concerned.

2

3 But I'd like to see us try to get
4 somebody with a little more participation than Carl
5 Jensen has. He's a real elderly man and his health is
6 real bad.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Can I suggest
11 since you are familiar with who is sitting on Advisory
12 Committees if you have a nomination that you suspect we
13 may be able to have agree to serve on -- in this capacity
14 that you would possibly put their name forward for
15 consideration so that we could have something prepared
16 and fill the seat before the deadline?

17

18 MR. HEDLUND: Yes, I'd like to see Keith
19 Jensen, that's Carl Jensen's son, but I don't know if he
20 serves on any other Board. I don't know. And I don't
21 know who -- I think Carl Jensen was the primary Board
22 member for the State Advisory Committee, but I don't know
23 about Keith.

24

25 I'd like to put his name in there.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Is that
28 the form of a nomination for both of them?

29

30 MR. HEDLUND: Yes.

31

32 MR. WILSON: Second.

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. I have a
35 nomination and a second. And again, Clarence, I'm
36 assuming that you'll clarify that both of them will be
37 valid.

38

39 Question.

40

41 MR. DUNAWAY: So we're nominating George
42 -- I mean, nominate Keith.

43

44 MR. HEDLUND: Keith.

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: That is correct.

47

48 Okay.

49

50 All in favor signify by saying aye.

1 IN UNISON: Aye.
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Opposed same
4 sign.
5
6 (No opposing votes)
7
8 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
9 you.
10
11 MR. SUMMERS: Thank you, Madam Chairman.
12 You've got a green packet I believe and it contains
13 information on.....
14
15 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: One moment,
16 please. Hang on. Donald's signaling me.
17
18 MR. MIKE: Madam Chairman. We had a time
19 certain for high school kids to come and perform for the
20 Council and then after the performance we can get back to
21 the National Park Service and get with the other issues.
22
23 Thank you, Madam Chair.
24
25 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. We'll
26 call a quick break.
27
28 Thank you for your patience on that.
29
30 MR. SUMMERS: Thank you.
31
32 (Off record)
33
34 (On record)
35
36 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Let's go back on
37 record. And I just thank whoever put that together.
38 Courtenay or who -- multi collaboration. That was really
39 enjoyable and worthwhile and I meant what I said, it's
40 nice to see the culture activities going on within our
41 schools and just encourage that to continue whenever
42 possible.
43
44 So just want to make a reminder to
45 everybody. We got -- we do have some time constraints.
46 I think myself and two of the other Council members need
47 to be leaving here at 4:00, is that correct, Richard?
48
49 MR. WILSON: They're leaving Dillingham
50 at 4:00 going to King Salmon, we got to be there at 3:00.

1 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Oh, we do, I
2 thought it was the other way.

3
4 MR. WILSON: I guess 3:30, leaves at
5 4:00.

6
7 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Oh, okay. So,
8 yeah, we'll have to -- we are under -- working under some
9 time constraints so I ask the Council members to remember
10 that as well as our presenters.

11
12 I know we're nearing the end of our
13 agenda, but let's keep it in mind.

14
15 And with that thank you for your
16 forbearance, I appreciate you guys taking an
17 interruption, Park Service, and please go ahead and
18 introduce yourselves and more forward.

19
20 MS. CHUNG: Thank you, Madam Chair and
21 members of the Council. I'm Diane Chung, the
22 Superintendent of Katmai National Park, Aniakchak
23 National Monument and Preserve and the Alagnak Wild
24 River. And with me is.

25
26 MR. HAMON: Troy Hamon, the Chief of
27 Resource Management for those same Park units based in
28 King Salmon.

29
30 MS. CHUNG: So we're briefly just going
31 to -- I'm going to go through some highlights and some
32 personnel changes and Donald asked me to talk briefly
33 about local higher authority that the Park Service has
34 been using quite a bit. Troy will give our resource
35 information updates and then Clarence will follow up with
36 discussion about the wildlife regulations for the Park
37 Service.

38
39 So just a big highlight for this -- oh,
40 did we get cutoff. Okay. Is -- we've been able to
41 expand our reach into -- out of here using our bear cam
42 program, it's a partnership with the Annenberg Foundation
43 and Explore.Oregon. We've had 24 million viewers. So
44 it's a really big deal for us and it's really expanded
45 our reach and our ability to touch people all over the
46 world.

47
48 Key personnel changes, Neal Labrie has
49 left us, he went to Asheville, North Carolina, he was our
50 Chief Ranger. I've recently filled his job, we have Tom

1 Betts coming to replace him. Tom was a Ranger in
2 Wrangell, he's a Ranger Pilot. So he's coming from
3 Bandelier National Monument where he's currently the
4 Chief Ranger there. So and also his wife is coming in to
5 be our Administrative Officer so good -- another really
6 good package for us.

7
8 Local hire. We have two ways to fill
9 jobs. We either fill them internally or we go outside.
10 When we go outside it's usually open to all U.S. citizens
11 or we have the authority based on ANILCA to advertise
12 locally. And it just -- in the short version locally for
13 us is basically Unit 17C and 9A, B, C and E. So if you
14 look at your map. So all those communities qualify for
15 local hire. So it's not open to everybody, we advertise
16 a job and people who have lived in that area, are
17 familiar with all four seasons and have specific
18 knowledge about the natural or cultural resources in
19 those areas can apply. So it really gives us a ability
20 to reach people locally. So we've advertised quite a few
21 jobs lately and we've hired -- we have placed six people
22 on our staff that have been hired locally. Park Service
23 throughout Alaska has somewhere around 160 right now. So
24 we've been using it quite a bit. So this summer we're
25 going to be looking for Maintenance Workers, Laborers,
26 Interpreters, somebody at the King Salmon Visitors
27 Center. We're also looking for a Biotech, kind of do
28 bear management with us at Brooks Camp and we also will
29 need -- looking for a carpenter.

30
31 So if you know anybody, we're going to be
32 putting those announcements out probably in January so
33 and we'll simultaneously be advertising nationwide, but
34 our preference is going to be a hire locally if we can.

35
36 So we're pretty excited about trying to
37 get more people hired locally. We've been putting a lot
38 of ads out. Sometimes we get one person to apply and
39 sometimes none. So, you know, whatever you guys can do,
40 you have any ideas how we can get the word out. We do
41 send our announcements to every post office and Village
42 Council in that area. And I send it to KLG and the
43 newspaper and hopefully get the word out that way too.
44 And I think also I send some of them to BBNA and -- yeah,
45 BBEDC. So it's a great opportunity for us to try to hire
46 more locals. Just one last thing on that is veteran's
47 preference still applies.

48
49 So as in all Federal jobs.
50

1 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay.
2
3 Council members, any questions or
4 comments.
5
6 Mr. Wilson.
7
8 MR. WILSON: Madam Chair. Thank you.
9 Thanks, Diane. We've been hearing a lot about our youth
10 and about job shadowing kind of thing, is there any way
11 or is there any system that we can put our younger people
12 -- I'm -- all the jobs that you described are probably
13 career kind of jobs already with credentials. Are there
14 any job shadowing possibility through that.....
15
16 MS. CHUNG: We can -- certainly.....
17
18 MR. WILSON:for summers and.....
19
20 MS. CHUNG:we can create some jobs.
21 I also was talking to BBEDC about using their program to
22 bring in some interns. And we also -- we had hired a
23 high school student out of Naknek, Kelly Quist.
24
25 MR. WILSON: Oh.
26
27 MS. CHUNG: So, you know, we'd love to
28 have a high school student in our office, yeah. But,
29 yeah, just to, you know, get kids familiar with who we
30 are so we're also going try to be in the school more this
31 year too.
32
33 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Pete did you --
34 oh. Yeah, I would also add and commend you guys. I
35 believe it was you who put the posting to let people know
36 how to apply and offered a class on -- to assist you in
37 getting that done. And I think that that should be -- I
38 would just make a suggestion that it would maybe be an
39 ongoing thing as the need arises. You probably have hit
40 everybody for now, but maybe every year it might be
41 something you would offer because I do think that it was
42 intimidating to local folks that were interested and I
43 think that that might have helped so I commend you for
44 that.
45
46 MS. CHUNG: Thank you. And that's a
47 great idea, we can do that again.
48
49 MR. ABRAHAM: Diane, did you say local
50 hire, who -- which Refuge?

1 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Park Service.
2
3 MR. ABRAHAM: Park Service.
4
5 MS. CHUNG: So which communities we would
6 reach?
7
8 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, I thought it was 17A.
9
10 MS. CHUNG: Right -- 17C.....
11
12 MR. ABRAHAM: Oh, okay.
13
14 MS. CHUNG:9A, B, C, and E.
15
16 MR. ABRAHAM: I missed it, I'm sorry.
17
18 MS. CHUNG: You guys are out of it.
19
20 MR. ABRAHAM: Thank you.
21
22 MS. CHUNG: I know.
23
24 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay.
25
26 Any other comments or questions.
27
28 (No comments)
29
30 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: We'll keep
31 moving.
32
33 Okay.
34
35 Go ahead.
36
37 MR. HAMON: Madam Chair, members of the
38 Council. I was just going to give you a quick update.
39 First off I wanted to apologize between staffing
40 challenges and the season of things I did not get you a
41 written handout. I don't have a lot of data to share,
42 everything that we have in terms of data that's prepared
43 you've seen before.
44
45 We have a couple of things going on that
46 I wanted to touch on. One is the -- there was some
47 discussion about moose surveys earlier. We are flying
48 surveys in whatever conditions we find as long as the
49 weather is suitable for flying. And we're doing that
50 from the mid October to the early part of December. If

1 feasible we're going to follow-up with winter surveys
2 when there's better snow cover. But we're making a real
3 effort to try to get those surveys flown instead of the
4 standard snow cover requirements we have been very
5 judicious in testing and evaluating pilot and spotters
6 and we -- we're augmenting that with multiple surveys of
7 the same area including in different conditions to see
8 how they compare. That makes our data at this point
9 somewhat preliminary and we showed you some of that in
10 the winter. What we're going to hopefully have for you
11 this coming winter is sort of like the current state of
12 what we have including our most current information.
13 We're wanting to reenforce that those -- we're trying to
14 make them as comparable to the old trend A surveys as
15 possible, but we aren't holding ourselves to that same
16 data standard so we'd rather have some data. And so as
17 we go on we're hoping that we can get enough comparative
18 data with different conditions in the same area to
19 evaluate how well these two approaches work in -- with
20 each other. Right now we don't have a firm way of
21 evaluating that. What we have found is for the most part
22 we're getting similar numbers that we had been getting
23 previously. We find that they in each area vary from
24 year to year which we previously had found as well. For
25 the most part last year the numbers were pretty good
26 except for down south in the Cinder River area we found
27 that there were very few moose. And I thought maybe we
28 just failed because there was no snow cover. And two
29 weeks later Fish and Game flew the same survey with snow
30 cover and they got four animals fewer than we did. So I
31 at least think we're in the ball park. And I mention
32 that not because Cinder River is facing a catastrophic
33 moose shortage, it's just the one place where we had back
34 to back comparative data. The values from any one trend
35 area are very local, moose move in and out. We try to
36 use the aggregate of larger groups of surveys to
37 providing meaningful data and we're trying to evaluate
38 how to do that.

39

40 One of our challenges is depending on the
41 weather we don't always get all the same survey points
42 every year as far as trend area surveyed so we're
43 evaluating some options even for just a meaningful
44 presentation of aggregate data and we'll have something
45 for you for the winter.

46

47 In the same vein we do bear surveys. We
48 do primarily stream and meadow surveys is our sort of
49 basic number that's the most repeatable and easily
50 digested number that we get on an annual basis and we

1 don't have this year's numbers compiled and we'll have
2 those for you in the -- in the winter meeting. In
3 general we've seen declines in bear activity at a
4 moderate level across most of our area, but we still have
5 lots of bears, but not nearly as many as we had eight
6 years ago in the Katmai region. And it -- and that
7 includes at Brooks Camp we've seen a fairly remarkable
8 decline at Brooks Camp proper. There's still no shortage
9 of bears and you can still see them, but we're now
10 documenting 30ish instead of 80ish in that July time
11 frame.

12

13 The other couple things I just wanted to
14 touch on, we already covered the SRC meeting, but I did
15 want to mention that this Council had requested and the
16 Federal Subsistence Board had approved some years ago a
17 subsistence bear hunt and we have continued to have that
18 available, but we have not had permits requested or
19 issued so there's been no activity on that. And Richard
20 and I spoke about red fish, he's -- he has what he needs
21 at this point.

22

23 And the last thing I was going to mention
24 is that we have two waters that we manage, the Alagnak
25 which I know Dan pronounces it Alagnak, and the Aniakchak
26 Rivers are designated as wild rivers under the National
27 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by ANILCA and we are required
28 to have a management plan for a wild river. We in order
29 to have a management plan have to have designated or out
30 -- specifically listed outstandingly remarkable values,
31 the things that we're protecting on those rivers and most
32 of the time Congress tell us what those are when they
33 designate something, when the Katmai National Park has a
34 whole bunch of specific language and enabling legislation
35 that tells us why the Park exists and what our job is in
36 protecting it. They didn't do that for us with these
37 rivers and that's not too uncommon so we've been working
38 through a process, we had a team from the Denver Service
39 Center that came up to help us out and we involved some
40 of our local community members, as many as we could, and
41 we involved local business members that do business out
42 in the park to try to get some input and to identify
43 those outstandingly remarkable values and we're just
44 working through a draft report on that. I can tell you
45 that there's not a lot of surprises, anybody that's
46 familiar, the -- some of the outstandingly remarkable
47 values on the Alagnak River include fishing opportunity
48 and the diversity of fish available, the outstandingly
49 remarkable values of Aniakchak include the remarkable
50 geology that you're confronted by as you go down the

1 river including through the gates and the outstanding
2 solitude of the experience.

3
4 So just wanted to make sure that the
5 Council is aware that these are foundational documents
6 for our management of those rivers and so as we get those
7 in draft room it's probably something that you might be
8 interested in seeing.

9
10 And unless you have questions that's all
11 I had on our activities.

12
13 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Mr.
14 Hamon.

15
16 Questions, Council members.

17
18 Mr. O'Hara.

19
20 MR. O'HARA: Yes. Troy, that was a good
21 report and very good, Diane -- Ms. Chung, that was a very
22 good report. Appreciate it. It's always nice to hear
23 our back door being talked about. And, Troy, Meshik,
24 that's probably Refuge over there where Joe Klutsch is at
25 over in the Meshik?

26
27 MR. HAMON: Are you thinking of the moose
28 survey areas? So a couple of things, one is the moose
29 trend area that's named Meshik is on Refuge land. The
30 activity area that includes Mr. Klutsch's hunt area also
31 includes some of our land so he's -- he operates on both.
32 The Meshik trend area is one that the Park Service has
33 not successfully surveyed. We would do that, it is on
34 Refuge land and we coordinate with them. Some of our
35 trend areas are on both, our Branch River trend area is
36 about -- it -- our Branch River trend area is about 60 to
37 75 percent Park land and the rest of it not. The Park
38 border trend area is about 60 percent Park land and the
39 rest of it not. So we survey areas that are based on a
40 long standing State trend area survey process and we view
41 it as a multi agency effort. So the Meshik is one of the
42 ones that we have on our list to try to get to, but it is
43 -- it is also on the Refuge and they generally are the
44 first ones that try to get there.

45
46 MR. O'HARA: Troy, you've got the Cinder
47 River which has a new owner, it used to be Butch King and
48 now he sold it to someone else. That's a heavily -- high
49 hunted area, it's a long way from where locals might go
50 unless they go up the Cinder with a vessel. Anyway

1 Pumice Creek is owned by Tony, I can't remember his last
2 name, but that's a pretty heavily hunted area. Mother
3 Goose Lake Lodge doesn't hunt moose so you're getting
4 close to Ugashik and Pilot Point as far as animals go and
5 people coming up Dog Salmon River and places like that.
6 So I would imagine you'd really target those areas as far
7 as surveys would go, huh?

8
9 MR. HAMON: The areas that the Park
10 Service has adopted as things that we focus on are the
11 Branch, Park border and Angletuck (ph) trend areas. The
12 Angletuck goes up to the headwaters of the King Salmon
13 River, the one on the north of the Egegik River. And
14 down south the Cinder (ph) run is our prime run because
15 it's got the best data record, but we also look at trying
16 to get the Pacific or the Meshik trend area done. But
17 those are -- the ones that you're -- the areas you're
18 referring to, the trend days associated with those are
19 usually done by the State or by Fish and Wildlife
20 Service. And we could do them, we generally run out of
21 time and weather just with what we're trying to do.
22 So.....

23
24 MR. O'HARA: You know, when you do the
25 Dog Salmon or Ugashik next to the Pumice (ph) that's
26 where your local people hunt and I think it's pretty
27 critical that that get -- somebody does a survey on that
28 more so than worrying about which Butch King, the
29 commercial guy.

30
31 MR. HAMON: That's a valid point. Those
32 areas are primarily assessed by Fish and Wildlife Service
33 and they've been pretty -- they've been pretty consistent
34 about getting out every time they can in the winter.
35 They're not -- they're not being quite as bold as we are
36 and going regardless of the snow conditions at this
37 point, but they do get out there.

38
39 MR. O'HARA: I like that. Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay.

42
43 Any other questions or comments.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. I'm --
48 you're speaking about SRC juggled my foggy memory.
49 Obviously I did not word things properly just for the
50 Board's information and I would like your approval on

1 this and I think a nod of heads will do. I guess we
2 didn't make it clear enough by nominating the individuals
3 we did for both SRCs, it's not an actual appointment, but
4 that was our intent.

5
6 And if I can just see head nods from
7 everybody in making the nomination and appointment I
8 think we can suffice that for being on record as it was
9 our intent to appoint those individuals if they were
10 qualified and if they choose to accept the nomination.
11 Was that not our intent to turn them into appointments?

12
13 MR. MIKE: Uh-huh.

14
15 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. That's
16 good enough for me.

17
18 Donald, do you need something else?

19
20 MR. MIKE: Yes. I just wanted that Mr.
21 Elliott Lind is not on a Local Advisory Committee, but
22 we'll do further research on that and we'll get back with
23 you.

24
25 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Shuckers. Okay.
26 Well, thank you. Thanks for making that effort and maybe
27 we could see if we could get him on one down there. Was
28 that your comment.

29
30 Go ahead, Mr. Dunaway.

31
32 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I was going to say I
33 know we're starting to get some of the Advisory Committee
34 meetings for the State, Illiamna Lake has one on the 5th,
35 I think Nushagak has one on the 19th. There's a good
36 chance that carry this back up -- the other reason I was
37 hoping John was on is that maybe he could nominate
38 Elliott and it -- he could get on there soon. So
39 hopefully if that works we can have some qualified folks.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
44 you.

45
46 MS. CHUNG: Madam Chair, members of the
47 Council. I had one other announcement to make is that
48 our new Subsistence Coordinator is going to be Sherry
49 Anderson. So Bernie has moved on to bigger and better
50 things so Sherry has agreed to take that on. And she's

1 here with us today.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
4 you.

5

6 MS. CHUNG: Thank you very much for
7 having us, it's been our honor to serve you.

8

9 I'm going to turn it over to Clarence.

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
12 Clarence, please introduce yourself for the record.

13

14 MR. SUMMERS: Clarence Summers, National
15 Park Service, Alaska regional office, Subsistence
16 Manager. And yesterday I gave you a packet of
17 information, the proposed rule, there was an accompanying
18 letter from I think the Lake Clark Subsistence Resource
19 Commission. The Park Service on September 4th published
20 a proposed rule to amend the regulations for sports
21 hunting and trapping in national preserves. Similar to
22 the Fish and Wildlife Service there were some concerns
23 for predator control. As you well know our mandates
24 prohibit predator control and so this proposed rule would
25 address the concern for any State regulations that would
26 promote such an activity. The Park Service currently has
27 regulations in place, they're long standing regulations
28 that are temporary regulations that are reviewed and
29 implemented annually that prohibit certain sport hunting
30 activities and practices. There was a concern for more
31 specifically the take of black bear, sow and cubs in
32 dens, also for using while taking the black bear cubs and
33 sows with artificial light at den sites, taking brown
34 bear over bait and taking wolves and caribou [sic] during
35 the denning season. It's wolves and coyotes during the
36 denning season. If you recall in the notice, this one to
37 be more specific, it identifies a list of public
38 meetings, I think there was over 17 statewide. There's
39 a requirement for Tribal consultation, that has begun.
40 We've -- I guess there was some concern from Mr. Dunaway
41 about consultation with the State, that's an ongoing
42 process and that's been well documented. More
43 specifically to your location there will be a public
44 meeting on November 18th in Port Alsworth at the Park
45 Service Visitors Center. There's also an opportunity for
46 the public to comment at a public meeting on November
47 20th in Naknek at the Bristol Bay Borough Assembly
48 Chambers.

49

50 We have an online public notice

1 opportunity to anyone to query to get information
2 specifically on the proposed rule and environmental
3 assessment. And there's a -- like I said on the site --
4 on this handout on the back there's a listing for that
5 site and an NPS.GOV management and regulations site. You
6 have an opportunity to solicit or to input comments on
7 this up until December 3rd. The -- there's also an
8 address listing for the National Park Service office on
9 Fifth Avenue for submitting comments.

10

11 And I realize we're a little crunched for
12 time.

13

14 Let's see, I just want to hit the high
15 points here, but I'll stop with that for now.

16

17 And if you have specific questions or
18 concerns I'll address them.

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
21 you, Clarence.

22

23 Council members.

24

25 Mr. Dunaway.

26

27 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Clarence.
28 One thing I notice and I was trying to look in the Refuge
29 they're proposing to prohibit same day airborne hunting.
30 Is that already proscribed I think the word is out of all
31 Park lands?

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MR. SUMMERS: That's correct. We have a
36 36 CFO, a regulation that prohibits same day airborne
37 hunting for large mammals.

38

39 MR. DUNAWAY: So it isn't added in here,
40 it's -- that's already been forbidden all -- some time
41 ago; is that right?

42

43 MR. SUMMERS: That's correct. Madam
44 Chairman. I'd like to make a point too and I don't want
45 to revisit it, I know I mentioned it yesterday. But the
46 proposed rule does not restrict Federal subsistence
47 hunting on NPS lands, national preserves were established
48 for sport hunting and these proposed changes are directed
49 at sport hunting and trapping practices.

50

1 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
2 you, Clarence.

3
4 Any other comments or questions.

5
6 Mr. O'Hara.

7
8 MR. O'HARA: Yes. Mr. Hamon, a number of
9 years ago when I was flying down to the Chigs and going
10 by your Aniakchak, there was a -- seemed to be some
11 interest in the recreational people doing kayaking down
12 the Aniakchak River.

13
14 Is that still something they do in that
15 area.

16
17 MR. HAMON: We do have recreational trips
18 down the Aniakchak River. I would say there's been a
19 real shift in the last 10 years from trips that are
20 dropped off usually by floatplane on Surprise Lake within
21 the crater, floating out in full size rafts of some
22 construction to a trip design that's usually taking
23 commercial seafare to Port Heiden and going up overland
24 to get into the Caldera and then floating down. And
25 because of that change the nature of the vessels they're
26 using on the water is very different. They're usually
27 some sort of a packable raft that's very light weight,
28 relatively light construction. It makes the trip more
29 affordable, it also makes it a lot less -- it greatly
30 restricts the capacity of a person to choose to do it
31 because there's a lot of physical work involved. With a
32 raft trip if you have a guide you can really take people
33 of relatively limited physical capacity down the river,
34 but this is like the adventure travel contingent and
35 that's been a real big shift. We don't have a lot of
36 people doing it, we're still in that two to five trips a
37 year as far as we can tell. It's not a lot, but there's
38 people. And they'll -- some of them will get picked up
39 with a commercial charter out in the bay, but some of
40 them will actually circle back, they'll go across and go
41 down Meshik and go back to Port Heiden, some of them will
42 go all the way down to the bay and then by boat and
43 hiking they'll go all the way to Chignik. We've seen
44 both of those kinds of things.

45
46 So it's really changed the dynamic of
47 who's going, but I don't know that there's a big change
48 in how many people are going.

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank

1 you.

2

3 Any other questions, comments.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,

8 Clarence.

9

10 MR. SUMMERS: Yeah, I just want to make
11 sure that we're clear that there are temporary NPS
12 restrictions prohibiting the taking of black bear cubs,
13 sows and artificial -- using artificial light in dens and
14 the taking of brown bears over bait. And there --
15 there's also a part of the regulation package that
16 addresses the taking of wolves and coyotes during the
17 denning season.

18

19 And the other thing that I want to make
20 clear is the regulation will also address notice to the
21 public, it allows more flexibility. Our regulations
22 haven't been updated in maybe 30 years so this is an
23 opportunity to reflect alternative communication
24 techniques such as the internet. And like I said we're
25 doing it now with the website. Earlier we had a number
26 of public opportunities to comment online.

27

28 Our Facebook comment site, I think it's
29 up until the 31st of October so there are a few more days
30 to interact in a chat scenario. But you can always go to
31 the NPS website and submit your comment for the record.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 And like I said the public comment period
36 will end on December 3rd.

37

38 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. And then
39 will there be any further opportunity for comment after
40 that?

41

42 MR. SUMMERS: We'll see what the public
43 tells us in the meetings. Like I said we've had over 17
44 meetings, public meetings, and some are scheduled for
45 November. I know that I work with some of the
46 subsistence Commissions, two of them, up at Unit 23,
47 Kobuk Valley and Krusenstern and we're timing some
48 meetings that will occur right around this deadline, but
49 if for some reason that doesn't occur I can imagine that
50 they're going to ask for maybe an extension of the time

1 to allow for more -- more time for public comment.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Mr. O'Hara,
4 sorry to interrupt your train of thought. Go ahead.

5

6 MR. O'HARA: Are we done with business?

7

8 MR. SUMMERS: Just one more item. I
9 mentioned briefly the green packet, it's a Lake Clark
10 update. In it you'll see some information from the SRC,
11 you'll see the letter from the Chair, Mr. Alsworth.
12 There's some information on permits and on fisheries
13 monitoring.

14

15 And I'll stop with that.

16

17 MR. O'HARA: And we do like to hear a
18 little story, a funny little story about something. So
19 this friend of mine had a bird feeder and a brown bear
20 came along and ate up his bird food and he complained to
21 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and they gave him a
22 citation for feeding the bears.

23

24 Now that's one to take home.

25

26 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Mr. Dunaway.

27

28 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I wanted to -- I
29 spotted this earlier and I wanted to verify. It looks
30 like also in this rule change you're going to add some
31 protections to legitimate hunting and trapping activity
32 in case there's legitimate hunters and trappers are
33 getting harassed, you're adding some protection. If I'm
34 reading that right I want to commend you for that because
35 that -- well, there was a big issue of that film crew and
36 a bear and all that. So anyway I'm not all negative.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 MR. SUMMERS: That's correct. And if
41 you're in that section, if you're going to spend a little
42 more time with this, if you look at I think it's page
43 5297 in the Federal Register notice and it lists a number
44 of proposed changes in detail and that's one that's
45 listed there. In addition to that there's a change which
46 is a good one to allow the use of native species to be
47 used for bait commonly salmon eggs in accordance with
48 non-conflicting regulations.

49

50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank you
2 very much. Very good. Let's move on.

3
4 Thank you for your time, gentlemen and
5 thank you for the information, very valuable stuff.

6
7 Tribal governments.

8
9 Donald, do we have any Tribal government
10 reports that we should hear.

11
12 MR. MIKE: I didn't get any request.

13
14 Gayla or maybe Courtenay, if not.....

15
16 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Well,
17 that's -- we'll move on. We can back up to them. Native
18 organizations, do we know of any reports from them.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Let's go
23 and confirm our dates and if they come back and we --
24 we'll -- we can still do that.

25
26 I believe we had already had some stuff,
27 can you confirm or deny that fact?

28
29 MR. MIKE: Yes, Madam Chair. If you go
30 to your meeting materials and it should be on pages 116
31 and 117. Page 116 is our winter meeting date of February
32 24, 25 in Naknek next winter. And I just handed out a
33 new schedule for the upcoming fall, 2015 meeting dates
34 and it's a handout that's circulating right now, Madam
35 Chair. And the reasons that I coordinated, the
36 Southcentral Region October 20 and 21. So this -- the
37 meetings -- winter schedule is available for the Council
38 to select the dates. So I notice people in Bristol Bay
39 that hunt in late August and early September, all through
40 September and available dates is the last week of
41 September or the week of October 26th.

42
43 Thank you, Madam Chair.

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: I'm going to
46 shorten this discussion and head right to Mr. Hedlund
47 because I know that he's going to have a fall hunt next
48 year, is that not correct, and so could you tell us when
49 you might be available?

50

1 MR. HEDLUND: Probably up through the
2 20th of October.

3
4 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. And then
5 I'm usually the next biggest headache. And that'll work
6 for me if we use that October 26 -- well, 27th, 28th
7 date. Do I hear anybody else on the Council that that
8 might not work for or should we consider something else?

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Can we
13 put our name in that slot.

14
15 Okay. Thank you. And I understand that
16 we do have one more report that we'd love to hear if
17 you'd like to come forward, please come forward,
18 introduce yourselves and we're all ears.

19
20 MR. MIKE: Madam Chair. Before we get
21 started I just -- I got confirmation that Grant Aviation
22 will actually depart at 5:00 o'clock, is that correct,
23 Susan?

24
25 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I think it's.....

26
27 MR. KRIEG: Ted Krieg with Division of
28 Subsistence here in Dillingham and my co-worker, Sara
29 Evans. I got four projects I'll update you on and Sara's
30 got a couple and something else to add to one of the
31 projects.

32
33 The first one is a Lake Clark and
34 Illiamna Lake whitefish project. And that's and OS --
35 Office of Subsistence Management fisheries project. We
36 completed two years of freshwater fish subsistence
37 harvest surveys. The communities involved were Port
38 Alsworth, Nondalton, Illiamna, Newhalen, Pedro Bay and
39 Igiugig. We actually just completed earlier this month,
40 the 14th through the 16th, completed our community review
41 meetings. That's one of the deals we make with the
42 Tribal Councils is that once -- when we get done with our
43 research we'll come back and present the data so the
44 community has a chance to review it. So we've done that,
45 we're working on the report. Before the final report
46 comes out all the cooperators have a chance to review
47 that also. And I guess I should have started out
48 mentioning that the -- all the cooperators on this
49 project are the Subsistence Division, BBNA, Park --
50 National Park Service, mainly Karen Ivanof of Lake Clark

1 and the Nondalton Tribe were all the cooperators, but the
2 other communities got -- you know, were included. So
3 that -- and that was two years of freshwater fish even
4 though it was a whitefish project when we do our work we
5 always include, you know, the other fish that are
6 similar, you know, freshwater, non-salmon fish.

7

8 We had local traditional knowledge
9 interviews and some participant observation where we
10 actually went out with people when they were fishing to
11 see a little bit of what was going on.

12

13 The next two projects are the statewide
14 chinook salmon initiative. We're doing some work here on
15 the Nushagak, that includes Clarks Point, Ekwok,
16 Koliganek, New Stuyahok and Dillingham. For those first
17 four communities we'll -- we're going to be doing --
18 well, we're going to do subsistence harvest surveys for
19 all of them, salmon surveys, household surveys, you know,
20 and that helps update the subsistence salmon permit
21 system. But we'll be doing those surveys -- we've
22 already done one year in Clarks Point, Ekwok, Koliganek
23 and Stu and we'll be doing Dillingham this year along
24 with the other four communities again. And that was also
25 local traditional knowledge and participant observation.

26

27 And although neither Sara nor I are
28 working on this project down in the -- because it's part
29 of this RAC the -- down on the Chigniks, Perryville, Lisa
30 Scarborough and Meredith Marcioni out of our Anchorage
31 and other offices are going to be work -- doing a shared
32 project down in those communities and they will be down
33 there November 5th to the 17th, subsistence harvest
34 surveys and key respondent interviews at that time.

35

36 And the last project will be -- it's
37 three communities, Igiugig, Pilot Point, Ugashik and
38 we'll update our baseline comprehensive subsistence
39 household surveys there and basically that means -- I
40 mean, for, you know, our baseline comprehensive is all
41 subsistence resources for a one year time period and
42 mapping included also.

43

44 That's all I've got except that Sara's
45 going to talk a little bit about one of the things we did
46 along with this -- the whitefish project in Nondalton.
47 So unless there's any questions.....

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Yeah, can I open
50 it up for questions, please.

1 Mr. Wilson.

2

3 MR. WILSON: Madam Chair. Yeah, just one
4 thought, Ted. On the surveys, you know, that -- those
5 communities down lower there haven't had a chance to work
6 on caribou in a lot of years and somehow that survey
7 needs to indicate, you know, there was usage prior to,
8 you know, this survey so that it's on record.

9

10 MR. KRIEG: Yeah, thank you. Chair and
11 Mr. Wilson.

12

13 Yeah, we -- that's one of the things when
14 we do this research, I mean, it is -- we know it's just
15 a one year snapshot, we always do, you know, local
16 knowledge interviews that include things that have been
17 going on. And there -- our questions are directed
18 towards what's -- you know, what's not only happening
19 that year, but over the past five and 10 years usually.
20 So that's something -- yeah, right, that's something that
21 will definitely be part of that report.

22

23 Thanks.

24

25 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Mr. O'Hara.

26

27 MR. O'HARA: Yeah. Appreciate that. And
28 when you're doing your interviews on the number of fish
29 that's being caught or used for subsistence is that the
30 same information that we send in every year when we get
31 our subsistence permit from ADF&G and then we fill it out
32 in October and send it back in, we caught 120 reds, five
33 chums and one king, is that where you get your
34 information or do you talk to individuals?

35

36 MR. KRIEG: Madam Chair, Mr. O'Hara. No,
37 that -- it's separate from that, but we -- because we
38 have access to those permits that are returned we always
39 try to have them with us or we do have them with us when
40 we survey the household. And in this case, I mean, we'll
41 just reconfirm with them that those numbers are correct
42 and that they didn't do any additional fishing.
43 Sometimes, you know, fall fishing, that doesn't get
44 included. So and then we do run into households that
45 don't have permits so we want to make -- you know, I
46 mean, you know, it varies from place to place, it's not
47 an uncommon thing, but that way we can update the numbers
48 and we get a better picture when we do the household
49 surveys in person.

50

1 MR. O'HARA: Yeah, Madam Chair. The
2 reason that that's important is, you know, there's a lot
3 of people who missed out on limited entry because they
4 never kept track of them getting a fishing license and
5 limited entry came along and they had qualified, but they
6 never wrote it down or had it documented. And there
7 comes a time when we're not going to be able to have
8 enough fish and game and so every year when my grandkids
9 go with me to the beach we make sure that they get the
10 permit and their name is sent back with what they got so
11 if there's ever going to be a time when you're going to
12 choose who's going to and who's not going to, you know,
13 they're on record.

14
15 So I really appreciate that, I think
16 that's a great opportunity.

17
18 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Any other
19 questions or comments.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: I -- we have one
24 comment to add. I don't know what the structure is
25 around the statewide chinook money that you received, but
26 I would also encourage you to try and find some to scrape
27 together for the other side. It's not as perhaps
28 important of a resource and we certainly don't have a run
29 like the Nushagak, but our runs are still valid and
30 they're still used by our subsistence users and I think
31 it warrants at least some documentation again as Mr.
32 O'Hara was stating and I don't know of anytime that the
33 chinook over there have ever been studied in a
34 subsistence basis either.

35
36 So just my comment.

37
38 MR. KRIEG: Yeah, Madam Chair. I can
39 pass that on, but that's -- those are decisions that were
40 made like above us and they picked 10 or 11 watersheds
41 that they wanted to focus the research on right now,
42 but, you know, that doesn't mean that something might not
43 be available.

44
45 But I can pass the information along.

46
47 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Ted.
48 I kind of understood that and I was hoping that you would
49 pass it along.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 Okay. Mr. Dunaway.

4

5 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Nanci, thanks. This
6 jogged my memory, it's a little unrelated, but I talked
7 to Tim Sands earlier and Nushagak kings there's quite a
8 study going on, but I think for whatever reason they're
9 probably not ready to talk about it, but I'd kind of ask
10 Donald if we could put on the winter agenda to ask the
11 folks who are in charge of that program to update us. I
12 don't think they're prepared to today, but it's a pretty
13 interesting study, I think there's comm fish and sport
14 fishing and maybe subsistence too all working together on
15 it. And maybe in the winter meeting we could add that.

16

17 That's all I wanted to bring.

18

19 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Mr.

20 Dunaway.

21

22 I think that sounds like a great
23 suggestion and I see Donald's typing it in.

24

25 Any other comments, questions.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Sara,

30 please.

31

32 MS. EVANS: Yeah, Sara Evans, Fish and
33 Game, Dillingham. Madam Chair and the Board. I just
34 have one comment or a few things I'm going to add on to
35 Ted's and then I have two more projects I'd like to
36 update you on.

37

38 First of all I think it was great that
39 you guys had such an open dialogue about involving the
40 youth and culture camps are a part of the RAC process.
41 You know, I myself got my start through BBNA as an intern
42 and I came to my first meeting in Naknek I think seven
43 years ago. So and it's just kept me really involved and
44 now I work for Fish and Game and so I think that your
45 investment into the youth is vital to get them continued
46 interest in the natural resources.

47

48 So thank you. And that being said during
49 our whitefish project we were able to add on a culture
50 camp and it was five days where we got to spend time with

1 Nondalton students talking about harvesting whitefish.
2 We had -- we hired local elders to come into Nondalton
3 and they did some really great work with the kids, there
4 was a guy came over from Lime Village and he made three
5 different kinds of fish traps, like a smaller version and
6 then two bigger ones and all the kids got to help.
7 During the time we did lots of art projects, we did fish
8 dissection, we did history on harvesting whitefish in the
9 area and kids brought in photos and it was a really,
10 really great experience. And the best part about it was
11 that we wrote this as a curriculum and this will go into
12 our whitefish paper and so it can be used in other
13 schools around the Nondalton area or it can be used in
14 Nondalton for years to come and they can keep adding
15 things. So it was -- you know, it was a short term
16 project that was funded, but we were able to put it
17 together so that it could be used in the future years.
18 So that's a great thing.

19
20 And the other two projects I want to talk
21 about both happened -- are happening in Togiak. Since
22 2011 I've been the head of Herring Spawn on Kelp Harvest
23 Program and basically what we do is we do a lot of
24 participant observation with locals going to harvest the
25 herring spawn on kelp. There was time -- people are
26 using this time to harvest seals, birds, harvest other
27 herring and sea gull eggs and so when we go out to do
28 observation it's a great time to see all this happening.
29 And then we also do surveys on the harvest of spawn kelp
30 and it started out with just Togiak and now it's moved to
31 Twin Hills and Manokotak, we're gathering this data.
32 2014 will actually be the last year with surveys so it's
33 2011 to 2014 that we've been getting this information and
34 in the 2012 Board of Fish the Togiak Traditional Council
35 did put in two proposals or three proposals about the
36 herring fishery and the Board of Fish just basically
37 said, you know, there's not information now so we're
38 thinking in the next Board cycle if they did put in
39 proposals we have a lot more information to provide to
40 the Board.

41
42 And the final project I want to talk
43 about is the Togiak walrus hunts. Last year subsistence
44 -- two subsistence people were able to go out on the
45 Togiak hunts for Walrus and they harvested four walruses
46 which were all documented. There's lots of like photos
47 taken and just sort of like the -- more about
48 understanding about how important the walrus hunt is.
49 And this year we tried to go on the hunt again with them
50 and our plan was to be able to take dissections and

1 samples for another team to -- that were curious about
2 the walrus, but due to bad weather we weren't able to go
3 out. Luckily Togiak hunters were able to go out later
4 and harvest and they were lucky, but in the future we
5 hope to go out and do surveys just about the distribution
6 of the walrus and how important it is to the community,
7 how the hunters will go out and gather just a few -- a
8 small amount of hunters will go out and harvest a few
9 walrus and then it's distributed -- like how far it's
10 distributed, not only to Togiak, but Twin Hills,
11 Dillingham, other surrounding communities and just how
12 vital that is to the area.

13

14 So, yeah, just an update on those
15 projects. That's all.

16

17 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: That's great
18 information, Sara, thank you.

19

20 Questions or comments from the Council
21 members.

22

23 Mr. O'Hara.

24

25 MR. O'HARA: Yes, Sara, that was a very
26 good report. Thank you. And for the comment on the
27 youth too, we're really hot on that trail. And you took
28 four walruses, that's a lot of -- quite a few tons of
29 meat and you went to Togiak?

30

31 MS. EVANS: I personally was on that hunt
32 in 2013. I tried to go this year, but like I said there
33 was bad weather, but I did get to see a lot of pictures
34 and it seemed really exciting and I was -- I was unlucky
35 this year.

36

37 MR. O'HARA: Madam Chair. One of the
38 privileges I have of Chairing the Bristol Native
39 Corporation annual shareholders' meeting, we had it in
40 Manokotak and it was a big deal. And they had I think
41 five walruses hauled out there. It was unbelievable. A
42 lot of time the BBNC Board was down with the walruses.
43 And, I mean, they were packing meat out of there all the
44 way to Stu and Koliganek so pretty fascinating.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay.

49

50 Council members, any other questions or

1 comments.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: You know, I'm
6 just glad to see that, yeah, you know, I -- you're one of
7 our shining stars for our youth recruitment and applaud
8 you for your efforts to continue in what was started
9 hopefully for yourself.

10

11

MS. EVANS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

12

13

14 MR. O'HARA: When they have career day at
15 Bristol Bay Borough School District you'd better get over
16 there.....

16

17

(Laughter)

18

19

20

21

22

MR. O'HARA:I think we have a lot

23

24

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CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Pete's got a
great point. He did -- when we were over there he was
like you guys aren't going today. And the next day he
was like you guys should go today. And they didn't go
and the next day they were like okay, we're going to go
and he's like you're not going to go. And he was right
each time. So we'll look to you next time, Pete.

1 Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: There's a reason
4 he was BBNC's elder of the year.
5
6 Okay.
7
8 Thank you very much.
9
10 Anything else, Council members.
11
12 (No comments)
13
14 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay.
15 Wonderful. Thank you again.
16
17 Okay. Any other reports.
18
19 Good, come forward.
20
21 MS. CARTY-GOMEZ: Thank you, Madam
22 Chairman, members of the Council. For the record
23 Courtenay Carty, BBNA, Department of Natural Resources or
24 Natural Resources Department, I wouldn't want to be DNR.
25
26 MS. HOSETH: Hi, I'm Gayla Hoseth with
27 BBNA Subsistence.
28
29 MS. CARTY-GOMEZ: So I know we're
30 crunched for time and we've been on the record quite a
31 bit about all of the activities that BBNA's been involved
32 with, but we didn't want to go on the record as not
33 having a report.
34
35 So just to update you I guess very
36 briefly on some things that we haven't talked about today
37 or over the course of the past two days. This summer on
38 our Summer Fisheries Internship Program we hosted six
39 interns. Akasa Walton (ph) was our Summer Intern Program
40 Coordinator and she coordinated our Internship Program
41 for Fisheries and the Round Island Internship Program.
42 Our other intern at Lake Clark National Park we had Meg
43 McNalty who's a UAF fisheries student out of -- he's
44 based in Homer, he goes to school up in Fairbanks and he
45 worked for Danielle at the Park there. We had Ted
46 Hostetter of Igiugig who worked here at the UW Alaska
47 Salmon Program up in Aleknagik and she also spent a
48 couple weeks at Round Island working on the Round Island
49 Program as well as Malcolm Upton from Togiak also went to
50 Round Island. Tristin Shaney was our first ever high

1 school intern, our college internship program has had
2 over 75 over interns to date and this is our first year
3 that we were ever able to host a high school intern not
4 only due to insurance requirements, but also -- you know,
5 we've been working so hard to try to build the capacity
6 and getting younger students interested at a younger age
7 and Tristin is definitely one of those people who I'm
8 sure will be giving reports to the RAC at some point in
9 time either as an intern or as staff Biologists for us in
10 the future. So Tristin is definitely an up and coming
11 star in the fisheries world I would say.

12

13 Who am I forgetting.

14

15 Oh, Delsey Carmichael. She's a student
16 from Goodnews Bay and she was an intern on the whitefish
17 project and she worked with ADF&G, Division of
18 Subsistence in Anchorage over the winter. And we were
19 able to bring all these students into Anchorage for the
20 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners Program Intern
21 Day in August and they all presented with us.

22

23 And other than that aside from our
24 Federal activities regarding subsistence management over
25 the last winter since your last meeting we've been very
26 busy working on House Bill 77, trying to elevate that to
27 a statewide issue and I think we're pretty happy with the
28 outcome there as well as working on the EPA 404(c)
29 process.

30

31 And that's really all we have or at least
32 I have, Gayla might want to add some things, but thank
33 you so much for your time and for meeting here at BBNA
34 even though we had a little bit of technical
35 difficulties, it was very nice to get out of the dungeon
36 of City Hall.

37

38 So thank you so much.

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Thank you. And
41 let me ask first, Gayla, before we go to you if anybody
42 has any questions or comments.

43

44 MR. O'HARA: Yeah.

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Mr. O'Hara.

47

48 MR. O'HARA: It's going to be pretty hard
49 to beat that potluck, but we're going to give it a shot.

50

1 MS. CARTY-GOMEZ: Thank you -- oh, go
2 ahead.
3
4 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Mr. Dunaway.
5
6 MR. DUNAWAY: Yes, I was just going to
7 thank you for organizing the potluck too and thank Donald
8 for sharing muktuk as, yeah, I really enjoyed all the
9 good stuff.
10
11 Thank you very much.
12
13 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Absolutely. And
14 I would let you know that you have a little face at the
15 back of the room looking for you at the moment.
16
17 And again I echo my co-members
18 sentiments. Thank you very much for your hospitality
19 here and the wonderful potluck. You guys have been
20 fabulous hosts and I appreciate it.
21
22 Gayla, do you have anything to add?
23
24 MS. HOSETH: I just wanted -- Courtenay
25 pretty much summarized everything. We have been busy
26 working hard and I just want to thank you guys for
27 serving on this Council as well as serving on other
28 Councils, those take a lot of time and commitment and
29 thank you for your dedication. And we are also available
30 in BBNA Natural Resources Department to assist with
31 anybody's needs and anything that has to do with the RAC
32 or Board of Fish stuff, Board of Game issues.
33
34 Thank you.
35
36 MR. O'HARA: Madam Chair.
37
38 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Go ahead.
39
40 MR. O'HARA: Just in case the audience
41 hasn't seen these ladies, I've seen you in Naknek a lot
42 of times and that represents going to Port Heiden which
43 you can't hardly do in a day, away from home, you know,
44 so a lot of hard work and we do -- it doesn't go
45 unnoticed. We appreciate it a lot.
46
47 Thank you.
48
49 MS. CARTY-GOMEZ: Thank you, Madam Chair.
50 While we're on the record I'd just like to thank the

1 Tribes that called in, Curyung Tribal Council and the
2 Port Heiden Tribal Council for participating today. It's
3 been a while since we had Tribes actively involved in the
4 RAC meeting so I'm glad that they're taking time out of
5 their schedules to be involved.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Yes, thank you
10 for recognizing that too, Courtenay, I appreciate
11 everybody who's called in. I know how difficult it is
12 not to be there in person and to be responding on the
13 phone and keeping on track. So your time and efforts
14 have not gone unnoticed or unappreciated by anybody I
15 don't believe. And I would also comment you gals, BBNA
16 in general and you gals specifically because you're
17 sitting here in front of us, I think that your efforts to
18 expand your programs at BBNA and specifically the
19 Partnership Program are really starting to pay off. I
20 think -- I feel and I'm speaking for myself at this
21 point, but I feel like there's a lot more coordination
22 between groups, I feel like there's a lot more knowledge
23 sharing going on than we used to have and I used to fret
24 about having money and/or energy wasted and the same
25 thing being done by another agency rather than moving on
26 to other things and I feel like we're not struggling with
27 that as much as we used to.

28

29 So personal comments, but I would commend
30 you guys for that. I see you as key elements in
31 eliminating some of those things.

32

33 Okay.

34

35 Anything else.

36

37 Donald.

38

39 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'd
40 like to thank Courtenay and Gayla for hosting the Bristol
41 Bay Regional Advisory Council.

42

43 They are great hosts and I really
44 appreciate their staff that were able to help us a lot.

45

46 Just before we get to adjournment I just
47 want to remind the Council and the public agency OSM is
48 accepting membership applications for Regional Advisory
49 Council seats and the closing date is January 23. So for
50 the folks in the field stations please help recruit

1 potential candidates for our Regional Advisory Council.

2

3 OSM, Office of Subsistence Management is
4 sponsoring the student art contest and the theme is
5 fisheries. And the deadline to enter the contest is
6 February 2, 2015. And again I'd like to ask the
7 assistance of the Refuge, the Park Service and Native
8 organizations to help pass the message out to the
9 schools. And at the fall Board of Fish meeting the
10 Chairs of the Advisory Councils will help judge the
11 contest and the winning poster will be the cover of our
12 fisheries regulations. And it is open to K through 12
13 and it's broken up by age group.

14

15 Again I have information on the table in
16 the back so I'm also requesting the agency staff to help
17 promote that student art contest.

18

19 It's a very successful program and if you
20 have a chance to attend the Board of Fish meeting in
21 Anchorage and get a chance to view all the talented art
22 work, it's a fun program.

23

24 I really enjoy it.

25

26 And I passed around a business card from
27 our office and it's subsistence and it's got some key
28 words on subsistence related themes.

29

30 And check those out on our Facebook, lot
31 of information on our Facebook.

32

33 If the Regional Advisory Council would
34 like to share community photographs of subsistence
35 activities and you want to share your photographs with us
36 we can post it on our Facebook. I have release forms if
37 you want to release photographs to our program for the
38 OSM Facebook site. I have a full release document for
39 you to give us permission to use that photograph.

40

41 And finally Mr. Richard Wilson requested
42 that I give an update on the red fish fishery in Katmai.
43 If you remember at our last meeting last winter Mr.
44 Wilson sought some endorsement on a potential proposal
45 that would go forward to Alaska Board of Fisheries and
46 the Council endorsed his proposal to be submitted.
47 George Pappas, he's our -- he is our Fisheries Liaison in
48 OSM and he and I will be submitting that proposal to the
49 Board of Fish in the next cycle will be in 2015.

50

1 So we're going to move that forward and
2 once that is completed we will -- it will be under the
3 State of Alaska person using subsistence fisheries
4 regulations.

5
6 So our program has no jurisdiction on
7 Katmai National Park Refuge fishery. But I myself and
8 Joyce OSM will get this moving and we'll keep you updated
9 on that issue. And we'll work -- of course we'll work
10 with the National Park Service and their regulations
11 allow for the harvest of red fish in Brooks -- Naknek
12 Lake and Brooks River.

13
14 With that I want to thank all the Council
15 members for taking the time to come to this meeting and
16 I enjoy working with you folks and if you've got any
17 questions I'll be available.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Yes, and before
22 we adjourn I'd like to just open it up to Council member
23 comments if anybody has any comments or questions or
24 whatever we'll take those as they come.

25
26 Mr. Dunaway.

27
28 MR. DUNAWAY: One thing else I meant to
29 mention about the Nushagak Advisory Committee that might
30 be of interest, we got to talking about the bison
31 transplant that they're trying to do in the Interior and
32 we eventually said well, if they can't make up their mind
33 where to do it let's ask them formally to look at the
34 Nushagak. So we formally have requested Fish and Game to
35 take the first step in looking at -- they have these
36 bison hanging around in Portage near Anchorage and
37 they're getting more and more populous. And so we've
38 invited them to consider not just bison transplant, but
39 possible musk ox and Edlin Point down there was named.
40 That's an extensive process, but you guys might be
41 interested. And the idea is meat for the people.

42
43 So anyway another idea.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Mr.
48 Dunaway.

49
50 Anybody else.

1 Mr. Wilson.

2

3 MR. WILSON: Madam Chair. I don't think
4 we ever settled on a date for our workshop, we need to
5 maybe set something up here because, you know, deadlines
6 and stuff, we've got to make sure we get our -- you know,
7 something on paper that we can go forward with this
8 spring or this winter.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Donald.

11

12 MR. MIKE: Madam Chair. Then if the
13 Council wish to go on the website regarding the Fish and
14 Wildlife Service proposed rule we need to probably think
15 about a teleconference. If we're going to identify a
16 date for a workshop and the Council wish to meet as a
17 group we have to get approval from our Assistant Regional
18 Director of Subsistence in Anchorage. So let's keep that
19 in mind, keep asking if a teleconference is available and
20 we'll look into the Council meeting as a group so it's --
21 just let me know what you want to do.

22

23 Thank you, Madam Chair.

24

25 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Yeah, I
26 was going to -- almost kind of thinking, Donald, about
27 the idea of possibly putting a workshop on the front or
28 back end of our next meeting date as a -- I guess the
29 first thing that came to mind, do it from 8:00 to 12:00
30 the first morning, have it open to the public and just
31 not be on record so that we can discuss not only these
32 other things that we've been talking about, but also go
33 over agenda items and have a little bit more freedom of
34 discussion that way.

35

36 Would you check into that as a
37 possibility as well, please.

38

39 MR. MIKE: That's a -- we can make that
40 happen at the front end with our winter meeting for a
41 workshop if that's.....

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Any
44 other.....

45

46 Mr. O'Hara.

47

48 MR. O'HARA: Yes, it's been really nice
49 being here in Dillingham and the transportation has been
50 good, we had our own special driver there, Karen, she

1 took us everywhere. And so it was really good. But
2 February the 14th my great granddaughter will have a
3 birthday and on the 15th whether I'm there or not we're
4 going to be in Mexico so we're going to miss you at the
5 winter meeting.

6
7 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
8 you.

9
10 Any other comments or.....

11
12 Mr. Dunaway.

13
14 MR. DUNAWAY: I was just going to
15 recognize our long suffering recorder over there who has
16 to hold her finger on the dam.

17
18 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
19 Clarence.

20
21 MR. SUMMERS: Sure. Thank you, Madam
22 Chairman. I have a publication, it's from Lake Clark and
23 it's a gift from Any Craver and she's going to make sure
24 that each Council member gets it. It's 100 years, it's
25 a photo documentation by John Branson. There's a DVD
26 inside. So everybody will get one, but the Council
27 Chairperson gets the first copy.

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Then we better
30 give it to Molly.

31
32 Yes, I -- and I want to recognize our
33 members who are not here and once again just wish them
34 the very best and let them know we're thinking about them
35 and I'll just really hope that they're back at the next
36 meeting. Really missing having them here.

37
38 MR. O'HARA: My only comment is that if
39 Mr. Summers doesn't quit talking we're going to go home
40 with him.

41
42 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
43 Donald.

44
45 MR. MIKE: Just one quick reminder, a
46 public service I guess. The Fish and Wildlife Service
47 will be holding a video conference public hearing video
48 conferencing. And they'll be available for the public to
49 call in. And as the time gets nearer I'll share that
50 information with the Council members and they can share

1 it with the community.
2
3 Thank you.
4
5 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
6 Donald.
7
8 MS. ALEXANDER: Madam Chair.
9
10 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Please, go ahead
11 Sue.
12
13 MS. ALEXANDER: I'm sorry, Donald, just
14 a quick question. The teleconference you were referring
15 to are on the statewide rule making?
16
17 MR. MIKE: The statewide proposed rule
18 from the -- is that correct?
19
20 MS. ALEXANDER: They're actually not open
21 to the public, but they are for the government to
22 government consultation.....
23
24 MR. MIKE: Okay.
25
26 MS. ALEXANDER:so they would be
27 open to the members of the RAC, but they're not open to
28 the general public because we are in just Tribal
29 consultation right now, government to government
30 consultation. The public portion will come once the
31 draft rule is published. But obviously we are seeking
32 your input so that's not meant to exclude you, but I just
33 wanted to clarify that it's not open to all of the
34 general public.
35
36 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: Good. Thank
37 you. That's a valuable clarification.
38
39 Thank you very much.
40
41 Susanna.
42
43 MS. HENRY: This is Susanna Henry again
44 from Togiak Refuge. The only thing I would add is that
45 if any members of the Council get input from others, from
46 their communities, they certainly can bring that forward
47 at those teleconferences. And I've got the information
48 on them. I'll give them -- the call in information, the
49 phone number and the passcode to Donald and he'll make
50 sure it's in the minutes and then we'll make sure you get

1 an email reminder.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN MORRIS LYON: That was going
4 to be my other question if Donald could put it in email
5 form to us. If we are allowed to channel for those other
6 members of our community then we'll -- we can go ahead
7 and do that and it'll be easier if we've got it in email
8 form.

9

10 Okay.

11

12 Can I take a deep breath and make the
13 announcement.

14

15 Again I thank everybody for your input
16 and your valuable time, especially those online and with
17 that I think we'll stand adjourned.

18

19 (Off record)

20

21 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

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THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 13th day of November 2014.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 9/16/18